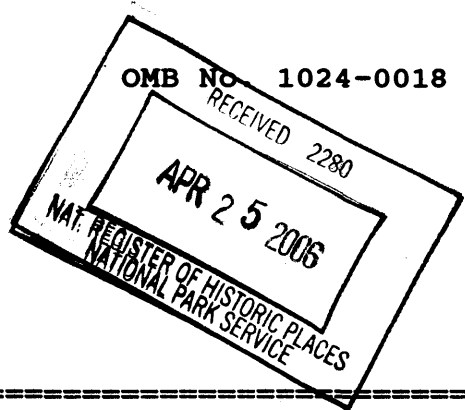


NPS Form 10-900  
(Rev. 10-90)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM



=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Kingfisher Memorial Hall

other names/site number N/A

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number 123 W. Miles Avenue not for publication N/A

city or town Kingfisher vicinity N/A

state Oklahoma code OK county Kingfisher code 073

zip code 73750

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this XX 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 XX meets      does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant      nationally      statewide X locally. ( N/A See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Bob Barber  
Signature of certifying official

April 24, 2006  
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): \_\_\_\_\_

Edson H. Beall 6.8.06

for  
Signature of Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

=====

5. Classification

=====

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>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

=====  
6. Function or Use  
=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>GOVERNMENT</u>	Sub: <u>City Hall</u>
<u>SOCIAL</u>	<u>Meeting Hall</u>
<u>RECREATION AND CULTURE</u>	<u>Auditorium/Sports Facility</u>
<u>EDUCATION</u>	<u>Library</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>SOCIAL</u>	Sub: <u>Meeting Hall</u>
<u>COMMERCE/TRADE</u>	<u>Organizational (Chamber of Commerce)</u>
<u>RECREATION AND CULTURE</u>	<u>Auditorium</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

=====  
7. Description  
=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

NEOCLASSICAL  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE  
roof ASPHALT  
walls BRICK  
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)

- 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.) N/A

- 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)

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT  
SOCIAL HISTORY  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance 1921-1955

=====  
8. Statement of Significance (Continued)  
=====

Significant Dates 1921  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder ARCHITECTS: Layton, Smith and Forsyth

BUILDER: Bellows, W. S.  
\_\_\_\_\_

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) N/A

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: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than 1 (one) acre

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	14	596290	3968950	3	—	—
2	N/A	See continuation sheet.		4	—	—

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 Dianna Everett, Public Historian

organization for City of Kingfisher, Oklahoma date 20 November 2005

street & number 2510 Countrywood Lane telephone 405-348-4679

city or town Edmond state OK zip code 73003

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)

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form  
Kingfisher Memorial Hall  
Kingfisher County, Oklahoma

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Property Owner

=====

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

name City of Kingfisher, Oklahoma

street & number 301 N. Main Street telephone 405-375-5272

city or town Kingfisher state OK zip code 73750



United States Department of the Interior  
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 9

Kingfisher Memorial Hall  
name of property  
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county and State

**SUMMARY:** The Kingfisher Memorial Hall, which has historically and presently combined the functions of office space, auditorium/meeting area, and utility vehicle housing, is located at 123 West Miles Avenue in Kingfisher, Oklahoma. The setting, a combined commercial residential area, remains much as original to the 1921 building. Designed by Layton, Smith and Forsyth in a restrained vernacular Neoclassical style, the two story building has four units that each served different, but public, purposes for most of the twentieth century. The materials and workmanship retain high integrity. There have been no significant alterations that effect its eligibility for the National Register.

**DESCRIPTION OF RESOURCE:**

The Kingfisher Memorial Hall was constructed in 1921 at 123 West Miles Avenue, one block west of Main Street, the primary downtown business area. The facility was and still is across the street from city-owned lots where a water tower has existed since the 1910s and a fire department garage since the 1930s. Otherwise, the setting remains essentially as it was in 1921. To the west is a short block of business buildings and one residence, and the block north of that comprises a church and a residential area. To the south, across the alley, is a storage lot that formerly was the site of a wagon yard. To the east, across another alley, is the rear of the business block that fronts on Main Street.(1)

The Kingfisher Memorial Hall is the most imposing of any in its immediate neighborhood. Horizontally massed, it is a two-story, semi-detached building measuring 94 feet and 8 inches east-west, across the north/main facade (along Miles Avenue), and 124 feet north-south along the west wall (fronting Seventh Street). The load-bearing masonry walls are of reddish-brown face brick on north and west, facing the streets, and red common brick on east and south, facing the alleys. On the north and west various geometrical architectural elements were created in grey concrete, to contrast with the brick.

The building's footprint is generally rectangular. It is in four sections. The main part, facing Miles Street, is an office section, with rooms on two floors. It still serves as offices. South of the office section, with street access from North Seventh, is the Auditorium. It still serves that purpose. On the east side, connected to the Office Section and the Auditorium, respectively, are two extensions, those being the original Fire Department section (northeast corner) and the city Water-light-and-power Department's work/storage facility (southeast corner). The Fire Department extension has two floors, and the Water- light-and-power extension has one floor. The extensions served their original purposes until the mid-1950s and mid 1980s, respectively. (Refer to attached Sanborn Fire Insurance Map). There has been no change other than the construction of two adjacent buildings (city police department on the northeast, and police storage on the southeast) circa 1975. For security purposes, these new buildings do not have access to the original extensions.

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Kingfisher Memorial Hall  
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The building's four constituent parts are of varying dimension. The Office Section measures 73 feet east-west by 47 feet north-south. The Auditorium measures 77 feet north south by 73 feet east-west. The Fire Department measures 21 ½ feet east-west and 67 feet north south, and the Water Department measures 20 feet east-west and 67 feet north-south. [Refer to Sanborn Maps of 1926 and 1936]

The rooflines vary. The auditorium roof is peaked, with a gable end facing south. The other three sections have flat, parapetted roofs. The rooflines contribute to the strong horizontal massing.

The building's architectural style is a vernacular version of Neoclassical, in vogue during the first half of the twentieth century.(2) Appropriate but spare decoration on the north/main facade, or office section, identifies the style, exemplary of Layton buildings around the state. Important and immediately noticeable visual elements include an entablature that emphasizes the horizontal roofline and massing. This element comprises a concrete-capped parapet, a concrete cornice, and frieze decorated with squares and rectangles of grey concrete, contrasting with the brick color. In the center, over the entrance, the frieze bears the inscription "Kingfisher Memorial Hall." Other decoration comprises a broad concrete arch above the recessed opening at the main entrance (north side), which is flanked with narrow concrete pilasters, each topped with a scrolled bracket. The symmetrical main facade is marked by shallow pilasters that imitate columns, with Corinthian-style cast-concrete capitals and with plinths that rest on a concrete water table. The pilasters separate the north elevation into five bays, each with paired windows on each floor. In addition, the bays between the pilasters are punctuated with vertical pairs of grey concrete squares in the area between the first- and second-floor windows. The water table does not extend into the Fire Department section but extends entirely around the wall of the office and auditorium sections. The office section's west wall has pilasters only on the ends, giving that elevation three bays. An entry is placed in the southernmost bay. The auditorium section has only the water table and window sills as decoration and otherwise is symmetrical, with a centrally placed entry on the west. The workmanship of the main elevations is in good repair, with mortar and decorative elements intact. The rear and east side elevations are less well maintained.

An original black granite cornerstone remains in the northwest corner of the Office section. The north face is inscribed: "MEMORIAL TO/ KEITH LOWRY [American Legion logo] POST NO. 6/WORLD WAR VETERANS". The west face is inscribed: CITY HALL/ERECTED A.D. 1921/W.M. A. ASH/GLENN L. BENNETT/J.S. PATRICK/CITY COMMISSIONERS/LAYTON SMITH AND FORSYTH, ARCHITECTS/W.S. BELLOWS, BUILDER"

In all parts of the building the windows are wood-frame double-hung variety, with six-over-six glazing pattern. They are paired in the north elevation. On the west side they are single units in both office and auditorium sections. In the

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auditorium they illuminated the second-floor balcony. In the Fire Department section, in the main/north elevation, the windows occur as four contiguous units on the second floor. Some on the east side may have been covered up when the adjoining building was erected, and all that are visible in the south, accessing the alley, have either been infilled with plywood or painted brown. The south elevation of the auditorium retains its original five pairs of second-floor window units and one single-window unit on the east. On the ground floor two paired windows are flanked by one door on the west and two on the east. All south-side windows are painted over.

The building's entryways remain as originally placed, with the most functional being the north entry to the Office section and the west entries to the Office and Auditorium. The most defining entry is on the north, where a multiple-riser porch leads from the sidewalk. The porch is marked by two original cast-iron lampposts and two new metal railings.

The Kingfisher Memorial Hall retains a high degree of integrity of materials and workmanship. All of the windows units on the principal elevations, north and west, are original. They have removable metal storm windows. An original wood-panel door still gives access to the Office section from the west, and one original panel door is still in place in the Auditorium's south wall.

The interior of the building illustrates the types of activities conducted there. The Office section's centrally placed lobby features an original marble floor, three new, 1930s-style hanging light fixtures, and original millwork and doors for the sets of offices that lie to left and right. Ahead is a double French door (new) into the auditorium, and to the left of that door is an oak stairway leading to the three American Legion rooms upstairs. The auditorium's long axis runs north and south, with the stage on the left, or east, side. The original arrangement of stage, back-stage, and dressing rooms remains. Originally, however, an open balcony extended out over the west side. This has been enclosed and is used for storage. The original "basketball quality" oak flooring remains intact and in good repair. The Fire Department extension remains as original, with garage on the first floor and a sleeping area on the second. The overhead door on the north has been removed and infilled with plywood, but a pedestrian door remains useable on the south. The Water Department section was not available for examination but is said to be a large open area still used for storage; it is accessed by an overhead door on the south and a pedestrian door on the north.

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ALTERATIONS:

The Kingfisher Memorial Hall as experienced minimal alterations, most having been performed in 1976 and none on the main elevations other than the infilling of the Fire Department overhead door and the replacement of the Office Section's north door. In 1976 the Fire Department moved from the building into a new facility, and the vehicle door on the north elevation of the extension was infilled.

The former water department garage area, on the southeast, received a new steel vehicle door at an unknown date.

The main entrance to the office section, in the north facade, was given a new glass-and-metal door at an unknown date but the unit generally reflects a 1979s-1980s style, with metal frame for both door and glass side lights and transom. The metal railings were added at an unknown date.

A concrete handicap-access ramp, with a metal railing, was added to the auditorium entrance in the south wall at an unknown date. A new steel door was added at that time.

Four air conditioning compressor units have been placed outside the west wall, as has an electric utility pole, at the southwest corner of the building. A flagpole has been set at the northwest corner, and a radio tower at the northeast.

ASSESSMENT:

The Kingfisher Memorial Hall retains a high degree of integrity of location, setting, design, materials, and workmanship. In addition, because of the consistency of its historic and present functions, it also retains much of its original feeling and association. The building is fully capable of transmitting the full panoply of information about its past and therefore is eligible for listing in the National Register.

NOTES:

1. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Kingfisher, Oklahoma, 1926, 1937.
2. Virginia McAlester and Lee McAlester, A Field Guide to American Houses (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1989), 343ff.

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SUMMARY:

The Kingfisher Memorial Hall, a multipurpose war memorial-city hall-community building erected in 1921 at 123 West Miles Avenue in Kingfisher, Oklahoma, is exemplary of and one of the few unaltered examples of World War I memorial buildings constructed in the 1920s around the state. Its planning and execution also reflect a national pattern of memorializing the sacrifices made during the short but galvanizing World War I experience. The American Legion of the town of Kingfisher aided the City of Kingfisher in promoting the state's first "memorial bond," which resulted in the construction of a building that served social, governmental, recreational, and educational purposes after its construction in 1921. The city government, the county government, the Legion, the Boy Scouts, the public library, and the chamber of commerce have all occupied the Memorial Hall at one time or another during the past eighty-plus years. The Kingfisher Memorial Hall is eligible for inclusion in the National Register for its Social and Governmental significance as a multipurpose war memorial-city-hall-community building. In addition, it retains a high degree of integrity of setting, location, design, materials, and workmanship.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW:

The town of Kingfisher, Oklahoma, in Kingfisher County, was established at the time of the Land Run of 1889 that opened the Unassigned Lands of Central Oklahoma for settlement. When the Organic Act of May 1890 created Oklahoma Territory, Kingfisher County was established (in a smaller size than presently), and the town of Kingfisher became its seat of government. At one time a movement existed to make the town the territorial capital, but Guthrie and Oklahoma City superceded Kingfisher in size and influence, and a larger role for the town of Kingfisher was never made possible. Nevertheless, the town grew to resemble other small agricultural centers of the early statehood era. A large mill and elevator served regional wheat farmers, and the Rock Island and Santa Fe railroads both came to serve the town. Public amenities included schools and Kingfisher College. By 1890 1900 Kingfisher had 1,134 residents, by 1900, 2,301 residents, and by 1910, 2,538. At 1907 statehood Kingfisher became the official seat of the county, which by that time had 18,010 inhabitants. When the United states entered World War I in April 1917, numerous Kingfisher men went to serve in the military in Europe and elsewhere. When those who escaped death returned to their home, the town had begun to decline in population, as the post-war agricultural depression began.

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HISTORICAL CONTEXTS:

The first city government buildings in Kingfisher reflected a small-town ambience. During the early years of governing, city officers, mostly the city clerk and police judge, did their work in a small, former workshop building on West Miles Avenue. Connected to it was a two-story, wood-frame building, actually a stable, that served as a fire station. A fire truck was purchased in 1919, but until then, a fire wagon and team of horses occupied the stable-firehouse. Quarters were maintained in the loft. A city jail stood north of these two buildings. (1) Those buildings stood on the north side of West Miles, near the center of the block (between North Seventh Street and the alley in block 21, and faced south. The city water tower was also on this block. (2) In later years, city offices rented rooms upstairs in the People's Bank building, down the street. There city business was conducted for the town's first decades.(3)

A world war and events of the 1920s would change the community's view of its civic responsibility. The city fathers constructed a junior high and senior high school in 1911 and made plans to enlarge it (completed 1923).(4) This and other needs were not easily met, however, in a time of agricultural depression. Nonetheless, when armistice was declared, ending World War I on November 11, 1918, citizens began to think about the town's future and plan for a new municipal office building. During 1919 the city council and many local individuals discussed the prospect, and as they talked, they began to think of the new building not only as a city office complex but as a memorial to Kingfisher's young men (and women) who had served in the Great War. This combined idea was bandied about on the streets and in council chambers.(5) The conversation was just the impetus needed to convince voters to approve a large expenditure for an imposing new building on the west side of downtown. Adding to the idea's forward thrust was a "memorial movement" in full swing in the United States at the time.

The advent of war in Europe in 1914 and the United States' subsequent entry into that conflict in April 1917 occasioned the development of veterans' groups. More than 90,000 Oklahoma men and women served in World War I; more than a thousand were killed in action. Thousands of others were wounded and died from disease. Kingfisher citizens responded to the call to defend the country. Those too young or old to serve, joined a "Home Guard," that patrolled for community defense. Others worked for the Oklahoma Council of Defense to deter subversive activities. Almost everyone bought Liberty Bonds and war stamps.

The founding of the American Legion had a profound effect on the visual memorialization of World War I in the American mind and on the nation's built environment. Shortly before returning from France, in March 1919 veteran soldiers

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of the American Expeditionary Force organized the American Legion, and in May, 1919 in St. Louis the name "American Legion" and a constitution were adopted. In September the organization was formally chartered by the United States Congress.(6) While the national movement was afoot, veterans just returned to Kingfisher set up their own American Legion post, Keith Lowry Post No. 5, organized July 4, 1919; it was one of the earliest American Legion posts organized in the state. By 1921 membership had climbed to 221. The Legion's civic and social activities, in Kingfisher and elsewhere around the nation, included sponsoring baseball teams, holding dances and patriotic parades, setting up libraries, and even promoting Chautauqua shows.(7) Kingfisher's veterans massed behind the idea of using public money to build an up-to-date city hall that would also contain a memorial to their fallen comrades.

Pushing the Kingfisher plans forward was a widespread popular movement throughout the nation and also in Oklahoma to create similar monuments to the war dead. For example, in 1919 Southern Methodist University planned a memorial hall with bronze plates, and in 1920 in New York City's Army and Navy Club planned a club house where visiting veterans could stay.(8) Literally hundreds of American communities and even families erected generic statues of soldiers and sailors, including copies of the large bronze sculptures "The Spirit of the American Doughboy" and "The Spirit of the American Navy" by E. M. Viquesney. Today, 138 of the Viquesney statues still stand in 38 states, eight of them erected in Oklahoma in the 1920s (in Hobart, Cherokee, Henryetta, Muskogee, Granite. Less "formulaic" doughboy statues were erected as well, including a granite one in the Pawnee town square, a home-made concrete one in the Carney town square, and a marble one (said to have been executed by a student of Rodin) in the Pierce St. John Cemetery near Pawhuska.(9)

It is easy to see that the nature of these memorials ran the gamut, that some were destined to be ephemeral, and that some have endured to remind Americans of the sacrifices of past generations. In 1919 the Pierian Club of Hugo planted Memorial Trees around the courthouse block. Similarly, in 1923-24 the American War Mothers planted trees on either side of the highway from the State Capitol Complex for two miles north toward Edmond—and replanted them after they all died from neglect.(10) Other monuments, however, achieved a degree of permanency. In 1920 the town of Afton started collecting books on Armistice Day in 1919 and created a Memorial Library for the public schools.(11) In 1921 a Memorial Gateway was completed on the campus of East Central State College and dedicated to the students who had served in the war.(12) In 1922 Alva citizens erected a memorial shaft in the town square.(13) In 1924 Washington County constructed a reinforced concrete Memorial Bridge across the Caney River in the suburbs of Bartlesville.(14) In 1928 the city of Ardmore installed two bronze tablets in a memorial building in Central Park.(15) In 1928-29 the Gold Star Mothers and American Legion erected A "Tower of Memories" and pool in Memorial Park, a cemetery south of Edmond, seven miles north of the Capitol on Route 66.(16) From 1921, a "Legion Memorial Hall" had been maintained inside the Capitol

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building, and in 1923 the quarters, rooms 418 and 419 were granted to them in perpetuity.(17) A "state war memorial" was unveiled at the Capitol in November 1928. It consisted in war memorial paintings by Capt. Gilbert White. In Enid a half-million-dollar Convention Hall was erected and opened in November 1922; the building contained a memorial to the war dead and served as the American Legion meeting hall as well.(18)

The most enduring memorials were buildings constructed for governmental, social, educational and/or recreational purposes. Of these, which the Kingfisher Memorial Hall is one of the state's six documented examples, the others being buildings in Oklahoma City, Norman, Stillwater, Sulphur, and Ada. (others were proposed in Sapulpa, Durant, and Okmulgee but apparently were not built). As early as April 1919 Governor Robertson had proposed having a World War I memorial on the Capitol grounds and an appropriation was made, but years passed before a building was erected.(19) The Oklahoma Historical Society Building, authorized in February 1929, was constructed on the Capitol Complex grounds as the war memorial, with offices and galleries set aside for veterans groups such as the American Legion.(20) When the building was erected, using the war memorial fund of \$500,000, and it was to be known as the "Oklahoma Memorial Building."(21) It is now the Wiley Post Historical Building. It remains essentially unaltered from its original construction and appearance but after spring 2006 will no longer serve the historical society. It was listed in the Register in 1990.

Two football stadia were erected as war memorials as well. In Norman at the University of Oklahoma, Great War veterans who were or had been students were honored in the erection of the Union Memorial Stadium. The million-dollar facility was planned in 1924-1925 by alumni groups and university officials. The first game, homecoming 1925, was played in the stadium, before it was finished.(22) Similarly, at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, a new stadium was planned in 1930-31 as a war memorial.(23) Neither stadium remains in an original state, each having undergone extensive expansion since 1950 and most recently in 2003 (OU) and 2004 (OSU).

A fourth war memorial building was erected in Ada, in Pontotoc County, during the 1920s. Mass meetings in Ada requested the city to construct a convention hall, and plans were drawn for a \$110,000 building to be located near downtown. A multipurpose facility, it would host conventions in an auditorium, house two National Guard units, have rooms for the boy and girl scouts, and also house the chamber of commerce.(24) A bond issue was passed in June 1922.(25) A dedication to veterans of the world war took place on May 30, 1923.(26) By September the Daughters of Confederate Veterans and Daughters of the Confederacy were holding a joint annual convention in the building.(27) By November of that year, the Baptist Convention held an annual meeting there(28) , and in July 1924 the State American Legion held its annual assembly there.(29) The Ada Convention Hall was razed circa 1980.



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Kingfisher Memorial Hall  
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The fifth memorial hall was constructed in downtown Sulphur, in Murray County, in 1922. In November 1921 Sulphur voters approved a bond issue of \$150,000 for a water system, street paving, and a convention hall.(30) Designed by architect Jewell Hicks and the exterior completed in 1922, this building at first hosted a small number of convention activities but after 1946 primarily served as an American Legion meeting hall.(31) The interior was never fully finished, and 1949 the Platt National Park Post No. 148 "remodeled and renovated" it into a municipal auditorium.(32) It is included in the Register in 2001 as part of the Downtown Historic District.

Kingfisher's Memorial Hall, multipurpose war memorial-city hall-community building, was the earliest of the five. By September 1919 the Kingfisher Free Press had begun touting such a project, and city officials approved and drew up a \$75,000 bond issue. It would enable construction of a building that was expected to include city offices and fire station, a public library, an American Legion room, Red Cross rooms, an auditorium, a swimming pool, and a gymnasium. Veterans would be memorialized in one of three proposed ways: a stained glass window for each man killed in action; a tablet bearing all of their names; or a cornerstone that would state that the building was a World War I Veterans Memorial.(33) A bond vote passed during a special election on October 28, 1919.(34) This was the state's first bond vote for a city offices building that would be dedicated as a war memorial.(35) and the first to be completed. On February 27, 1920, the city purchased Lots 10 through 22 of Block 36, Original Town of Kingfisher, from C. D. and Mary E. Shaw for \$3,000 as the spot for the new city building.(36)

The city council selected an Oklahoma City architectural firm, Layton, Smith and Forsyth, led by former El Reno resident Solomon A. Layton, to design the edifice. Layton, who designed some of Oklahoma's most important public buildings from the time of his appearance in Oklahoma in 1902 until his death in 1943, including the state capitol building and 46 public schools in Oklahoma City, is acclaimed as one of the most prominent architects in the state's architectural history. He is particularly noted for the ornamentation that he placed on buildings. The construction contract was awarded to W. S. Bellows of Oklahoma City for \$54,950.(37) The cornerstone was laid in spring 1921.(38) When completed in November 1921, the building had cost \$74,000. A two-story brick edifice, it was divided into four functional sections. The north section, with two floors, served as offices for city hall and the public library on the first floor on either side of an imposing marble-floored lobby. The second floor, accessed by a handsome oak staircase, led up to the American Legion's suite of meeting rooms. In the south section, and the first-floor auditorium/gymnasium, seating 800, had a stage across the west side, a basketball-grade hardwood floor, and balconies on east and west. Two small sections on the east side provided space for the fire department and its vehicle, on the north, and the water department repair facility, on the south.(39)

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SIGNIFICANCE:

The Kingfisher Memorial Hall, a multipurpose war memorial-city hall-community center, served as a public building and social meeting place for its entire existence. It is significant in the areas of Politics/Government, Social History, and Recreation/Culture during the 1921-1955 period.

It has significance in the area of Government, as city hall from 1922 through 1976. In addition to city offices, the county offices were housed there in 1959-60 after a courthouse bond issue passed and before a new Kingfisher County Courthouse was completed. The chief of police maintained an office on the first floor from the beginning and occupied the library's rooms when it departed in 1956. The city commission met there every Monday night through 1976. The downstairs offices today are used by the Kingfisher Chamber of Commerce, the Oklahoma State Department of Corrections, and the Community Development Program. In the east-side wing built for the Fire Department, firemen used the upper floor as their office/on-call sleeping area (complete with pole, and the downstairs as the fire truck garage from 1922 until a modern Fire Department building was constructed in 1976. The water and power department used the rear east-side wing for storage and repair work; that department vacated the premises in 1986 and moved to a new shop nearby. The area is now used for general storage. In addition, after the library moved downstairs, for several years its former upstairs room was used by the National Guard for its armory until the Kingfisher National Guard Armory was constructed by the WPA in 1936.(40)

Social History significance encompasses the building's use as the permanent meeting place for the American Legion. The Legion began meeting in the second-floor rooms in 1921 and in late 2005 continued to hold its gatherings and events there. After the Fire Department vacated the east-side wing in 1976, the Boy Scouts used the wing for their meetings and other activities.(41) It is also significant in the area of Social History as being representative of the World War I memorial movement. As one of the first in the state, the Kingfisher Memorial Hall rode the crest of a wave of war memorials that swept the country from 1919 through the mid 1930s. It is one of the few extant buildings remaining from this period of civic patriotism and remembrance.

The Memorial Hall is also played a role in the social fabric of Kingfisher as a public auditorium and basketball facility. In the auditorium/gymnasium, high-school basketball games were held regularly through the 1930s, after which the venue for Kingfisher High School's games moved to the new National Guard Armory's drill hall. However, social

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events such as plays, dances, concerts, and lectures are still conducted in the Memorial Hall. Chamber of Commerce banquets were held there through the 1970s. Although not used as constantly today as in past decades, the auditorium has remained an important community gathering place since it hosted its first events in the 1920s.(42)

A 1922 bronze plaque naming the fallen heroes of World War I still hands in the lobby, as originally planned.(43) The Kingfisher Memorial Hall still fulfills much of its original function, inasmuch as it remains a multipurpose public office, community center, and war memorial.

NOTES:

1. "Early History of the Fire Department," *Kingfisher Free Press*, 17 April 1939, p. 3, and photograph.
2. Ibid.; Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Kingfisher, 1915.
3. "Early History of Fire Department,"; see also George Brownlee, "History of Memorial Hall [typescript, February 2005]"
4. 60th Anniversary Edition, *Kingfisher Free Press*, 18 April 1949; "Kingfisher Panorama," *Kingfisher Times and Free Press* (Kingfisher: Times Printing Co., 1957), 16; Glen McIntire, "Kingfisher," *Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture* (Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Historical Society, 2006), n.p..
5. *Kingfisher Free Press*, 19 September 1919; Brownlee, "History," 1; *Kingfisher Daily Times*, 4 October 1919.
6. Thomas A. Rumer, *The American Legion: An Official History, 1919-1989* (New York: M. Evans & Company, Inc., 1990), 25-26, 55, 100.
7. *Daily Oklahoman*, 29 January 1922.
8. Ibid., 8 February 1919, 10 October 1920.
9. Save Outdoor Sculpture! Files, Oklahoma Museums Association; SIRIS Art Inventories Catalog, Smithsonian Institution.

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10. *Daily Oklahoman*, 6 December 1923, 12 May 1924, 24 June 1924.
11. *Ibid.*, 29 February 1920.
12. *Ibid.*, 5 November 1921.
13. *Ibid.*, 31 May 1922.
14. *Ibid.*, 21 September 1924.
15. *Ibid.*, 22 October 1928.
16. *Ibid.*, 27 May, 30 May 1928 groundbreaking, 10 November 1928 cornerstone, completed 30 June 1929.
17. *Ibid.*, 3 April 1923.
18. *Ibid.*, 19 September 1928; *Ibid.*, 6 October 1922, 16 December 1923; Sanborn Map, Enid, 1925, 1930/1947.
19. *Ibid.*, 1 April 1919.
20. *Ibid.*, 3 January 1929, 2 February 1929.
21. *Ibid.*, 17 January 1929, 2 February 1929.
22. *Ibid.*, 11 November 1924, 1 November 1925.
23. *Ibid.*, 23 January 1931, 6 February 1931, 31 May 1931.
24. *Ibid.*, 20 April 1922, 27 May 1922.
25. *Ibid.*, 13 June 1922.
26. *Ibid.*, 2 June 1923.

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27. Ibid., 19 September 1923.
28. Ibid., 12 November 1923.
29. Ibid., 28 July 1924; see also Marvin E. Kroeker and Guy W. Logsdon, *Ada, Oklahoma* (N.p.: Donning Company Publishers, 1998), 90, 91; *Ada City Directory* (1948), 9.
30. *Daily Oklahoman*, 25 November 1921, 26 January 1922.
31. Ibid., 30 March 2003.
32. Ibid., 19 May 1949; see also Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Sulphur, Oklahoma 1928; see also National Register Of Historic Places Registration Form, Historic Sulphur Downtown Commercial District, Section 7:14, Resource 24.
33. *Kingfisher Free Press*, 19 September 1919; *Kingfisher Daily Times*, 4 October 1919; *Daily Oklahoman*, 29 October 1919.
34. *Kingfisher Daily Times*, 29 October 1919; *Daily Oklahoman*, 29 October 1919.
35. *Daily Oklahoman*, 27 February 1921.
36. Deed records, Register of Deeds, Kingfisher County, Book 56, page 563; see also Brownlee, "History," 2, 12.
37. *Kingfisher Weekly Free Press*, 20 January 1921; Brownlee, "History," 3.
38. *Daily Oklahoman*, 18 September 1921; Brownlee, "History," 3.
39. *Daily Oklahoman*, 7 November 1921; Brownlee, "History," passim.
40. Brownlee, "History," 6-9, 14; Brownlee, passim, gives history of occupancy and historic uses.
41. Brownlee, "History," 5-6, 9; *Daily Oklahoman*, 29 January 1922.

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42. Brownlee, "History," 6; Interview with Mayor Charlotte Brownlee, by Dianna Everett, Kingfisher, Oklahoma, 18 November 2005.

43. Brownlee, "History, 11.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Subject property is comprised within the boundaries of Lots 19, 20, 21, and 22 of Block 36, Original Town of Kingfisher, as recorded at Register of Deeds, County Clerk Office, Kingfisher County, Book 56, p. 563.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Contains the property historically associated with the Kingfisher Memorial Hall.