

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
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Item number 7

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HISTORIC PROPERTIES ASSOCIATED WITH T.F. RENFROW

1. Renfrow Home (No. 1 on Sketch Map and Photo Nos. 1-5)

Location: ~~Southwest Corner of~~ Graves Street and Broadway  
Billings, Oklahoma 74630

Owner of Property: Ora Miller  
Billings, OK 74630

Description: The Renfrow House is a two-story, detached dwelling approximately 25' x 30'. It has a rock-faced ashlar finish and convex mansard roof of metal. The floor plan is unusual in that it has two bays, one of which has a north/south orientation and the other an east-west orientation. There is a one-story porch attached to the northeast corner of the axis and a one-story rear section approximately 10' x 30'. Both bays are octagon-shaped.

The first floor of the east/west bay (facing west) has two 1/1 double-hung sash windows and a round arched window with fanlight and radiating glazing bars. The second floor has similar fenestration.

The south side of the east/west bay has a band of three 1/1 double-hung sash windows in first floor and one 1/1 double-hung sash window in second.

The north/south bay first floor includes a wood panel entry door and two 1/1 double-hung sash windows within porch area and two other 1/1 double-hung sash windows in other sides of the bay. Also in the first floor are two round arched windows with fanlights highlighted by radiating glazing bars. The second floor of the north/south bay has a band of three 1/1 double-hung sash windows on east wall and similar treatment in west wall. There are also two round arched windows with fanlights and radiating glazing bars in second floor of north/south bay.

The rear (west) side has two 1/1 double-hung sash windows in second floor of the two-story bay and two 1/1 double-hung sash windows in the one-story section.

There are three rock-faced interior chimney stacks.

The one-story porch in the northeast corner has convex mansard metal roof and is supported by six smooth shafted columns setting on rusticated pedestals and topped with rusticated capitals. The columns rest on a rock-faced blind railing which encloses the porch floor.

Major decorative elements include the round arched openings with scrolled decoration, the ornate cornice above second-story and porch levels featuring bead and reel decoration as well as miniature dentils. Within each of the round arch openings are fanlights with radiating glazing bars.

A 3' native sandstone fence delineates the property on east and south sides.

Statement of Significance: The Renfrow Home is both historically and architecturally significant because: (1) it is the only dwelling still intact which is associated with T.F. Renfrow, the first physician in Billings and the only professional of this type in the town for approximately 30 years, and (2) it is the best and oldest example of Richardsonian Romanesque architecture as applied to a dwelling in Billings, Oklahoma.

Built by Dr. T.F. Renfrow in 1900, the Renfrow Home was occupied by this well-known local physician until his death in ca. 1940. Dr. Renfrow lived in the dwelling while he carried on a thriving medical practice for Billings and surrounding area.

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He provided not only medical services for the community but was also a driving force in the development of the Billings commercial district having financed one of the first two-story commercial structures in this small agricultural community. During the later years of his practice, Dr. Renfrow moved his office from the downtown location to his home (approximately 1930-1940).

The home embodies several Richardsonian Romanesque elements including the heavy, massive texture of the rock-faced exterior, the round arched openings with scrolled detail, and the straight-topped, deeply-recessed windows. Additional decorative elements include the unique convex mansard roof of metal, smooth-shafted porch piers with rusticated capitals and pedestals, ornate cornice above porch and second story levels featuring bead and reel decoration and miniature dentils, and the exquisitely designed fanlights with radiating glazing bars.

The home is currently owned and occupied by the daughter of the original builder giving the property a sense of historic continuity. Although in some need of repair, the dwelling has not been altered during its 83 year history.

Quadrangle Name: Billings, Oklahoma

UTM: 14/639200/4043390

Scale: 7.5 minutes

Verbal Boundary Description: Lot 1, and North 80' of Lot 2 and East 12½' of North 80' of Lot 3, Block 20, Original Townsite of Billings, OK.