



Centennial Witness Tree Project

The Project's purpose was to find trees which 'witnessed' Oklahoma statehood in 1907.

The project was a joint effort of The Tree Bank Foundation, the Forestry Services of the OK Department of Agriculture, Food

and Forestry and The OK Centennial Committee.

The Witness Tree Project was developed to increase public awareness of trees as an important part of Oklahoma's heritage and to stress the importance of continued

tree planting efforts in Oklahoma as a living legacy for future generations.

Trees eligible were estimated to be over one hundred years and are located within Oklahoma.

Red Cedar • Nominated by Carol Lay

This old Red Cedar is located about a block from the no-longer existing Prairie View School in Prue, Oklahoma. Over the years, many students and teachers passed by the tree every day.

The tree stands on land owned by Jesse (Sonny) and Kathleen Fast, who, with their children, grandchildren and great grand

children, have watched the tree grow. Each generation's children have entertained themselves by building tree houses in the cedar tree.



This tree has withstood Oklahoma high winds and weather and was missed by the 1984 Prue tornado by only a few blocks.

The Red Cedar tree measures 7 feet 6.5 inches around and is located in Osage County.

Burr Oak Nominated by Jay Fulton

This Burr Oak stands on land owned by Fulton Farms in Chickasha, Oklahoma in Grady County near the Washita River.

Supposedly a man (name unknown) was killed in Chickasha during a robbery and brought to the Fulton farm and buried under this tree.

The tree has witnessed many Indians and buffalo passing by and many cattle drives since it is on the Chisholm Trail about two miles from the main Washita River crossing.



The fact that the tree is still here is a minor miracle. In the early 1900s, there was a saw mill less than a quarter of a mile away.

There are many other Burr Oak trees close by this tree that witnessed statehood, but this Burr Oak is by far the oldest of them all.

Black Walnut • Nominated by Charles A. Eaton



This Black Walnut is located on land owned by Charles A. Eaton in Spavinaw, Oklahoma in Mayes County. The tree measures 127" around.

The property and the tree were purchased by Charles Eaton's grandfather.

Rider Marshall. Marshall had a concrete business in Tulsa. He also ran moonshine into Spavinaw when it was a boom town. Marshall died in 1953

Wild Wood Ranch Post Oak • Nominated by Scott A. Fengler

This Post Oak stands on the northeastern shore of Keystone Lake in Osage County on land owned by Scott Fengler. The tree overlooks the Arkansas River “arm” of Keystone Lake where it has witnessed thousands of sunsets on the river and now on the lake.

The tree has seen this area transition from Native Americans, to Sooners, to ranchers and now to a developing vacation area.

The tree has witnessed the impoundment of the Arkansas and Cimarron Rivers into what is now known as Keystone Lake, and it has

witnessed the submersion of ranches and towns in this process.

The Post Oak measures 96 inches around and stands about 58 feet tall. It has weathered many storms as shown by its limb loss and scars.

The tree has a multitude of sister trees that are similar in size and height, all nestled in a rather inhospitable area of rocks and thin topsoil.

This Post Oak and its sisters are cherished by our family as a miracle of perseverance and survival.



“Sister” Native Pecan Trees • Nominated by Gloria Ferree Smith



Two Native Pecan trees stand as sentinels in a grove of several hundred pecan trees, overlooking a creek that eventually finds its way to Bird Creek. These trees are located off North Peoria Avenue in Skiatook, Oklahoma in Tulsa County.

Early Skiatook settlers lived near the “Sister” trees and only the trees and the vestiges of an old stone bridge across the

small creek stand as reminders of those early days.

The “Sister” Pecan Trees are on land that was once owned by A. Tyson Ferree. Tyson Ferree came to Indian Territory on horseback from North Carolina before 1900. He met William C. Rogers, the last principal chief of the Cherokee Nation. Chief Rogers had a trading post located along the banks of Bird Creek, not more than a mile



west from the “Sister” trees. Chief Rogers liked Ferree and gave him a grubstake to encourage him to stay in the area. Ferree equally liked Chief Rogers and they remained close friends until Chief Rogers’ death in 1917.

Known for his industrious nature, up before sunrise and



working long after dark, Ferree carved out a farm and ranch that remain in his family today. Five generations of the family have enjoyed the beauty of this land.

One of Ferree’s sons, Dr. Cecil C. Ferree, became an Oklahoma educator. Dr. Ferree passed away on his 87th birthday in his retirement cabin, which he built, that stands a short distance from the “Sister” pecan trees.

Dr. Ferree’s daughter, Gloria Ferree Smith, owns the property today and her children and grandchildren visit regularly from many states away.

The Native Pecan trees measure 149” and 133” in circumference. The trees have produced an infinite number of pecans, served as shelter for countless birds and wildlife, and witnessed the beginnings of a proud and grand state.