

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED

DEC 28 1979

NOV

5 1980

DATE ENTERED

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Tradesman's National Bank Building

AND/OR COMMON

City Center Building

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

101 N. Broadway St.

-- NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Oklahoma City

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5

STATE

Oklahoma

VICINITY OF
CODE

40

COUNTY

Oklahoma

CODE

109

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY** DISTRICT BUILDING(S) STRUCTURE SITE OBJECT**OWNERSHIP** PUBLIC PRIVATE BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION** IN PROCESS BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS** OCCUPIED UNOCCUPIED WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE** YES: RESTRICTED YES: UNRESTRICTED NO**PRESENT USE** AGRICULTURE MUSEUM COMMERCIAL PARK EDUCATIONAL PRIVATE RESIDENCE ENTERTAINMENT RELIGIOUS GOVERNMENT SCIENTIFIC INDUSTRIAL TRANSPORTATION MILITARY OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Spaulding and Sly

STREET & NUMBER

300 City Center

CITY, TOWN

Oklahoma City

VICINITY OF

STATE

Oklahoma

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Oklahoma County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

324 Robert S. Kerr

CITY, TOWN

Oklahoma City

STATE

Oklahoma

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Oklahoma County Commercial Sites Survey

DATE

1978.

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Shirk Collection Oklahoma City University Library

CITY, TOWN

Oklahoma City

STATE

Oklahoma

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Tradesman's National Bank Building is a ten-story office building on the northwest corner of Main and Broadway, measuring 60' x 90'. The structure's architectural design is a modified Sullivan- esque with an Italian Ionic influence. The building's facade, typical of Sullivanesque, is divided into three distinct sections. The first two levels form the base of the structure, with rusticated limestone blocks forming a strong visual impression. The lower two levels, which are separated from the upper levels by a belt course, feature symmetrically arranged windows, pilasters, and rusticated stone lintels. The entire section is an excellent example of using design for visual strength.

The middle section consists of seven levels, marked only by vertically aligned windows grouped in symmetrically arranged patterns. In contrast to the lower and upper levels, the stone on the middle level is not rusticated. Typical of Sullivanesque styling, the upper section consists of a projecting eave, floral and sunburst designs, dentil moulding, and ornate exposed beams under the eaves.

The entire facade is in near-original condition. The only change has been replacing original wooden window sashes with smoked- glass panels. Otherwise, the exterior stonework is in excellent condition.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1921-1979 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Constructed in 1921, the Tradesman's National Bank Building is one of Oklahoma City's most strikingly designed office structures. The product of an era when subtle detailing and variation were necessary design components, the structure stands in stark contrast with the modern convention halls and plazas rising in the urban renewal district. This architectural and environmental value makes the old bank building worthy of National Register status.

From 1907 to 1912 Oklahoma City enjoyed a period of booming prosperity, spawning construction of new buildings and the creation of new businesses. One of those new enterprises was the Tradesman's National Bank. Despite the recession of 1913-1915, the young bank expanded. With new deposits from a war-time economy, the bank's directors in 1920 elected to build a new structure to house their business.

After purchasing a lot on the northwest corner of Main and Broadway, which was the location of Oklahoma City's first permanent Post Office, the directors solicited design plans. The selection was a plan for a ten-story Sullivanesque office building with a delicate influence of Italian Ionic architectural features. The planned design called for a building divided into three horizontal sections, each distinct from the others. The first level, consisting of the first two floors, featured pilasters, symmetrically arranged window bays, and rusticated stone work. The middle section, in contrast, was seven-floors of flush limestone with no trace of ornamentation. Despite this austerity, the middle section provided subtle variety in the arrangement of vertically aligned windows. The upper section provided the greatest sense of detail, with a projecting eave, exposed ornamental beams, floral motifs, and dentil moulding. The combination of a visually strong base, an austere but stark middle section, and a highly detailed upper level made the building one of the most unique structures in Oklahoma City.

The Tradesman's National Bank remained in the structure until 1949, when the financial institution was consolidated with the First National Bank. At that time, First National sold the building to City National Bank, which had been in Oklahoma City since 1903. City National remained in the building until 1971, when

(cont.)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Roy Stewart, Born Grown: An Oklahoma City History (Oklahoma City: Fidelity National Bank, 1974).

Vertical Files of the Oklahoma Heritage Association, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Circa 1 acre **UTM NOT VERIFIED**
QUADRANGLE NAME Oklahoma City **ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED** QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES			UTM REFERENCES		
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A 1 4	6 34 7 85	8 9 25 17 4 0	B		
C			D		
E			F		
G			H		

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point 12' southeast of the building, which is on the curb, proceed west 80' along the curb to a point 10' beyond the

(cont.)

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Dr. Bob L. Blackburn, Project Director

ORGANIZATION

Oklahoma County Historical Society

DATE

September 26, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

3801 N. Shartel

TELEPHONE

405-528-5091

CITY OR TOWN

Oklahoma City

STATE

Oklahoma

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Blenn Jordan

TITLE

DATE

12/11/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Bob Gavenon

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

11/5/80

ATTEST: *[Signature]*

DATE

[Signature]

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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it was sold to a property management corporation. Today, the building is occupied on the first floor by Frontier Federal Savings and Loan, while the upper floors house a variety of businesses and professionals.

Fortunately for residents of Oklahoma City, the Tradesman's National Bank Building was spared from the holocaust of urban renewal, which levelled every building* to the east, south, and southwest. Today, after several attempts at urban reconstruction, the building is bordered on the east by the Santa Fe Plaza, a modern structure with little ornamentation on its concrete facade. To the southeast is the Myrial Convention Center, a monolith apparently dedicated to the architectural school of unfinished pre-formed concrete and box-like design. To the southwest are several blocks of cleared lots, awaiting the long-promised Myrial Gardens. With its location on the northern and eastern edge of the urban renewal district, the Tradesman's National Bank Building stands like an architectural gem among rough-cut monuments of concrete. This environmental and architectural value makes the building worthy of listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

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northwest corner of the building. Then proceed 100' north through the parking lot to a point parallel with the north side of the building. Then proceed east 80' along the north face of the building to the curb on Broadway, which is 10' beyond the northeast corner of the building. Then proceed south 100' to the original point of departure.

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Tradesman's National Bank Building
101 N. Broadway
Oklahoma County
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

The building adjacent to the north side of the Tradesman's National Bank Building was constructed at a much later date, and is in no way a part of the Tradesman's National Bank Building.