

# Cherokee Heritage

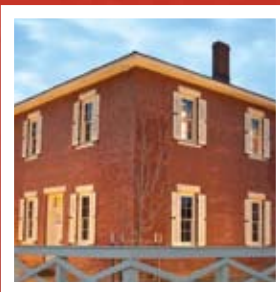
## Lesson 5: Historical Sites in the Cherokee Nation



### Cherokee National Capitol Building

A two-story, brick structure, the Capitol building was completed in 1869 and occupies the center of the town square. It housed

the executive and legislative offices until 1906. Reacquired by the Cherokee Nation in 1979, today it is used to house the judicial branch of the government.



### Cherokee National Supreme Court Building

This structure was built on the southeast corner of Tahlequah's town square in 1844 by James S. Pierce to house the Cherokee

Nation Supreme Court. The supreme and district courts both held sessions here for some time. At one point, the building housed the printing office of the Cherokee Advocate, the official publication of the Cherokee Nation and the first newspaper in Oklahoma. It is the oldest government building in the state of Oklahoma.



### Cherokee National Prison Museum

This structure was the only penitentiary building in Indian Territory from 1875 to 1901. Built of sandstone rock, the original structure

was three stories high and was one of the major tribal buildings erected in Tahlequah during that period.



### Cherokee Heritage Center's Ancient Village

Built on the site of the original female seminary, the center offers visitors a chance to learn the history

of the Cherokee Nation, pre- and post-European contact. Visit the Trail of Tears

Museum, the Ancient Village and Adam's Corner, and partake in various activities associated with the history of the Cherokees.



### The Murrell Home

George Michael Murrell was a native Virginian who married Minerva Ross, a member of a wealthy Cherokee family and niece of Principal Chief John Ross.

Murrell built his wife a plantation home in 1845 in Park Hill, Indian Territory (present-day Oklahoma). The home contains original and period furnishings and artifacts. A reconstructed log cabin is also on the property.

### Continued learning:

What branches of government were originally housed in the Capitol Building? What is it used for today? What newspaper worked out of the Supreme Court Building?

Look for lesson 6 on Friday, December 9.