

**(5) Federal Register Notice of Proposed Finding**

**- June 20, 1984**

Nation. It has only been identified as an Indian entity since its formation in 1969 and no identifications were found of predecessor communities. Membership has varied significantly during the organization's existence, being currently much narrower than when it was originally formed. Significant political authority or other political processes have not operated within the group since its formation and no antecedent leaders or community within which political processes might have operated were found to have existed.

The petitioner did submit copies of the group's governing documents which include a statement explaining how membership is being determined. The organization's membership is composed principally of descendants of one early Creek ancestor, Catherine McIntosh. Eighty-one percent of the group's membership has demonstrated or is expected to be able to demonstrate Creek Indian ancestry based on information now available. Other members may also be able to trace their ancestry; however, the petitioner did not submit sufficient information to verify their ancestry. Fewer than one percent of the membership are enrolled members of any other North American Indian tribe or group. The Principal Creek Indian Nation has not been the subject of congressional legislation which has expressly terminated or forbidden a relationship with the United States.

Based on this preliminary factual determination, we conclude that the group meets criteria d, e, f, and g and does not meet criteria a, b, and c of § 83.7 of the Acknowledgment regulations.

Section 83.9(g) of the regulations provides that any individual or organization wishing to challenge the proposed finding may submit factual or legal arguments and evidence to rebut the evidence relied upon. This material must be submitted within 120 days of the publication of this notice. Comments and requests for a copy of the proposed finding should be addressed to the Office of the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, 18th & C Streets NW., Washington, DC 20245. Attention: Branch of Federal Acknowledgment.

After consideration of the written arguments and evidence rebutting the proposed finding and within 60 days after the expiration of the response period, the Assistant Secretary will publish his determination regarding the

petitioner's status in the Federal Register as provided in § 83.9(h).  
Kenneth Smith,

Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Indian Affairs

#### Proposed Finding Against Federal Acknowledgment of the Principal Creek Indian Nation East of the Mississippi.

June 12, 1984.

This notice is published in the exercise of authority delegated by the Secretary of the Interior to the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs by 209 DM 8.

Pursuant to 25 CFR 83.9(f), notice is hereby given that the Assistant Secretary proposes to decline to acknowledge that the Principal Creek Indian Nation East of the Mississippi, c/o Mr. Arthur Turner, P.O. Box 201, Florala, Alabama 36442, exists as an Indian tribe within the meaning of Federal law. This notice is based on a determination that the group does not meet three of the criteria set forth in 25 CFR 83.7 and therefore, does not meet the requirements necessary for a government-to-government relationship with the United States.

The Principal Creek Indian Nation East of the Mississippi is an organization of Creek descendants formed in 1969 at Florala, Alabama. The membership does not now and has not historically formed a community distinct from surrounding populations. It is not a formalization of a previously existing community and has no historical link, other than the descendancy of its members, with the historical Creek

