

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

1640

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name Sooner Co-op Association Elevator (West)

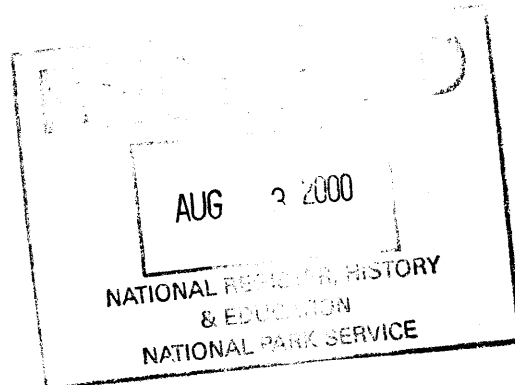
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 302 West F Street not for publication N/A

city or town Okeene vicinity N/A

state Oklahoma code OK county Blaine code 011 zip code 73763



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.)

[Signature]
Signature of certifying official

July 31, 06
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:

- 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] 8/31/00

[Signature]
Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

=====

5. Classification

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Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> 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

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6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE Sub: Storage

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE Sub: Storage

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Concrete Country Elevator
Concrete Storage Tanks

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.)

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

- 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.
- 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 1939-1950

Significant Dates 1939
1941

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8. Statement of Significance (Continued)
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Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Chalmers and Borton, builder

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

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9. Major Bibliographical References
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(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

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: N/A

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10. Geographical Data
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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	561180	3997015	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

N/A 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.)

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11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title George O. Carney - Professor of Geography
organization Department of Geography date 2/10/93
street & number Oklahoma State University telephone 405-744-9167
city or town Stillwater state OK zip code 74078

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Additional Documentation
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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)

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form
Sooner Co-op Association Elevator (West)
Blaine County, Oklahoma
Grain Storage and Processing Facilities
in Western Oklahoma

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

name Sooner Coop

street & number Rt. 2, Box 46 telephone (405) 822-4423

city or town Okeene state OK zip code 73763
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 9

Sooner Co-op Association Elevator (West)
name of property
Blaine, Oklahoma
county and State
Grain Storage and Processing
Facilities in Western Oklahoma
name of multiple property listing

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Summary:

The Sooner Co-op Association Elevator (West) in Okeene is a 120' high concrete country grain elevator with concrete slab foundation. It is located on the west side of Okeene, a town with a population of 1,300 located in the northeast corner of Blaine County. The elevator stands just west of the commercial district in an area that once housed a large number of agriculture related businesses. Its four cylindrical shaped bins are approximately 100' high surmounted by a 20' high, two story rectangular headhouse. Both bins and headhouse have flat roofs of concrete. The concrete bin walls are approximately 8" thick and are reinforced with vertical and horizontal steel rods 3/4" in diameter. Each of the four cylinders is approximately 18' in diameter. An annex with six cylinders on the west was added in 1941 to the original 1939 elevator and four cylinders. The bins are approximately 100' high and 18' in diameter. The 1941 annex is a contributing resource, reflecting the period of significance of the elevator. The 1939 structure is connected to the annex with a concrete enclosure known as a "gallery." It houses the conveyor system that feeds the annex bins. A "cyclone" is located on top of the headhouse roof which vents dust from the elevator leg. Total storage capacity of the complex is approximately 200,000 bushels. The elevator features a central drive through grain dump. The old Rock Island railroad tracks run along the east side of the property. They are now operated by Farm Rail, a short line, which transports grain from the Sooner Co-op Elevator to the Union Equity/Farmland terminal elevator in Enid.

Description:

The Sooner Co-op Association Elevator (West) is composed of the original 1939 elevator with four storage bins and a 1941 annex with six additional bins. The annex is connected to the original headhouse by a concrete gallery. The bins are approximately 100' in height; the two story headhouse adds an additional 20' to the structure's overall height. Exterior features include simple, utilitarian fenestration and spouts for the outloading of grain.

The north and south walls of the headhouse each have four (8-paned) metal hopper windows, evenly placed on the smooth wall surfaces (Photos 1 and 2). Two (6-paned) metal hopper windows are in each the north and south walls of the gallery. There is one metal door centered between the windows in the north wall of the gallery. At ground level of the north and south sides of the original structure, a driveway opening leading to the internal receiving dump, is centered between the widely spaced cylinders.

The east and west walls of the headhouse each have one twelve-paned metal window (Photos 1 and 3). The west side of the gallery has one eight-paned metal hopper window. There is one metal door at ground level in wall of the

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Sooner Co-op Association Elevator (West)
name of property
Blaine, Oklahoma
county and State
Grain Storage and Processing
Facilities in Western Oklahoma
name of multiple property listing

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original elevator. The west wall of the annex also has a single metal door centered at ground level.

The annex has six cylinders, tightly bunched together. Apart from the windows and doors, the only distinguishing exterior feature is a metal ladder on the west end that reaches from the ground to the roof. The original four cylinders are spaced farther apart; their rounded walls joined together by flat planes of concrete. One the east side of the original bins, centered above the door, are two metal spouts. An additional spout reaches southward from the face of the headhouse. The smooth walls of the headhouse feature simple, unadorned pilasters at the corners. These are more structural than decorative in nature.

Internally, there are ten concrete bins with hoppers floors, a 30' deep "boot" (central dump pit), one steel encased "leg," a belt-and-bucket conveyor system which lifts grain to the "garner" (receiving area in the headhouse), automatic scales, steel spouting system, distributor, and a "man-lift." From the garner in the headhouse, the grain is directed via the spouts to various internal bins or load-out spouts. An open-sided elevator platform called a man-lift transports workers from the main floor to the headhouse. The six annex bins are fed from the main house by a 24" rubber conveyor belt that runs above the bins through the gallery. The conveyor carries the grain over the bins until a tripper pours it into a selected bin. Grain is moved from the annex bins to the main house on a 24" rubber tunnel conveyor belt which runs below the bins.

The Sooner Co-op Association Elevator (West) is an extraordinarily well-preserved concrete country elevator and concrete storage tank complex. Other than a few minor replacements to interior elevating machinery reflecting the changing technology of the grain industry, the nominated property retains its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and conveys the feeling of its past environment. It continues to serve as a feed and grain storage facility for the Sooner Co-operative Association of Okeene.

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Sooner Co-op Association Elevator (West)
name of property
Blaine, Oklahoma
county and State
Grain Storage and Processing
Facilities in Western Oklahoma
name of multiple property listing

Summary:

The Sooner Co-op Association Elevator (West) in Okeene, built in 1939, is historically significant for its long association with the farmers co-operative movement in western Oklahoma. It was the only co-op-owned elevator serving the farmers of northern Blaine and southern Major counties as a commercial grain storage facility during the late 1930s and 1940s (Criterion A). It is a classic example of an intact concrete country elevator and concrete storage tank complex constructed by Chalmers and Borton, one of the Midwest's leading contractors of concrete grain elevators (Criterion C). It relates to the historic context in "Grain Storage and Processing Facilities in Western Oklahoma" (Section E).

Background:

Okeene is located in the northeast corner of Blaine County in the midst of open, rolling land west of the Cimarron River and north of the gypsum hills that characterize much of the county. The post office was established in January, 1893. The town took its name from parts of the words "Oklahoma, Cherokee, and Cheyenne."¹ From its inception, the town was an agricultural center. The open, rolling prairie proved exceptionally well suited to wheat production.

Okeene's advantageous location at the intersection of the Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific (Rock Island) and the St. Louis and San Francisco (Frisco) railroads meant that it would naturally develop into a shipping center for the surrounding area. In time, as the agricultural production of the surrounding area increased, so did the importance of Okeene. By 1935, almost 600,000 acres were in production in Blaine County, producing 1.5 million bushels of wheat.² Five elevators and two flour mills were in full production.

The Sooner Co-operative Association grew out of the movement among farmers to rally together to fight the costs of dealing with company owned line and terminal elevators. By sharing the costs and evenly distributing the profits, the co-op could often command a better profit margin for the small farmers of the area. They eventually built two elevators in Okeene, one (West) on the

¹Shirk, George H., Oklahoma Place Names, (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press) 1965.

²Vertical Files, Oklahoma Historical Society.

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Sooner Co-op Association Elevator (West)
name of property
Blaine, Oklahoma
county and State
Grain Storage and Processing
Facilities in Western Oklahoma
name of multiple property nomination

Rock Island line, the other (East) on the Frisco line. Eventually, other elevators in town fell by the wayside; a number of them were razed. The Sooner Co-operative Association Elevator (West) remains in use today, much as it did when conceived and constructed.

Significance:

The elevator and its four cylinders were erected in 1939 to meet the demand for a larger volume, fireproof facility that could handle greater quantities of grain than the small capacity, wood elevator of the 1920s. By 1941, however, the Sooner Co-op Association found the 1939 structure to be inadequate because Blaine County was producing almost two million bushels of wheat per year. The 1939 elevator and four bins were unable to meet the daily output of approximately 30,000 bushels during peak harvest season. Consequently, the local co-op in 1941 again contracted with Chalmers and Borton (builders of the 1939 structure) to build a six cylinder annex to their elevator, increasing total capacity of the complex from 80,000 to 200,000 bushels.

The enhanced storage capacity of Sooner Co-op Association of Okeene resulted in several advantageous options for area wheat producers: (1) local storage of greater quantities of grain allowed co-op members to save on storage charges at terminal elevators, (2) storage of larger volumes of grain until a sufficient amount had been accumulated for the Rock Island railroad to make a profitable run, and (3) storage of grain to await a favorable price increase following peak harvest season when the market was glutted. As the only co-op-owned elevator in Okeene, the Sooner Co-op served an additional role in the agricultural-oriented community. Not only was the co-op interested in obtaining the best possible prices for the farmer's grain, but it also engaged in providing local co-op members with the best prices on the retail lines they carried, including fertilizer, petroleum products, animal health supplies, livestock salt, and farm implements.

The Sooner Co-op Association Elevator (West) is a well-preserved representative example of a concrete country elevator with concrete storage tanks. It is characterized by large volume cylindrical shaped bins and rectangular shaped headhouse, the use of concrete construction materials throughout with steel rod reinforcements, flat roofs on bins and headhouse, and metal frame windows set flush to outer walls. As such, it is associated with Property Type 1C -- Concrete Country Elevators (Section F). Of similar design and construction, the annex meets the registration requirements for Property Type 1E (Concrete Storage Tanks) as outlined in Section E of the Multiple Property document, Grain Storage and Processing Facilities in Western Oklahoma.

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Although minor modifications have been made to internal machinery reflecting changing technology of the "machine age" era, the Sooner Co-op Association Elevator (West) and its annex maintain their architectural and design integrity as constructed in 1939 and 1941.

The nominated property has also retained its historic integrity continuing to function as a wheat storage facility and focal point for commercial agricultural activities in the Okeene community. Furthermore, it has been owned and operated by the Sooner Co-operative Association of Okeene throughout its 61-year history. While many other agriculturally related businesses have scaled back their operations or closed entirely, the Sooner Co-op has continued in successful operation.

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Facilities in Western Oklahoma
name of multiple property listing

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Major Bibliographical References:

Chalmers and Borton, corporate records. Hutchinson, KS (contractors for elevator and annex).

Leisher, Steve (Sooner Co-op Association president). Interview with George O. Carney, January 31, 1993.

Shirk, George H. Oklahoma Place Names, (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press) 1965.

Vertical files, Blaine County. Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City.

Verbal Boundary Description:

Starting at the point of beginning at the intersection of F Street and the West Railroad track proceed north 362' to the first telephone pole on the east side of the railway right-of-way. Then proceed 170' west through a grassy area to the north of the nominated property to First Street, then proceed 367' south along First Street to its intersection with F Street. Finally, proceed 183' east along F Street to the point of beginning.

Verbal Boundary Justification:

The 1939 elevator and the 1941 annex bins (contributing elements) are located in the verbal boundaries as described above.