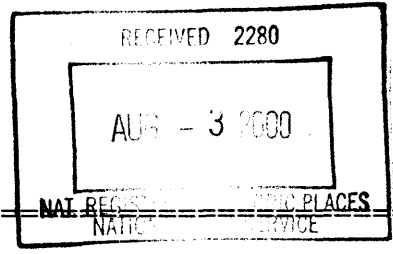


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1041



1. Name of Property

historic name Dow Grain Company Elevator

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 105 East Oklahoma Street not for publication N/A

city or town Okarche vicinity N/A

state Oklahoma code OK county Kingfisher code 073 zip code 73762

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. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Bob Blackburn
Signature of certifying official

July 31, '06
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 8/31/00

Joe

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>0</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</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.) Grain Storage and Processing Facilities
in Western Oklahoma

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Agriculture/Subsistence Sub: Storage

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Agriculture/Subsistence Sub: Storage

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Iron-Clad Wood Country Elevator

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete
roof tin
walls tin
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)

Agriculture
Commerce
Architecture

Period of Significance 1935-1950

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

Significant Dates ca. 1935

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	14	592900	3953840	3	___	_____
2	___	_____	_____	4	___	_____

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 George O. Carney - Professor of Geography

organization Department of Geography date 1/25/93

street & number Oklahoma State University telephone (405) 744-9167

city or town Stillwater state OK zip code 74078

=====
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 Mid-Oklahoma Co-op

street & number 105 E. Railroad/P.O. Box 187 telephone (405) 263-7289

city or town Okarche state OK zip code 73762
=====

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 9

Dow Grain Company Elevator
name of property
Kingfisher County, Oklahoma
county and State
Grain Storage and Processing
Facilities in Western Oklahoma
name of multiple property listing

Summary:

The Dow Grain Company Elevator in Okarche, Oklahoma, was built in about 1935. It is a 50' high iron-clad wood country grain elevator with a 35' x 20' base and monolithic concrete slab foundation. As all bins, elevating machinery and spouting system are located within the workhouse and headhouse (cupola), the structure is classified as a self-contained elevator. The workhouse is approximately 40' in height with a gable roof surmounted by a 10' high partial headhouse (cupola) also with a gable roof. A 25' rear extension to the north side, part of the original construction, provides six annex bins each with a storage capacity of 2,000 bushels making an overall storage capacity of 30,000 bushels for the entire structure. The extension roof along with the elevator roof gives a "catslide" appearance to the north side roofline (Photo 1). In 1962, the Farmers Co-op built a noncontributing 50' high 40' x 60' corrugated steel structure to the west of the Dow Elevator. Connected to the nominated property by only a conveyor system, the 1962 facility houses feed grinding and mixing equipment (Photo 2). Additionally, in about 1993 a bolt overhead feed bin was attached to the 1962 structure. As the overhead feed bin is attached to the 1962 structure, it is not considered a separate noncontributing resource. The Dow Elevator currently serves as a grain storage facility for the feed grinding/mixing operation. The Dow Grain Company Elevator is situated along the west side of the old Rock Island railroad tracks (now Union Pacific) on the north side of East Oklahoma Street in Okarche. It is located on the far east side of downtown Okarche in an area of light industry, including another elevator across the railroad tracks.

Description:

Built in about 1935, the Dow Grain Company Elevator is a 50' high iron-clad wood country grain elevator with a 35' X 20' base and monolithic concrete slab foundation. The elevator is a balloon frame structure constructed with 2" x 6" and 2" x 4" sawn boards spiked together at the joints. Cladding consists of 1" x 6" lapped boards nailed to studs with steel tie rod reinforcements extending through internal bins and anchored to 4" x 6" horizontal braces clearly visible on all four exterior walls. Tin sheathing pressed into brick design covers the lapped siding and corrugated sheet metal covers the roofs (hence the term "iron clad" is used to describe these country elevators).

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Dow Grain Company Elevator
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The south side has two 4/4 wood sash windows in the cupola and an entry/exit sliding garage door (vertical) to the lateral dump (Photo 4). The west wall of the cupola includes one 4/4 wood sash window and an opening for the conveyor system which leads to a steel storage bin to the west as well as a vertical sliding garage door to the lateral dump. The cupola's north wall contains two 4/4 wood sash windows (Photo 2). On the ground level, there is a sliding garage door on the north side to the lateral dump. The east wall contains one 2/2 window in the cupola (Photo 1). In addition, the east side openings include a direct spout to the railroad cars (Rock Island tracks to the east side), one 4/4 window below the cupola, one 2/2 window mid-level and a single wood panel door at the ground level (Photo 1).

Interior features are composed of two full and three overhead lapped board bins; a lateral receiving dump; a 15' "boot" (main pit), and the belt-and-bucket conveyor system to lift grain from the "boot" to the headhouse (cupola). The grain is elevated by the buckets (cups) to the "gerber" (central distributing spout) in the headhouse. Destination of the grain is controlled by a heavy, metal wheel known as the spout, or distributor, wheel. The spouting system was originally wood chutes which channeled grain to bins, railroad car, or trucks. According to a former manager, the Dow Elevator did not have a dust control unit. Rather, fans vented dust to the outside. The "clipper" (cleaner machine) was located on the floor of the workhouse. To reach the headhouse, a crude elevator called a "man-lift" was used. It was an open-sided wooden platform operated by a system of counterweights.

Alterations:

Overall the Dow Grain Company Elevator retains a high degree of architectural integrity on the exterior. The essential elements of an iron-clad wood country grain elevator remain present including the lapped board siding with tin covering, partial headhouse (cupola), and horizontal braces on all exterior walls which anchor the tie rod reinforcements. Internally, much of the original elevating machinery has been replaced over time. The wood "leg" and wood spouts were changed over to steel and the conveyor belt and drive were replaced. The "clipper" was removed because modern combines clean harvested grain in the field.

In 1962, a noncontributing 50' high 40' X 60' corrugated steel grinding and mixing structure was constructed west of the elevator. In 1993, a bolt overhead feed bin was attached to the 1962 structure. As the bolt overhead

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Dow Grain Company Elevator
name of property
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=====

feed bin is physically attached to the 1962 structure along its west side, they are considered one resource. The elevator is connected to the 1962 structure by a conveyor system but the two resources are clearly separated by a sizeable distance and, thus, are considered separate structures.

The Dow Grain Company Elevator retains its integrity of location, setting, design, workmanship, materials, feeling and association. The construction of the 1962 structure with its 1993 bolt overhead feed bin does not impact the integrity of the Dow Grain Company Elevator as the resources are clearly detached.

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Dow Grain Company Elevator

name of property

Kingfisher County, Oklahoma

county and State

Grain Storage and Processing

Facilities in Western Oklahoma

name of multiple property listing

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Summary:

The Dow Grain Company Elevator in Okarche, Oklahoma, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A and C. The elevator is eligible under Criterion A for its association with agriculture and commerce in Okarche from its construction in about 1935 to 1950, the National Register fifty year mark. As an independent elevator, the Dow Grain company was not tied to a single outlet for its products. Allowing farmers to locally store their wheat and thereby obtain optimal selling price, storage elevators played a vital role in the expansion of commercial agriculture in areas such as Okarche which relied on farming as an economic mainstay. Elevators also attracted farmers to the local community for elevator-related and other business which enhanced local commerce. Additionally, the Dow Grain Company Elevator is eligible under Criterion C for its architectural significance as the only remaining example of an iron-clad wood country elevator in Okarche. Contextually, the Dow Grain Company Elevator relates to "Grain Storage and Processing Facilities in Western Oklahoma, 1889-1950." The associated property types are Grain Storage Facilities and Grain Elevators, subtype Iron-Clad Wood Country Elevators.

Historic Significance:

In 1904, there were four elevator companies operating in Okarche. These elevator companies included the Canadian Mill and Elevator Company; El Reno Mill and Elevator Company, Elevator B; Okarche Milling Company and T.E. Standard and Son Elevator. Twelve years later, two of the same companies were still operating in Okarche, El Reno Mill and Elevator and Okarche Milling Company. Additionally, the Kingfisher Mill and Elevator, Hunter Elevator and the newly constructed (1915) Farmers Co-operative Association Elevator were all accepting wheat in Okarche. By 1929, the number of elevators in Okarche had fallen to only three. The Farmers Co-operative Association Elevator and Hunter Grain Elevator continued operating under their 1916 names. However, the El Reno Mill and Elevator Company had changed its name to Dow Grain Company Elevator. The company continued to operate the elevator built in 1902.

By the 1930s, grain production in the Okarche area (the townsite sits astride the county line between Kingfisher and Canadian counties) had reached an all-time high with 2.3 million bushels of wheat produced per year in Kingfisher County and 1.4 million bushels in Canadian County. Disaster struck

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Dow Grain Company Elevator
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the Dow Grain Company, however, in the mid-1930s when fire destroyed the 1902 elevator. Oscar Dow, a local entrepreneur who also owned a farm implement business, rebuilt the elevator in about 1935. Ten years later, Dow sold the elevator to the Farmers Co-op of Okarche. The Farmers Co-op continued to use the structure as a wheat storage facility until 1962. At that time, the Farmers Co-op built a feed grinding and mixing facility immediately west of the Dow Grain Company Elevator. The elevator is connected to the feed grinding system by a conveyor system. Since 1962, the Dow Grain Company Elevator serves as grain storage space to feed the grinding operation.

The Dow Grain Company elevator was significant to the local community as the only independently operated grain elevator in Okarche from its construction in 1935 to 1945. "Independent" elevators were different than "Co-ops" or "line" types because they were characterized by local ownership which dealt directly with area wheat farmers. Built on the Rock Island right-of-way, Dow bought and shipped grain via the railroad to terminal elevators in Enid owned by the Continental Grain Company or to the Shawnee Milling Company in Shawnee where it was converted into flour. This was typical of small independently-owned country elevators which served primarily as "in-and-out" facilities for farmers who wanted access to markets at grain terminals or a mill "up the line." The Dow Grain Company elevator assured surrounding wheat farmers, who lived within a day's drive of the elevator, the opportunity to handle bulk grain production without fear of spoilage or losing the best price for their commodity.

Additionally, the Dow Grain Company Elevator enhanced the role of Okarche as a "central place," described by economists as a small town trade center where local farmers could sell their produce and in return purchase goods and services from local businesses. Throughout its history, the Dow Grain Company Elevator provided a stimulus to the area's business establishments and helped solidify the town of Okarche as an agricultural and commercial center for southern Kingfisher and northern Canadian counties.

Architectural Significance:

The Dow Grain Company Elevator is architecturally significant as the only remaining example of an iron-clad wood country elevator in Okarche. The elevator has retained the essential elements of an iron-clad wood country grain elevator for more than fifty years and the structure embodies all the characteristics associated with this style of vernacular architecture: (1) balloon frame with lapped board cladding nailed to studs, (2) rectangular-

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 Dow Grain Company Elevator
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shaped workhouse with headhouse (cupola), (3) lapped board siding covered with tin sheathing, (4) steel tie rod reinforcements, and (5) horizontal braces clearly visible on all exterior walls. The Dow Elevator features one element not commonly found on iron-clad wood country elevators -- the original "catslide" roof on north side which reflects the additional six storage bins contained therein. It is probable that the Dow Grain Company Elevator was originally constructed with this additional storage space to accommodate the tremendous wheat production in Kingfisher and Canadian counties at the time.

The majority of elevators built in Okarche were iron-clad country elevators. Of these, only the Dow Grain Company Elevator remains extant, and having been built in 1935, is a late example of that construction method. The Dow Grain Company Elevator, however, is not the only historic elevator in Okarche. The Farmers Co-op Elevator B House, located across the tracks from the Dow Grain Company Elevator, was built in 1940 with a 1954 addition. The Farmers Co-op Elevator B and E House, however, is an excellent example of a concrete country elevator.

As an excellent example of a iron-clad wood country elevator and the only one remaining in Okarche, the Dow Grain Company Elevator is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C. Additionally, for its role in expanding local agriculture and commerce as an independent grain storage facility, the elevator is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A.

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Major Bibliographical References:

Directory of Oklahoma Grain and Feed Dealers. Enid, OK: Oklahoma Grain and Feed Dealers Association, 1940.

Anderson, Dean (current manager). Interviewed by George O. Carney.
15 January 1993.

Heupel, George (president of Farmers Co-op). Interviewed by George O. Carney.
15 January 1993.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. 1904, 1916 and 1929.

Shafer, Francis (former manager). Interviewed by George O. Carney.
15 January 1993.

Verbal Boundary Description:

From the point of beginning at the intersection of East Oklahoma Street and the Union Pacific Railroad proceed 178' west along East Oklahoma, 196' north along an unmarked paved street, 178' east across a grass yard to the north of the nominated property, and 196' south along the Union Pacific Railroad to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification:

The boundaries include the property historically associated with the Dow Grain Company Elevator.