NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

1042

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

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1. Name of Property

==========

historic name Farmers Co-op Elevator

other names/site number _____

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2. Location

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street & number 121 West Kansas Street not for publication N/A

city or town Hennessey vicinity N/A

state Oklahoma code OK county Kingfisher code 073 zip code 73742

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this __X__ nomination ____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property __X__ meets ____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally ___ statewide X locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Bob Blackburn — July 31, '00

Signature of certifying official — Date

Oklahoma Historical Society, SHPO

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ____ meets ____ does not meet the National Register criteria. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

Edson H. Beall 8/31/00

__V__ entered in the National Register
___ See continuation sheet.

____ determined eligible for the National Register
___ See continuation sheet.

____ determined not eligible for the National Register

____ removed from the National Register

____ other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper — Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- _x_ private
- ___ public-local
- ___ public-State
- ___ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- ___ building(s)
- ___ district
- ___ site
- _x_ structure
- ___ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
3	0	structures
0	0	objects
4	0	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) Grain Storage and Processing Facilities in Western Oklahoma

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
Cat: AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE Sub: Storage

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
Cat: AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE Sub: Storage

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)
OTHER: Concrete Country Elevator

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
foundation concrete
roof concrete
walls concrete
other

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

_x_ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

____ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

_x_ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

____ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

____ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

____ B removed from its original location.

____ C a birthplace or a grave.

____ D a cemetery.

____ E a reconstructed building, object,or structure.

____ F a commemorative property.

____ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture
Commerce
Architecture

Period of Significance 1931-1950

Significant Dates 1931
1935
1938

8. Statement of Significance (Continued)

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Burrell Construction Company, builder
Chalmers and Borton, builder

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)
_____ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
_____ previously listed in the National Register
_____ previously determined eligible by the National Register
_____ designated a National Historic Landmark
_____ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
_____ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data
_x_ State Historic Preservation Office
____ Other State agency
____ Federal agency
____ Local government
____ University
____ Other
Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	14	599010	3996600	3			
2				4			

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title George O. Carney - Professor of Geography

organization Department of Geography date 3/15/93

street & number Oklahoma State University telephone (405) 744-9167

city or town Stillwater state OK zip code 74078

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Farmers Co-op of Hennessey

street & number Rural Route #1 telephone (405) 828-4413

city or town Dover state OK zip code 73734

Summary:

Located on the old Rock Island railroad right-of-way to the east of the tracks, the Farmers Co-op Elevator stands one block west of U.S. Highway 81 on Kansas Street in Hennessey. The Farmers Co-op Elevator includes the 1931 West House and the 1938 East House. The West House is a 110' high concrete country elevator with concrete slab foundation. The four cylindrical-shaped bins of the elevator are 90' high with a 20' high, two-story rectangular headhouse. Both the bins and headhouse have flat roofs of concrete. The bin walls are of 8" thick concrete reinforced with vertical and horizontal steel rods 3/4" in diameter. Each of the four bins are 18' in diameter with a storage capacity of 103,000 bushels. The original one-story, shed-roofed, concrete side grain dump is attached to the west side. Four years following the construction of the original elevator in 1931, an annex of four concrete cylindrical-shaped bins was added to the east side (Photo 1). They are of the same height and diameter as the original 1931 bins with a total capacity of 95,000 bushels. To the east (approximately 4') stands the East House. It is a 110' high concrete country style grain elevator with concrete slab foundation. It consists of two cylindrical-shaped bins 90' high surmounted by a 20' two-story rectangular headhouse. Both the bins and headhouse have flat roofs of concrete. Each of the two cylinders are 18' 6" in diameter with a total storage capacity of 75,000 bushels. The elevator features an internal receiving dump (14' wide and 25' long with steel grates. Southeast of the Farmers Co-op Elevator is a 1938 one-story, red brick, hipped-roofed office building, also a contributing resource to the property (Photo 1). Although the original red tile covering on the roof has been replaced with composition shingles and a gable roofed wood porch has been added to the south wall, the office building retains sufficient integrity to be included as a contributing resource; it continues its historic function of housing the elevator offices. Standing to the south of these 1930s structures, across a dirt lane, is a mid-1950s concrete elevator with eight cylindrical-shaped bins and a three-story, rectangular headhouse. It is located outside the boundaries of the Farmer's Co-op Elevator nomination.

Description:

The east wall of the West House headhouse contains two openings: an eight-pane and a sixteen-pane metal awning window. The south and north walls of the headhouse each have four, symmetrically placed, metal awning windows with nine panes (Photos 1 and 2). The west side features one six-pane metal awning window in the headhouse, two six-pane metal awning windows evenly spaced

in the centerline of the bin, two twelve-pane metal windows flanking a slab door in the side grain dump, and a bifurcated load-out spout (Photo 2).

The side grain dump features a hinged garage door on the south side. Interior features of the side grain dump include an 8' X 10' steel grate over the receiving pit and a divided steel hopper with a capacity of 300 bushels on either side.

A concrete enclosure known as a "gallery" connects the elevator's headhouse with the annex addition bins. There are no openings in the gallery nor are there in the annex.

Interior features of the West House include two 2,000 bushel capacity steel-encased legs operated by two 15 h.p. Fairbanks-Morse motors; two belt-and-bucket vertical conveyor systems (one for each leg) with a 6-ply rubber belt and 7" X 9" cups; two 9" single distributors (one for each leg); a 10-bushels capacity automatic scale; a 10" steel spouting system; a dust exhaust fan attached to each leg which forces dust into the dust bin; and a man-lift (an elevator from the work floor to the headhouse).

The Farmer's Co-op East House has a unique keyhole configuration from a "bird's eye view" as the leg is enclosed in a rectangular extension forming the bottom of the keyhole. In a majority of concrete country elevators, the leghouse (headhouse) is situated among the circular bins. All walls of the bins and headhouse are of 8" thick concrete reinforced with vertical and horizontal steel rods 3/4" in diameter. The north and south walls of the headhouse each have four six-pane metal awning windows (Photos 1 and 3). The south wall also contains the first floor drive-through hinged door leading to the internal receiving dump and the matching north wall door (Photo 1). The east and west walls of the headhouse each have two openings: one six-pane and one twelve-pane metal awning window.

The interior of the East House includes one steel encased "leg" with a capacity of 3,000 bushels; six overhead bins over the driveway and work floor; a belt-and bucket conveyor system featuring 6" x 10" cups on 9" centers driven by a 15 h.p. enclosed motor; a "garner" (receiving bin in headhouse); automatic scales; steel spouting system; a distributor; and a hand-powered "man lift."

The 1931 elevator, 1935 annex addition, and 1938 elevator retain their original character and appearance. Other than some minor replacements of parts to the original elevating machinery, the Farmers Co-op Elevator and Annex remain in excellent condition with all interior and exterior features intact.

The office for the complex is a single story, hipped roof, brick building (Photos 1 and 2). It has an added gabled porch over the entry and scale window. The entry is offset. Fenestration is irregular and consists of steel-framed casement windows. The addition of the porch and a small, frame shed roofed addition to the rear of the west side do not significantly detract from the building's contributing status.

The old Rock Island railroad tracks are now owned and operated by the Union Pacific which transports grain from the Farmers Co-op Elevator to the larger terminal elevators in Enid and Yukon. Still owned by the Farmers Co-op of Hennessey, the elevator and annex serve as a wheat storage facility, thereby carrying on its historic function of more than 55 years.

Summary:

The Farmers Co-op Elevator in Hennessey, built in stages from 1931 to 1938, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under the "Grain Storage and Processing Facilities in Western Oklahoma" Multiple Property Submission. It is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A for its role in the economic and agricultural development of northern Kingfisher County, centered on Hennessey. It is also significant as a modern, up-to-date example of the effects of the farmers cooperative movement in western Oklahoma. The Farmers Co-op Elevator is also eligible for the National Register under Criterion C as an excellent example of a concrete country elevator constructed by two of the Midwest's leading contractors of grain elevators (Burrell Engineering of Chicago and Chalmers & Burton of Hutchinson, Kansas). The Farmers Co-op Elevator was noted in the 1942 publication Grain Elevators of North America as one of the most modern concrete facilities in the country (pp. 296-297).

Background:

Hennessey, Oklahoma was established as a tent city immediately after the land run of April 22, 1889. It was named after Pat Hennessey, a freightman on the Chisolm Trail who was killed near the townsite in 1876. The town really began to flourish when the Rock Island rail line was built through it in October of that year. This line followed the old Chisolm Trail from Fort Worth to Kansas. Not only did the Rock Island line connect the town to the outside world, but it provided what would become the basis for its economy for the next eighty years - wheat. In 1890, the railroad brought in 120,000 bushels of seed wheat for local growers who bought on credit against their first crop. Wheat soon became the dominant commodity and the basis for the town's economy. On April 23, 1939, the Daily Oklahoman (Oklahoma City), profiled the town:

> "In the best wheat section of the state, surrounded by "hard" and "soft" land suitable for a wide variety of crops, it is the best wheat market in that section of the state. Approximately one-half million bushels of wheat storage is available in its grain elevators, two of which are fine concrete structures, one of which, a farmer-owner co-operative, is one of the largest and most successful co-opertatives in the state."

Simply put, the cultivation and processing of wheat was the basis of the town's economy until the oil boom of the late 1950s and the Farmers Co-operative Elevator was a major factor in the town's success.

Significance:

Built in the 1930s after a fire destroyed the 30,000 bushel capacity wood elevator of the Hennessey Co-op , the current Farmers Co-op Elevator represents one of the oldest concrete country elevators in western Oklahoma associated with the farmers co-operative movement. Farmers established co-operatives in Oklahoma as early as 1905 in order to enhance their purchasing and selling power by eliminating the middleman from the grain trade equation. Co-op elevators were one of three types of ownership for grain elevators in western Oklahoma during the first half of the twentieth century, the other two being "line" and "independent." Membership in co-ops was open to all interested parties usually at about $100 per share, with each member entitled to one vote. Because the co-operative movement required facilities to hold wheat from the market for higher prices, local elevator co-ops in western Oklahoma in the 1930s and 1940s were replacing the smaller capacity wood structures with the new, fireproof, concrete tank elevators possessing five to six times the capacity.

The Hennessey Co-op was no exception to this trend as they moved quickly to replace the wood structure destroyed by fire. The Board of Directors led by Manager E.A. Kee let a contract to Burrell Construction Company of Chicago in 1931 to build a permanent, fireproof structure of sufficient storage capacity to meet the needs of area farmers. Located on the Rock Island railroad, Hennessey was an important shipping point for co-op members in northern Kingfisher County. By the 1930 agricultural census, wheat production in the county had risen to more than two million bushels per year and larger capacity facilities were sorely needed. The new 103,000 bushel concrete structure allowed farmers to either store their grain until enough had been accumulated for the Rock Island to make a profitable run or to await a favorable price increase in the off-harvest season. Most of the Farmers Co-op of Hennessey wheat was shipped to market through a larger co-op terminal elevator such as Union Equity in Enid.

Demand necessitated the addition of an annex to the 1931 structure. In 1935, four additional bins were attached. The Farmers Co-op West House and Annex, with a storage capacity of about 200,000 bushels, was found to be insufficient for Hennessey's needs by the late 1930s when Kingfisher County was producing wheat at a rate of more than two million bushels per year. In 1938, the Farmers Co-op East House was constructed adjacent to the earlier structure, now deemed the West House. Separated by only 4', the 1938 elevator is connected to the earlier structure by distributor spouts and conveyor systems.

The older complex, according to local co-op officials, was unable to meet the daily output of 35,000 bushels during peak harvest season as well as

accommodate an annual storage of 500,000 bushels. By building the new 75,000 bushel capacity East elevator, the Farmers Co-op of Hennessey could provide storage service for approximately 285,000 bushels.

The enhanced storage capacity of Farmers Co-op of Hennessey resulted in several advantageous options for area farmers: (1) storage of greater quantities of grain locally allowed co-op members to save on storage charges at terminal elevators, (2) storage of larger volumes of grain until sufficient amounts had been accumulated for the Rock Island to make a profitable run, and (3) storage of grain to await a favorable price increase during the off-harvest season period.

As the only co-op elevator in Hennessey, the nominated property played a unique role in this commercial grain-oriented community. Not only was it interested in obtaining the best possible price for the farmers' grain, but it was also engaged in providing local co-op members with the best prices for the retail lines they carried. These included starter and grower feeds for livestock, stock salt, twine, animal health supplies, farm implements, and petroleum products. During the early stages of the Hennessey Co-op, it also bought local produce from area farmers (eggs, cream, and poultry) to be marketed at the best price available locally or regionally.

The Farmers Co-op Elevator is an exemplary model of the concrete country elevator. Featured in the 1942 publication, Grain Elevators of North America, the elevator was a state-of-the-art structure with "all concrete and steel construction, enclosed electric wiring in heavy rigid conduits, and safety-globe enclosures over all light bulbs" (pp. 296-97). The elevator and annex addition are characterized by the large volume cylindrical-shaped towers, the use of concrete construction materials throughout, simple lines void of any ornamentation, smooth wall surfaces, flat roofs on all bins and headhouse, and metal awning windows set flush to the outer walls.

Built by Burrell Engineering of Chicago and Chalmers and Borton of Hutchinson, Kansas (two of the Midwest's leading contractors of concrete country elevators), the nominated property is among the most impressive intact examples of concrete country elevator complexes constructed during the 1930s in western Oklahoma. As such, it meets the registration requirements for Property Type 1C (Concrete Country Elevators) as outlined in Section F of the Multiple Property Nomination for "Grain Storage and Processing Facilities in Western Oklahoma."

In addition to its exceptional exterior, the elevator and annex addition featured the most up-to-date elevating machinery for that time. There were steel-enclosed legs, each with a capacity of 2,000-3,000 bushels, as well as two 6-ply rubber belt-and-bucket conveyor systems powered by modern electric motors. The receiving dump was also considered one of the most modern of the 1930s era elevators with a Kewanee truck lift, steel grates, and a divided steel hopper with a capacity for 300 bushels on either side. The annex

addition was attached to the main house by overhead and tunnel conveyor systems. With the annex storage capacity of 95,000 bushels, the Farmers Co-op Elevator was one of the largest volume complexes in western Oklahoma with almost 285,000 bushels.

Although minor modifications have been made to internal machinery reflecting the changing technology of the grain industry, the Farmers Co-op Elevator and Annex retain their original character, design, and appearance as they were constructed in the 1930s. In addition, the elevator/annex has helped solidify the Hennessey community as an agricultural and commercial center in northern Kingfisher County. The Farmers Co-op has retained co-op ownership status throughout its history, maintaining its historic intent and mission.

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Major Bibliographic References:

Corporate records of Chalmers & Borton, Inc., Hutchinson, Kansas, builders of the 1935 annex.

Charles Clark (ed.). Grain Elevators of North America. Chicago: Grain and Feed Journals, 1942, p. 296.

Ray Bollis (Farmers Co-op president). Interview with George O. Carney, January 31, 1993.

Daily Oklahoman. Oklahoma City, 23 April, 1939.

Directory of Oklahoma Grain and Feed Dealers. Enid, OK: Oklahoma Grain and Feed Dealers Association, 1940.

LeRoy Fuksa (Farmers Co-op Elevator manager). Interview with George O. Carney, January 31, 1993.

Verbal Boundary Description:

From the point of beginning at the intersection of the Union Pacific railroad and the Farmers Co-op driveway to the north of the nominated property proceed 288' east along the center of the driveway to an alleyway, then proceed south along the alleyway on the east side of the nominated properties to Kansas Avenue, then proceed 288' west along The extension of Kansas Avenue to the Union Pacific railroad, finally proceed north along the railroad to the point of beginning.

Verbal Boundary Justification:

The Farmers Co-op Elevator (1931 West House and 1938 East House), the 1935 Annex, and the 1938 office building (all contributing resources)are located within the verbal boundaries described above.