

FORT TOWSON HISTORICAL DRIVING TOUR

1. Pine Belt Lumber Company: *Located on Highway 70, on west side of Fort Towson*

Hiding behind the small trees and bushes is the cement kiln of the Pine Belt Lumber Company. Choctaw timber was harvested after statehood, cutting oaks, lots of pine and various other species. Trees were brought from the woods by railway trams. The mill was the major employer in this area in the 1920s.

2. Fort Towson (Doaksville) Cemetery: *Located 2 miles down Red Road from Highway 70 and the Corner Store*

Doaksville cemetery supported the early community of Doaksville. The oldest burials are 3 Choctaw Indians, buried in 1846, 1847 and 1849. This cemetery has been in continual use since then. The name was changed to Fort Towson Cemetery.

3. Doaksville Archaeology Site: *Located 2 miles down Red Road from Highway 70 and the Corner Store, enter on steps on East Wall of Cemetery*

Doaksville was a trading post established by Josiah Doaks after the treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek. By the 1850's it was the largest town in Indian Territory. When the railroad came through in the 1870's one mile south, it began its decline. Today Doaksville is an interpreted archaeology site maintained by Oklahoma Historical Society with walking trails and signage through out the site.

4. Hopson Park and the World War I Dough Boy: *Located on Morynne Motley Blvd. and SW 2nd Street*

Located on the original Hopson homestead, the park was renovated by daughter, Morynne Motley, a Fort Towson benefactor. The Dough Boy is dedicated to Morynne's father, Cecil Hopson who was a WWI vet. The sculpture is the work of artist John Parsons. The statue was dedicated in the Fall of 2018, in memory of World War I and Cecil Hopson.

5. Frost Mercantile and The Ada Jean Adams Library: *Located Morynne Motley Blvd. and South Main St.*

Andrew Balch built the building in the early 1900's. For most of its life, it was a mercantile with various owners. The brickwork is original but the front has been modernized. Today it is being renovated and will serve as a community site. Housed in the building is a community library that is dedicated in memory of a beloved teacher who taught in this community. It is scheduled to open in the Fall of 2019.

6. Fort Towson Historical Society Museum:

Located 111 South Morynne, Motley Blvd, beside City Hall

This museum houses collections of early memorabilia of Fort Towson and the area. Over the years, people have donated their precious mementos to the museum. Today, old tools, newspaper articles, scrapbooks, pictures of early Fort Towson, etc make their home there. In front of the museum sits an old millstone.

7. Fort Towson Depot: *Located behind City Hall on North Railroad Ave.*

The Arkansas and Choctaw Railway arrived in this area in 1902. This was a major destination point for folks coming into this area prior and during the transition to statehood. At one time, there were several cars of merchandise waiting for the local merchants to unload them. During there early 1900's there was 23 different mercantiles serving the area.

8. Beside the Rails: *Located behind the Fort Towson Depot*

Gone but not forgotten, the Cotton Gin and the Sweet Potato Drying sheds were along the tracks. Both are memories today but during the early 1900's, cotton and sweet potatoes were shipped out of this area in the rail cars.

9. Church of Christ: *Located at the Corner of Boston St. and NW 2nd St.*

With the exception of the roofing, a poured concrete front porch, different entry doors at the front and side, this church remains very much as it was constructed in 1909. It has a gabled roofline and clapboard siding. The church was built by WW Wilson, who also built the WW Wilson House and the local bank building, which today, is the Fort Towson Museum.

10. Wilson House: *Located North East corner of Cincinnati and North Main St.*

Built for his 3rd wife, in 1906 by WW Wilson, a local banker and businessman. It is a Greek revival home with Victorian touches. It has 10 foot ceilings, 4 massive sliding double-panel doors on the first floor and seven fireplace around a single flue. There are Corinthian columns and a two story portico with open rails in the upper deck. It has clapboard siding. It is listed on the National Registry.

11. Fort Towson Museum: *Located at the corner of Morynne Motley Blvd. and NE 1st St.*

Former First National Bank of Fort Towson built by WW Wilson. Mr. Wilson was a pillar of the local community, as Indian Territory transitioned to the state of Oklahoma. He spent years as an officer of the bank. Today the bank building is a museum, containing the private collections of Morynne Motley, benefactor of Fort Towson. It is open by appointment.

12. Tobias Frazier Bridge: *Highway 70 and bridge over the upper end of Raymond Gary Lake*

Dedicated to one of the 19 Choctaw Code Talker identified from World War I. Tobias was born in Cedar County, Choctaw Nation in 1892 and passed away in 1975. He served as a member of the 142nd Infantry, Company E.

13. Historic Markers: *Granite markers on the south side of Highway 70*

- 1) Fort Towson
- 2) Fort Towson Landing

14. Fort Towson Historical Site and Museum: *Located 3 miles North 4375 Rd. and East Highway 70*

Built initially as a cantonment to keep the Spanish below the Red River. It became the destination point of the Choctaw Indians as they were moved westward in the 1820's. Today the rock foundations of the fort buildings remain. Also on site, is a Sutler store, various wagons, a cannon, teamster shed, etc. There is an excellent museum to visit.