

ROSS, ELIZABETH " EARLY DAY BRICKYARD:

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177

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Indian-Pioneer History  
July 19, 1937

178

## Early-day Brickyards

At the northern border of the old Park Hill neighborhood may be seen in a woodland, near a small pond, a slight mound from which protrude here and there portions of bricks. Here it was that the bricks utilized in construction of the Sehon Chapel were moulded and burned, or subjected to intense heat in the kiln. The pond resulted from the earth which was removed in the moulding of the bricks and many years later was deepened by the owner of the land, so that water for livestock would be available.

The Sehon Chapel was completed in 1856. At the site of this once large and well-finished church building may be found broken portions of brick which are similar to the portions found at the site of the old kiln, more than a quarter-mile distant from where the Chapel stood in the past.

At another place, at least one mile east, or nearly east of the ruins of the Cherokee National Female Seminary, sometimes referred to as the Park Hill Seminary, may be seen beside an abandoned roadway of long past years, the outlines of a larger kiln. Here were made the bricks which were used in the con-

struction of the Female Seminary, completion of which was made in 1850. Even yet there are entire bricks in a good state of preservation a short distance beneath the surface of the ground, proof that a larger number than were needed were moulded and properly burned in the kiln. During many years no one realized that there were any bricks below the heaped up earth, which was overgrown with weeds and trees.

In the vicinity of a fine spring which was known many years as the "Chapel Spring," is the site of another brickyard of bygone times. The spring received its name from the fact that it was not far distant from Riley's Chapel, notable in the history of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and in which was sustained during some years a public school, long before the beginning of the Civil War period. At this brickyard the bricks used in building the old Cherokee National Male Seminary were made. When the Seminary buildings were enlarged before the close of the decade of the seventies of the last century the bricks necessary to be used were moulded and finished at the Chapel Spring kiln. And many thousands of bricks were made at this place when the new Female

Seminary, now the main building of the Northeastern State Teacher's College, at Tahlequah, Oklahoma, was under construction. Bricks utilized in other Tahlequah buildings were also made at the Chapel Spring kiln.

The present Cherokee county court house, originally the Capitol building of the Cherokee Nation, is constructed of bricks which were made at the Chapel Spring kiln and hauled in wagons to the site selected for construction of the Capital, which was completed in 1870.

Authorities: Geo. McGregor and others,  
Tahlequah, Oklahoma.