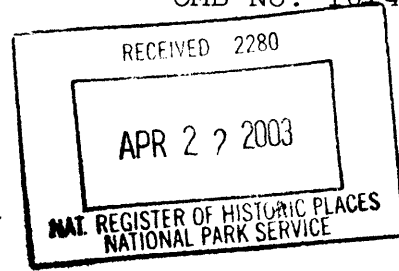


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Foreman, W. T., House

other names/site number _____

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number 814 West Oak Avenue not for publication N/A
city or town Duncan vicinity N/A
state Oklahoma code OK county Stephens code 137
zip code 73533

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.)

Bob Leubben

4-18-03

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

Edson H. Beal 6/6/03

 other (explain):

Jan

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>1</u> buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

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: VACANT/NOT IN USE Sub: _____

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN
MOVEMENTS: Prairie School

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 1918

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

Significant Dates 1918

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

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Cooper, A.A., contractor

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: _____

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10. Geographical Data
=====

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

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

Table with 6 columns: Zone, Easting, Northing, Zone, Easting, Northing. Row 1: 1, 14, 595710, 3818320, 3, blank, blank, blank. Row 2: 2, N/A, See continuation sheet, 4, blank, blank, blank.

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 Prairie House Foundation

organization Savage Consulting date February 2003

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 Prairie House Foundation
street & number P.O. Box 2094 telephone _____
city or town Duncan state OK zip code 73534

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SUMMARY

The W.T. Foreman House, constructed in 1918 in Duncan, Oklahoma, is a two-story, brick, Prairie School residence with a new, asphalt-covered, hipped roof and partial basement. The house was likely constructed by a local contractor, A.A. Cooper. Cooper's name appears on one of the wooden risers on the underside of the kitchen stairs. The front door is wood slab with a wooden screen door and multi-paned, full-length, wood sidelights. There are two other exterior doors, both on the east side. The primary side entrance is towards the south and is also a wood slab door. A second, ground-level, side entry, which has been boarded, is located in the middle of the east elevation. The majority of windows are one-over-one, wood, double hung with continuous concrete sills. The windows on the west side wing and back second floor sunroom are eight-over-eight, wood, double hung with unequal decorative panes. The house features single, double and triple windows, as well as a set of French doors. The brick and concrete porch extends the length of the facade and wraps-around the east side of the house, although only part of the porch is covered. The wood porch roof is flat with massive, brick, decorative supports which feature rectangular cut-outs in the center, concrete caps and concrete ornaments. Other architectural features include two brick interior chimneys and two square projected bays. Decorative details include widely overhanging boxed eaves, a brick stringcourse with dentils and a darker, decoratively laid, brick foundation. Alterations to the house include a new roof in 2002, removal of the porch roof balustrade and metal roof ridge cap, covering of the wood eaves with vinyl siding and replacement of the small, brick, east side porch with a metal porch. Additionally, several windows and the basement door on the east side have been boarded.

Although currently vacant, the house was used for its original purpose until about 1983, following the passing of the last living member of the immediate Foreman family. Five years later, the local school district purchased the building with the intention of moving their administrative offices into the house. Following their 1988 purchase, the school district began demolition work on portions of the interior but the project was never completed and the building has stood vacant for almost twenty years. Recently a non-profit organization, the Prairie House Foundation, acquired the building with the intention of returning the building to use as a period community meeting place. The Foundation has already put a new roof on and started work on stabilizing the foundation.

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Behind the house to the south is a noncontributing garage. The one-story, stucco, double car garage has an asphalt-covered gable roof and two wood paneled overhead doors. The garage was constructed after 1923 but before 1931; as such, it is a noncontributing building. Surrounding the building is a noncontributing chainlink fence. The fence was erected to halt vandalism to the house. Once the property is back into use, it is anticipated that the fence will be removed. Neither the garage or the fence detrimentally impact the ability of the Foreman House to relate its significance.

The Foreman House is situated two blocks off of Main Street in a mixed commercial/residential transition zone between the central business district and primary residential area. The house is the only remaining building on the north half of the block and about the only residence remaining in the immediate area. Across the street to the north is the Duncan Middle School, spanning the entire block and composed of several buildings, including the historic Duncan Senior High and Junior High buildings. There are also several religious properties and the historic and new public libraries in the vicinity which gives way to a residential area to the north, largely developed in the 1920s and 1930s. To the east and west of the Foreman House is now a sparsely developed commercial area with modern storage units to the east and a vacant one-story commercial building to west. To the immediate south of the house is another commercial building, fronting onto Walnut Avenue.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The W.T. Foreman House is a two-story, blond brick, Prairie School house with a low-pitched, asphalt-covered, hipped roof. A new asphalt roof was put on in the summer of 2002; there were at least three other layers of colored asphalt on the roof, including red, green and brown. On top of the roof, towards the west side, is a brick interior chimney with a painted brown concrete coping and metal hipped chimney hood. A shorter chimney, barely visible, is located to the south. Typical of the style, the roof features widely overhanging, boxed eaves. Originally clad with wood, the eaves and fascia have been covered with vinyl siding on all elevations. The siding has come off in places, revealing the original materials. Below this, along the upper wall on all elevations, is a darker brown, brick stringcourse. Primarily composed of a double course of slightly projected bricks, the stringcourse has a third bottom course of projected, dark brown, header bricks on the regular blond brick which gives a denticulated appearance. Located at the same height as the window sills, the upper two courses of the stringcourse is broken by the continuous concrete sills under each of the second floor windows. Similar to the stringcourse, the

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brick foundation is a darker brown and is decoratively laid with a course of soldier bricks topped by a course of rowlock bricks. The rowlock course extends up around the four basement windows.

The north elevation of the house features a one-story, brick, wrap-around porch. The porch extends the full-length of the facade and covers a quarter of the east elevation. The brick porch continues the darker, decoratively laid, brick foundation identical to the rest of the house. The floor of the porch is concrete with nearly solid brick walls capped by concrete extending the full length of the porch. The porch has three sets of concrete stairs, all of which connect to the concrete sidewalks extending from the house. The primary north set of stairs, as well as the west side stairs, feature brick sidewalls capped with concrete. The narrower east side stairs has no sidewalls or railings. Only on the front set of stairs is there a brick pier, on the west side of the stairs. To the east side is one of the two large, brick, porch roof supports. The identical porch supports have rectangular cut-outs in the middle. The cut-outs feature concrete strips on the top and bottom. Extending above the flat porch roof, the supports have a concrete cap and concrete ornaments in the upper part. The square ornaments consist of a central circular design with smaller designs in each corner. The porch roof covers only a portion of the full-width porch, following the dimensions of the main body of the house. The western portion of the porch, corresponding with the set-back western wing, is uncovered, as is the eastern wrap-around part. The flat porch roof is slightly overhanging with the original, wide, wood fascia. The porch roof cornice, like the larger roof, has been clad with vinyl siding, part of which has fallen off. Historically, a classic, wood balustrade ornamented all three sides of the porch roof; the balustrade was removed at an unknown time.

Behind the porch, the north elevation of the house is divisible into two uneven sections; the main body of the house and the west wing. The west wing, as originally constructed, is visually separated from the main body of the house by its set-back. Within the main body of the house, the primary entry is located on the east side of the first floor. The entry consists of a single, historic, wood, slab door with a simple wood surround and a wooden screen door. Flanking the door on either side are ten-light, wood, fixed, sidelights. In front of the door, hanging from the porch roof, is a single, metal, porch light. To the west of the door, are two one-over-one, double hung, wood windows with a continuous concrete sill. On the second floor of the main body of the north elevation are two sets of one-over-one, double hung, wood windows. The upper story windows, although narrower than the first floor openings, are located directly above the first floor fenestration. Delineated by a setback,

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the west wing of the north elevation has a set of wood French Doors on the ground level and paired, decorative, eight-over-eight, double hung windows on the upper floor. The second story windows, matching select other windows on the west and south elevations, have unequal panes. The top half of the window has shorter upper panes, while the bottom portion has shorter bottom panes.

The west elevation of the house has three uneven sections. The westernmost section, part of the west wing, contains a set of triple, wood, double hung, eight-over-eight windows on each floor. All windows in this section feature the decorative unequal panes with the top part of the window having shorter top panes and the bottom half having shorter bottom panes. Setback to the east is the middle portion of the west elevation. On the first floor of this area is a set of slightly smaller, paired, wood, double hung, one-over-one windows in a projected square bay. The bay features a short, asphalt-covered, hipped roof with vinyl-covered eaves. Above this, on the second floor, there is a set of paired, wood, double hung, one-over-one windows. To the north of the paired windows is a slightly smaller, single, double hung, one-over-one, wood window which lights the upstairs bathroom. Unlike all of the other second floor windows, the bathroom window's sill is above the brick stringcourse. Setback even farther to the east is the southernmost section of the west elevation. This section of the west elevation has paired, one-over-one, double hung, wood windows on the first floor. The upper floor windows are also paired but feature the more decorative, uneven, eight-over-eight panes. On the basement level, there is one window on the west elevation, located in the southernmost section. Like the other basement windows, this single opening has a darker brick surround which matches the brick of the foundation. At the time the property was photographed in October 2002, a metal ventilating duct related to the work on the foundation had been inserted into the window, resulting in displacement of the bottom brick.

The back or south elevation of the Foreman House is also composed of several sections with different setbacks. Beginning on the west side in the west wing, the south elevation has paired, decoratively paned, eight-over-eight, wood, double hung windows on each floor. In the middle section of the south elevation, there are single, one-over-one, wood, double hung windows on each floor. The first floor window in this section, like the corresponding windows in the projected bay of the west elevation, is slightly shorter than the majority of first floor windows. The asymmetrical east section of the south elevation is the widest but features only a single, wood, double hung, one-over-one window on the first floor. The upper floor windows in this section are the decoratively paned, eight-over-eight, double hung, wood but are notably

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single windows. There is one basement window on the south elevation. Located slightly to the west of the lone first floor window, the basement window has been boarded.

The east elevation of the Foreman House consists of two uneven sections. The smaller southernmost section contains paired, decoratively paned, eight-over-eight, double hung, wood windows on the second floor and a shorter, one-over-one, double hung, wood window on the first floor adjacent to the back entry. The entry consists of a single, wood, paneled door with a wood screen door. The small brick porch originally located in this section has been replaced, for unknown reasons at an unknown time, by a metal porch with metal steps and railing. The larger section of the east elevation is asymmetrical. The upper floor windows include a set of paired, wood, double hung, one-over-one windows towards the south side. Immediately to the north of these is a smaller, one-over-one, double hung, wood window which lights the stairwell. A good distance to the north is a single, wood, one-over-one, double hung window. The first floor fenestration in this section is slightly more balanced. On the south side are two short, one-over-one, double hung, wood windows. Below these windows, are two fixed, wood, basement windows nearly obscured by vegetation. To the north of the first floor windows is a square projected bay with a short, asphalt-clad, hipped roof. Like the bay on the west side, the overhanging eaves of the east side bay have been clad with vinyl siding. Within the bay, there is a double window opening on the first floor, which has been boarded. Below this, there is the boarded basement entry and a single window which has also been boarded. To the north of the bay, there is a single, first floor, rectangular window which has also been boarded. Historically, this window was stained glass.

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The interior of the Foreman House has been detrimentally impacted by the late 1980s plan to turn the building into administrative offices for the local school district, as well as the continued vacancy of the house. For the most part, the original partitions remain intact so rehabilitation of the house is eminently feasible. Generally, the floors are wood and the walls are plaster. The house has six rooms on the first and second floors, in addition to a grade-level, half bath and a partial basement. Overall, the interior retains a moderate degree of historic integrity.

Entering the house through the front door, there is a large living room. On the northwest side of the room is a sizeable brick fireplace with a built-in

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wood bookshelf farther to the north. The fireplace is fairly plain with a bit of corbelling being the only ornamentation. A gas insert has filled the fireplace opening. The wooden mantel, which extends along the built-in bookshelf all the way to the north wall, remains intact. Off the living room to the west is a small room designated the library. Unlike the majority of rooms on the first floor, the library has only one doorway. The library also has a brick fireplace, on the same interior wall as the living room fireplace; however, this one is more ornate. The top course of the fireplace is a darker shade of brick, projected and laid in rowlock. The course immediately below this is flush with the rest of the fireplace, except for regularly spaced, projected, closers which are also in a darker shade. Below this, there are three, evenly spaced, brick, diamond shapes with a center square. Under these ornaments are two identical ornaments on either side of the fireplace opening. Although jetted for gas, there is no insert in the opening.

To the southwest of the living room is the dining room with a large wood framed opening between the rooms. To the southeast of the dining room is the small breakfast room which features a small utility room off the east side. With entrances from both the utility and breakfast rooms, the kitchen is immediately east of the dining room and north of the utility and breakfast rooms. In the northeast corner of the kitchen is a narrow set of six stairs to a mid-level landing which adjoins a wider set of six stairs coming from the living rooms. From the landing extend the twelve stairs to the second floor.

On the second floor, the north part of the house contains three rooms, two of which were likely bedrooms and the last an enclosed sunroom. The middle bedroom features a striking fireplace. The outer wooden elements of the fireplace, including the short mantel, have been painted blue to match the rest of the room. Surrounding the unfilled fireplace opening is small bright blue ceramic tile. A painted, built-in bookshelf is located immediately to the southeast of the fireplace. To the northwest of the fireplace is the doorway to the sizeable enclosed sunroom. The room has good cross-ventilation with multiple windows in each outer wall. Back in the main portion of the house, there is a central bathroom located to the south of the middle bedroom. Access to the attic is also gained through this room.

The south half of the second floor is composed of the master suite. Unlike the other rooms of the house, the master suite features striking wood paneling which is not original but is relatively undisturbed. In the main room of the master suite, there is a fireplace on the interior north wall. With paneling around the outside, the inside of the fireplace, including the opening and

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hearth, is clad with light blue ceramic tile. The master fireplace tile is larger and lighter in color than the blue tile in the other upstairs fireplace and there is a single diamond-shaped tile in the center. On the west wall, there is a window box with a closet to the south. There are two large closets located on the south wall of this room. Through a set of French doors located east of the closet, there is another enclosed sunroom. Like the adjoining bedroom, the master sunroom has paneled wood walls with multiple windows on each exterior wall.

Underneath the second floor stairs, off the kitchen, is another set of stairs which leads to a grade-level half-bath and the interior basement stairs. The stairs extend directly to the exterior basement door with the half-bath located to the north. The basement stairs are located to the south, underneath the narrow upper stairs from the kitchen. Notably, on one of the wooden kitchen stair risers is stamped "FROM.CHGO.MI.WK.SUP.CO/TO.A.A.COOPER/DUNCAN.OKLA." The partial basement, in the southeast corner under the kitchen and utility room, has a concrete floor and exposed brick walls.

GARAGE DESCRIPTION

To the southeast of the house is a noncontributing garage. Constructed between 1923 and 1931, the existing garage is larger than the single car garage in the same location which was likely built at the same time as the house. The one-story, stuccoed garage has a new, asphalt-covered, gable roof. The garage features two, large, brown, paneled, overhead doors on the west elevation. Red vertical wood boards have been placed around the doors. Above this, is an asphalt-covered ledge with exposed rafters. The gable end is clad with shingles. The front eaves of the gable roof are overhanging, supported by two triangular knee braces. There is one, wood, double hung, one-over-one window on the north elevation. The sides of the building also feature exposed rafters. The east elevation of the garage has a shingled gable end and three triangular knee braces. The garage is noncontributing due to insufficient age.

ALTERATIONS

The exterior of the Foreman House has only been minorly altered. The most visible alteration is the chain link fence which surrounds the property. The fence was erected to deter vandals and will be removed when the building is in full use. Although isolating the property, the noncontributing fence does not inhibit the ability of the house to convey its significance. Other changes to the house include a new roof, the boarding of four openings on the east side,

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removal of the porch roof balustrade and metal roof ridge cap, covering of the wood eaves with vinyl siding and replacement of the brick, east side, back porch with a metal porch. The majority of these alterations are minor and are not significantly detrimental to the building's overall integrity. The most weighty is the removal of the porch on the east side. It is unknown when or why the porch was removed. The replacement porch is much plainer than the original brick porch and is oriented to exit to the south rather than the east like the original porch. Although the loss of the porch is notable, due to its small scale and rear location, it does not destroy the integrity of the property.

Although maintaining its basic configuration and many of the historic finishes, including wood floors and plaster walls, the interior of the house has only a moderate degree of integrity. The uncompleted work begun in the late 1980s and lack of use have combined to degrade the interior. However, the interior is readily salvageable and the current owner of the property is working on plans to return the building to full use.

Overall, the Foreman House retains its integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The setting of the house has been altered by the removal of all other residential construction in the immediate area, the construction of commercial buildings to the west, south and east and the mid-1930s and later education buildings on the block immediately north. Although the setting has changed, the Foreman House maintains its historic character to a remarkable degree.

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SUMMARY

The W.T. Foreman House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its architectural significance as an excellent example of a brick, Prairie School house in Duncan, Oklahoma, located in the transition zone between the central business district and the primary historic residential area. Constructed in 1918 for the W.T. Foreman family, the house is noteworthy for its use of brick when the majority of residences were wood construction. There are other examples of the Prairie School style in Duncan but all of these are frame and are located within a wholly residential setting. The Foreman House is located on the edge of the central business district in the area that in the early history of the town contained residences, usually of the downtown merchants, and some commercial enterprises. As the town has matured, the majority of domestic dwellings in this area have been demolished and the area has become strongly commercial. As the lone remaining representation of domestic architecture in the transition zone between downtown and the greater Duncan residential development, the Foreman House stands out architecturally.

BACKGROUND

The town of Duncan originated in 1892 on land claimed by William Duncan and his wife in the Chickasaw Nation of Indian Territory. As with all lands in Indian Territory, non-Native American settlement was restricted by the federal government. The Duncans operated a trade store in the general area after their marriage in 1879. In 1889, learning of the impending construction of a rail line through Indian Territory, Mrs. Duncan, as a legal member of the Chickasaw Nation, claimed five hundred acres in the path of the railroad. Roughly following the Chisholm Trail, a popular mid- to late-19th Century path for cattle crossing Indian Territory from Texas, the Chicago, Pacific and Rock Island (Rock Island) completed their line through the Twin Territories in 1892. At the same time, the Duncans began leasing lots in their new settlement with the promise of legal title when the federal restrictions were lifted. By 1901, following a federal townsite survey which added an additional five hundred acres to the developing town, Duncan boasted a population of 1,164.¹

¹The WPA Guide to 1930s Oklahoma, (Lawrence, Kansas: University Press of Kansas, 1986), 375. See also Dr. Alyson L. Greiner, etal. "Reconnaissance Level Survey of Duncan, Oklahoma, 1999-2000," (On-file at the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 2000), 129-130.

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Growth in the town was fairly steady through the first two decades of the twentieth century. The discovery of oil in 1918 to the southwest of Duncan, however, spurred a tremendous population boom during the 1920s with numerous oil companies locating various related businesses in the town. In all, Duncan's population expanded by over 140 percent between 1920 and 1930. Growth within the town continued through the trying years of the Great Depression and accelerated again during the 1940s through the 1960s, riding the general post-war economic boom.²

About five years after the town of Duncan was founded, William Thomas (W.T.) Foreman moved to town. Foreman had moved with his family to Indian Territory from Texas "...as a child," settling near Marlow, Indian Territory. After "...studying pharmacy," Foreman initially worked in Duncan for Dr. W. T. Howell in his drug store on the south side of Main Street. In 1902, Foreman opened his own pharmacy at 807 West Main Street in downtown Duncan. Named Foreman's Drug, the business continued in operation until about 1955 when it was sold and renamed City Drug. The building at 807 West Main remains extant. In addition to his pharmacy, Foreman was also a director and stockholder in the First National Bank of Duncan. He married Etta Whisenant in 1902. Foreman passed away in early January 1941 in Duncan and his wife died in the same month twenty-one years later in Dallas, Texas. At the time of Foreman's death, the couple had only one surviving child, Mrs. W.L. Smith of 810 West Oak, Duncan.³

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

In 1905, Foreman purchased lots 13 through 16 of Block 139 in the original Duncan City Addition from James Savage for \$550. Savage had acquired title to the land three years previous from the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations. The following year, Foreman bought lots 11 and 12 of the same block from Charity A. Monroe for \$300. According to the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, by 1904 there were two houses located on lots 11-12 and 14-15. Both of these houses were one-story, frame. By 1908, the first Foreman residence, a large, one-story, frame house with a wrap-around porch, had been erected roughly on lots 14-15, replacing the two earlier houses. A two-story rooming house had also been constructed to the east on lots 8-10. Six years later, the one-story Foreman

²Greiner, "Reconnaissance Level Survey of Duncan, Oklahoma," 127-129.

³The Duncan (Oklahoma) Eagle, 9 January 1941.

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house on lots 14-15 remained, although an addition had expanded the east side. To the east of the Foreman House, a new one-story house with a full-width porch was located on lots 11-12. Farther east, on lots 8-10 was an expanded two-story building then called the Terminal Hotel.⁴

The 1923 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map revealed a drastically altered Block 139. Only the house on lots 11 and 12 appeared to be the same from 1914. The existing, masonry, two-story, Foreman house, erected in 1918, stands on lots 14 and 15 and a smaller, one-story, frame house was new to lots 9 through 10. East of this, spreading across lots 1 through 9 was the commodious, two-story, brick Duncan Hotel, also built in 1918. The south side of the block also underwent a transformation with two new, large, brick, one-story buildings covering multiple lots on both corners. The two-story rooming house on lots 21-22 remained the same from 1914, although a new plumbing establishment had moved onto lot 23. The north side of the block remained relatively the same through 1948, while commercial building almost completely filled the south side.⁵

Although the phenomenal growth of the town in the 1920s is attributable for the changes on the south side of the block, the new construction on the north side was probably directly related to a single event which occurred in April 1918. On 19 April 1918, a "...fire of unknown origion (sic), but which is known to have started in the kitchen, at about 3 o'clock last Friday morning, totally destroyed the Terminal, one of the best known hotels in this section." Because of a problem sounding the alarm at the fire station, by the time the firemen arrived on the scene, "...the flames had made such headway that it was impossible to save the building." Due to the strong northwest wind, "...great bands of fire were carried high in the air and dropped upon buildings a block away." According to the newspaper, although the roofs of several buildings caught fire, the damage was largely contained to the Terminal Hotel.⁶

⁴Grantee/Grantor Records for Lots 11-16, Block 139, Duncan City Addition, (on file at the Stephen County Clerk's Office, Stephen County Courthouse, Duncan, Oklahoma), various dates. See also Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Duncan, Oklahoma, 1904, 1908 and 1914.

⁵Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Duncan, Oklahoma, 1923.

⁶The Duncan (Oklahoma) Banner, 26 April 1918.

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It is probable that either due to damage directly caused by the Terminal Hotel fire or fear of future conflagrations, W.T. Foreman determined to construct a new brick residence on lots 14-15. Although the start date is unknown, by 30 August 1918, the brick work on the new Foreman house was completed. As noted in the newspaper, "The building will be a credit to Duncan and the costliest residence in the city, the contract price being close to \$8,000." Much of the high cost of the house is attributable to its brick construction.⁷

In addition to its brick construction, the selection of the Prairie School style for the new Foreman residence is noteworthy. The Prairie School style was one of the few architectural styles that was indigenous to America. The style originated in a suburb of Chicago, River Forest, with the Winslow House, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright in 1893. By 1900, Wright had begun work with the asymmetrical hipped form which dominates Prairie School architecture. Wright, a premier American architect, is "...acknowledged as the master of the Prairie House." The style quickly gained in popularity with the majority of landmark examples concentrated in large Midwestern cities. Midwestern pattern books and popular magazines also spread the style to smaller communities throughout the nation. Roughly, the style flourished from 1900 to 1920, generally going out of vogue after World War I.⁸

The Prairie School style is characterized by a "Low-pitched roof, usually hipped, with widely overhanging eaves; two stories, with one-story wings or porches; eaves, cornices, and facade detailing emphasizing horizontal lines; often with massive, square porch supports." The Foreman House is exemplary of the style. The house features a low-pitched, hipped roof with widely overhanging eaves. The two-story house features a strongly, horizontal, one-story porch which extends across the entire facade. The house's dominant horizontal lines are reinforced by the sweeping, low-pitched roof with wide overhanging eaves, as well as the flat porch roof with its extended eaves and wide wood fascia. Additionally, the broad chimney, massive square porch supports, contrasting concrete coping on the porch walls and supports, and the

⁷Ibid., 30 August 1918.

⁸Virginia and Lee McAlester, A Field Guide to American Houses (Alfred A. Knopf: New York, 1990), 440.

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visual division of the upper masonry wall with the darker brick stringcourse are characteristic of the Prairie School style.⁹

Due to its general popularity, the Foreman House is obviously not the only Prairie School style house in Duncan. In 2000, a reconnaissance level survey of Duncan was undertaken by the Oklahoma State University Department of Geography under a grant funded by the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office. The survey identified several Prairie School houses with the majority being frame and located in the proposed Central Residential District. The survey determined the two best examples of the style were the Foreman House and the Richard King Residence at 916 West Hickory Avenue. Although a good example of the Prairie School style and retaining its overall historic appearance, the King House has been clad with vinyl siding.¹⁰

The Brittain-Garvin House (NR 2000), located at 411 North Ninth Street, is also a good example of the Prairie School style in Duncan. The reconnaissance survey noted the house, located within the boundaries of the proposed Central Residential District, as the best example of a Prairie School house which exhibited a Craftsman influence. Built in 1916, the two-story house is frame with a full-width, one-story porch and a side porte cochere. The house also includes an interesting two-story garage and child's playhouse, both constructed in 1931, which mimic the style of the larger residence and a large fish pond. Although possessing similar architectural characteristics, the Brittain-Garvin House is distinct from the Foreman House due to the different construction materials which significantly alters the feeling of the buildings.¹¹

Also separating the Foreman House from the Brittain-Garvin House and other residential construction in Duncan is the setting of the house. Located just two blocks off of Main Street, the Foreman House was set in a historic

⁹Ibid., 439-440.

¹⁰Greiner, "Reconnaissance Level Survey of Duncan, Oklahoma," 45.

¹¹Jerry O. and Sammie G. Rowell, National Register Nomination for the "Brittain-Garvin House," (On file at the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 2000), 11, 14-16.

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transition area between the central business district and "...one of the first cohesive single-family residential neighborhoods to develop in Duncan." The early Sanborn maps reveal the presence of several other houses in the immediate vicinity of the Foreman House. However, by the early 1920s, the majority of these houses had disappeared with largely commercial development to the south and west of the house. The two houses located east of the Foreman House were apparently demolished in 1989 following acquisition of the property by the school district. The Duncan Hotel was torn down at an unknown time and across the street to the east modern mini-storage units have been constructed.

To the immediate north of the house, effectively separating the Foreman House from the closest neighborhood, the Duncan Senior High School was constructed in 1936 with a new junior high being constructed eleven years later on the east corner of the block. Subsequent construction has filled in the space between the two buildings, forming the Duncan Middle School complex of today. Two religious properties to the north of the Foreman House further separate the house from the neighborhood. The First Presbyterian Church is located to the east of the historic Duncan Junior High and the First Baptist Church, with a large parking lot directly west of the historic Duncan Senior High, is located one block north of the Foreman House on the northwest corner of Ash Avenue and Ninth Street. East of this are the old and new library buildings, built in 1939 and 1975 respectively, with residential development from the 1920s and 1930s abounding to the north. As the lone representation of residential construction remaining in the transition area, the Foreman House merits recognition of its historic significance.

The 2000 survey of Duncan identified one potential National Register eligible district, the Central Residential District. Although the boundaries were drawn to include the Foreman House, it is unlikely that an intensive survey would warrant inclusion of the area south of Ash Avenue. The disruption to the residential development by the churches, libraries, school buildings and parking lots effectively separates the areas. Thus, the Foreman House must be evaluated on its own rather than within the confines of the Central Residential District.

In Foreman's 1941 obituary, his house at 814 West Oak is described as "...notable as one of the finest old homes in Duncan...". Although sixty-plus years have passed since then, this continues to be true. As the best example of a brick, Prairie School style house, the Foreman House is architecturally significant within the local context. Additionally, the Foreman House, the only remaining dwelling in the immediate area, is significant due to its

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location in the historic transition zone between the central business district
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VERBAL BOUNDARY

All lots 14, 15 and east 10 feet of lot 16, Block 139, Duncan City Addition, Duncan, Oklahoma, Section 5, Township 1 South, Range 7 West.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries include the property historically associated with the house.