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Item number 7

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2. Renfrow Building (No. 2 on Sketch Map and Photo Nos. 6-10)

Location: 127 West Main  
Billings, OK 74630

Owner of Property: J. S. Britton  
127 West Main  
Billings, OK 74630

Description: The Renfrow Building is a two-story, detached, commercial structure of native sandstone rock-faced ashlar finish. It is approximately 15' x 50' with flat roof and 2' parapet.

The facade's (north side) first floor has large display window with three fixed pane transoms above. The display window maintains original wood surrounds with decorative molding. To the east of the display window is a wood paneled door with lights in upper half. It also has fixed pane transom with architrave trim above door. The second floor of facade has a band of three 1/1 double-hung sash windows.

The west side first floor has three 1/1 double-hung sash windows and one double door opening. The second floor has six 1/1 double-hung sash windows.

The rear (south side) first floor has one 1/1 double-hung sash window and one wood paneled door with light in upper half. The door has fixed pane transom. Second floor includes two 1/1 double-hung sash windows and a single wood paneled door with fixed pane transom.

The east side has no openings and was at one time adjoined by another two-story building.

Major decorative elements include the cutaway entry on the northwest corner. The double door entrance is framed with rock-faced pilasters with foliated capitals and above is the Richardsonian round arch with radiating-glazing bars in the fan light. The second floor of the cutaway entry has one 1/1 double-hung sash window. Below the window inscribed in the masonry is "Dr. Renfrow" and above is the date "1900". Pilasters rise upward to frame the second floor of the cutaway entry and are topped with enriched capitals of sunrise and star design. Additional decorative features include a round arch over the door opening on the east side. It also features a fanlight with radiating glazing bars. The east side also has a belt course delineating first from second story and two pilasters separating the sets of windows. The parapet has crenellation with raised elements on all sides except rear.

There is a decorative urn-like merlon above the cutaway entry. All window openings have rock-faced lintels and sills. The cornice level consists of some modest corbel-like molding and pilasters mark corners of the building.

Statement of Significance: The Renfrow Building is both historically and architecturally significant because: (1) it is the only remaining commercial property associated with T.F. Renfrow, the first and only physician in Billings, Oklahoma from 1900 to 1930, and (2) its Richardsonian Romanesque vocabulary is the finest remaining representation of the style as applied to a commercial building in Billings.

Dr. Renfrow was persuaded to move his practice from a nearby town to Billings in 1900, one year after the town was platted. Immediately he financed the construction of a two-story building in the newly-found town which was to house his practice on the second floor and a drug store on the first. He remained in the Renfrow Building from

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1900 to 1930 when he moved his office to his home one block south of the building. During that period he served thousands of patients in northwestern Noble County and became an important community leader as well.

The Renfrow Building embodies many of the Richardsonian principles including the rock-faced pilasters which frame the cutaway entry and mark corners of the building, the round arched openings in the cutaway entry and east side which feature fanlights with radiating glazing bars, and belt course delineating first from second story. Pilasters are enriched with capitals of sunrise and star design and parapet wall is crenellated with raised elements including a stone urn above the cutaway entry.

The property is currently occupied by a hardware store continuing its role as a major commercial enterprise in the downtown business district of Billings. Although an adjacent building was razed, the building retains its architectural integrity because there have been no alterations during its 83 year history.

Quadrangle Name: Billings, Oklahoma

Scale: 7.5 minutes

UTM: 14/639245/4043490

Verbal Boundary Description: Lot 12, Block 16, Original Townsite of Billings, OK.