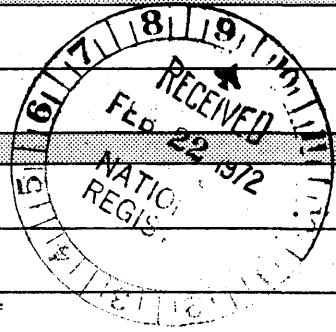


NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Oklahoma</b>	
COUNTY: <b>Ellis</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER <b>JUN 5 1972</b>	DATE



1. NAME

COMMON:  
**Grand Site of town of Grand**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**c. 14 m. South of**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Arnett (NE/4 Sec. 6, T 17 N, R 24 E)**

STATE <b>Oklahoma</b>	CODE <b>40</b>	COUNTY: <b>Ellis</b>	CODE <b>045</b>
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <i>YES</i> <i>Pymullen 5/19/72</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Rex Holloway**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Arnett**

STATE:  
**Oklahoma**

CODE:  
**40**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Office of the County Clerk**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Ellis County Courthouse**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Arnett**

STATE:  
**Oklahoma**

CODE:  
**40**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Oklahoma Historic Sites Survey**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1958**     Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Oklahoma Historical Society**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Historical Building**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Oklahoma City**

STATE:  
**Oklahoma**

CODE:  
**40**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **Oklahoma**

COUNTY: **Ellis**

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)  Excellent  Good  Fair  Deteriorated  Ruins  Unexposed

(Check One)  Altered  Unaltered

(Check One)  Moved  Original Site

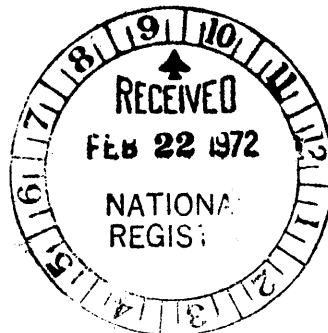
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Wood and water dictated Grand's location, beside the Canadian River some fourteen miles south of present Arnett. When this area was opened for settlement on April 19, 1892, a big spring then known as Upper Robinson Spring gushed from the ground near one of the best stands of native trees on the prairies of Western Oklahoma. (Other water found near by was for the most part tainted with gypsum -- "gyppy" in short grass country parlance -- which made Upper Robinson's water taste "just grand." This, in the opinion of some, is the origin of the town's name ... although Historian George H. Shirk is perhaps on safer ground in believing the name honors Grandville Alcorn, son of county judge Robert Alcorn.)

The town grew and prospered -- after a fashion -- until 1907, when statehood divided Day County and caused removal of the county seat to Arnett to the north. By this time Grand had acquired a single two-story frame building (the proud home of the Woodmen of the World) and a one-story courthouse roughly forty feet square (both structures subsequently moved to Arnett), a frame jail (that most prisoners promptly broke out of), the Walek Hotel, two saloons, a couple of stores, a blacksmith shop, and a scattering of homes. The town at its peak probably could count no more than 200 residents.

Today Grand is reduced to a few crumbling buildings and the open-faced vault of the courthouse. But much of the grave is left. And Upper Robinson Spring still flows. Tamed by upstream dams, the Canadian River, that has claimed much of Grand's townsite over the years, now flows rather demurely on the west. The old ghost county seat of a ghost county has been abandoned pretty much to its memories. And with the passing of each year the number of these still living who can recall -- and relive -- these memories decreases steadily. But Grand's place in the history of the frontier in Western Oklahoma remains secure.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**SIGNIFICANCE**

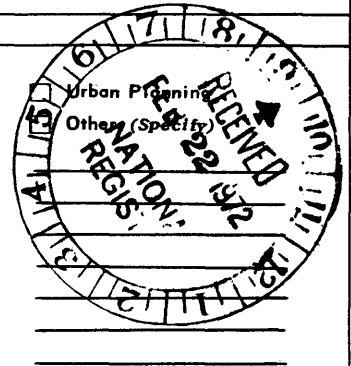
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |  |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1892-1908**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal     | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   |   |   |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Grand did not have a lawyer or doctor. Every man respected the rights of others. Personal difficulties were settled in primitive fashion. Petty thievery was unknown. No one ever locked his doors when he left home. There was no rush, no bickering or envying, or crowding there. It was Grand and well named. The Law had not yet arrived.

That is the wryly sentimental, backward-looking summation by a pioneering settler of life in one of Western Oklahoma's first towns, now a picturesque ghost. (And a rather distinguished ghost at that. As someone has pointed out: Oklahoma has many ghost towns, but only one ghost county seat ... of a ghost county.) Grand was never more than a small, struggling village. And its existence was actually quite brief. Yet it is almost uniquely representative of the western frontier in the late 19th century. And it was the home, if but briefly, of many citizens who became known as leaders elsewhere in the new state of Oklahoma.

The cattleman was king in this corner of the short grass country when the land still belonged nominally to the Indians. Then on April 19, 1892, the surplus lands of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Reservation were opened to white settlement. This section was first designated as "E" County. Sooner afterward it was named Day County and the location for a county seat was called Ioland, some 16 miles east of Grand. Farmers rushed in to claim land previously used by the cattlemen. In addition to the classic cowman/farmer confrontation, Day County also saw frequent Texan/Kansan confrontations, as homesteaders with widely divergent political and social backgrounds sought to wrest a living from a generally hostile environment.

Yet another representative frontier element was injected into Grand's existence on Nov. 12, 1893, when the Day County courthouse at Ioland burned to the ground. The next day the county commissioners moved the seat of government to Grand. (Complicity in the burning was widely suspected, but never proven.) The sleepy little village awoke sufficiently to provide a one-story courthouse. And a jail. In time it claimed a post office and hotel, two stores, a blacksmith shop, two saloons, and two newspapers (one Republican, the other Democratic). As

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Richards, O. H., "Early Days in Day County," The Chronicles of Oklahoma, Vol. XXVI (1948), pp. 313-324  
 Shirk, George, H., Oklahoma Place Names, University of Oklahoma Press, 1966, p. 91  
 Squire, C. A., "Old Grand, Ghost Town," The Chronicles of Oklahoma, XXVII (1950), pp. 399-417

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

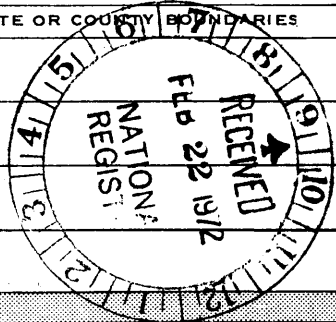
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		35° 58' 56"	99° 47' 43"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

NO VTM  
HL

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **5 acres**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: **Kent Ruth, Deputy**

ORGANIZATION: **Oklahoma Historical Society** DATE: **January 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Historical Building**

CITY OR TOWN: **Oklahoma City** STATE: **Oklahoma** CODE: **40**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: [Signature]  
 Title: State Liaison Officer for Oklahoma  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 6/5/72

ATTEST: [Signature]  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Oklahoma	
COUNTY	
Ellis	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
JUN 5	1972

(Number all entries)

No. 8. Significance

Grand

for the law, it arrived with the county records; by 1907 Grand boasted four law offices and at least six lawyers.

But Oklahoma became a state, in 1907, and Day County was divided into Ellis County on the north, Reger Mills County on the south. For a time Grand remained the temporary seat of Ellis County, while residents fought a heated battle over a permanent location. Arnett emerged the eventual winner and on August 26, 1908, it took over the official records. Shortly thereafter it got even the frame courthouse itself! Grand, as a town of any real importance, had ceased to exist ... although it clung to its post office, established Nov. 4, 1892, until Sept. 30, 1943. Many, many years before, alas, it had lost, also to Arnett, its only two-story building, that of the Woodmen of the World.

Yet the roster of Grand's important citizens is impressive, especially so, in view of its size and brief existence. Among the first lawyers to arrive was Charles Swindall, who went on to become District Judge, Congressman, and justice of the state Supreme Court. Among its first doctors was Dr. O. C. Newman, founder of the Newman Hospital at nearby Shattuck, one of Northwestern Oklahoma's leading medical facilities today. Grand can also lay some claim to Will Rogers, who worked as a boy on the nearby Ewing ranch; Billy McGinty, the cowboy who rode with Teddy Roosevelt up San Juan Hill and was a pioneering rodeo performer in Madison Square Garden; and Temple Houston, son of the famed Sam Houston of Texas independence fame, who served as judge in Grand.

As a town, Grand has had the corporate equivalent of political charisma. Since 1920, when one-time residents formed the Day County Association to keep alive memories of the old days, a constantly diminishing band of the faithful have met once each year to eat a picnic lunch under the trees that remain ... and to reminisce. Until her recent death, Augusta Metcalfe, Oklahoma's best known primitive painter, was a regular attendee. Long since reduced to a crumbling building or two, Grand thus continues to live in the memories of those who knew her when she was one of Oklahoma's more exciting -- not to say isolated -- seats of government.

