

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 2

Farmers' Co-op Elevator, ~~Old Farmers' Co-op Elevator~~

Location: Buffalo, Oklahoma, Harper County *off US 64*

Owner of Property: Buffalo Farmers Coop Elevator Co., Buffalo, OK

Constructed in 1920, the Old Farmers' Coop Elevator is situated north and west of the Santa Fe tracks where they cut diagonally across the block south of the intersection of Harper Ave. and 4th Street. Built of hollow clay tiles on a concrete foundation, a 50 rectangular elevator shaft is flanked on opposite sides by three connected 30' tall cylindrical bins. The metal shed roof covers the bins and all but the central section of the shaft. Opposite the railroad tracks is a shed roofed delivery area (25' high where it is attached to the central section of the elevator) and a smaller, one story shed roofed storage room is attached to the bins on the northeast facade. In the 1930s, the building has been painted white to match the more modern, concrete Coop Elevator to the south and with the deterioration of the elevator shaft, the upper level has been removed and replaced by a flat roof with a metal enclosure on top for the elevator machinery. Even so, the architectural integrity of the elevator has been retained.

Condition: good, altered, original site

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service****National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Continuation sheet Old Farmers Co-op Elevator

Item number

8

Page 2

Significance: 1920 Builder: Unknown

The old Farmers' Coop Elevator is significant as the first of the three elevators that served Buffalo and as an example of the advancements in construction techniques that permitted the use of clay tiles instead of wood to construct larger and more substantial grain elevators. The town of Buffalo had been established in 1907 with statehood, to serve as the county seat (and only town at the time) of Harper County, but the community did not develop into a commercial center until 1920 when the Santa Fe Railroad finished construction of a branch line from Waynoka to Buffalo. With the completion of the railroad, the only efficient means of transportation for area farmers, the town developed into an agricultural center and the Old Farmers' Coop Elevator was completed in 1920 as the first and largest of three elevators to serve the needs of storage and shipping wheat, the major product of the region with a 30,000 bushel capacity the elevator is still in use today.

Acreage: Under one acreQuadrangle Name: Buffalo, Okla 1970Verbal Boundary Scale: East half and north half of Lot 19, and East half of Lots 20-21, Block 5, Buffalo original, less the railroad right of way.UTM: Northing 4076460

Easting 444160

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Farmer's

CONTINUATION SHEET Co-op Elevator ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 4

The Farmers' Co-op Elevator, of Cherokee, Oklahoma, is significant because it symbolizes the importance of wheat in Alfalfa County, insured the financial stability of Cherokee as the county seat, and is an example of advancing technology that used hollow red clay tile and brick as a more durable and "flexible" building material for permanent storage areas, than wood with its highly flammable nature and limited ability to form cylindrical bins that would increase storage capacity. Cherokee was plotted in 1901 and was named the county seat with the coming of statehood in 1907. Though contested for that position by the communities Ingersoll, Jet, and Carman, the people of Alfalfa County voted to keep Cherokee as the county seat because of its central location and more importantly because it was the railroad terminus of the county. Because of this the Farmers Co-op Elevator served as a storage area for farmers throughout the county who had access to the railroads. Because the holding capacity of the elevator increased from 15,000 bushels to 40,000 bushels in 1921, this elevator gave farmers in the region more incentive to grow wheat because it insured protection for crops once they were harvested and gave bankers more collateral for farming loans thus increasing the financial base of the county seat and establishing wheat as the number one agricultural crop. Though the elevator is presently surrounded by newer ones, its continued use speaks of its significance in making Cherokee a visible agricultural community.

Acreage: under on acre

Quadrangle Name: Cherokee North, OK 1969

Verbal Boundary Scale: Lots 25-27 block 24, Town of Cherokee

UTM: Northing 4067840

Easting 557170