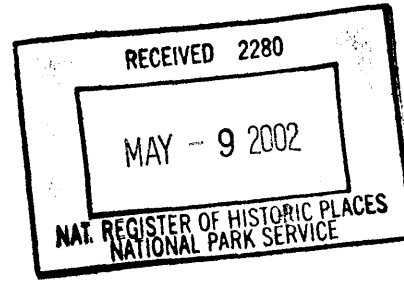


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



655

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Bank of Nashville

other names/site number Farmers and Merchants Bank; Farmers State Bank

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number SW Corner, Jct. US Hwy. 64 & Main Ave. not for publication N/A
city or town Nash vicinity N/A
state Oklahoma code OK county Grant code 053
zip code 73761

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

[Signature]
Signature of certifying official

April 22, 2007
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

[Signature]

other (explain): _____

[Signature]

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

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

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: COMMERCE/TRADE Sub: financial institution

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: WORK IN PROGRESS Sub: _____

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

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Commercial Style

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick
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.)

- 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)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance 1905

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

Significant Dates _____

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

Cultural Affiliation _____ N/A _____

Architect/Builder _____ UNKNOWN _____

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>584850</u>	<u>4058030</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 Savage, Architectural Historian, for the New Nashville
Preservation Historical Association
organization Savage Consulting date February 2002
street & number Rt. 1, Box 116 telephone 405/459-6200
city or town Pocasset state OK zip code 73079

=====
Additional Documentation
=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

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

=====
Property Owner
=====

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

name Town of Nash; The Honorable Spencer LaForce, mayor
street & number P.O. Box 196 telephone 580/839-2829
city or town Nash state OK zip code 73761

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

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Bank of Nashville
name of property
Grant County, Oklahoma
county and State

SUMMARY

The Bank of Nashville is a two-story, flat-roofed, brick, Commercial style building. Located in the rural community of Nash, Grant County, Oklahoma, historically called Nashville, the building was constructed in 1905. Featuring the hallmark canted corner of a bank building, the building has a nonoriginal, front, wood door. The side doors are wood, glazed, paneled. The wood windows are one-over-one, double hung. All of the openings have a round, arched, projected, brick header and the windows have a concrete sill. Vacant for several years, the building has severely deteriorated. A new, modified, bitumen, roofing membrane was recently placed on the building by the New Nashville Preservation Historical Association, the group working to rehabilitate the building. Additionally, the group has ordered new windows for the building, as many of the upper floor windows are missing and the other windows have deteriorated with exposure to the elements. Although matching the historic configuration, the new windows will not be wood. The interior of the building maintains the historic iron vault but has suffered extensive damage during the building's abandonment. Although much work remains for the building to be rehabilitated to its former glory, the Bank of Nashville retains sufficient integrity of design, materials and workmanship to convey its historic significance.

The bank is located on the southwest corner of Main and Grand avenues in downtown Nash on United States Highway 64. Adjacent to the south of the bank is a double storefront, one-story, brick Commercial building. Across the alley to the west of the bank are two one-story, brick, Commercial style buildings. None of these buildings are currently in use. Across the street from the bank to the east is a modern, one-story, brick Post Office with a handful of other commercial buildings to the south of that. The historic, two-story, brick buildings located on the two corners north of the Bank of Nashville have been demolished. As the only remaining, two-story, brick, Commercial style building anchoring downtown Nash, the Bank of Nashville amply conveys the historic feeling and association of the now-gone central business district.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The Bank of Nashville is a two-story, flat-roofed, brick, Commercial style building. Due to extensive damage, the flat roof was recently replaced with a new membrane roof. The east and north elevations of the Bank of Nashville both feature brick corbeling along the top of the wall and a brick belt course

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between the first and second floors. The corbeling is typical of pre-statehood Commercial style buildings with alternating sets of four, long, stacked, brick squares with four, short, stacked, brick squares. The bricks in the belt course are laid in a soldier row in a dog-tooth pattern. Neither the south or west elevations feature these decorative details. All of the openings in the building have arched headers but the headers on the windows and doors of the south and west elevations are plain with no detail. On the north and east elevations, the window headers consist of a projected, segmental arched, triple row of bricks that slightly flares out on the ends. The headers above the doors are also composed of a projected triple row of bricks but are semicircular arched and they do not flare at the ends.

The east elevation serves as the facade. The upper floor of the facade has four symmetrical windows. The windows are wood, one-over-one, double hung. The first floor of the east elevation contains two large, arched, display windows towards the south and an equal-sized, arched opening which provides access to the canted entrance on the north. The arched windows are topped with a four-pane fanlight. The middle window retains the glass in the fanlight while the southernmost window has one painted glass pane and three painted plywood panes. The large, wood, single pane window underneath the fanlight on both windows has been painted blue with the still visible words "Bank of Nashville" in the southernmost window and "United States Post Office" in the middle window. Both windows have plywood covering breaks in the glass.

Typical of its corner location and original business purpose, the Bank of Nashville features a canted entrance. Like the other openings on the facade, the canted entrance has a triple, brick, semicircular arch with a brick column on the outside edge. The canted entrance is above-grade with two brick and concrete steps providing access. The set-back entrance features a center canted door which is now filled with a nonoriginal, glazed, slab door. The nonhistoric door is painted light blue. Above the door is a large, square, transom which has been covered with plywood. Above the transom are two wood panels which fill the remainder of the entry space. As they were historically, the transom and panels are actually a paneled door which was turned upside down to provide decorative detail. Flanking the door on either side is an eight-light sidelight with panels below and a transom and panels above identical to that over the door.

The north elevation of the building features six windows on the second floor. All of the windows are identical with triple, brick, arched headers. When photographed, the wood, one-over-one, double hung windows were covered with

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metal. Since then, new, one-over-one, hung, vinyl windows have been put in the second floor. Although markedly similar to the historic windows, the new windows do not have true wood frames. The openings on the first floor of the north elevation correspond for the most part with the windows on the second floor. Just past the canted entrance on the east side of the north elevation are two single, one-over-one, double hung, wood windows. West of these is a single entrance with a wood, glazed, paneled door. The door has a iron grill for security purposes. The entrance, providing another entrance to the bank in the front of the building, has a triple, brick, semicircular arched header and a three-light fanlight. West of this is a large display window used for the store historically in the rear of the building. The fixed display window has a large, triple, brick, semicircular arched header with the space above the window filled with brick. West of the display window is a single entrance into the rear storefront. The entry has a wood, glazed, paneled door with the words "United States Post Office" still on the door. Above the door, there remains a nonhistoric wood sign which reads "Nash Produce and Gro./Ice - Picnic Supplies." The semicircular arched area around the door has been filled with nonhistoric gold brick which continues to the west over two nonoriginal, wood-covered, windows. The triple, brick, semicircular arched header remains in place above the windows. The original window would likely have been a single window similar to those on the front of the building with the fanlight being covered with brick.

For many years, the rear of the building had a cinder block addition which was torn off in 1998. Added in the 1960s, the nonhistoric addition provided additional storage space for the grocery store which was located in the building for over thirty years. Removal of the addition revealed a single window on the north side of the rear elevation which remains boarded over. To the south of this is a single, wood, slab door with a double, brick, arched header. The north one-third of the first floor of the west elevation has been painted white, although the paint has badly flaked, with the remaining two-thirds of the first floor retaining an unpainted red brick. The entire second floor of the west elevation has been painted white. The second floor has two windows. The north window on the west elevation is at the same height as the second floor windows on the north elevation. The south window is located lower at about the same height as the roof of the adjacent building. The brick corbeling and belt course are not continued on this obviously secondary elevation.

The south elevation is largely obscured by the adjacent one-story, brick, Commercial style building which was finished shortly after the completion of

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the Bank of Nashville. The first floor is a shared wall between the two buildings. The second floor is red brick like the other elevations. There are three windows on the second floor but none feature the decorative header of the other elevations. The windows on the south elevation have simple arched headers over the wood, one-over-one, double hung window. One window is located in the front one-third of the building, with the other two equally located in the middle one-third of the south elevation. There are no openings in the back one-third of the south elevation. Additionally, the decorative brick corbeling is not continued on this elevation.

The interior of the building has suffered significantly from years of disuse. Although both floors are currently inhabitable, the New Nashville Historical Preservation Association hopes to rehabilitate the building to allow different entities to occupy the various spaces of the building. The bank area in the front of the first floor, which still includes the teller cages and iron bank vault, will likely remain one space. The rear of the first floor, historically used as a Post Office and grocery store, will constitute another space with a separate entry. The upstairs will also be rehabilitated to its original use as a community room and possibly some office space.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

The only addition to the Bank of Nashville, added in the early 1960s, was removed in 1998. This addition was a one-story, cinder block addition on the rear of the building which the then-occupant of the back first floor storefront used for additional storage. The construction and removal of the addition has had minimal impact on the building, especially considering the location of the addition.

Other alterations to the bank have been minimal, although as money is raised and the building is rehabilitated, more will likely occur. The New Nashville Historical Preservation Association is committed to retaining the historic look and feel of the building, while returning it to active use. A new membrane roof was added in the late summer of 2001. The previous roof was severely deteriorated and did not provide adequate protection for the building. The inadequacy of the roof added materially to the decline of the interior. Additionally, failures in the windows has hastened the destruction of interior finishes. As such, the New Nashville Historical Preservation Association is working to replace all of the windows in the building. The new windows will be nearly identical to the historic windows. A relatively minor alteration has been the replacement of the front door with a nonoriginal, wood, glazed, slab

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door. The new door was placed in the building for security reasons and the group hopes to replace the nonhistoric door with a historically-correct door in the near future.

Despite the alterations, the Bank of Nashville retains its integrity of location, setting, design, workmanship, materials, feeling and association. Although many of the other buildings in downtown Nash have been demolished, the Bank of Nashville retains its highly visible location on the corner of United States Highway 64 and Main Avenue. The buildings immediately adjacent to the bank also remain, allowing this section of downtown Nash to retain its historic feeling and association. Although not in use since 1990 and in need of considerable repair, the building continues to convey its historic prominence as a anchoring commercial building in Nash, Oklahoma.

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SUMMARY

The Bank of Nashville is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its architectural significance as a excellent example of a brick, two-story, Commercial style building in Nash, Oklahoma, constructed immediately after the permanent relocation of the community in 1905. Although a few other two-story buildings were erected in the community, the Bank of Nashville is the only two-story building remaining in the downtown area. Retaining its historic corner location, the bank remains an anchor building in the central business district and the town as a whole. Stylistically, the building is a typical example of the vernacular Commercial style popular in numerous Western agricultural communities that developed after the turn-of-the-twentieth-century. The decorative detail of the building is identical to the adjacent one-story building which was finished shortly after the Bank of Nashville. Exhibiting a canter corner entrance, a hallmark of banking establishments, the Bank of Nashville stands out among the remaining, less-distinguished commercial buildings of downtown Nash.

HISTORIC BACKGROUND

The town of Nashville emerged in about July 1905 in response to the construction of a rail line from Guthrie, Oklahoma Territory, to Denver, Colorado by the Denver, Enid and Gulf Railway through the southwest corner of Grant County. Due to the potential economic boom created by the railroad, a nearby community packed its buildings and bags and moved to the new townsite of Nashville. By August 1905, as work on the railroad continued to move northwest from the town, the new Nashville newspaper reported "No formal opening of the townsite has yet been held but with those who came from the old town and a few others who could not wait but just naturally crowded in, a pretty fair showing can already be made in business lines."¹

The town of Nashville was formally incorporated two years after its founding. By early 1909, the town was touted as "...one of the best small towns in the forty-sixth state..." with thirty-five business houses, mainly one- and two-story, brick and stone buildings. In 1911, the name of the town was changed

¹The Nashville (Oklahoma Territory) News, 4 August 1905.

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from Nashville to Nash, which it remains today.²

One of the businesses thriving in the new community from the beginning was that of the Bank of Nashville. Chartered only three months previously, the bank "...already rank(ed) as one of the strongest and most conservatively managed fiduciary institutions of Grant County." In early August 1905, the bank occupied a frame building but had already let a contract for a "...fine two-story brick building 25 X 70 which the institution hope(ed) to have ready for occupancy within sixty days."³

Within a month, the brickwork on the new bank building was complete. Dotson (possibly Dodson), a contractor from nearby Enid, Oklahoma Territory, was said to be pushing completion of the wood work with all possible speed. By 20 October 1905, the Woodmen were planning the dedication of their new hall in the second story of the bank building. The following week, the drug store moved into the rear part of the bank building. According to the newspaper, "They have an ideal location there and have fixed the store up very attractively." By 17 November 1905, the bank had moved into their new location.⁴

From the time of construction, the Bank of Nashville was an anchor in the central business district of Nashville. Although not a large building, the bank was one of the earliest brick, two-story buildings in downtown Nash. Following completion of the bank in November 1905, the partnership of Childs and Wilson purchased the corner lot northwest of the bank for \$1000. In order to "...get this lot on anything like reasonable terms, they agreed to build a two-story brick building 25 X 100 feet." By 1919, the date of the only fire insurance map for the community, both the corners north of the bank were occupied by two-story, brick buildings with a one-story filling station located on the corner directly east of the bank. Additionally, there was a few scattered two-story buildings in the downtown area. Currently, only the bank building remains.

Stylistically, the Bank of Nashville is typical of Commercial style buildings

²James, Hunter, "Nashville, In Salt Fork Valley," Sturm's Oklahoma Magazine (January 1909: Vol. 7, No. 5) 67-68. See also The Morning News, (Enid, Oklahoma), 26 August 1982.

³The Nashville News, 4 August 1905.

⁴Ibid., 15 September 1905, 20 October 1905, 27 October 1905, 3 November 1905 and 17 November 1905.

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constructed in the early years of the twentieth century. The decorative detail of the building is minimal with just corbeling and a belt course. The adjacent building to the south features identical ornamentation, although it is only a one-story building. The Bank of Nashville is distinguished by the canted corner entrance. Currently, the bank is the only building in town which has such an entrance.

Although not an opulent building, the Bank of Nashville conveys a restrained elegance fitting its status as a pre-statehood banking establishment. Bankers in the western part of the United States expended a considerable amount on the construction of their facilities to reinforce the belief that their bank was trustworthy and a safe repository for the community's money. According to Banking in the American West: From the Gold Rush to Deregulation, rather than relying on capital brought in by well-to-do investors from the east, "...western bankers followed a different pattern. They established their personal reputations, then constructed imposing, solidly built, permanent facilities to prove that their bank was indeed safe."⁵

In addition to representing physical security for the community's valuables, bank buildings also served as a symbol of the community itself. As summed up by Banking in the American West,

"Just as the banker himself had announced his permanence in the community by constructing a magnificent banking house at no small cost to himself, so the community announced to the world that it was indeed "here to stay" by virtue of the fact that it now had a real bank."⁶

Thus, it is understandable that the local newspaper announced that the "...Bank of Nashville will be entitled to "spread it on" just a little" following completion of the building in 1905. Fitting the just-emerging, predominately agricultural community, the bank building was of solid construction that has endured for nearly one hundred years. For many years, the Bank of Nashville was the only bank in Nash. In 1913, the bank was sold and the name was changed to Farmers and Merchants Bank. Six years later, the First National Bank of

⁵Lynne Pierson Doti and Larry Schweikart, Banking in the American West: From the Gold Rush to Deregulation, (Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 1991), 4.

⁶Ibid., 44.

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Nash, which continued to operate through the 1960s, opened in a building across the street. In 1923, the Bank of Nashville was sold again and became Farmers State Bank. Although the function shifted from banking in about 1925 when the Farmers State Bank was declare insolvent, the building continued to be a center of activity in the downtown area. For many years, the local post office was located in the building. Until the last ten years, the west part of the building was also used as the local grocery store.⁷

As an excellent example of a brick, two-story, Commercial style building in Nash, Oklahoma, the Bank of Nashville is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C. The only two-story building remaining in the historic central business district and the only original corner building still located on the primary crossroads of the downtown, the building continues to serve as an anchor in downtown Nash. Constructed in a vernacular Commercial style typical of numerous Western agricultural communities in the early years of the twentieth century, the bank reflects the solid but simple aspirations of the community. With efforts underway by the New Nashville Historical Preservation Association to rehabilitate the now-vacant building, the Bank of Nashville will continue to anchor downtown Nash for many years to come.

⁷The Nashville News, 15 September 1905. See also Guy P. Webb, History of Grant County, Oklahoma, 1811-1970, (North Newton, Kansas: The Grant County Historical Society, 1971), 135, 139-140.

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Hunter, James. "Nashville, In Salt Fork Valley." Sturm's Oklahoma Magazine (January 1909: Vol. 7, No. 5), 67-68.

The Morning News. Enid, Oklahoma. 26 August 1982.

The Nashville (Oklahoma Territory) News. 4 August 1905; 15 September 1905; 20 October 1905; 27 October 1905; 3 November 1905; 17 November 1905.

Webb, Guy P. History of Grant County, Oklahoma, 1811 to 1970. North Newton, Kansas: The Grant County Historical Society, 1971.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot 15, Block 53, Original Townsite, Nash, Oklahoma.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries include the property historically associated with the Bank of Nashville in Nash, Grant County, Oklahoma.