

File Number	9/38
Date	2/29

Tribal Government Services-FA

MAR 1 1984

Mrs. Pennie Wright  
708 S. John Street  
New Brockton, Alabama 36351

Dear Mrs. Wright:

In accordance with the Federal acknowledgment regulations (25 CFR 83, formerly part 54), the Acknowledgment staff has completed its initial review of the MaChis Lower Alabama Creek petition for Federal acknowledgment for obvious deficiencies and significant omissions. This letter discusses questions raised by the staff and areas which we feel could be strengthened with additional information. This letter is not a notification of active consideration nor is it a denial of the petition.

Staff questions and requests for additional information will be found in the individually numbered paragraphs which follow. There is no significance to the order in which items are listed.

1. Describe the present-day MaChis Creek community and how it functions. Include a list and description of group ceremonies and gatherings other than council/board of directors meetings as well as any other informal activities done together by all or part of the MaChis Creek membership. Describe any traditional cultural practices or Indian language that has been maintained.
2. When, where, and how often does the group's governing body meet? Are minutes of these meetings prepared? If so, please provide us with copies of the minutes.
3. Provide a photocopy of the page in your bible which shows its date and place of publication.
4. Are lists available which show the names of members who were present at the group's meetings? If so, please provide copies.
5. How does an individual become a member of the MaChis Lower Alabama Creek Indian Tribe? Is an application form completed? If so, by whom? Please provide a sample of the form.
6. Indicate using specific documents how the group has been identified as Indian since earliest contact, especially after 1825.
7. What evidence, if any, is required of an applicant's tribal ancestry or degree of Indian blood? Is any effort made to verify information of this type provided on membership applications? If so, please explain how verification is accomplished.

8. Provide a list of the leaders of the MaChis Lower Alabama Creek organization prior to December 1982, when the group was formally incorporated under the laws of the State of Alabama. Describe how the group was governed prior to that time and provide documentation of its existence.
9. When was the affidavit regarding the death and burial of James E. McGlaun written? What relationship, if any, do the affiants, Trent and Ralph Lewis, have with the MaChis Creeks? On what date did James E. McGlaun die?
10. What relationship, if any, now exists or has existed in the past between the recognized Creek Nation of Oklahoma? Explain.
11. What relationships, if any, now exist or have existed in the past with the MaChis Creeks and other recognized tribes and unrecognized Indian groups in the states of Alabama, Georgia and Florida? Explain.
12. Has any oral history been recorded from the current members or ancestors of the MaChis membership? If so, where can this information be researched?
13. The petition states that separate schools and churches were available for the MaChis Creeks? What records, if any, exist for these schools and churches to document the presence of MaChis members?
14. Did MaChis Creek members share in judgments awarded to Creek Indians under Indian Claims Commission Dockets 21 or 278? Are any known to have applied to share in Docket 278?

Although not an obvious deficiency, we would be interested to know what grants are held by the MaChis Creeks and any participation by the organization in Federal, state or local programs (e.g., CETA, Indian Education). If possible, provide a copy of any grants that have been received or applied for in the past five years.

The Acknowledgment staff will be in touch with you by telephone to discuss the specific information requested above. They will be happy to answer any questions you may have at that time.

Sincerely,

Hazel E. Elbert

~~Deputy~~ Director, Office of Indian Services

cc: Surname:  
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