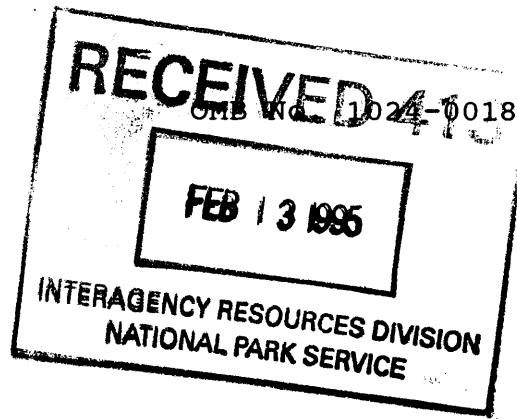


NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Mangum Community Building

other names/site number Civic Center, Mangum Public Library

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number 201 West Lincoln not for publication N/A
city or town Mangum vicinity N/A
state Oklahoma code OK county Greer code 055
zip code 73554

=====

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>EDUCATION</u>	Sub: <u>library</u>
<u>SOCIAL</u>	<u>meeting hall</u>
<u>RECREATION AND CULTURE</u>	<u>auditorium</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>EDUCATION</u>	Sub: <u>library</u>
<u>SOCIAL</u>	<u>meeting hall</u>
<u>RECREATION AND CULTURE</u>	<u>auditorium</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE:Limestone

roof ASPHALT

walls STONE:Limestone

other CONCRETE

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.)

- 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)

ECONOMICS

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance 1935-1945

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

Significant Dates 1935

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

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Prins, E. Paul, architect
Federal Emergency Relief Administration, 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

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	<u>14</u>	<u>453690</u>	<u>3858840</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
2	<u>N/A</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

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.)

=====

11. Form Prepared By

=====

name/title Cynthia Smelker, Preservation Research Assistant

organization State Historic Preservation Office date December 1994

street & number 621 N. Robinson, Ste. 375 telephone 405/521-6249

city or town Oklahoma City state OK zip code 73102

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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
Mangum Community Building
Greer County, Oklahoma

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Property Owner
=====

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

name City of Mangum

street & number 201 West Oklahoma telephone _____

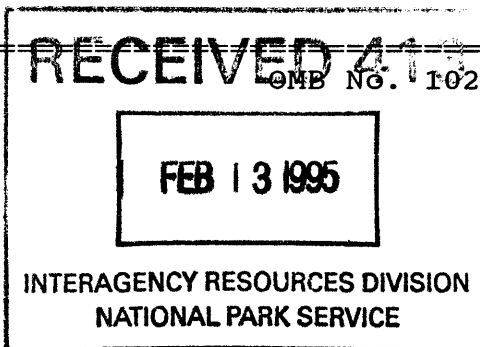
city or town Mangum state OK zip code 73554

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

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Mangum Community Building
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NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

SUMMARY

The Mangum Community Building is an excellent example of a Depression-era project started by the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) and finished by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in Mangum, Oklahoma. Built in 1935-1936, the community building exhibits many of the standard, vernacular characteristics evident in New Deal buildings throughout Oklahoma, such as the use of roughly squared, polychromatic, native limestone. The building, however, also exhibits a prominent Craftsman influence in the double wooden plank doors, multiple double hung windows, exposed rafter tails, and arcaded porches with massive, square, stone porch supports. Constructed of roughly squared limestone, the building's outside dimensions measure 60' 6" X 70' 3".¹ The building is 2 1/2 stories high, with a full divided basement. The gambrel roof was originally wood shingled, but has been recovered with asphalt shingles. Located roughly one block east of the Greer County Courthouse Square and Mangum's main commercial street, the building's primary orientation is south. To the west and north of the community building are the beginnings of Mangum's historic residential area. To the south is a nonhistoric apartment complex. The building's primary features include the polychromatic stonework, full width arcaded front porch with second story balcony, arcaded first story east side porch and massive chimney on the west elevation. Other decorative details include exposed rafter tails, sixty-four double hung windows and four fixed, attic level, oval windows on each side elevation. The Mangum Community Building has retained a high degree of interior and exterior integrity.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The Mangum Community Building is a 2 1/2 story, rectangular building with a full, divided basement. The asphalt shingled roof is gambrel with projecting gable porch roofs. The limestone for the building's foundation and walls was quarried primarily from a farm located twenty-three miles southwest of Mangum, with a portion obtained south of the city.² All of it, however, is native Greer County limestone. The limestone is polychromatic and roughly squared with beaded joints. The building features a front, full width, arcaded, concrete porch with balcony. The east elevation has an integral, full width, arcaded, concrete porch. The building has two double wooden plank doors with wood screen doors on the south and

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east elevations of the first floor. The doors, constructed of solid oak, enhance the rustic Craftsman style of the building with their wide black hinges, visible black nails and plank construction. Access to the second story is gained through a second story wood slab door located in the rear of the building. The second floor balcony is entered through single, wood paneled doors located on opposite ends of the balcony under arcaded, gable porches. The building has sixty-four double hung, six-over-six windows with stone sills. This includes windows at the basement, first and second stories. The majority of basement windows, however, have been blocked off with plywood for crime prevention. Both side elevations also feature four fixed, oval, attic level windows.

The south elevation of the building, the primary facade, features the distinctive raised, full width, arcaded porch with second floor balcony. The arcaded porch is created with three elliptical arches flanked by two smaller round arches. All of the arches have keystones and voussoirs. On the center arch, which opens the porch to the sidewalk, raised letters have been attached to the center spelling "Library." These black letters, with white painted background, are not original. The porch has a concrete floor and steps. The porch walls and supports are native limestone. The second story has two arcaded gable porch roofs over the single, wood paneled entries. The square, massive porch supports from the first floor are continued through the second story, creating the porch supports for the second story porches and two castelations in the middle of the balcony. The balcony floor is also concrete. There are six double hung, six-over-six windows on the first floor and seven on the second floor. The primary entrance to the building is located in the center of the first floor. The double door augments the rustic influence visible throughout the building with its visible black nails, wide black iron hinges and plank construction. The WPA plaque noting the date of construction is still located on the east end of the porch.

The west elevation of the Mangum Community Building is distinguished by the massive, stepped, 2 1/2 story chimney located in the center of the wall. Further detail is provided by exposed rafter tails, twenty-one windows and a single, basement door. Six double hung, six-over-six windows are located on each of the first and second floors, with five more at the basement level. The windows are evenly spaced, with three openings on each side of the chimney. The windows are aligned parallel to each other on all three floors. Four oval windows accent the attic level of the building and provide additional light for the second floor

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auditorium. The dropped, single basement door is located to the south of the chimney, parallel to the first and second story windows. A metal railing runs along the side of the stairwell accessing the door. A handicap lift has been added to the south end of the west elevation. The lift is attached to the west end of the front porch, causing an alteration to the porch wall. This alteration is unobtrusive, however, due to its compact size, plain color scheme and the immense trees growing along the edge of the building.

The rear of the building, the north elevation, has a large rectangular blind niche on the east side. The niche blocks off the east elevation exterior stairwell to the second floor. The fenestration on the north is similar to the south and west elevations in that all windows are located parallel to each other. There are seven openings on each floor. On the first and second stories, the openings are all single, double hung, six-over-six windows. The basement level, corresponding to the west elevation, has six double hung, six-over-six windows and one dropped door. A pipe railing surrounds the stairwell.

The east elevation is similar in design to the west elevation, however, the highlight of the east elevation is the integral, full width, arcaded porch. The side porch imitates the front porch in having elliptical and round arches complete with voussoirs and keystones. Unlike the front porch, the side porch only has two elliptical arches with flanking round arches. The south elliptical arch provides access to the porch. Like the front porch, the function of the building has been indicated on the arch with a nonoriginal "Library" emblem. Located directly behind this arch, is the building's second set of double, wooden plank doors. These doors are a secondary entrance to the library but they provide the primary entrance to the second story from the library. The only stairs accessing the second floor are located at the north end of the porch. Thus, from the library, the double doors located in the east elevation would be the common egress used. The stairs to the second story are concrete for the first flight and wood on the second flight with a black pipe railing running along both. Corresponding to the west elevation, the east elevation has four fixed, oval, attic level windows. The second story is accentuated by six double hung, six-over-six windows. The outer two windows are single windows, while the inner four are paired. The first floor has five windows, three on the north side of the door and two on the south. Only three basement windows are visible in the north portion of the porch. Unlike the

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west side fenestration, the four oval, attic level windows on the east elevation are parallel to the second story paired middle windows and the lower windows are evenly spaced along the wall.

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The interior of the Mangum Community Building has retained a high degree of integrity. The building contains three levels of interior space, the basement, first and second floor. The attic level is accessible from a closet in the second floor but it is not public space.

The design of each floor corresponds to the designated function. The first floor from the building's inception was to house the public library. Thus, the floor plan was laid out in a U-shaped with the reference desk located in the center and the librarian's office and storage rooms immediately behind. This conforms with the primary entrance of the building as the patron encounters the reference desk immediately upon entering. When the building opened, the west side of the floor was arranged to display the 7000 books the library boasted at the time and the east side as a reading room.³ This arrangement endures to the present. Continuing the Craftsman influence of the exterior, the woodwork on the first floor is finished in dark oak, including the wainscoting, visible ceiling joists, built-in and freestanding bookshelves, reference desk and miscellaneous furnishings. The flooring on the first floor, as on the second, is hardwood. The original light fixtures of the building were in the "Antique Early American" style, but these have been changed to modern fluorescent lighting on the first floor. Located on the west side of the first floor is one of the hallmarks of the Craftsman influence in the Mangum Community Building, a large, native stone fireplace.

The second floor of the Mangum Community Building is designed to serve as a community center for Mangum. To this end, the upstairs is divided into three primary interior spaces. The west side contains the 40' X 50' auditorium. A raised, wood stage is located on the south end of the room and a second hand-tooled, native stone fireplace highlights the west wall (Photograph 7). This fireplace differs from the first floor fireplace in that it is more refined and painted white. The spacious room has a high ceiling with visible trusses (Photograph 6). This not only adds to the rustic scheme of the building but also

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additional light into the room from the four upper oval windows. Amenities included in the auditorium include a full length mirror along the southeast wall and a serving door connecting the auditorium to the conveniently situated kitchen.

The kitchen is located at the south end of the center entry hallway. The kitchen features original built-in cabinets and an industrial size stove. Also located in the large entry hall are separate men's and women's restrooms. The bathrooms and hallway have been modernized with linoleum flooring and modern fixtures but the layout remains similar to the original.

To the east side of the hall are two "clubrooms". The rooms were designed to be used by the American Legion and Legion Auxiliary, among other civic groups. The rooms are connected by folding doors to allow for the creation of one large room when necessary. A dropped ceiling in these two rooms obscures the four attic level, oval windows. The ceiling appears to be contemporaneous with the building. Located in the northeast corner of the north clubroom is a closet in which the door to the attic is located.

The woodwork on the second floor, including wainscoting and the hardwood floors in the auditorium and clubrooms, is finished in light oak. The wainscoting in the clubroom is wider than that of the auditorium. The auditorium's narrower wainscoting, as well as the more refined fireplace, reflects the degree of elegance sought for that room. The "Antique Early American" light fixtures remain in place in the auditorium, however, modern light fixtures with ceiling fans have been installed in the clubrooms.

The basement is divided into two sections. The two areas are completely separate from each other as there is no access from one to the other. Each area has one interior and one exterior stairway, totaling four basement stairways. The two interior stairways are located on the east side of the Librarian's office and storage rooms on the first floor. The exterior stairway to the southern basement area is on the west side, while the northern exterior stairway is located in the rear of the building. The southern portion of the basement was designed to accommodate meeting rooms for the local Boy and Girl Scout organizations. The rooms are utilitarian, with concrete walls and floors. Located within this section is a double bathroom. The Girl Scouts continue to use their room, while the Boy Scouts' room is currently used for storage and other purposes.

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The northern section of the basement was originally designed as a nursery in the northwest corner and caretaker's quarters in the northeast. The nursery featured one room with adjacent bathroom facilities. The caretaker's quarters consisted of two rooms, a bathroom and a large closet. These areas were also functional in nature with concrete floors and walls and little ornamental detail. The original room divisions remain but currently this portion of the basement is used for storage and workspace.

The furnishings in the Mangum Community Building also enhance the integrity of the building. The majority of furnishings are original. The bookcases, tables, magazine racks, chairs and settees were constructed or refurbished by the WPA workmen. The furniture is in the Mission style, a prevalent style of furnishings for Craftsman buildings. The chairs are similar to the fashionable Morris chair except they do not recline. The settees match the chairs in construction material and method. Over the years, both chair and settee cushions, originally of leather tanned by inmates of the nearby Granite Reformatory employed by the FERA and WPA on a tannery project, have been replaced with a naugahyde covering. The naugahyde covering is compatible in appearance with the historic leather cushions. The finely crafted trestle tables and benches further affirm the Mission style of the furnishings.⁴

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

The Mangum Community Building retains a high degree of interior and exterior integrity. The most significant alteration to the exterior of the building is the addition of the handicap lift on the west end of the front porch. The impact of this alteration on the overall building is negligible as the lift is relatively small and obscurely located. Other exterior alterations include the asphalt shingles on the roof, the placement of storm windows on all double hung windows, boarding over of the basement windows and the nonhistoric "Library" lettering over the south and east porches.

The interior of the building has undergone only minor alterations as well. The lighting on the first floor has been modernized with fluorescent lights. Other than that minor alteration and some modernization in equipment, the first floor retains its historic appearance to a remarkable degree. The fireplaces on both the first and second floors have been converted to gas. On the second floor, the hallway and kitchen flooring have also been modernized with the laying of linoleum

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flooring. The lights in the clubrooms have been updated to modern light fixtures with ceiling fans. The bathroom fixtures have likewise been updated. The basement has undergone a significant alteration in that it no longer functions as public area. This shift in function has caused some deterioration in the integrity of the basement but the original configurations of the basement remain in place.

All of these alterations are minor and do not affect the integrity of the Mangum Community Building. The building continues to maintain its integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship and conveys the feeling of its past environment to an extraordinary degree.

ENDNOTES

1. Pat Smith, Mangum Public Library, telephone interview, 20 December 1994.
2. The Mangum Daily Star, 2 August 1936.
3. The Mangum Daily Star, 2 August 1936.
4. "History of the Mangum Public Library," (Vertical Files, Mangum Public Library, c. 1988) See also The Mangum Daily Star, 28 December 1934; 23 January 1936.

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Architect/Builder (continued): Works Progress Administration, builder

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Mangum Community Building is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A and Criterion C for its association with President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal programs, specifically the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) and Works Progress Administration (WPA). These programs not only bolstered the local, state and national economy through much of the Great Depression of the Thirties but also contributed a lasting legacy to Oklahoma's built environment. Utilizing plans drawn by Oklahoma City architect E. Paul Prins, local men approved to work for the FERA and WPA built the Mangum Community Building over a nineteen month period in 1935-1936. The building was started under the FERA on 13 January 1935, and completed by WPA workmen on 15 July 1936. Combined, the cost of the building was approximately 40,000 dollars. The FERA contributed over 17,428 dollars while the WPA expended 15,000 dollars on the project. The city of Mangum, the project sponsor under both programs, contributed about 6,875 dollars towards the building through the contribution of the lot, materials, architectural services, skilled labor and supervision. The Mangum Community Building is significant architecturally as an outstanding representative building of both the FERA and WPA in Oklahoma and historically for its economic significance within the town of Mangum, Oklahoma.¹

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Founded in 1883, Mangum always enjoyed a quiet prosperity. Designated the county seat of Old Greer County, Mangum's growth was slow until 1900. Prior to this, a land dispute between Texas, which claimed the county, and the federal government, which maintained Greer County was properly part of Indian Territory, discouraged but did not stop settlement of the area by Euro-Americans. Following the resolution of the controversy in favor of the U.S. government in 1896 and the joining of Old Greer County to Oklahoma Territory, Mangum was officially opened to settlers. However, Mangum did not experience a major opening boom as many other Oklahoma towns did. The advent of a Rock Island railroad line from Chickasha in 1900 eventually allowed Mangum to flourish as the center for the surrounding agriculture community. Located outside of a substantial gas or oil production area, Mangum was almost solely dependent on area ranches and wheat and

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cotton farms for its economic mainstay. By 1939, the town handled, marketed or shipped approximately half of the annual 1.5 million dollar county agricultural production.²

Like the rest of the nation, Mangum was significantly affected by the Great Depression of the 1930s. Although a national depression had been developing throughout the 1920s, especially within agricultural communities, it manifested itself largely with the 1929 Wall Street crash. Following the stock market collapse, America's recession grew steadily for three years, culminating in 1932. While conditions did not improve after 1932, they stopped the marked downward spiral of the previous years. However, unprecedented unemployment continued while the country transformed itself from a primarily agricultural to industrial nation. The economic stimulus provided by President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal policies and wartime industries finally brought the country out of the depression by about the early 1940s.³

The depression particularly devastated Oklahoma. The state's main industry, agriculture, was severely impacted not only by declining domestic and foreign markets and overproduction but also a decade-long drought. The "Dust Bowl" of the 1930s, encompassing a line of states from the Dakotas to Texas including Oklahoma, ravaged farming conditions. Many Oklahoma farmers unable to make a living took to the road, searching for a more profitable future. The oil market, another major economic force in Oklahoma, collapsed as factories and mines shut down. Unemployment in the state was at an all-time high. With local and state relief agencies increasingly strained beyond capability, the majority of counties in Oklahoma and nationwide were in need of some type of federal relief to alleviate chronic unemployment and its results.⁴

In efforts to stimulate the national economy and assist citizens in distress, a variety of federal public welfare agencies were established between 1933 and 1939. All agencies shared at least some characteristics, but each was usually designed to sustain an explicit economic entity. The Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA), initiated in 1933, was one of the first federal agencies organized to aid the indigent. This administration channeled federal money to state and local agencies, which then dispensed the funds under a variety of programs to impoverished families. One manner in which relief was dispensed under

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the auspices of the FERA was limited work relief projects. These projects sought to preserve the dignity of the unemployed by allowing them to work for their money rather than receive an abhorrent hand out from the government.⁵

The work relief program under the FERA went through several stages of development. Early projects were essentially state projects which happened to use available FERA funds. In late 1933, the Civil Works Authority (CWA) was established to respond to the large scale unemployment still incapacitating the nation. The CWA was considered a separate organization from the FERA although the same people administered both programs with much collaboration in activity. While the CWA was in operation, however, the FERA work relief program was discontinued. The CWA lasted only five months before being terminated due to excessive cost. At that time, the Emergency Work Relief Program was established by the FERA. Under this program, work relief projects fell largely in the jurisdiction of the state but with limited federal regulations. These regulations mandated that employment was granted through local relief agencies who determined need and pay scale; projects had to fall within broad FERA categories; the work had to meet certain federal regulations; and, all projects had to have a sponsor.⁶

In its brief two year existence, the FERA was active in building public works throughout the nation and in Oklahoma. One of the latter projects undertaken by the FERA was the Mangum Community Building in Mangum, Oklahoma. Ground was broken for the building on 13 January 1935 at the site of the old Davis Wagon Yard. The building plans, designed by E. Paul Prins, called for a rustic Craftsman style, two-story building with basement. The building was to contain quarters for the Mangum Public Library, a Pioneers' Museum, clubrooms for various civic organizations, an auditorium, kitchen, public lavatories, a nursery, and an apartment for the building caretaker. Behind the building, a 30' by 50' Boy Scout hut was planned with a large fireplace. The project plan also called for landscaping of the lot. The building's design was "drawn especially to fit in with the surrounding location." By 26 February, FERA crews were hard at work constructing the limestone foundation for the building. Construction continued through April with thirty men employed cutting and laying the first floor stone walls. Work was slowed in Mangum and nationally, however, by the nature of the FERA. The work crews were alternatively employed so as to provide as much work for as many as possible. This prevented speedy completion of the Mangum Community

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Building and other FERA projects. Realizing that its efforts were insufficient to assist all those in need and responding to the call for a revamped relief system, the FERA was phased out in mid to late 1935.⁷

Believing that "work rather than direct relief should be the keystone of Federal policy with respect to needy employables," the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1935 authorized a new program of federal employment. Roosevelt legislated the Works Progress Administration (WPA)⁸ in May 1935 to provide jobs for the unemployed. Essentially, the WPA continued the work relief program initiated by the FERA but with some critical improvements. Under the FERA, federal funds upon receipt by the governor became state funds which were then allocated to local relief agencies. The local relief agencies then dispensed the money in a number of manners. The federal government attempted to regulate the expenditure funds as much as possible but due to differing levels of cooperation within states this was largely ineffective. In contrast, the WPA was established to function as a federal program. All employees of the WPA were paid by the federal government and all purchases of equipment and materials by the WPA were obtained through the Procurement Division of the Treasury Department. The federal government, thus, retained direct control of all expenditure of program funds.⁹

The WPA continued to deal with the same state relief agencies as the FERA in determining those eligible for relief. Early WPA employees were in fact accepted based on their recent, similar FERA employment. Workers were qualified to work on WPA projects by the local Public Welfare Department, working through the National Reemployment Service.¹⁰

Under the FERA, the amount of monthly compensation was based on the budgetary deficiency method employed on all other FERA programs. This method basically calculated the difference between the minimum monthly income necessary for a family of a particular size and locale to subsist and the money currently incoming for that family. The "budgetary deficiency" was then the difference between need and actual income. In contrast, the WPA paid a flat "security wage," which was slightly higher than direct relief payments but lower than comparable private employment pay. The unskilled WPA workmen in Greer County were paid twenty-one dollars for eight hours of labor seventeen days a month. Semi-skilled and skilled received an additional seven to nine dollars depending on the "nature of the work." Averaging 136 hours per month, this work month was slightly above the congressionally mandated minimum 130 hour work month. This proved sufficient,

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however, to allow the worker to pay his and his family's way without being dependent on the "dole."

The difference in pay and length of employment also highlights another crucial difference in the two programs. The FERA employed workers only long enough to meet the individual's budgetary deficiency which in most cases resulted in a high turnover of laborers. This, in turn, made "the completion of any FERA project a long drawn out process." During its first four years, the WPA offered continuous employment as available within the region. Subsequently, the WPA enforced an eighteen month ceiling on employment. However, the worker was eligible for reemployment after thirty days and a recertification of need. While not speedy in itself, the WPA came under less criticism for its slowness due to the continuous aid and employment it offered.¹¹

Although a federal work program, the WPA only facilitated public works projects nationwide. Similar to the FERA, the WPA did not initiate or undertake projects by itself. WPA guidelines required that a "tax-supported public body" sponsor the project which had to result in a permanent and useful addition to the community. The WPA sponsor provided the project plan and specifications, as well as most of the necessary materials and equipment. On the average, the cost to the sponsoring agency fluctuated between twenty and thirty percent of the total cost. The WPA handled the administration of the project and provided the majority of funds to meet wages. WPA regulations capped federal funds for any one project at about 52,000 dollars. Ownership of the project belonged to the sponsoring entity upon completion.¹²

While FERA projects sought to provide only sufficient employment to tide over needy persons, WPA projects were designed to maximize the number of laborers and the length of employment. Thus, the maximum amount of work relief was obtained through every project. To facilitate this goal, WPA workers labored continuously on every aspect of the project from clearing the site to manufacturing furnishings. In Oklahoma, the use of native stone for both WPA and FERA buildings kept project costs low and employed many quarrying and dressing the stone for use. Other necessary materials, such as wood bracing and roof material, were usually obtained locally so as to stimulate the local economy as much as possible.

Although the WPA was legislated only in May, 1935, by 16 July the Mangum Community Building had received approval for completion as a WPA project. As the WPA

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offered fulltime employment on the project, this change in administrative agencies was heralded as "making it possible to complete the project without the delay made necessary under the" FERA. By 6 August, General W. S. Key, administrator of the WPA program in Oklahoma, approved an expenditure of 15,686 dollars for completion of the building, with the city of Mangum contributing 4,943 dollars. The project was estimated to employ sixty-nine persons.¹³

It was not, however, until 18 September that work resumed on the community building. This was probably due to the solidifying of program procedures for the WPA nationally as well as locally. Work again stopped at the end of September due to an insufficient number of men reporting for work. By 2 January 1936, work was in full swing with sixty workmen busy laying the top story of the building. Beginning at the end of January, the community-at-large was scoured for donated furnishings to be redone by the laborers. WPA workmen continued adding the myriad of finishing touches to the building through June. Disaster struck in late June with a fire attributed to spontaneous combustion. Destruction was estimated at 1,500 dollars with extensive smoke damage throughout and fire damage in the central first floor area. Within three weeks, repairs had been made to the building.¹⁴

Although the building was completed on 15 July, it was not formally dedicated for almost three weeks. This delay is attributable to the preparations necessary to ready the building for use. The women of the Community Club Federation were involved in acquiring and installing the building's finishing interior touches. Draperies were designed and hung by local women, with several city business establishments contributing material and equipment. Kitchen equipment and supplies, including dishes, silverware, and glasses, were purchased prior to the opening. And the library books were moved by local Boy Scouts from the previous County Courthouse quarters.¹⁵

The Mangum Community Building opened to the public with great fanfare on 6 August 1936. All of the workers employed on the building were invited by special invitation to attend the event by Fred LaRue, director of the WPA for District 7-A. LaRue advised the workmen to "Just put on your overalls and come on down and we will have a big time." Among several other speakers, General W. S. Key, WPA Administrator for Oklahoma, delivered the keynote address. In his address, Key

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called the community building "one of the outstanding projects in Oklahoma." Following the speeches, an open house and the first of many dances were held in the Mangum Community Building.¹⁶

The FERA and WPA, along with other New Deal programs and policies, played a critical role in bringing the nation out of the Great Depression. The FERA disbursed over four billion dollars nationwide between 1933 to 1935. Seventy-eight percent, over three billion dollars, was spent on direct relief and wages for those employed on work relief projects. An additional hundred million plus paid the salaries of nonrelief qualified skilled workers and supervisors employed on emergency work relief projects. Almost six hundred million dollars was pumped into the national economy through the purchase of equipment and material, rental of equipment and trucks and "administrative costs." The work relief projects of the FERA provided employment for many proud yet needy citizens. One million persons were employed by the FERA in April 1934 alone, with 2.5 million working at the program's pinnacle in January 1935. Projects undertaken by the FERA were as varied and useful as those of the WPA's.¹⁷

Nationally from its inauguration in 1935 to its termination in 1943, the WPA expended more than 10.75 billion dollars on such a diversity projects as school lunch programs, flood control, road and park improvements, sewing rooms, historical record surveys and construction of numerous public resources ranging from schools to armories to highways and bridges to community buildings. By the end of 1939, 7.5 million individuals nationwide had benefitted from WPA employment at one time or another. At the peak of WPA employment in Oklahoma, January 1936, 94,821 persons were toiling on approved projects. By March 1937, 2,971 projects had been approved with 2,581 of those projects being undertaken by the WPA. Total, Oklahoma received over 185 million dollars from the WPA for a multitude of projects statewide.¹⁸

The infusion of this much-needed work and money into hard pressed communities relieved the pressure of the unemployed on local, state and national economies. In September 1934, 1,657 families or thirty-four percent of the Greer County population was on relief. This figure dropped to 865 families, nineteen percent, within a year. Total, the FERA expended 167,317 dollars in Greer County on projects ranging from road, city, park and school improvements to miscellaneous projects including sewing rooms, commodity distribution, surveys and administration. By August 1936, the WPA invested almost 140,000 dollars in county

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projects. In November 1935 alone, the WPA employed 639 persons on 13 projects in Greer County. Besides the Mangum Community Building, other FERA and WPA projects in Greer County included improvement to the County Courthouse Square and seventeen county schools, construction of the Mangum Armory (NR 1994), two large schools, a swimming pool, as well as other general improvement projects, such as road repair and paving.¹⁹

The employment of Greer County inhabitants on these projects not only aided the economy of Mangum but also resulted in permanent useful additions to the community. The Mangum Community Building was declared from its opening "a service of every citizen of Greer County and many citizens of adjoining counties." The dual function of meeting place and library greatly expanded available community resources. The auditorium further allowed the community to attend and hold a variety of events.²⁰

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Mangum Community Building is architecturally significant as an unusual and remarkably intact example of a FERA and WPA resource in Oklahoma. Conformity in design was typical for the majority of buildings built by the FERA and WPA, such as schools and armories which often used state developed, standard building plans altered only to fit the local site. The Mangum Community Building utilized its own building plans drawn by Oklahoma City architect E. Paul Prins to specifically fit that particular location. Although constructed largely by unskilled labor and changing administrative programs midway through construction, the Mangum Community Building was built according to the original plans with only minor modifications. These adjustments to the building plan include four oval attic level windows instead of six, elliptical arches rather than square and inclusion of the Boy Scout rooms inside the community building.²¹

For the most part, New Deal era buildings in Oklahoma utilized native stone for construction material and were vernacular in style. The Mangum Community Building, although constructed of the customary native stone, is unusual in that it expresses a definite rustic Craftsman influence which is carried throughout the exterior and interior of the building. This influence is visible externally in the double wooden plank doors, exposed rafter tails, multiple windows and arcaded porches with massive, square, stone porch supports and internally in the wainscoting, visible ceiling joists and trusses, and built-in and freestanding

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bookshelves. The landscaping of the lot, planned in conjunction with the building, further enhances the rustic appearance of the building. The Craftsman style was popular throughout the nation from about the beginning of the twentieth century to 1930. The style, a product of the English Arts and Crafts Movement which protested the "dehumanizing effects of the machine age," espoused simple designs utilizing natural materials which exhibited the fine craftsmanship necessary to construct such a building. All of these qualities are present in the Mangum Community Building.²²

The Mission Arts and Crafts furniture of the Mangum Community Building further enhances the Craftsman style of the building. Mission furniture, simple, straightforward and functional in construction and appearance, was commonly used in Craftsman buildings. The Mangum Community Building furnishings were obtained from the community and refurbished by the WPA workmen. Specifically requested by the local newspaper were Morris chairs. Morris chairs were named after William Morris who is acknowledged as the father of the Arts and Crafts Movement which swept England during the latter half of the nineteenth century and from which the American Craftsman movement originated. Morris chairs were characterized by wood plank construction, reclining backs, and low, wide seats with square cushions. Although the Mangum Community building chairs are definitely in the Mission style, they are not properly Morris chairs as they do not recline.²³

Although the FERA and WPA constructed several thousands buildings in Oklahoma during the course of their combined ten year existence, none were built exactly like the Mangum Community Building. Of the identified, standing, fourteen WPA community buildings and libraries in southwest and central Oklahoma, the Mangum Community Building is distinctive in appearance. Additionally, many WPA and FERA buildings have been demolished while others have undergone extensive alteration. The Mangum Community Building has retained its exterior and interior integrity to a remarkable degree. The Mangum Community Building is an outstanding example of the adaptation of a rustic Craftsman style to fit the abilities of the available, unskilled FERA and WPA workmen.

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ENDNOTES

1. The Manqum (Oklahoma) Daily Star, 23 December 1934; 2 August 1936.
2. "Special Manqum Number," The Oklahoma Municipal Review, XIII:6 (June 1939): 96. See also John W. Morris, ed., Geography of Oklahoma (Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Historical Society, 1977): 96-97.
3. Cynthia Smelker, National Register Multiple Property Document, "Draft Context: WPA Buildings in Lincoln County, Oklahoma," (1993).
4. Ibid.
5. Ibid.
6. Final Report on the WPA Program, 1935-1943, (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1946), 3-4. See also Smelker, "Draft Context."
7. John Mitchell, "Greer County, Oklahoma and the Great Depression, 1929-1942," (M.A. thesis, University of Oklahoma, 1962), 26. See also The Manqum Daily Star, 1 February 1935; 1 March 1935; 24 April 1935; 17 September 1935; and, Smelker, "Draft Context."
8. In 1939 the Federal Works Agency incorporated the Works Progress Administration, renaming it the Work Projects Administration.
9. Final Report, 7, 2-3, 8.
10. Final Report, 16. See also The Manqum Daily Star, 2 August 1936.

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11. The Mangum Daily Star, 24 February 1935; 8 August 1935; 2 August 1936. See also Final Report, 3-5, 21; and, "Questions and Answers on the WPA," (Vertical files, Oklahoma Historical Society, December 1939), 10-12.
12. The Mangum Daily Star, 2 August 1936. See also "Questions and Answers," 6-7, 16.
13. The Mangum Daily Star, 16 July 1935; 6 August 1935.
14. The Mangum Daily Star, 17 September 1935; 30 September 1935; 2 January 1936; 23 January 1936; 24 June 1936; 2 August 1936.
15. The Mangum Daily Star, 2 August 1936; 5 August 1936; 6 August 1936.
16. The Mangum Daily Star, 2 August 1936; 4 August 1936; 5 August 1936.
17. Final Report, 4, 6.
18. Dianna Everett, National Register Nomination "Mangum Armory," (1993). See also Department of Information, Accomplishments: Works Progress Administration for Oklahoma, July 1, 1935-March 1, 1937, (Oklahoma City: Works Progress Administration, 1937), 12-13; "Questions and Answers," 10; and, Smelker, "Draft Context."
19. The Daily Oklahoman, (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma), 29 September 1935. See also The Mangum Daily Star, 2 August 1936; and, Everett, "Mangum Armory."
20. The Mangum Daily Star, 2 August 1936.
21. The Mangum Daily Star, 23 December 1934.

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22. Stephen C. Gordon, How to Complete the Ohio Historic Inventory, (Columbus, Ohio: Ohio Historic Preservation Office, Ohio Historical Society, 1992), 102. See also Kitty Turgeon, "Creating the Arts & Crafts Interior for Today," Traditional Building (November/December 1994), 40; and, The Mangum Daily Star, 23 December 1934.

23. The Mangum Daily Star, 23 January 1936.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Northeast corner of Lot 2 less 50 feet by 50 feet, Block B, Crabtree Addition,
Mangum, Oklahoma.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes the property that historically has been associated with the
community building.