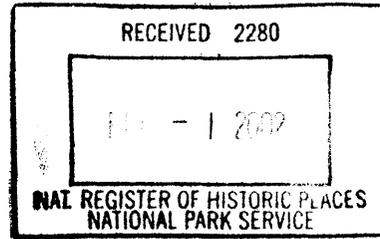


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



109

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Danner, J. W., House

other names/site number N/A

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number 408 North Fourth Street not for publication N/A
city or town Sayre vicinity N/A
state Oklahoma code OK county Beckham code 009
zip code 73662

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (N/A See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 1-24-02
Signature of certifying official 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 3/13/02

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 0

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: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling

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

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY
AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Bungaloid

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE
roof ASPHALT
walls CONCRETE: Cement block
other STUCCO

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 c. 1905-1910

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

Significant Dates c. 1905

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

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder DANNER, J.W., 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: Sayre Library, Sayre

=====
10. Geographical Data
=====

Acreege of Property less than 1

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>14</u>	<u>441870</u>	<u>3905750</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
2	<u>N/A</u>	<u>See continuation sheet.</u>		4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

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 Janet Hutson; edited by Jim Gabbert, Architectural Historian, OKSHPO

organization N/A date 9/9/01

street & number 2201 Uecker Dr. #14104 telephone 806-828-4796

city or town Slaton state TX zip code 79364

=====
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 Mattie E. Dean

street & number 408 North Fourth Street telephone 580-928-8242

city or town Sayre state OK zip code 73662

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 9

Danner, J.W., House
name of property
Beckham County, Oklahoma
county and State

SUMMARY

The J.W. Danner House is a one-and-a-half story, almost square, concrete block house located on a rise just north of the commercial center of the town of Sayre, Oklahoma. The house, constructed by J.W. Danner, on whose land Sayre was born, dates to around 1905 and was constructed of rock-faced concrete blocks made on site by Mr. Danner. Its steep, almost pyramidal roof is pierced with four hipped dormers and it features a wide front porch. It occupies two lots Danner Hill, on the east side of Fourth Street, which was later designated US Highway 66. Modest homes from the first decades of the century surround the house on three sides while a modern supermarket lies directly across the street. The J.W. Danner House retains a high degree of integrity and is one of the earliest extant buildings in Sayre. Its unique materials make it a local landmark.

DESCRIPTION

The J.W. Danner House is a one-and-a-half story, hipped roof house constructed of locally manufactured concrete blocks. It features a full width front porch and four hipped dormers. Stylistically, it lacks ornamentation. In form, it resembles the western bungalow and as such might be considered bungalowoid.

The roof of the house is currently sheathed in composition shingle; originally, it was covered in wooden shakes. The roof is almost pyramidal, with a ridge that measures about two feet running perpendicular to the main facade. Each roof slope has a hipped dormer centered in it. Both the dormers and the roof have boxed eaves. The dormers are wood framed, with 3" clapboards, a wide frieze, and corner boards with capitals. centered in each dormer is a single, 1/1 hung window. Each has a wide surround and a crown mold. On the rear slope of the roof, next to the dormer, a small skylight has been cut in. A metal vent pipe protrudes from the rear of the north slope.

The front of the house is dominated by the full-width porch. This porch appears to date to a later time than the initial construction of the house, probably c. 1910. The porch roof is virtually flat, sloping slightly to the front for drainage. It is supported on large corner piers, and engaged piers at the house walls. These piers are about 2' square and are capped with simple, flat stones. Half-piers flanking the central steps support battered wooden posts. The roof itself is carried by elliptical arches supported on the piers. The wide, central

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Danner, J.W., House
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arch is supported by the two battered piers. The piers are stuccoed, as are the side walls. Five concrete steps lead up to the porch and the central entry.

The main entry to the house is centered on the west facade. It is a wood and glass, multi-pane door typical of the Craftsman style. The door has no decorative surround and is flush with the exterior wall. It is flanked by single window openings. The northernmost window is a single, 1/1 window with a metal storm window. The southernmost is wider, more in the Queen Anne style with a small top pane and three-part lower unit. Both have simple steel lintels and concrete sills.

The south elevation features three window openings. A slightly off-center pair of windows is flanked by single openings. The easternmost of the single openings has been infilled with glass block. The east, or rear, elevation at one time has a screen porch. This has been removed. There is a single entry on this elevation, slightly off-center. A single window opening is to the north of this door. The north elevation has two, offset single window openings. The rear opening has been infilled with glass block.

The foundation of the house is concrete block, with a smooth face. There are small, metal grates that access the crawl space. The walls of the house are constructed of cement blocks. These feature a quarry, or rock face. Each is about 8" by 23" and are uniform in appearance. The blocks are triangular in shape, with hollow centers. They were manufactured on site, using local sand from the North Fork of the Red River. The manufacturer of the mold is unknown.

ALTERATIONS

The exterior of the J.W. Danner House has had little significant change. Within the first decade of its existence, the original front porch was changed to the one that exists today. The rear, wooden screen porch fell victim to the elements and was removed in the 1990s. The original, wood 1/1 windows in the dormers were replaced by new, vinyl-clad, 1/1 windows with snap-in grids in 1998. The interior has had minor changes to bring the house up to current codes and standards. Overall, these changes are negligible in assessing the integrity of the house. The defining characteristic of the house is the method of construction. The triangular, rock-faced, concrete blocks that make up the walls of the house remain intact and uncovered. The house is still able to convey its integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling, association, setting and location. It remains the best, earliest, extant example of this type of concrete block construction dating from the Territorial Years in Beckham County.

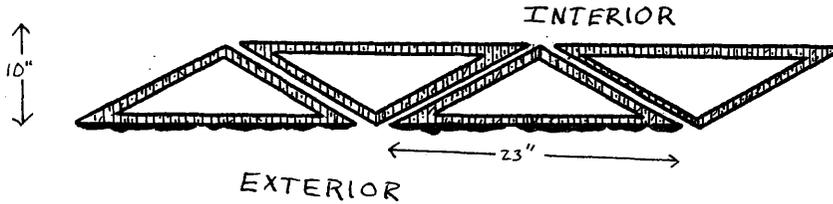
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Danner, J.W., House
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Detail of Triangular Block



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Danner, J.W., House
name of property
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SUMMARY

The J.W. Danner House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, as the best extant example of a Territorial-era, concrete block house in Sayre, Oklahoma that utilized unique, triangular concrete blocks. The Danner House was constructed c. 1905 on land owned by J.W. Danner, one of the men on whose land the town of Sayre was platted. Danner constructed the house himself, utilizing triangular concrete blocks produced on site using his own mold. Danner also constructed other concrete block houses in Sayre and surrounding communities, his house remains the best example and prototype for concrete block dwellings in the area, characterized by the use of a uniquely-shaped, triangular concrete block.

BACKGROUND

The site of the town of Sayre has had the distinction of being located in three different counties. When the Cheyenne and Arapaho lands were opened for white settlement in 1892, new county designations were made for the tract. The land where Sayre now stands was on the southern edge of "F" county. Just south of the North Fork of the Red River, where the south side of Sayre now lies, was Greer County, Texas. In 1896, the US Supreme Court denied Texas' claim to Greer County, and the land reverted to the control of Oklahoma Territory. Meanwhile, "F" County was renamed Roger Mills County. During the creation of the state in 1907, parts of Roger Mills and Greer counties were melded together to create a new county, Beckham, with the centrally located town of Sayre as the county seat.

The town of Sayre was born out of nothing more than a scheme and a railroad. When the Choctaw, Oklahoma and Gulf Railroad (later the Rock Island) pushed through the area, a number of investors formed a townsite company with the idea of purchasing land and platting towns along the route. Of concern to us is the site of Sayre. The townsite company purchased land from a number of persons who had homesteaded in the area, including W.H. Hutton, G.W. Roles, J.N. Lennox, J.M. Danner, and J.W. Danner. Each was allowed to reserve a block in the townsite for their own use. This was in July, 1901.

J.W. Danner had purchased his property only the year before, after conditions in his former claim further north had driven him out. He purchased a quarter section adjacent to that of his son, J.M. Danner. It was at that time that he erected his house. When the townsite company negotiated the purchase of some of Danner's

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Danner, J.W., House
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land, he retained as his block the site of his home. This was known as Danner Hill and lay just north of the railroad tracks that crossed the townsite from east to west.¹

The town grew as most towns in the west grew, in fits and starts. Tents and wood frame buildings were the first to line the streets. People lived in packing crates or shacks made of scrap wood and canvas. Lumber was scarce and expensive; the prairies yielded little in the way of trees for lumberyards. Cottonwood trees found in ravines provided logs for many settlers. The railroad provided lumber for the townsfolk.

Many of the first homes that sprang up in Sayre were little more than shacks. As finances allowed, the shacks were replaced with more substantial housing, although still modest by even the standards of the day. A typical house was three or four rooms on a single level, square or an "L" in plan. Stylistically, these would typically be classified as "Folk Victorian." What little embellishment there was to these folk forms usually was little more than jigsawed fretwork and turned posts on the porch or patterned shingles in the gable.

For the first decade of Sayre's existence, the town grew and the Main Street transformed from a collection of ramshackle saloons and stores into a substantial business district. The residential lots began to fill up with small frame houses and the occasional church or school. It was into this environment that J.W. Danner and his concrete block machine found their niche.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Western Oklahoma is a land of few trees, great extremes in weather, and somewhat frequent violent storms. One and one-and-a-half story houses are the norm, providing less of a profile to the winds that "come sweeping down the plains." Many of the early settlers took heed of the conditions and endeavored to create substantial homes of stone, brick, or concrete. Most, however, utilized standard wood-framed and sheathed houses, either because of cost or expediency.

Sayre is typical of towns in western Oklahoma. The majority of the housing stock

¹ Sayre of the Red River Valley, Mrs. J.M Danner, ed. (Sayre: Sayre Sun Printery, 1939; reprinted Elk City: McDonald's Printing, 1976). Page 3.

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Danner, J.W., House
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is frame, and a great deal of it dates to the first 20 years of the town's existence. The J.W. Danner House bucks that trend; it is constructed of rock-faced concrete blocks.

J.W. Danner purchased a machine to fabricate these blocks probably around 1905. He used the machine to make blocks for his own house at that time. He, with the help of his son, Lewis, then turned to the industry of making block for others in the area. Danner's block machine was responsible blocks used in at least four other houses in Sayre and an unknown number in the surrounding countryside and other towns in Beckham County.

Danner's block machine produced a distinctive type of concrete block. Each block measures 23" in length by 8" in height. This is a typical dimension for early machines -- the standard dimensions of 16" by 8" were not formalized until another decade had passed.² What sets Danner's blocks apart is the shape. While the face of the block is indistinguishable from any other, the block itself is triangular. Most concrete blocks are rectangular, with two hollow voids that form an "8" when viewed from above. Danner's blocks were, instead, triangular, with a depth of 7" and a single void.

The mold used to make the blocks had changeable face plates. This is evident in the smooth face of blocks used on the foundation of the Danner House as well as the interior facing of the walls. The rock-facing on the Danner House features a distinct, deep pattern. It is readily identifiable when seen in other buildings, even if the triangular shape of the blocks is not evident.

A windshield survey of Sayre showed two other extant concrete block houses. The first is a single-story, pyramidal roof house located at 605 5th Street. Similar in many respects to the J.W. Danner House, it is surmised that this was one of the next houses constructed by Danner in the town. It retains a good degree of integrity. A second concrete block house is located at 711 Broadway, the next street east of 4th. This house is a full two stories and has some interesting decorative elements. The house is rock-faced, with blocks that match the Danner House, but it also has rusticated block quoins and uses a smooth-faced belt course the separates the basement level from the first floor. From the size and variety

² Simpson, Pamela H., Cheap, Quick, & Easy: Imitative Architectural Materials, 1870-1930, (Knoxville; University of Tennessee Press, 1999) p. 21.

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of block textures used, it is guessed that this was a later creation of Danner's machine, probably closer to 1910 or so.

Another confirmed Danner-built house was razed and its blocks utilized in the construction of a new entry sign for the city park. Danner blocks were also used in the construction of a two-story business building in the town of Carter, southeast of Sayre. Lewis Danner is credited with manufacturing and laying the blocks for the building in 1910.³ This building is no longer extant. Other suspected but unconfirmed Danner block houses include one in the town of Cheyenne and some scattered farmhouses in the county.

There are commercial buildings in Sayre that utilize concrete block, but based on appearance and on information gleaned from Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, these all date to a later time period than it is thought that the Danner machine was active. All are of the smooth-faced, standard sized hollow blocks that date from the 1930s and on.

CONCLUSION

The J.W. Danner House is significant locally as the prototype of a concrete block dwelling that utilized locally produced, triangular shaped concrete blocks. The construction of the house by Danner led to the construction by Danner of other concrete block buildings in Sayre and the surrounding area. The J.W. Danner House is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C, as the prototype of a locally unique method of construction.

³ "Carter Express," undated article, 1910.

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Danner, J.W., House
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

lots 4 and 5, Block 57, Original Town of Sayre.

VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the J.W. Danner House.