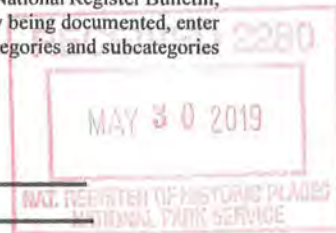


4172

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: Ponca City Milling Company Elevator

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 114 West Central Avenue

City or town: Ponca City State: Oklahoma County: Kay

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,


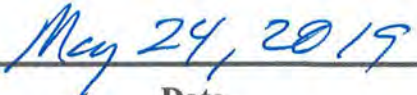
I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

 X A B C D

 _____ Signature of certifying official/Title:	 _____ Date
_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
_____ Signature of commenting official:	_____ Date
_____ Title :	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

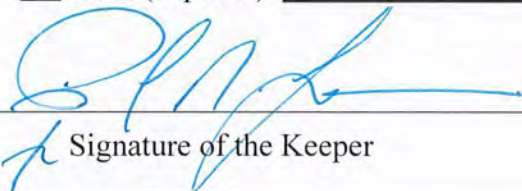
Ponca City Milling Company Elevator
Name of Property

Kay County, Oklahoma
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)


Signature of the Keeper

7/15/2019
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

Ponca City Milling Company Elevator
Name of Property

Kay County, Oklahoma
County and State

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION: manufacturing facility

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: storage

COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

Ponca City Milling Company Elevator
Name of Property

Kay County, Oklahoma
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER/Concrete Terminal Grain Elevator
LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Neo-Classical Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: CONCRETE

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Located just east of the BNSF railroad tracks near downtown Ponca City, the one building and two structures comprising the Ponca City Milling Company Elevator dominate the skyline. The property served as an important intermediary between local farmers and the agricultural marketplace. First documented on the site in 1894, the buildings and structures associated with the mill were in a nearly constant state of change until 1927 when all of the buildings and structures present today were in place. The single-story office building/storage warehouse is attached to a six-story-tall flour mill. Both are brick-clad and designed in the Neo-Classical Revival style. Integrated into the southeast corner of the joining of the office building/warehouse and the first story of the flour mill is a one-story, brick-clad power plant. The site was finished between 1927 and 1930 with the construction (including repairs from a fire) of a concrete grain elevator, complete with a headhouse and side grain dumps, and a complex of twenty-two cylindrical concrete grain storage bins. The upper third of these bins have a ghost sign that reads, "Robin Hood FLOUR". The mill closed in 1959 and has changed ownership multiple times since. The site is currently vacant and of good historic integrity.

Ponca City Milling Company Elevator
Name of Property

Kay County, Oklahoma
County and State

Narrative Description

Site and Setting

The Ponca City Milling Company Elevator is positioned north of the historic Santa Fe Depot (NRIS #12000113) and southeast of the Downtown Ponca City Historic District (NRIS #10001010). It is a notable landmark that towers above surrounding buildings and structures. Railroad tracks run parallel to the site and are located to the immediate west. Commercial properties are located to the north. Business and light industrial properties are situated both to the east and to the south. Overall, the site is surrounded by moderately dense commercial development. The site covers a series of predominantly level lots with little vegetation in the vicinity.

General Characteristics

The Ponca City Milling Company Elevator complex is comprised of one building and two structures. Configured in the shape of an “L,” the building includes a one-story (with basement) office area with a front entrance facing West Central Avenue and a six-story-tall flour mill adjacent to the railroad tracks. The one-story office area is flat-roofed, with a concrete post and beam structure that is visible on the exterior. The space between the concrete columns and beams is infilled with red brick. Similarly, the six-story-tall flour mill is flat-roofed with a concrete post and beam structure that is visible on the exterior. The space between the concrete columns and beams is infilled with red brick. The west side of the office area and the east side of the mill are situated next to each other with an abutting wall. South and east and abutting both the office wing and the six-story mill is the one- and two-story engine room that powers the mill, elevators, offices and warehouse.

Two structures—a concrete grain elevator and a collection of cylindrical, concrete grain storage bins—are located to the immediate south of the flour mill. The concrete grain elevator is three-to-four stories taller than the flour mill. The structure is attached to the northernmost set of concrete, cylindrical storage bins (four, arranged in a square) and topped with a rectangular, concrete elevator headhouse. Another collection of concrete, cylindrical grain storage bins is located to the south of the grain elevator. This collection comprises two rows of storage bins (eleven in each row, arranged in a rectangle). Another headhouse is situated atop these storage bins and connects the structure to the grain elevator.

Façade

The north-facing façade of the Ponca City Milling Company Elevator features the north elevation of the one-story (with basement) office wing with the primary entrance to the complex and the north elevation of the six-story flour mill (Photo #0001). The one-story section is brick-clad and designed in the Neo-Classical Revival style. It has cast stone parapet caps topping a brick parapet. Below the parapet is a concrete band with a protruding top and a curved underside as the protrusion recedes back to the face of the band below. The band is the top beam of the structure and wraps around the entire one-story building, except for the west side where the building abuts the mill and the south side at the intersection with the two-story engineering room.

Ponca City Milling Company Elevator
Name of Property

Kay County, Oklahoma
County and State

There are seven concrete columns under the beam. The wall area between the columns and beam is infilled with red brick. The single story is elevated from the grade by about four feet.

There are seven windows on the one-story façade and each window has a cast stone sill (Photo #0001). The windows are distributed across the one-story façade. A pair of windows in the easternmost bay share a stone sill. The bay to the immediate west has a window and a door with a transom. Each of the next four bays have a singular, short, elevated window with the window heads just under the concrete beam. The fourth bay from the east also has a pair of doors centered on the bay. The westernmost bay has a pair of metal-framed glass doors centered on the bay.

Comparing the Sanborn maps with the appearance of the façade, the office of the Ponca City Milling Company comprised the two easternmost bays of the single-story section. The remaining bays were used for flour storage. The basement windows, located on the easternmost face of the façade, are boarded. The company used the basement as a laboratory to test flour quality.

The north-facing part of the six-story flour mill comprises the westernmost portion of the façade (Photo #0002). It is two bays wide. The concrete structure is visible on the building face, including the beams demarking each floor and the columns that support the floors. The wall area between the columns and beams is infilled with red brick. The first floor is elevated above the grade by about four feet.

The first story has two door openings. The eastern bay door opening is centered on the bay and covered by a metal panel. The western bay door opening is positioned far to the west side and is also metal covered. The top of each window on floors two through six is positioned directly under the ceiling beam for that story. Each window is centered on the bay in which it resides. Each bay has one window with a cast stone sill. The windows on stories four, five, and six are steel-framed, multilight units. The windows on stories five and six are four panes tall by five panes wide. The fourth-story windows are five panes tall by five panes wide. The second and third story windows are boarded.

A concrete belt protrudes from atop the second-, fifth-, and sixth-story beams. The protrusion at the sixth floor is wider than the other two floors. The protrusion would meet the definition of a simple ogee cornice. Above the sixth-story beam is a brick parapet with a cast stone cap. The concrete grain bins and head houses associated with the grain elevator are visible above the office/storage area and the flour mill.

West Elevation

The west-facing elevation of the Ponca City Milling Company Elevator could be considered the primary view of the building from the vantage point of the railroad tracks (Photo #0003). This elevation comprises the west-side elevation of the six-story flour mill, the west-side elevation of the tall concrete grain elevator, and the west-side elevation of the southernmost collection of grain storage bins, which angle to the east away from the railroad tracks.

Ponca City Milling Company Elevator
Name of Property

Kay County, Oklahoma
County and State

The west elevation of the flour mill matches the character of the façade. There are five bays of red brick infill framed by the visible columns and beams of the mill's structure. Each bay has a window centered on the bay and set at the same height, just under the concrete beam above, as the façade. Each window has a cast stone sill. The windows on stories four, five, and six are cold-rolled, steel-framed, multilight units. The windows on stories five and six are four panes tall by five panes wide. The fourth-story windows are five panes tall by five panes wide. The second- and third-story windows are boarded, with the exception of one exposed window for each of the two stories. The third-story window is five panes wide by five panes tall. The second-story window is five panes wide by four panes tall.

As with the façade, a concrete belt protrudes from atop the second-, fifth-, and sixth-story beams of the flour mill. The cornice at the sixth floor is wider than the belt course of other two floors. Above the sixth-story beam is a brick parapet with a cast stone cap.

The first story of the flour mill has two loading dock doors: one in the second bay from the north and the other in the southernmost bay. Both doors are centered on the bay. The other three bays on the first story have a short window centered on the bay and set at the same relative height as the other windows on the elevation. These windows are boarded.

South of the six-story flour mill are the characteristic tall grain bins and grain elevator. The grain bins and elevator are concrete with flat roofs. The northernmost set of grain bins is attached to the flour mill at the first two floors. There is about a ten-foot gap between the mill and the bins at the upper levels. The north set of grain bins is attached to the grain elevator for nearly the entire height of the structure. The grain elevator has a window and a loading garage door under a flat metal canopy.

A larger collection of eleven rounded and flat sections of grain bins is situated on the south end of the elevation. This collection of bins angles slightly to the east, away from the railroad tracks. The upper third of the bins have a ghost sign reading: "Robin Hood FLOUR."

The grain elevator is attached to the south bins at the ground level. At the top level, a rectangular headhouse bridges the nearly thirty-foot-wide gap between the grain elevator and the south bins. This rectangular, one-story tall, flat-roofed headhouse runs continuously from the north to the south ends of the bins. At the two ends of the bins that are closest to the grain elevator, the headhouse is two-stories-tall. The headhouse directly above the grain elevator is also two-stories tall.

South Elevation

The south elevation of the Ponca City Milling Company Elevator comprises a double-wide set of concrete, cylindrical grain storage bins (Photo #005). A small shed is attached to the bottom of the bins.

Ponca City Milling Company Elevator
Name of Property

Kay County, Oklahoma
County and State

Set back toward the north for the full depth of the grain bins is the south (back) elevation of the two-story engine room which abuts the west elevation of the brick and concrete mill. West of the two-story engine room is the one story part of the engine room. The one- and two- story parts of the engine room conceal portions of the westernmost two bays of the one-story office wing to the north. Both stories of the engine room are flat roofed and clad in red brick without any other ornamentation except the cast stone parapet cap. The one-story engine room is shorter than the one-story office wing. Therefore, a portion of the two westernmost bays of the office wing are visible behind it. The south elevation of the two-story engine room is completely covered by corrugated metal sheets on the first story and partially covered (in the center) on the second story. There is a garage door on the one story part of the engine room.

The south elevation of the office wing that remains visible is similar to the façade but has some key deviations. Larger window openings are centered on the brick infill panels. The windows are boarded. The third bay from the east has a door near the top of the building with a wooden staircase to the ground. The remaining two bays to the west are those that are partially obscured by the abutting engine room. There are also partially visible and infilled openings at the basement level of the office/flour storage building including one opening as wide as the window of the first-story in the east bay. There is a door opening and small window opening, both infilled, in the second bay from the east.

East Elevation

The east elevation of the one-story office and flour storage building has three bays (Photo #005). The two southern bays have similar sized window openings as the south elevation. They are centered within the brick bay and boarded. The northern bay has a smaller boarded up window and a door to the north, also boarded. There are four boarded openings at the basement level visible because the first-story is about four feet off the ground and there is not platform to screen them from view as on the façade.

The first story of the engine room's east elevation has three equidistant, boarded over, window openings. The two southern openings are similarly sized. The northern bay has a smaller window opening, also boarded. Set back to the west, the second story of the engine room has three, equidistant and boarded over window openings matching the size of the first-story openings in the two southern bays. The second-story openings are vertically aligned with the first-story openings.

The east elevation of the six-story flour mill is a mirror image of the west elevation except for the lower two stories. The lower two stories of the mill are nearly completely concealed by the abutting office/flour storage building and two-story engine room.

The east elevation of the grain bins and the grain elevator is very similar to the west elevation. The scant openings are limited to the head house at the top and the grain elevator. The first story has a loading garage bay door under a flat, metal-clad protruding canopy. The southern grain bins angle toward the east, away from the train tracks. There are eleven rounded and flat sections

Ponca City Milling Company Elevator
Name of Property

Kay County, Oklahoma
County and State

of the grain bins accommodating six bins on this side of the structure. The upper third of the bins have a ghost sign reading: "Robin Hood FLOUR."

Ponca City Milling Company Elevator
Name of Property

Kay County, Oklahoma
County and State

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 grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Ponca City Milling Company Elevator
Name of Property

Kay County, Oklahoma
County and State

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE

Period of Significance
1922-1959

Significant Dates
1922, 1928-1930
1945
1959

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Harner & Wyatt, Architects
Chas A. Dunning Construction Co.
George M. Robertson Construction Co.

Ponca City Milling Company Elevator
Name of Property

Kay County, Oklahoma
County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Ponca City Milling Company Elevator is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with commerce in Ponca City between 1922 and 1959. Independently owned and operated by the locally prominent Donahoe family for most of its most productive years, the Ponca City Milling Company Elevator is a complex that includes a single-story office/flour storage area, a six-story flour mill, and concrete grain elevator, and a large set of concrete, cylindrical grain storage bins. Together, this complex was a symbol of widespread agricultural prosperity in north-central Oklahoma during the early twentieth century. Its sale to International Milling Company in 1945, which closed the complex for good in 1959, reflected broader changes in American agribusiness, specifically the consolidation of food processing and distribution facilities among a handful of corporations. Though vacant today, the Ponca City Milling Company Elevator remains the largest and best-preserved example of a flour milling and grain storage operation in the community.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Historic Context

Located in southeastern Kay County, just south of the Kansas state line in north-central Oklahoma, Ponca City is situated in the heart of the Central Great Plains. With an average annual precipitation ranging between 35 and 39 inches and a growing season of just under 200 days a year, the Oklahoma Climatological Survey has noted that Kay County contains “some of the best agricultural land in Oklahoma.”¹ The Ponca City Milling Company Elevator, constructed in 1922 and in operation until 1959, stands as a prominent landmark to signify Ponca City’s roots in commercial agriculture.

The vast prairies of Kay County had long been known for their agricultural potential, whether for cultivating grains or for grazing animals. Ponca City and Kay County were once part of the Cherokee Outlet, an area of land that the federal government guaranteed to the Cherokee Nation. The Outlet was home to other native Great Plains tribes as well, including the Tonkawa and the Ponca. These Native American groups were the first to utilize the area’s agricultural potential, whether for growing food crops or, most notably, for grazing horses. By the late 1860s and early 1870s, Texans who were trailing herds of longhorn cattle northward to railroad depots recognized the value of grazing lands. Those who trailed cattle across the Cherokee Outlet often did so illegally, without adequate compensation to the tribes. In 1883, area ranchers formed the

¹ “The Climate of Kay County,” *Oklahoma Climatological Survey*, https://climate.ok.gov/county_climate/Products/County_Climatologies/county_climate_kay.pdf, accessed September 24, 2018.

Ponca City Milling Company Elevator
Name of Property

Kay County, Oklahoma
County and State

Cherokee Strip Live Stock Association and, by 1889, leased much of the Outlet from the Cherokee Nation.²

As W. David Baird notes in his *Thematic Survey of Grain Elevators in Western Oklahoma, 1889-1950*, the commercial orientation of American agriculture spurred the rapid settlement of north-central Oklahoma and the establishment of Ponca City.³ The Cherokee Strip Live Stock Association, for example, sought to keep the Cherokee Outlet open to livestock grazing and closed to homesteading, but such efforts ran counter to growing demands by homesteaders and politicians to open the Outlet to white settlers. Similarly, efforts by the Cherokee Nation to prevent the loss of the Outlet ran counter to racist perceptions that native peoples in Indian Territory were incapable of cultivating the landscape and bringing the region to its full commercial potential. In 1893, the federal government officially opened lands within the Outlet for homesteading and Ponca City, originally known as New Ponca, was officially incorporated in December of that year.⁴

Popular stories of the Cherokee Outlet opening and other land runs in Oklahoma during the late nineteenth century typically celebrate idyllic, subsistence farmers who worked hard to claim and develop a 160-acre homestead that could satisfy the needs of an entire family. However, as historian Allan G. Bogue writes in a history of agriculture in the American West, such stories are largely false and such individuals “never existed.”⁵ Rather, these land runs marked the origins of commercial agriculture in Oklahoma.⁶

The opening of the territory sparked a steady increase in agricultural production in Oklahoma, especially in the cultivation and sale of winter wheat. In 1899, Oklahoma produced over twenty million bushels of wheat. By 1920, the opening of additional land to production, a steadily growing population, and improved technology and techniques enabled Oklahoma farmers to produce over fifty-five million bushels of wheat.⁷ This statistic was reflective of much larger trends in American agriculture during the first two decades of the twentieth century, which is sometimes referred to as “the golden age of agriculture.”⁸ According to agricultural historian

² Jimmy Snodgrass, “Cherokee Strip Live Stock Association,” *The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, www.okhistory.org (accessed September 24, 2018).

³ W. David Baird and David Gebhard, *Thematic Survey of Grain Elevators in Western Oklahoma, 1889-1950* (Oklahoma City: State Historic Preservation Office, 1990), 7.

⁴ See Alvin O. Turner, “Cherokee Outlet Opening,” *Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, <http://digital.library.okstate.edu/encyclopedia> (accessed June 24, 2013) and Louis Seymour Barnes, “The Founding of Ponca City,” *Chronicles of Oklahoma* 35 (Summer 1957): 154-162. According to Paula Carmack Denson, the town name changed from New Ponca to Ponca City in 1913. Paula Carmack Denson, “Ponca City,” *The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, www.okhistory.org (accessed September 13, 2018).

⁵ Allan G. Bogue, “An Agricultural Empire,” in *The Oxford History of the American West*, ed. Clyde A. Milner II, Carol A. O’Connor and Martha A. Sandweiss (New York: Oxford University Press, 1994), 301.

⁶ As W. David Baird notes, for example, “[T]o ‘open’ the tribal domains in western Oklahoma meant to begin commercial agriculture.” Baird, *Thematic Survey*, 8.

⁷ *Ibid.*, 9.

⁸ David B. Danbom, *Born in the Country: A History of Rural America*, 2nd ed. (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006), 161.

Ponca City Milling Company Elevator
Name of Property

Kay County, Oklahoma
County and State

David B. Danbom, “gross farm income more than doubled, and the value of the average farm more than tripled” during this period.⁹ Such prosperity drew more people into the farming sector. It also provided farmers with the money necessary to participate in the market economy, whether by purchasing new goods or reinvesting in their farms by purchasing more land or new machinery.

Further undermining the idyllic narrative of a self-sufficient, pioneer farming family on the Oklahoma prairie was the significant presence of the railroad. In fact, railroads preceded homesteading in central and western Oklahoma. For example, the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe railroad had completed two lines through Oklahoma by 1887, two years before the first major land run. The established presence of the railroad influenced settlement patterns, since the location of a farm or a town often depended upon regular access to a railroad.¹⁰

The early history of Ponca City is reflective of this trend. The town’s founders, specifically Burton S. Barnes, recognized that the town’s economic potential was limited without access to the railroad. Originally, the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad located a station at the town of Cross, one mile away from the Ponca City townsite. Barnes and other residents attempted to convince the railroad to add a stop at Ponca City, but their efforts were initially unsuccessful. It was not until city leaders convinced the station agent in Cross to move to Ponca City that the town secured regular railroad access. According to Paula Carmack Denson, the first train arrived in Ponca City on September 22, 1894.¹¹ The train’s arrival ensured that Ponca City would be able to communicate with the outside world. More importantly, the railroad provided an avenue to store, transport, and market goods.

Commerce Significance

Ponca City’s newfound status as a railroad hub enabled the town to become a commercial center and the principal city of Kay County and north-central Oklahoma. What ultimately became known as the Ponca City Milling Company Elevator became a primary intermediary between local Oklahoma farmers and a national marketplace.

According to a *Ponca City News* article, three residents began a mill operation in the approximate location of the current Ponca City Milling Company Elevator shortly after the run of 1893. The mill consisted of a “small wooden shanty,” operated by five employees with equipment shipped from Ohio. The mill could produce approximately 100 barrels of flour per day.¹²

⁹ Ibid., 161.

¹⁰ Baird, *Thematic Survey*, 9.

¹¹ Denson writes that town leaders enticed the station agent in Cross to become the agent at Ponca City by offering two town lots and the free moving of his house. Denson, “Ponca City.”

¹² Max Stokesberry, “Four Mill Prominent in P.C. History,” *The Ponca City News*, December 14, 1980.

Ponca City Milling Company Elevator
Name of Property

Kay County, Oklahoma
County and State

The earliest recorded land transaction at the site dates to March 18, 1895, when Burton Barnes and J. H. Dalton received a warranty deed from the Ponca Land and Improvement Company for lots 11-20 of Block 7 of the Lynchville subdivision.¹³ A deed record filed on June 29, 1895, records the creation of the Ponca City Milling Company as a “corporation organized and incorporated under the laws of Oklahoma Territory.”¹⁴ The milling company changed hands frequently until ownership stabilized under the Donahoe family in 1922.¹⁵

The Donahoe family originally came from Wisconsin and went on to play a significant role in Ponca City’s commercial future. It was a large family, with six boys and at least two girls. Five of the brothers and two sisters participated in the 1893 land run that contributed to Ponca City’s creation. One of the siblings, Daniel J. Donahoe, practiced law in Perry and in Ponca City shortly thereafter, but soon became involved in the grain trade with his brothers, Edward L. (E. L.) and John J. (J. J.) Donahoe. Under the leadership of the Donahoe’s, the Ponca City Milling Company Elevator was built and entered its era of commercial significance.

For Daniel J. Donahoe, ownership of the mill represented just one facet of a fortune based upon agribusiness and real estate. In addition to his economic endeavors, Donahoe was a pivotal commercial figure in the community, helping form the Commercial Club (later the Chamber of Commerce), the Retailers Credit Association, the Rotary Club, the Security Bank, and the Ponca City Building and Loan Association. Donahoe served on the City Council and the Library Board, and he was instrumental in securing Ponca City as a stop and a depot for the Rock Island Railroad. His residence at 302 S. 7th Street in Ponca City is listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRIS # 82003686).¹⁶

¹³ Kay County Clerk, Deed Records, Book 7, page 57.

¹⁴ Kay County Clerk, Deed Records, Book 2, page 471; Multiple sources mention Ponca City Milling Company being incorporated in 1915, but the 1895 deed record clearly indicates that the Ponca City Milling Company was incorporated in 1895.

¹⁵ There is a warranty deed from Ponca City Milling Company to E.L. Donahoe, then a quitclaim deed from E.L. Donahoe back to John Dalton. A subsequent transaction gave ownership back to Donahoe. Then the property was transferred from Donahoe to George Wolz only to be sold from George Wolz back to Donahoe. Ownership then transferred from E.L. Donahoe to D.J. Donahoe. A subsequent transfer went from D.J. Donahoe to L.G. Donahoe and W. Roy Cobb. A following quitclaim deed from L.G. Donahoe and W. Roy Cobb gave the mill back to D.J. Donahoe. Then E.L. and D.J. Donahoe deeded the land to Ponca City Milling Company. In February 1945, Ponca City Milling Company was sold to International Milling Company which operated the mill and elevator until 1959. The International Milling Company sold the property to Frontier Grain Company in 1965. In 1974, Frontier Grain Company sold out to Louis J. Jorski, at which time Louis J. Jorski created Jorski Mill and Elevator Company. Jorski formed Ponca City Grain and Feed Incorporated in June 1975. The business filed for bankruptcy, and David Hall Sr. purchased the property at Sheriff’s auction in March 1989. Kay County Clerk, Book 2b P460; Book 4, P109; Book 4, P197; Book 12, P 126; Book 18, P 347; Book 31, P 391; Book 31, Page 516; Book 28, P 165; Book 33, Page 6; Book 44, P 275; Book 128, P 634; Book 147, P 121; Book 238, P 389; Book 24, Page 228; Book 45, P 431; Book 62, P 277; Book 321, P 55; Book 779, P 136; Book 95, P 632; Book 955, P 445; Book 1211 P 120; Book 1110 P 635; Book 1290, P 498; Book 1290, P 499; Book 1501, P 970; Book 1533, P 534; Louise Abercrombie, “City Landmark to Be Auctioned.” *Ponca City News*, 14 March 1989.

¹⁶ Daniel J. Donahoe House, National Register of Historic Places (NRIS # 82003686), accessed September 25, 2018, <http://nr2.shpo.okstate.edu/pdfs/82003686.pdf>. See also “Flour Mill Prominent in P.C. History” and “Flour Milling Earliest Industry in North Central Oklahoma,” *Ponca City News*, September 15, 1957, in “Industry,” Vertical File,

Ponca City Milling Company Elevator
Name of Property

Kay County, Oklahoma
County and State

The Donahoe's secured ownership of the Ponca City Milling Company Elevator at a point in American history when more people were entering agriculture as farmers or as dealers. The need to increase the sorting and storage capacity for wheat in Oklahoma became more pronounced by the late 1910s and early 1920s, specifically as American farmers worked to meet increased international demands for grain during World War I. In 1919, Oklahoma produced a record yield of 66 million bushels of wheat, which far exceeded the state's 17.5 million bushel storage capacity. Such a dramatic increase in agricultural production could create an oversupply of wheat for consumers and a sharp decline in prices for farmers unless they could store their crops for extended periods after the harvest. This situation sparked a significant expansion in the construction and modernization of grain elevators across northern and western Oklahoma.¹⁷

A historic photograph published in the *Ponca City News* indicates that the earliest mill at the current site of the Ponca City Milling Company Elevator was a three-story, wood building.¹⁸ However, the current Ponca City Milling Company Elevator, under the oversight of the Donahoe family, was modern in every aspect and was designed to store and process grain produced by area farmers for profit. The six-story, brick-clad flour mill was built in 1922 and, according to the *Ponca City News*, it is an example of a "sunlight mill" built to have "the maximum number of windows so sunlight reached practically every nook and corner."¹⁹ It was designed by the architectural firm of Harner and Wyatt of Kansas City and was built by Chas. A. Dunning Construction Company of Oklahoma City, a prominent commercial construction company in the state.²⁰ The milling equipment came from Barnard and Leas Mill Machinery of Moline, Illinois, one of the most prominent equipment providers of the era.²¹

Flour dust was a significant design consideration. Across the country, numerous mills had experienced fires and explosions because, as Theodore Hazen notes, flour dust was "more explosive than gun powder and 35 times more explosive than coal dust."²² To account for the potential hazard of fire or explosion in their mill, the Donahoe's installed an elaborate air purification system that removed flour dust from the mill cyclically.²³

Ponca City Public Library. In regards to his real estate activities, Donahoe was active in constructing the Donahoe Building on Grand Avenue and platting the Donahoe Addition.

¹⁷ Baird, *Thematic Study*, 18. See also Danbom, *Born in the Country*, 176-84.

¹⁸ "Flour Milling Earliest Industry in Oklahoma."

¹⁹ "Flour Milling Earliest Industry in Oklahoma," *The Ponca City News*, 15 September 1957.

²⁰ According to the founder's obituary, Chas. A. Dunning Construction Company was founded in 1918 and built some of the earliest buildings at Tinker Air Force Base as well as the Oklahoma City Civic Center complex. See "Rites are Today for City Builder, Charles Dunning," *Oklahoman*, 29 August 1951.

²¹ "Biography of J. Silas Leas," *Access Genealogy*, available online at <https://www.accessgenealogy.com/illinois/biography-of-j-silas-leas.htm>, accessed April 2018.

²² See Theodore R. Hazen, "The History of Flour Milling in America," Millwright, Curator of Molinology, Site Supervisor, and Lead Interpreter, Pierce Mill, Rock Creek Park, National Park Service, National Capital Region, The Department of the Interior, 1984-1995, <http://www.angelfire.com/folk/molinologist/america.html>, accessed April 2018.

²³ "Four Mill Prominent in P.C. History."

Ponca City Milling Company Elevator
Name of Property

Kay County, Oklahoma
County and State

The site underwent a second wave of construction between 1928 and 1930, completing the current configuration of the Ponca City Milling Company Elevator. The single-story, brick-clad office and storage warehouse, designed by Harner and Wyatt of Kansas City and constructed by George M. Robertson Construction of Lincoln, Nebraska, was built directly upon the original mill site and even incorporated the mill's original power plant into the floorplan. A basement in the office building housed the company's laboratory. The 100-foot-tall concrete grain elevator and adjacent, cylindrical concrete storage bins were completed by 1930. Overall, the flour mill, grain elevator/storage bins, and the office building/warehouse cost approximately \$250,000 to build and furnish.²⁴

For much of its history, the Ponca City Milling Company Elevator was an independent, processing grain elevator. In his *Thematic Survey of Grain Elevators*, Baird also classifies these sites as flour mill elevators.²⁵ The elevator and flour mill, which was the centerpiece of the Ponca City Milling Company, was owned locally by the Donahoe family. It stored and processed grain acquired from seven country elevators situated in surrounding towns, including Kaw City, Burbank, and Ralston.²⁶ According to the *Ponca City News*, farmers also took their grain directly to the Ponca City Milling Company Elevator, lining up for blocks to wait their turn to unload at the facility.²⁷ In addition to winter wheat, the Ponca City Milling Company Elevator processed corn and other feed for livestock. At peak capacity, the mill produced 500 barrels of flour per day and up to 20 tons of corn and other types of livestock feed daily. Flour and feed produced by the Ponca City Milling Company Elevator was sold across the country, primarily in the southern and southwestern United States.²⁸

The sufficient scale and commercial success of the Ponca City Milling Company Elevator during the 1920s and 1930s was reflective of the overall significance of milling to Oklahoma's economy. According to W. David Baird, milling was the third largest manufacturing industry in Oklahoma by the end of the 1930s, which is a significant statistic given the state's (and Ponca City's) association with the oil and gas industry. Indeed, by 1937, 45 flour mills operated in the state of Oklahoma with a combined daily capacity of 23,000 barrels of flour.²⁹

The presence and profitability of flour mills contributed to the perception that Oklahoma was rapidly becoming a modern and innovative state. In 1931, for example, the *Oklahoman* wrote that Ponca City's flour mill was "said to be one of the most modern mills in the United States," and the lights that sat atop the 100-foot-tall grain elevator helped illuminate the downtown

²⁴ "Flour Mill Prominent in P.C. History."

²⁵ For the classification of grain elevators in Oklahoma, see Baird, *Thematic Survey*, 20-24.

²⁶ Other towns were Marland, Red Rock, Wakita, and Mulhall. See "Flour Mill Prominent in P.C. History." According to Baird, country elevators were the most common type of grain elevator in Oklahoma. Baird, *Thematic Survey*, 20.

²⁷ "Flour Mill Prominent in P.C. History"

²⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁹ Baird, *Thematic Survey*, 20. *The WPA Guide to 1930s Oklahoma*, for instance, does not mention milling in its overview of industry and labor in Oklahoma. See *The WPA Guide to 1930s Oklahoma* (1941; Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1986), 37-49.

Ponca City Milling Company Elevator
Name of Property

Kay County, Oklahoma
County and State

area.³⁰ Diesel-powered McIntosh-Seymore engines powered the entire mill. In addition to milling, the on-site laboratory tested flour for moisture content and other qualities.³¹

Yet, similar to the oil industry, which produced and shipped much of Oklahoma's petroleum elsewhere, flour milling reinforced the extractive nature of the state economy. National and international demands for flour contributed to an overwhelming reliance on the production of a cash crop—winter wheat—among farmers in northern and western Oklahoma. This expansion in wheat cultivation by the 1920s contributed to disastrous consequences in the 1930s, including the Dust Bowl and a significant decrease in prices for wheat and flour during the Great Depression.³² In addition, the majority of wheat the Oklahoma farmers produced and the Ponca City Milling Company Elevator processed was consumed outside of the state. This made wheat producers, as well as the independent milling companies upon which they relied, particularly vulnerable to changing consumer tastes, the consolidation of the food processing industry, and the rise of modern agribusiness following World War II.³³

The Ponca City Milling Company Elevator was not immune to these changes. Daniel J. Donahoe, and the Donahoe family in general, had been a force of stability and prosperity for the Ponca City Milling Company since the construction of the flour mill in 1922. In February 1945, though, the family sold the company to International Milling Company and Daniel J. Donahoe passed away a year-and-a-half later, in September 1946 at the age of 81. It was during this time that the iconic "Robin Hood FLOUR" sign was painted on the east and west elevations of the cylindrical concrete storage bins.³⁴

Upon its acquisition by International Milling, the Ponca City Milling Company Elevator ceased as an independent grain elevator and flour mill. International Milling already processed flour at twenty-two locations in the United States and Canada by the time it expanded into Ponca City, so it quickly integrated the Ponca City Milling Company Elevator into its transnational production activities. Most notably, the elevator no longer produced livestock feed for area farmers. Instead, it expanded flour production to 240,000 pounds per day. In 1959, International Milling ceased operations at the Ponca City Milling Company Elevator, removed the equipment at the site, and transferred it to other facilities.

The closure of the Ponca City Milling Company Elevator in 1959 marked the end of a distinct period in the history of Ponca City and the surrounding area. The commercial presence of the mill and elevator during the wheat boom of the 1910s and 1920s, along with its closure in 1959, offered an important reminder that grain elevators were a primary venue through which, as W. David Baird writes, Oklahoma farmers could experience "the hard facts of real life—the

³⁰ A. E. Kull, "Marks Left on Ponca City by Many Great Men," *Oklahoman*, November 29, 1931, 39.

³¹ "Flour Mill Prominent in Ponca City History."

³² Donald Worster, *Dust Bowl: The Southern Plains in the 1930s*, 25th anniversary ed. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2004).

³³ Danbom, *Born in the Country*, ch. 11.

³⁴ "Flour Mill Prominent in Ponca City History" and Daniel J. Donahoe House, National Register of Historic Places.

Ponca City Milling Company Elevator
Name of Property

Kay County, Oklahoma
County and State

fickleness of the market place, debits and credits and profits and losses.”³⁵ It is for this reason that Baird’s 1990 survey of Oklahoma grain elevators and a 2008 Intensive Level Survey by Michael Cassity recognized the potential of the Ponca City Milling Company Elevator for inclusion on the National Register.³⁶ Still towering over nearby downtown Ponca City, it stands as a monument to Ponca City’s history as a prosperous commercial center. It also reminds citizens of the extractive economy upon which Ponca City was founded.

³⁵ Baird, *Thematic Survey*, 27.

³⁶ Ibid., 105 and Michael Cassity, *Intensive Level Survey for Downtown Ponca City* (2008), 52, <http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/architsurveys/ILSofPoncaCity.pdf>, accessed September 26, 2018.

Ponca City Milling Company Elevator
Name of Property

Kay County, Oklahoma
County and State

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Ponca City Milling Company Elevator
Name of Property

Kay County, Oklahoma
County and State

Book 28, P 165; Book 33, Page 6; Book 44, P 275; Book 128, P 634; Book 147, P 121;
Book 238, P 389; Book 24, Page 228; Book 45, P 431; Book 62, P 277; Book 321, P 55;
Book 779, P 136; Book 95, P 632; Book 955, P 445; Book 1211 P 120; Book 1110 P
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Ponca City Milling Company Elevator
Name of Property

Kay County, Oklahoma
County and State

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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 5195

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property less than one acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 36.70263 | -97.08487 |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Lots 11-20 of Block 7 of the Lynchville Addition. The Kay County Assessor describes the property boundaries thus:

P C-LYNCHVILLE ADD BLOCK 7 LOTS 11-17 DESC AS TR BEG NE/C L20 B7 S 92.97' TO POB CONT S 190' TO SE/C L 11 W TO E SIDE RR R/W CONT NWLY

Ponca City Milling Company Elevator
Name of Property

Kay County, Oklahoma
County and State

ALONG E RR R/W TO A PT 10'+/- S OF NW/C L 17 E32.29' S 47DEGE 19.52' E88.43'
TO POB. SPLIT DESC HARTMAN

P C-HARTMAN ADD BLK 51 LOT 2 THAT PART VACANT W CENTRAL AVE
LYING BETWEEN EXTENDED W LINE OF ALLEY TRAVERSING BLK 51
HARTMAN BLK 7 LYNCHVILLE & E LINE OF R R/W -VACATED 7-30-45...SPLIT
DESC LYNCHVILLE ...B7 L11-20

P C-LYNCHVILLE ADD BLK 7 - PT LOTS 17-20 - DESC AS; BEG NE/C OF LOT 20 W
135.82' TO E RR R/W S48.20' CON'T ALONG E R/W 30.44' E 32.29' S47DEGE 19.52' E
88.43' N92.97' TO POB

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary is consistent with the boundaries historically and currently associated with the property. The western boundary is curvilinear. The boundary follows the historic train track line which curves to the east of the Santa Fe Depot (NRIS #12000113).

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: C. Montgomery AIA, President; K. Gaston, Architectural Historian; K. Molina,
Environmental Historian; M. Pearce, PhD., Historian

organization: Preservation and Design Studio, PLLC

street & number: 616 NW 21st Street,

city or town: Oklahoma City state: Oklahoma zip code: 73103

e-mail cm@PandDStudio.com

telephone: 405-501-6814

date: September 28, 2018

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Ponca City Milling Company Elevator
 Name of Property

Kay County, Oklahoma
 County and State

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Ponca City Milling Company Elevator
 City or Vicinity: Ponca City
 County: Kay County State: Oklahoma
 Photographer: Preservation and Design Studio, S. Werneke
 Date Photographed: January and March 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Number	Subject	Direction
0001	North elevation with the east elevation visible beyond	Southwest
0002	North elevation (left) and west (back) elevation (right)	Southeast
0003	West (back) elevation	East
0004	West (back) elevation as elevator section bends to the east	Northeast
0005	South elevation (left) and east elevation (right)	Northwest
0006	Storage bins	Southwest

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Ponca City Milling Company Elevator

Name of Property

Kay County, Oklahoma

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 10

Page 1

Location Map



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Ponca City Milling Company Elevator

Name of Property

Kay County, Oklahoma

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 11

Page 1



The Big Picture: Aerial

Credit: Google Earth 2018



The Ponca City Milling Company Elevator is located east of the train tracks between West Central Avenue to the north and West Oklahoma Avenue to the south.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Ponca City Milling Company Elevator

Name of Property

Kay County, Oklahoma

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 11

Page 2



Close-Up: Aerial

Credit: Google Earth 2018

The Ponca City Milling Company Elevator has a north-facing façade at the office wing on West Central Avenue. The grain elevators angle southeasterly, following the historic railroad tracks and former train track sidings faintly visible where they have been covered over or removed. The 1898 Sanborn Map shows the positioning of the track.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Ponca City Milling Company Elevator

Name of Property

Kay County, Oklahoma

County and State

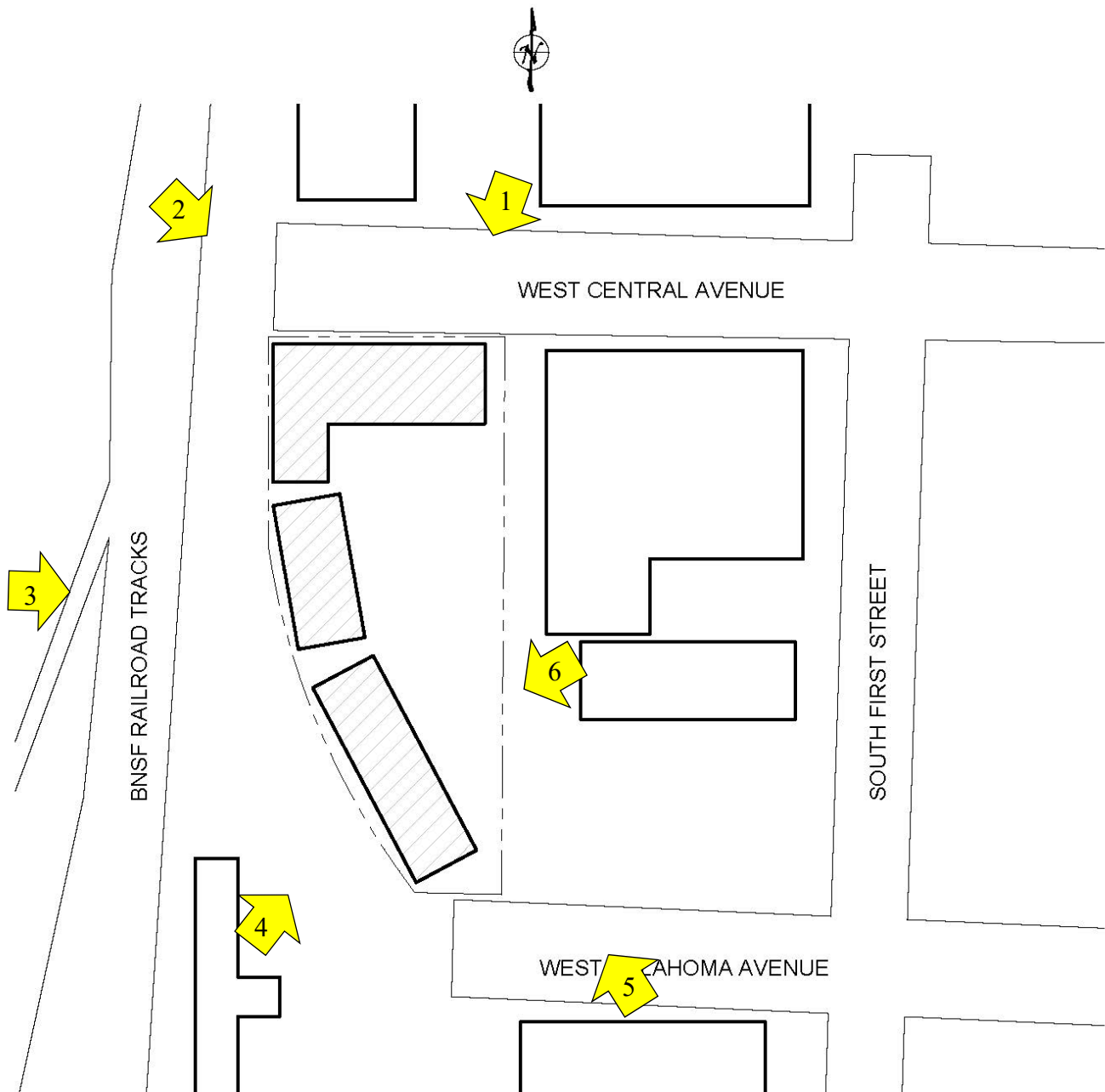
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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 11

Page 3

Photograph Key



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Ponca City Milling Company Elevator

Name of Property

Kay County, Oklahoma

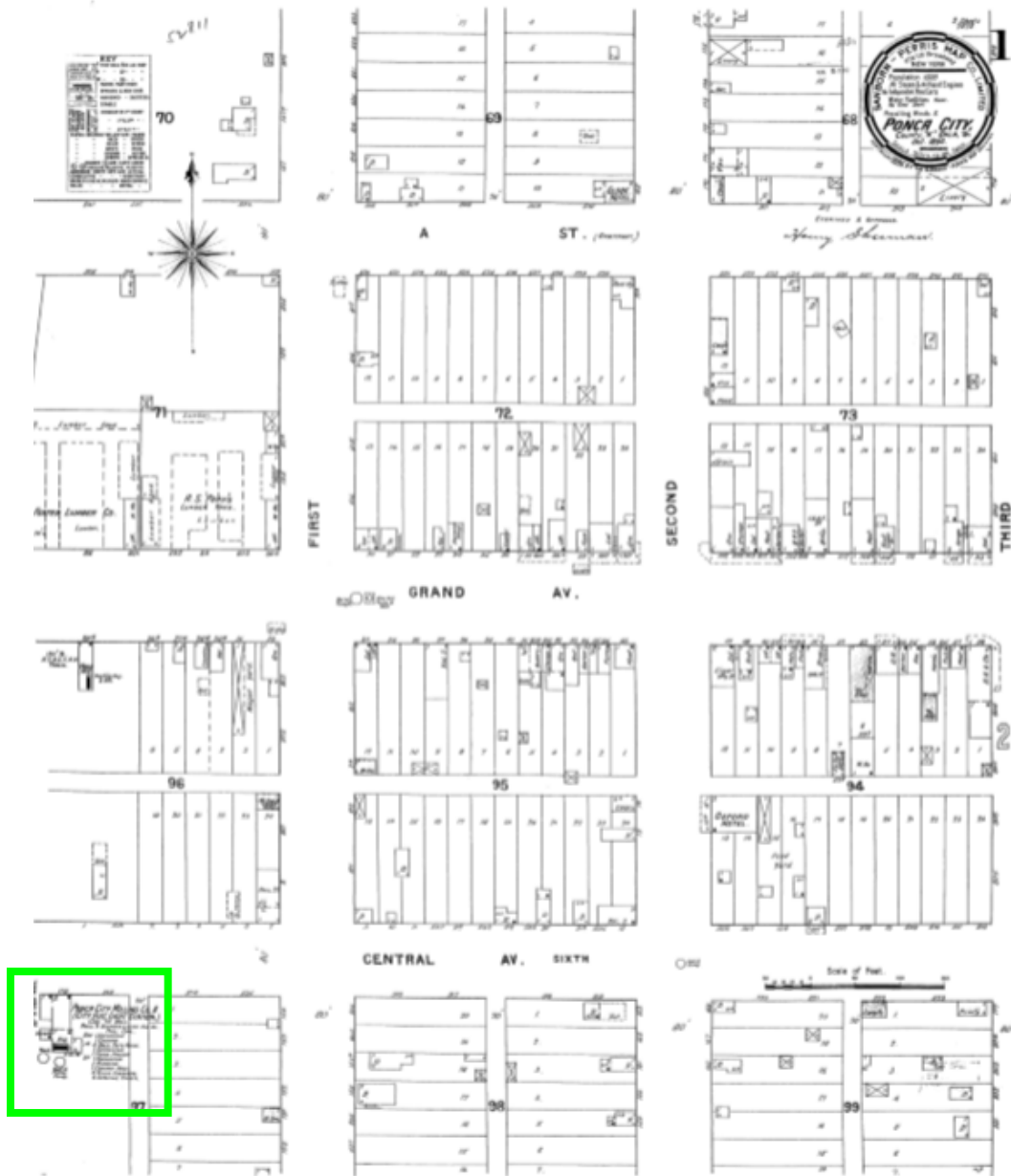
County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 11

Page 4



The Big Picture: 1894 (Sheet #1)

Credit: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map Co.

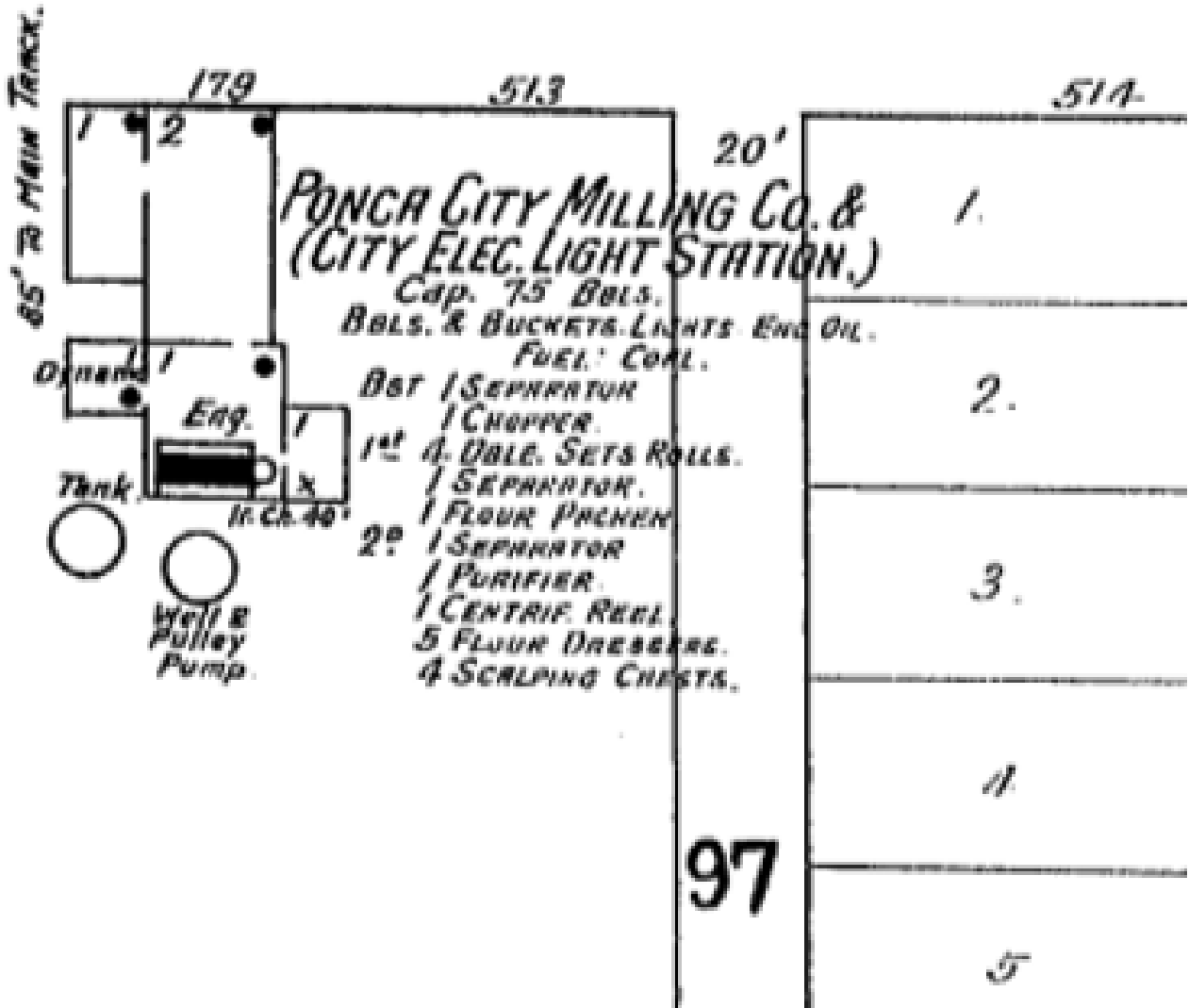
This is the earliest available Sanborn map for Ponca City. The Ponca City Milling Company is up and in operation at West Central Avenue and South First Street. Most lots surrounding the Mill are undeveloped. There are scattered, modestly-sized dwelling units on some lots.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Ponca City Milling Company Elevator
Name of Property
Kay County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 11 Page 5



Close-Up: 1894 (Sheet #1)
Credit: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map Co.

In 1894, the Ponca City Milling Company also served as the city's electric light station. A list of the various pieces of equipment and operations is provided and distributed among the mix of one- and two-story structures. There is a two-story building with a one-story projection to the west. South (back) of the two-story is a one-story projection with an engine inside. This section in turn has a one-story projection to the west where the Dynamo (a machine that converts mechanical energy to electrical energy) is housed. All of these building sections have composition roofs. To the east of the back, one-story engine building, is another projection with a shingle roof. Behind all of the building parts, there is a well and pulley pump and a tank. There is no identification of the spaces used for the mill.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Ponca City Milling Company Elevator

Name of Property

Kay County, Oklahoma

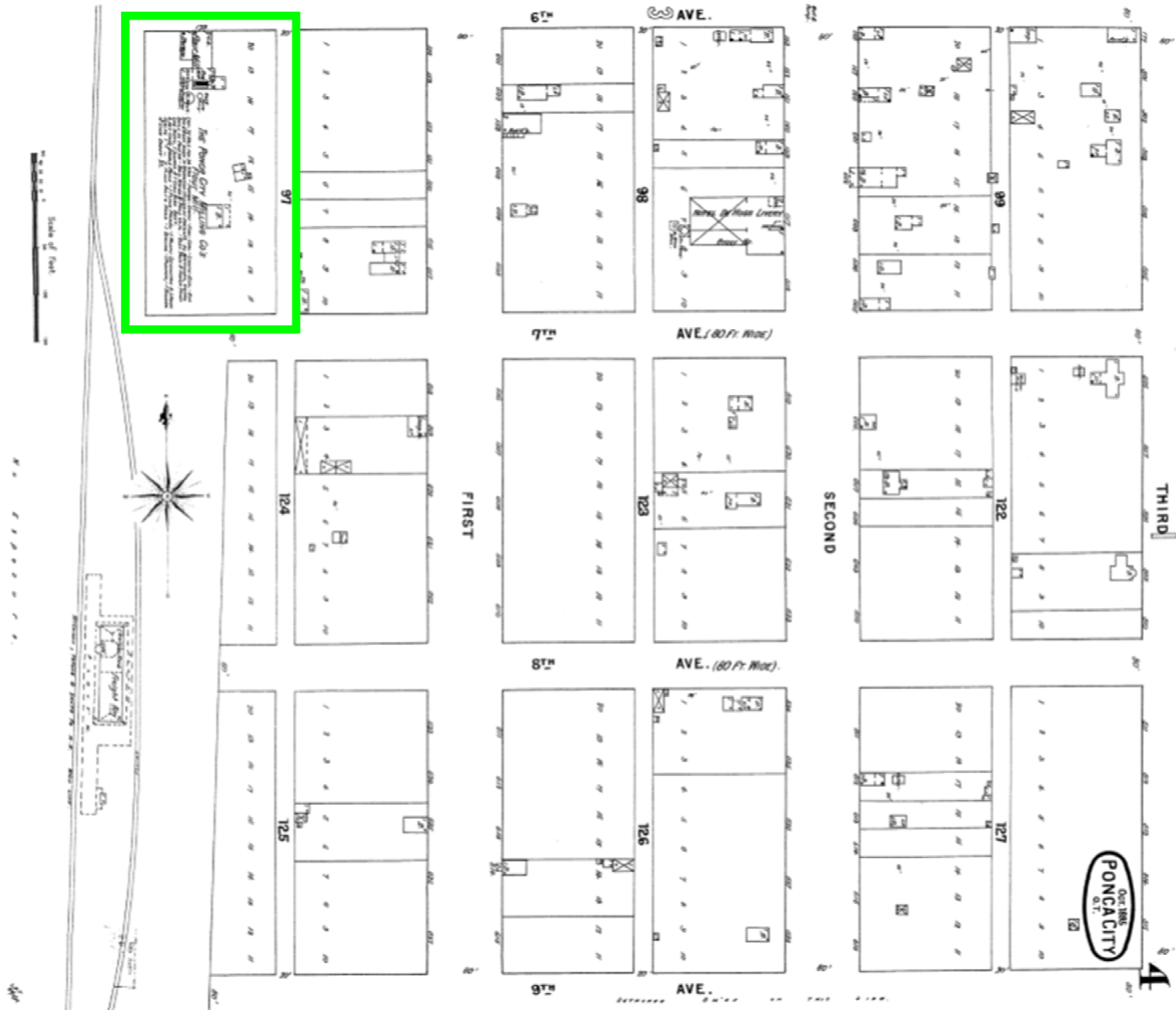
County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 11

Page 6



The Big Picture: 1895 (Sheet #4)

Credit: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map Co.

This 1895 Sanborn map shows that a few changes were coming to this downtown area in Ponca City as buildings grew up to the east of the Mill.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Ponca City Milling Company Elevator

Name of Property

Kay County, Oklahoma

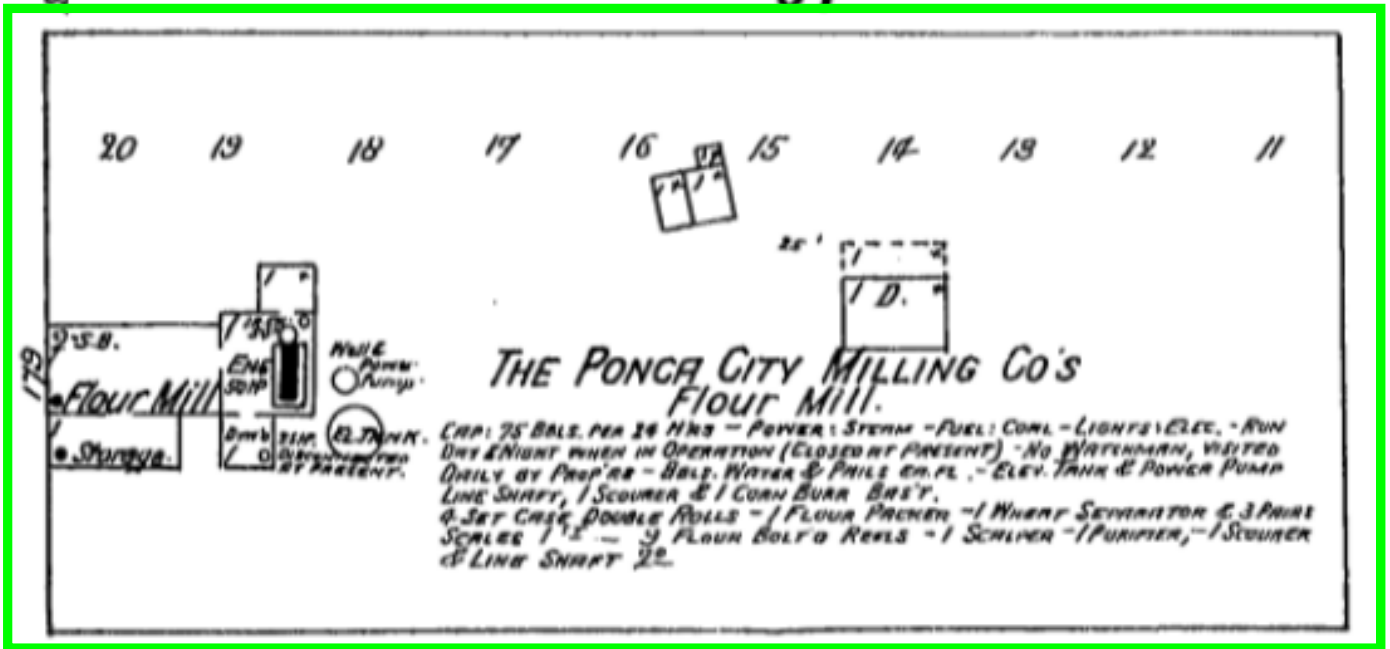
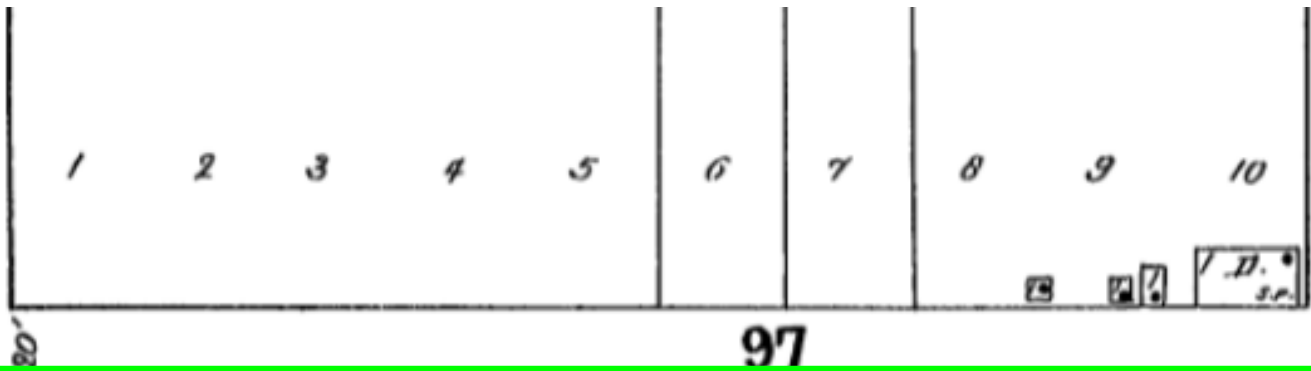
County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 11

Page 7



Close-Up: 1895 (Sheet #4)

Credit: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map Co.

By 1895 the Ponca City Milling Company's Flour Mill could produce 75 barrels in 24 hours and was steam-operated. The mill is indicated as "closed at present, "but would run "day and night when in operation." There was no watchman on site except that the proprietor was visiting the site daily. The buildings and appurtenances associated with the mill are noted with a space for storage and a space for the flour mill. Other small changes include a non-combustible roof over the building areas for the electric light company. The reference to the "City Electric Light Company" in 1894 is not indicated on this 1895 edition, but the power generation equipment remains in place. The rest of the lots in the block are indicated completely and there are few other structures, one a dwelling and the other not identified, on the additional lots.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Ponca City Milling Company Elevator

Name of Property

Kay County, Oklahoma

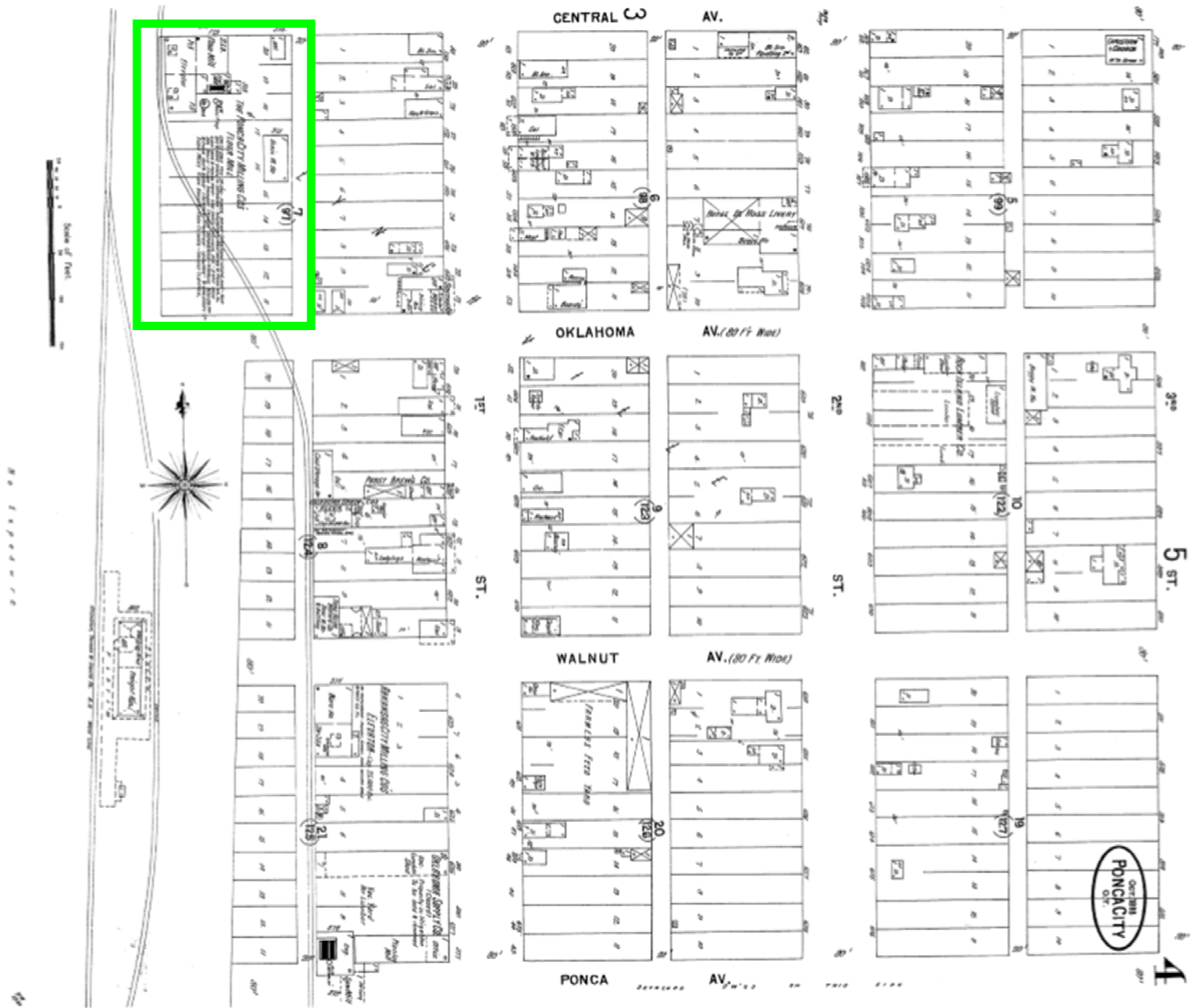
County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 11

Page 8



The Big Picture: 1898 (Sheet #4)

Credit: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map Co.

By 1898 notable growth in the areas surrounding the mill is documented. Development includes both residential and commercial buildings. Train tracks are now passing closer to the mill indicating that the mill is also growing. The dwelling and other unidentified building on the lots are no longer extant. There are also some reconfiguration of the mill building sections and a few new buildings on the property.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Ponca City Milling Company Elevator

Name of Property

Kay County, Oklahoma

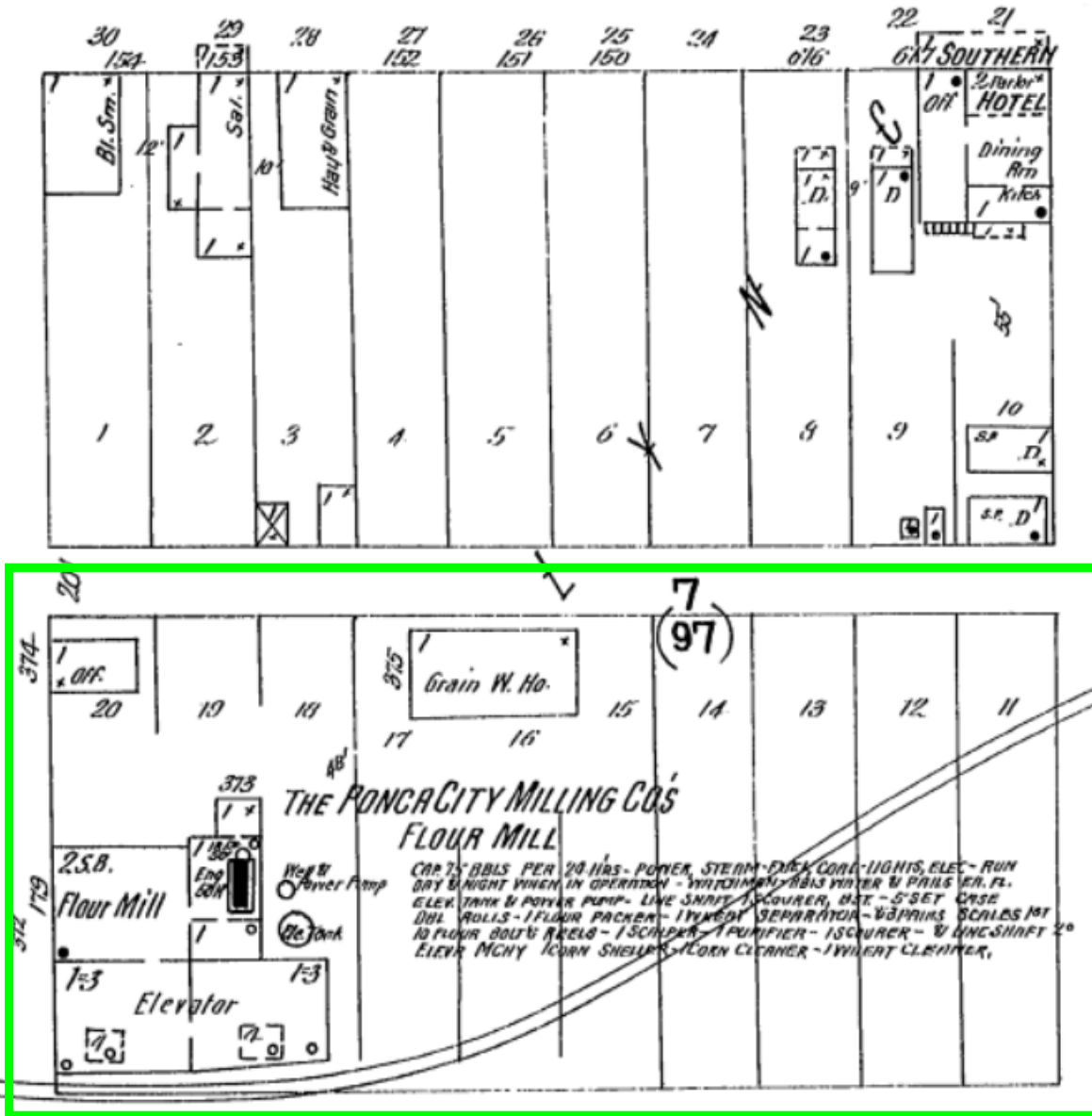
County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 11

Page 9



Close Up: 1898 (Sheet #4)

Credit: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map Co.



By 1898, the smaller parts of the building on the west side had been replaced by an elevator of one- to three-stories with non-combustible roofs. There is a small rectangle in the two new parts of the building that are identified as four-stories tall. A one-story office building has been built on the north side of lot 20 and a grain warehouse on lots 15 through 17. The flour mill production capacity remained the same. The orientation and location of the train tracks are determining the shape of the structures beside the alignment.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Ponca City Milling Company Elevator

Name of Property

Kay County, Oklahoma

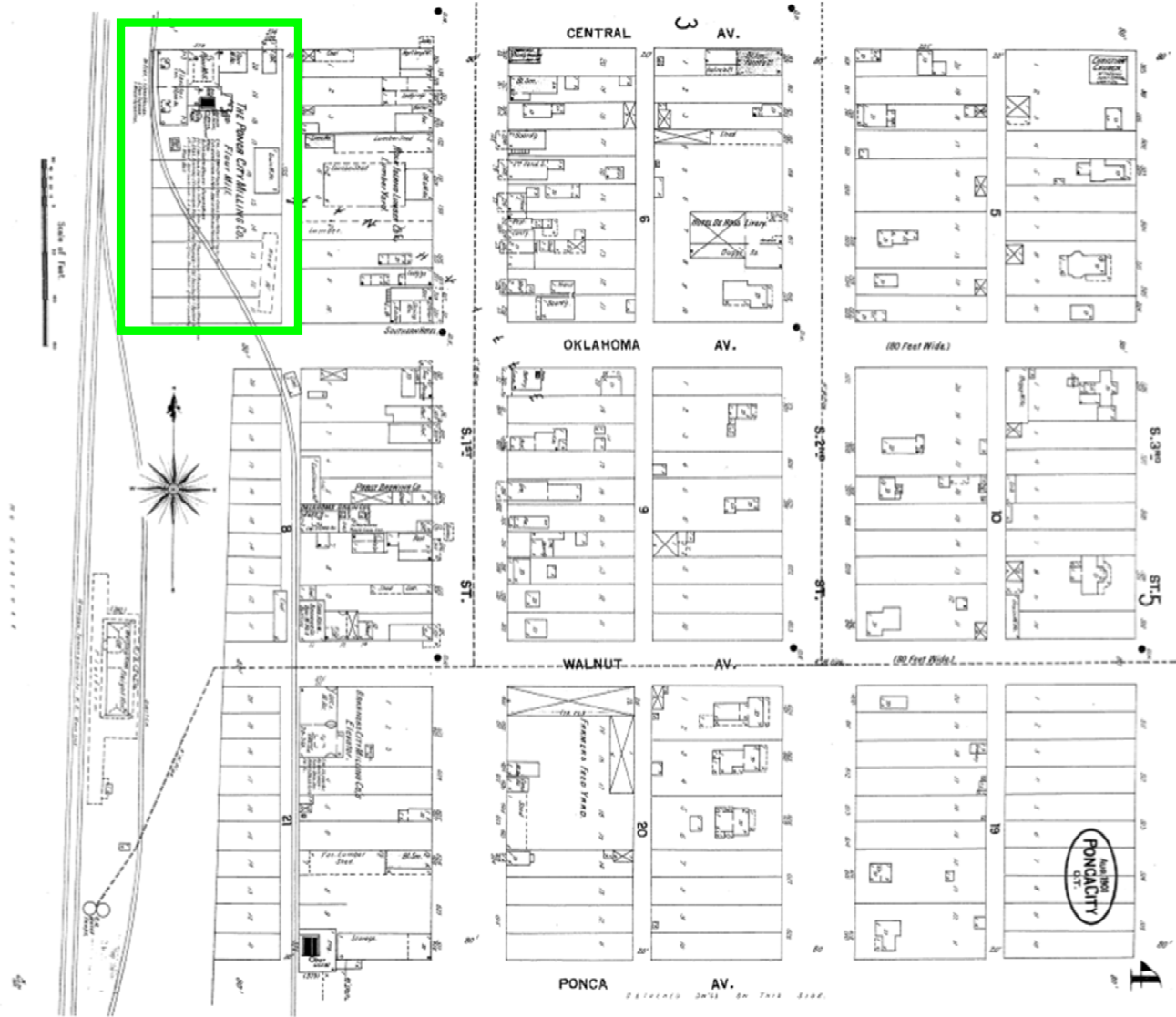
County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 11

Page 10



Big Picture: 1901 (Sheet #4)

Credit: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map Co.

By 1901 the lots east and southeast of the Ponca City Milling Company are filling with commercial growth. There also continue to be changes on the lots associated with the mill.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Ponca City Milling Company Elevator

Name of Property

Kay County, Oklahoma

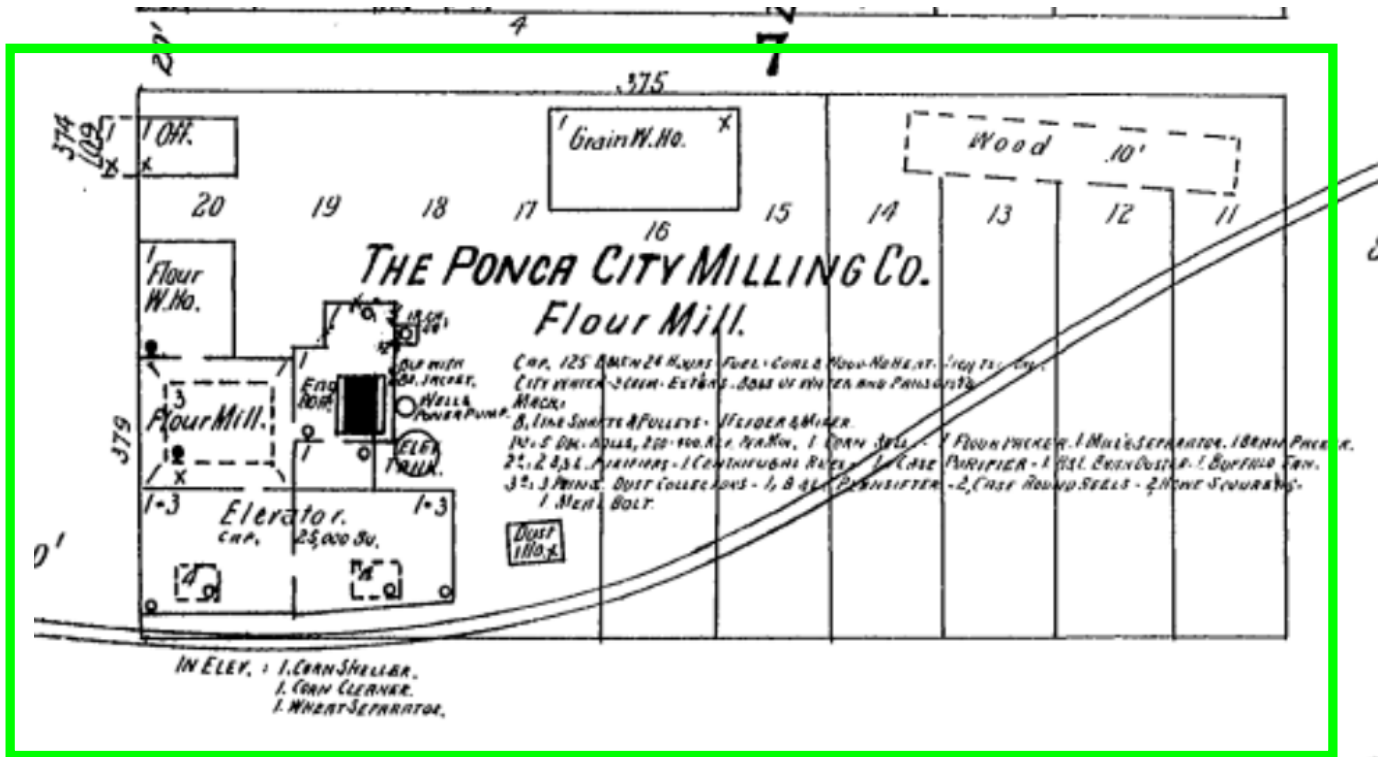
County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 11

Page 11



Close-Up: 1901 (Sheet #4)

Credit: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map Co.



Upon closer examination of the 1901 edition of the maps shows that the mill had increased capacity to 125 barrels of mill flour in a 24-hour cycle. A flour warehouse has been and is adjacent to the east of the flour mill. The drawing offers more details about the shape of the mill and how the 1 to 3 stories is configured. An open structure noted as ten feet tall and "wood" has been added on the east side of lots 11 through 14. A dust bin has also been added just south of the new elevators. The office has a one story porch added to the north.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Ponca City Milling Company Elevator

Name of Property

Kay County, Oklahoma

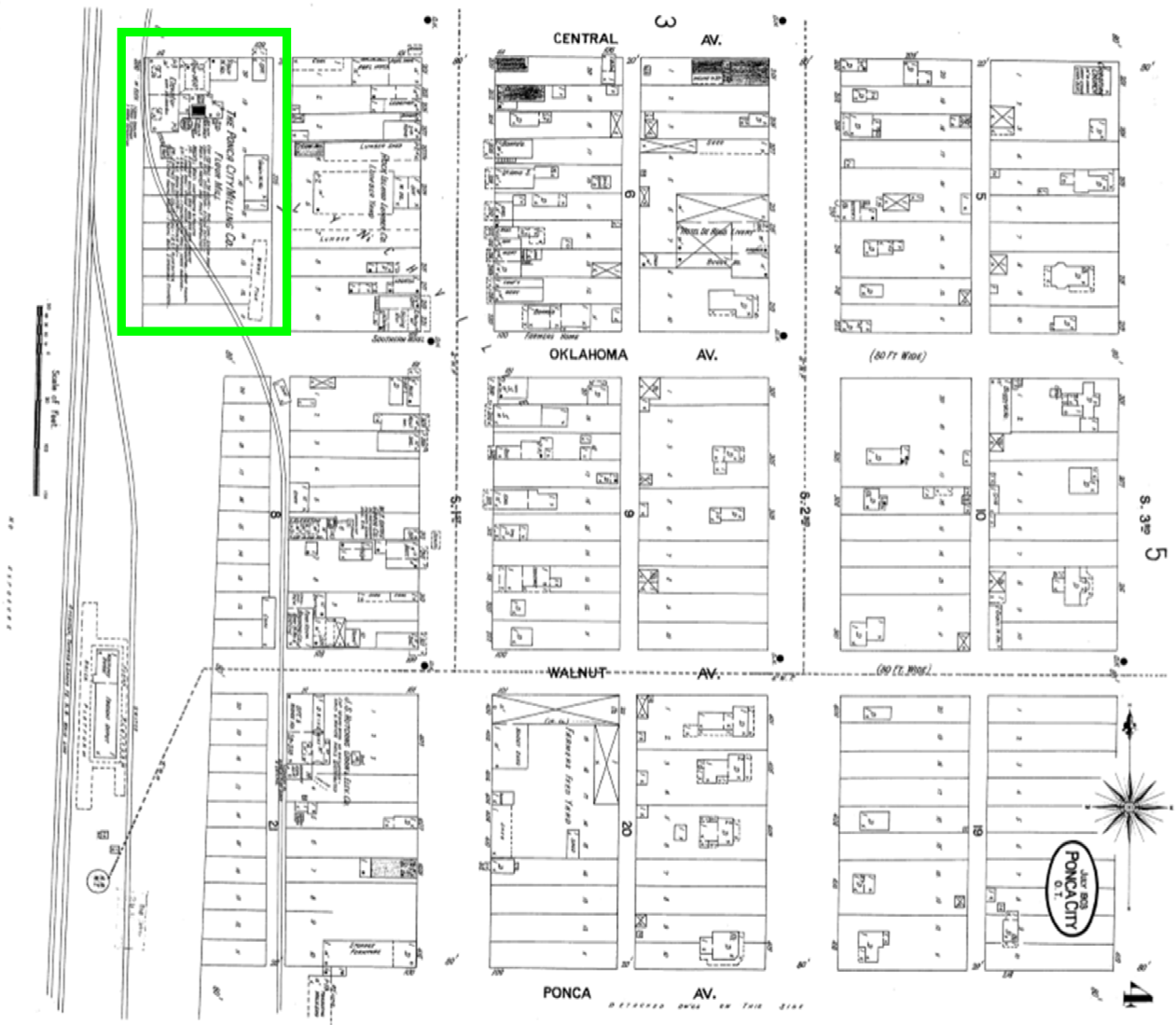
County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 11

Page 12



Big Picture: 1903 (Sheet #4)

Credit: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map Co.

The 1903 edition of the Sanborn Map shows little change from the 1901 edition.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Ponca City Milling Company Elevator

Name of Property

Kay County, Oklahoma

County and State

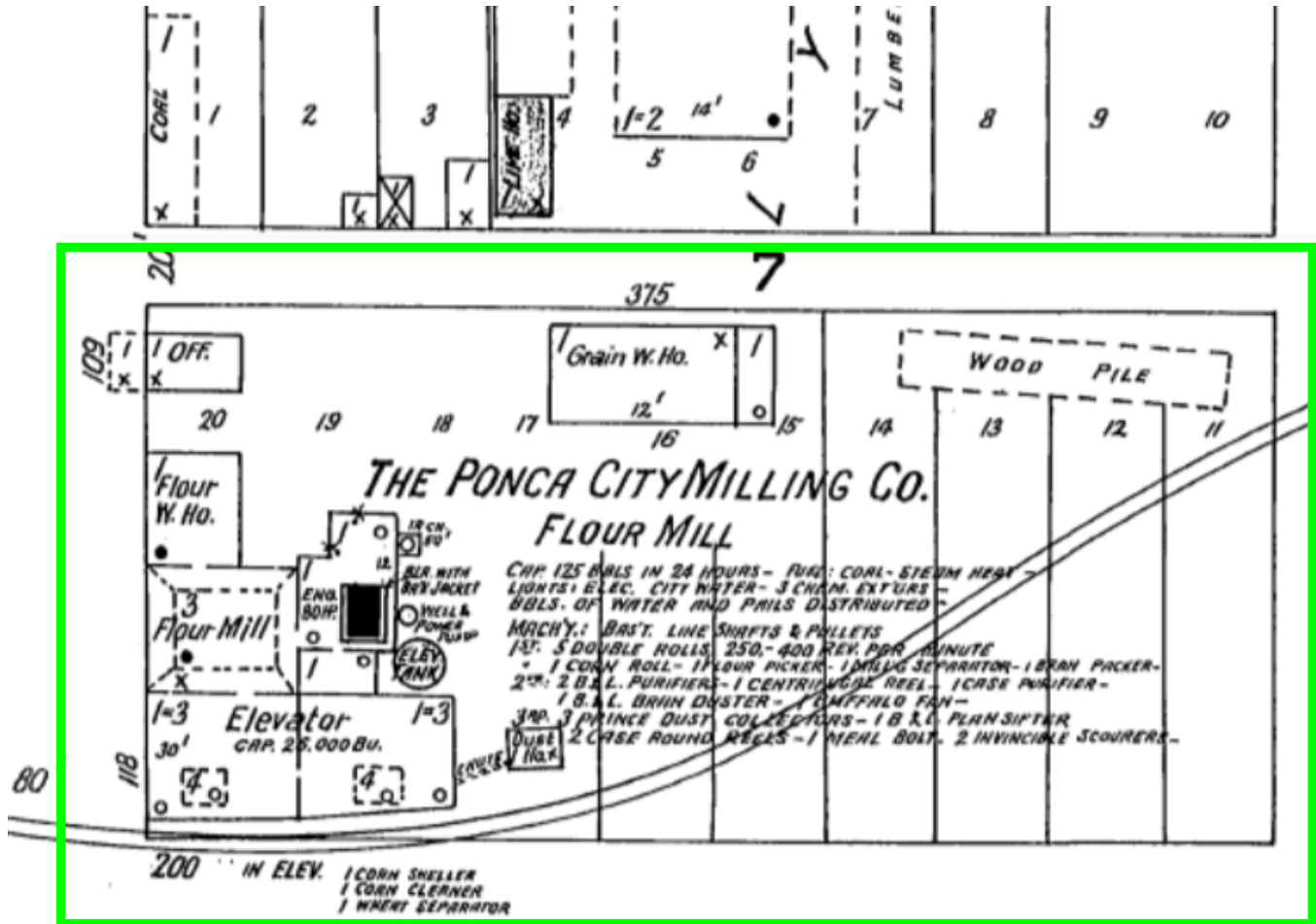
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 11

Page 13



Close-Up: 1903 (Sheet #4)

Credit: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map Co.

The 1903 edition of the map shows little physical change to the primary mill structures. The list of equipment continues to evolve. The elevators are now recorded as standing 30 feet tall. The grain warehouse has a one-story addition to the south with a non-combustible roof. The building is now recorded as being 12 feet tall. The description of the "wood" to the southeast is now clarified as a wood pile with no associated structure.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Ponca City Milling Company Elevator

Name of Property

Kay County, Oklahoma

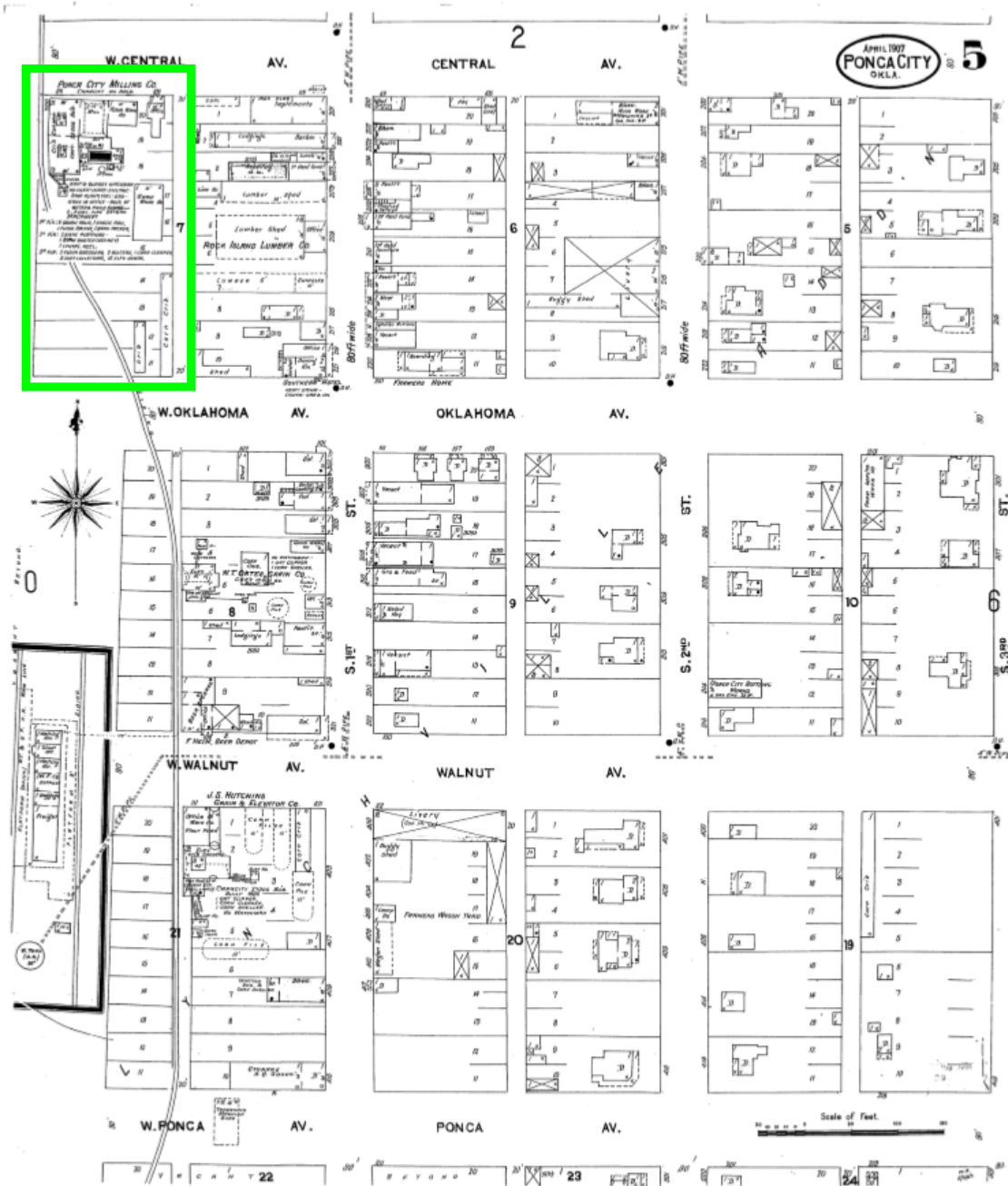
County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 11

Page 14



Big Picture: 1907 (Sheet #5)

Credit: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map Co.

This 1907 Sanborn shows notable growth south of the Ponca City Milling Company. Commercial businesses are replacing the former single dwellings. The milling property also has indications of change.

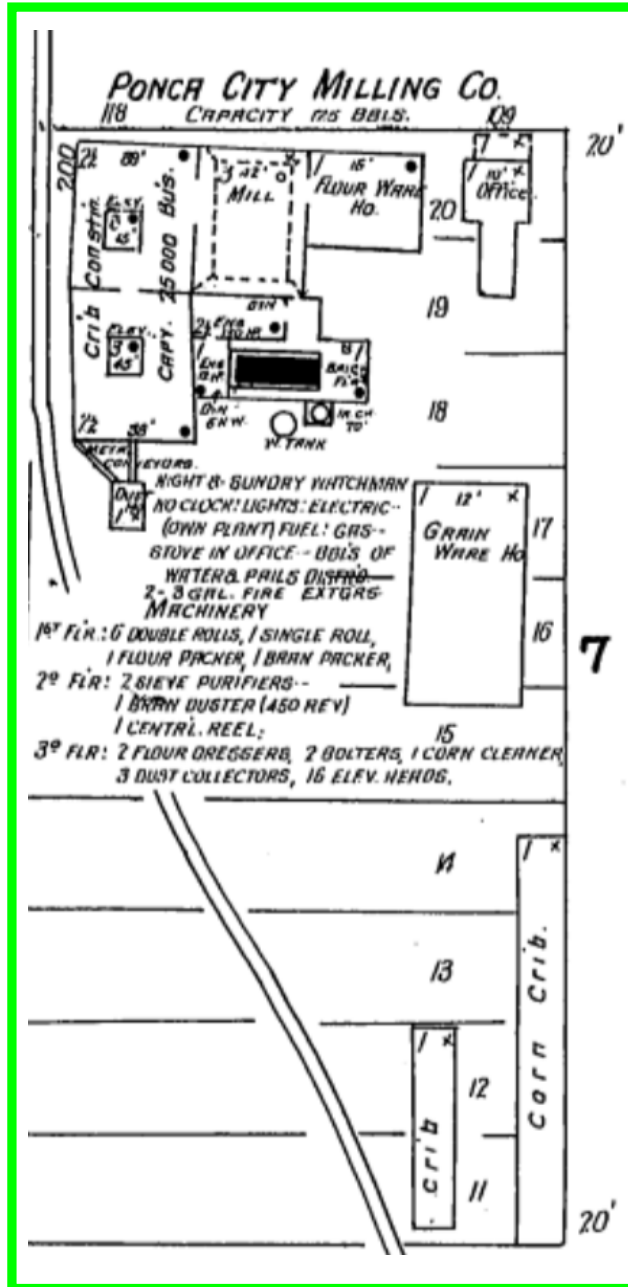
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Ponca City Milling Company Elevator
Name of Property
Kay County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 11

Page 15



Close-Up: 1097 (Sheet #5)

Credit: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map Co.

This 1907 Sanborn Map shows substantial growth for the Ponca City Milling Company. Two new corn cribs have replaced the wood pile on the east side of lots 11 through 14. The office (on the east side of lot 20) has a different configuration from the earlier editions, is now indicated as 10 feet tall, and appears to have an addition onto lot 19. The flour warehouse is indicated as 15 feet tall. The flour mill is 42 feet tall. The elevators are indicated as cribs and the number of stories has been revised. The actual height is 35 feet tall with the taller portions at 45 feet tall.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Ponca City Milling Company Elevator

Name of Property

Kay County, Oklahoma

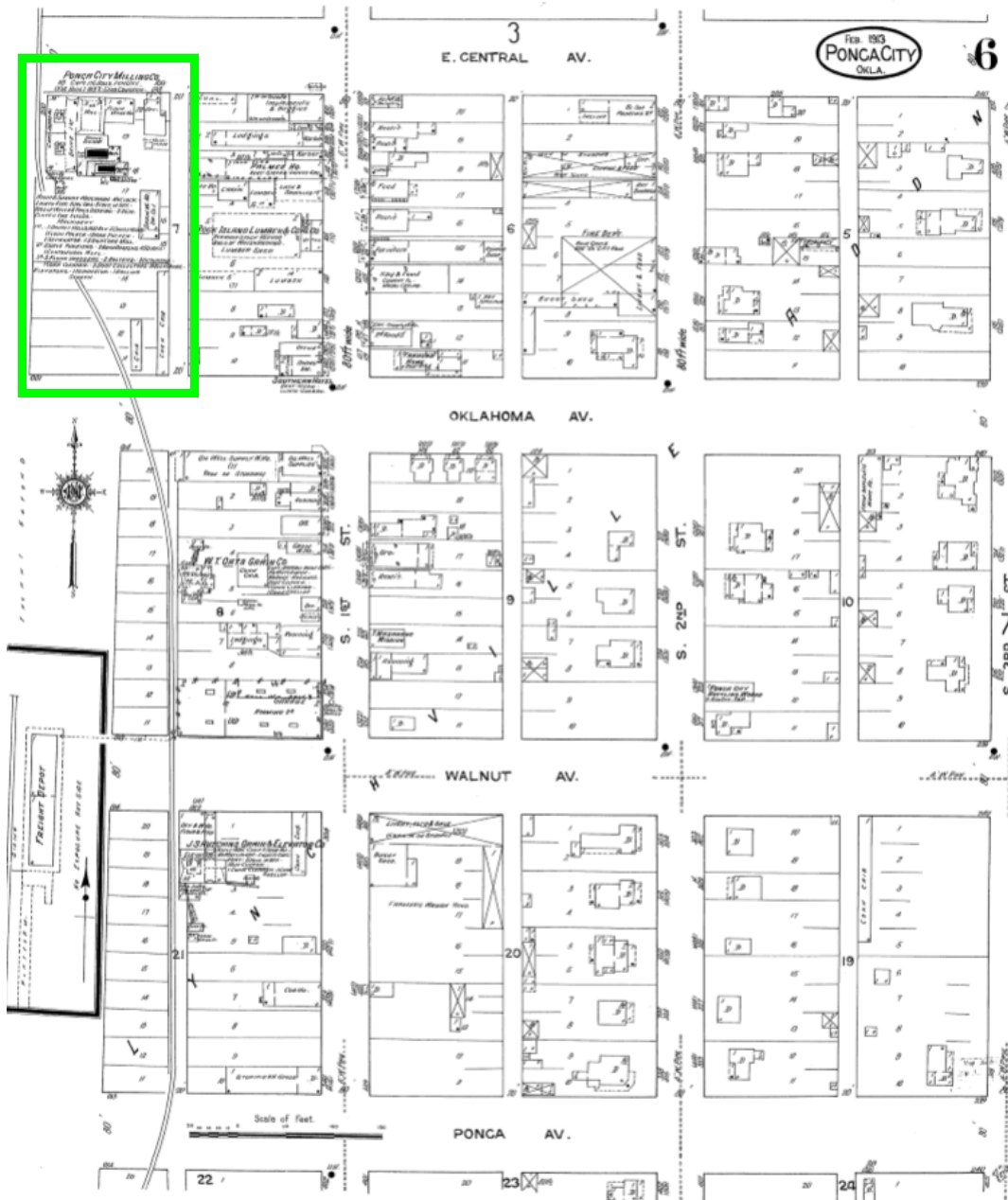
County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 11

Page 16



Big Picture: 1913 (Sheet #6)

Credit: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map Co.

This map, much like the 1907 Sanborn, shows that growth continued to concentrate to along the train tracks. In turn, the train tracks defined the boundaries of growth for the commercial district.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Ponca City Milling Company Elevator

Name of Property

Kay County, Oklahoma

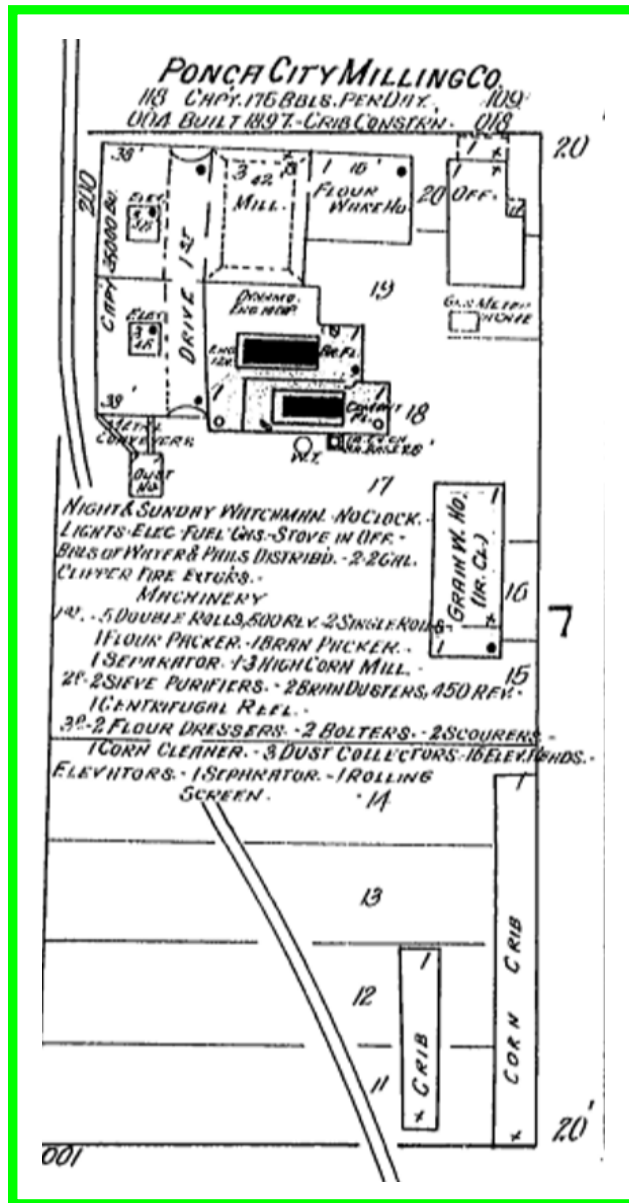
County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 11

Page 17



Close-Up: 1913 (Sheet #6)

Credit: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map Co.

This 1913 Sanborn map shows that the Grain Warehouse has iron columns, and that the shape of the office has changed getting wider on back (south) part with an additional building off to its south end. An additional engine house has been constructed so now there are two engines and a Dynamo. The mill had grown its capacity to producing 175 barrels a day with a watchman on duty night and day (and Sundays). Other information about the elevators has been added or corrected including the height now indicated as 38 and 39 feet tall. A drive-through lane on the first-story is documented for the first time. The map also makes it a point to document that the crib was constructed in 1897.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Ponca City Milling Company Elevator

Name of Property

Kay County, Oklahoma

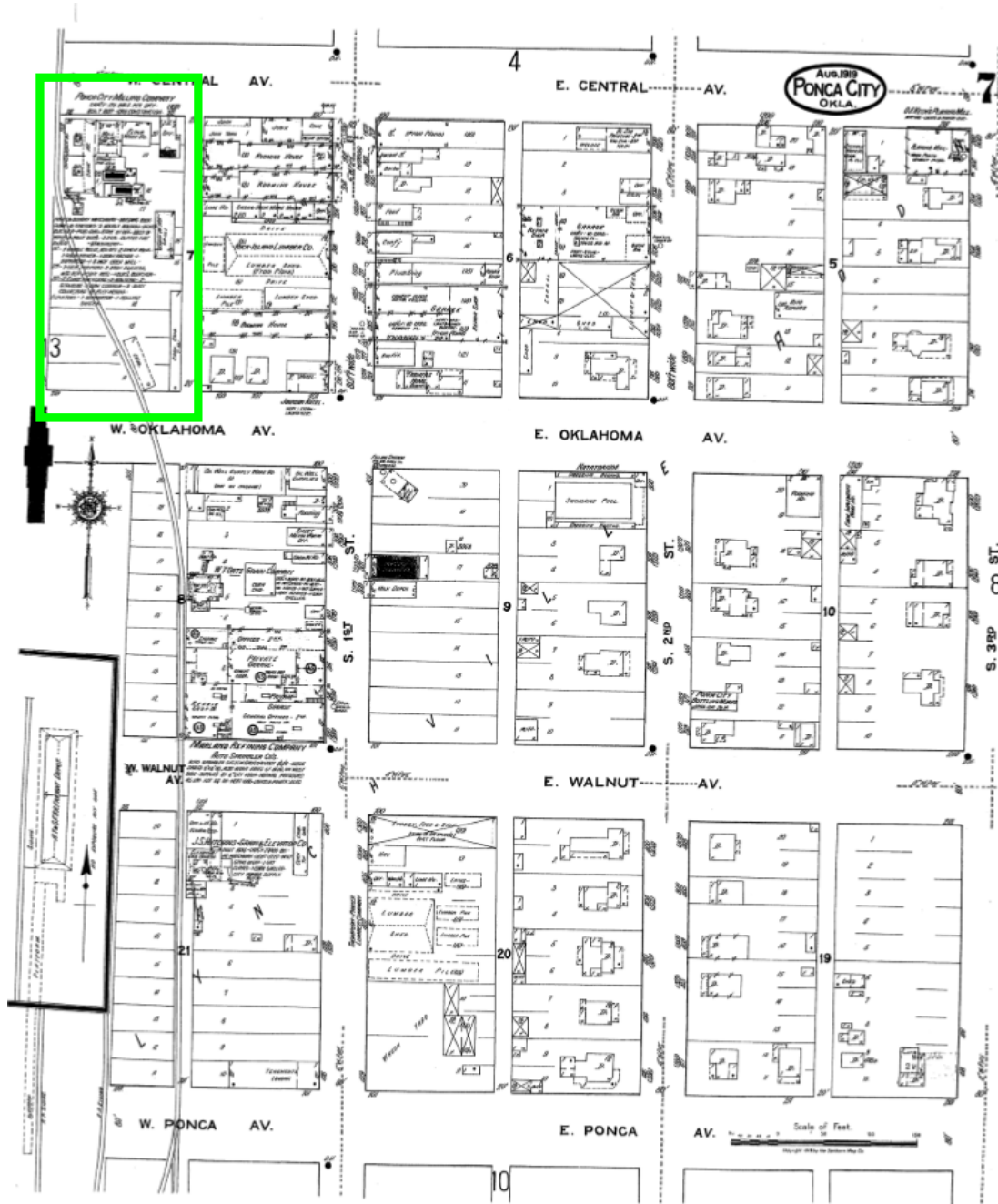
County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 11

Page 18



Big Picture: 1919 (Sheet #7)

Credit: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map Co.

This map, much like the 1913 edition, the 1919 edition shows that growth continued at a great rate and the train tracks also continue to define the boundaries of growth for the commercial district.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Ponca City Milling Company Elevator

Name of Property

Kay County, Oklahoma

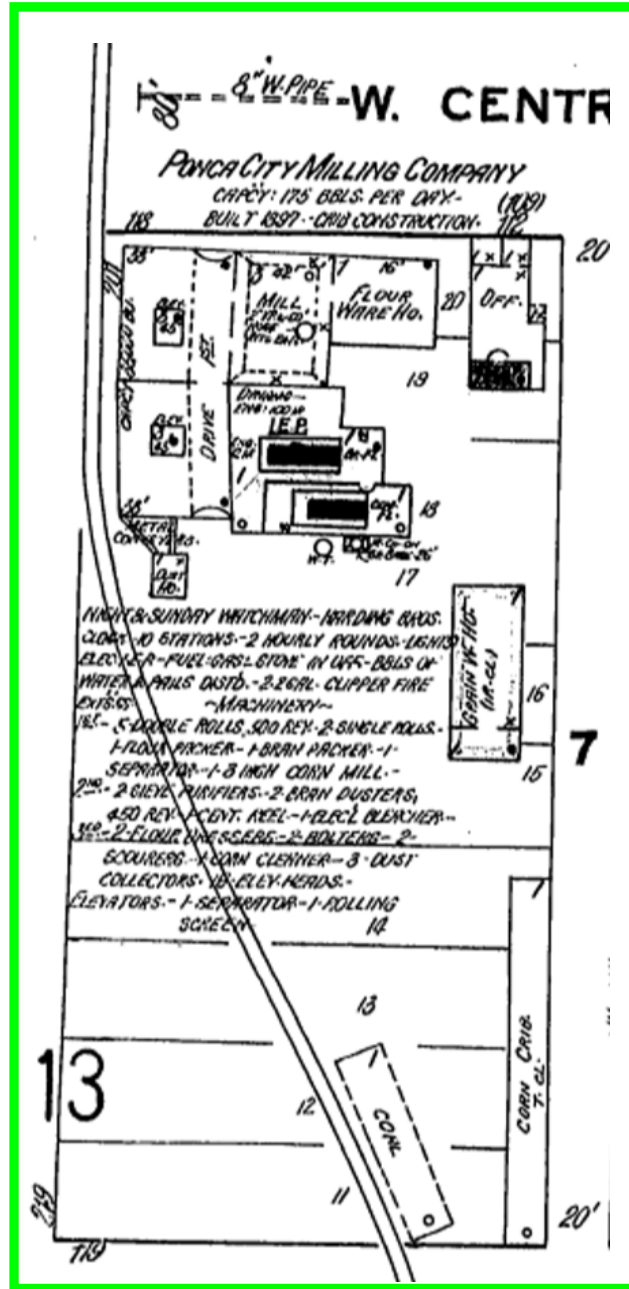
County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 11

Page 19



Big Picture: 1919 (Sheet #7)

Credit: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map Co.

Few things have changed from 1913 to 1919. The angled crib is now used for coal storage. The office continues to evolve.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Ponca City Milling Company Elevator

Name of Property

Kay County, Oklahoma

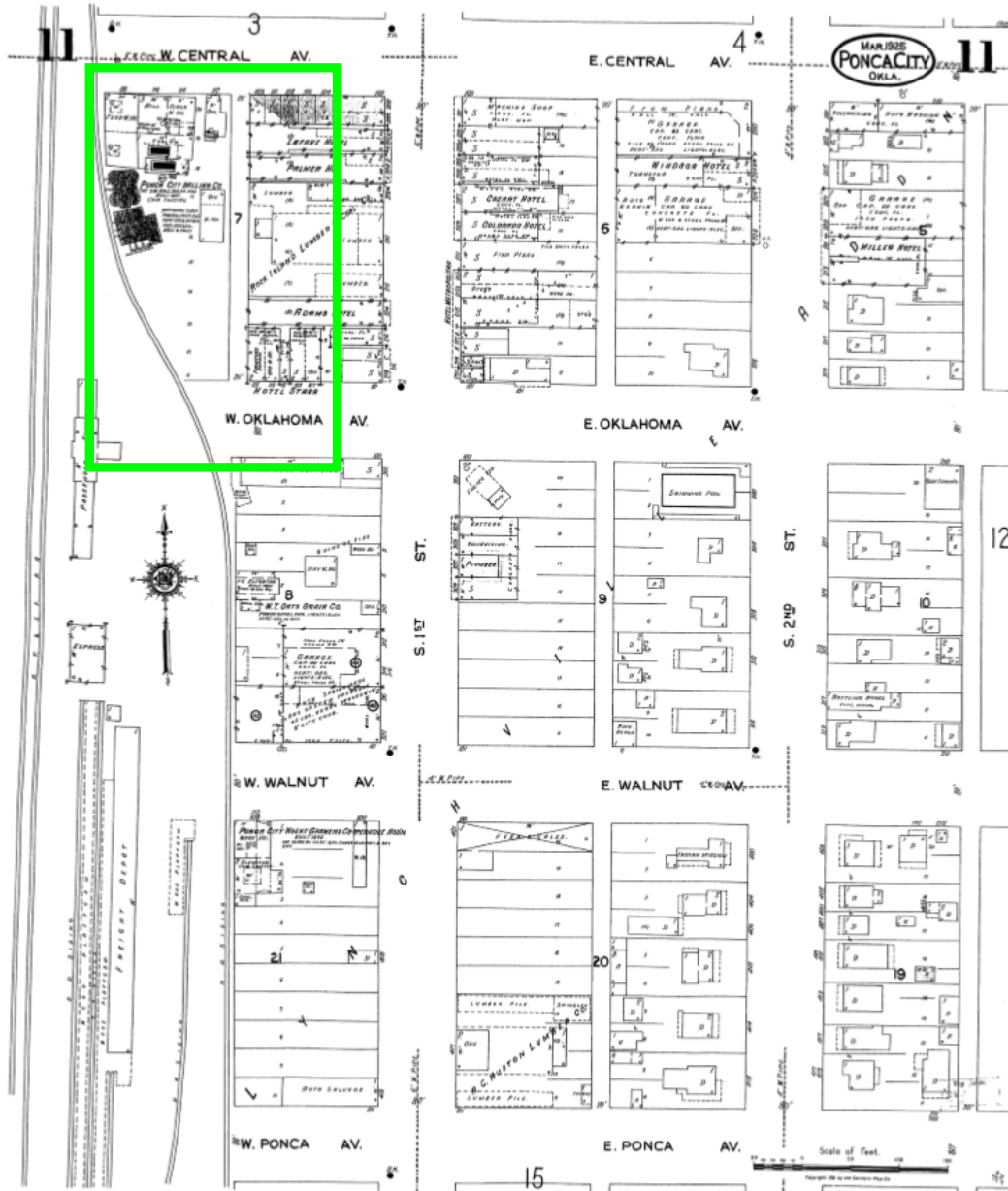
County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 11

Page 20



Big Picture: 1925 (Sheet #11)

Credit: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map Co.

The 1925 edition of the maps documents continuous change. Meanwhile so the south the railroad depots also continue to evolve. This is the first edition of the maps that begins to document the concrete elevators.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Ponca City Milling Company Elevator

Name of Property

Kay County, Oklahoma

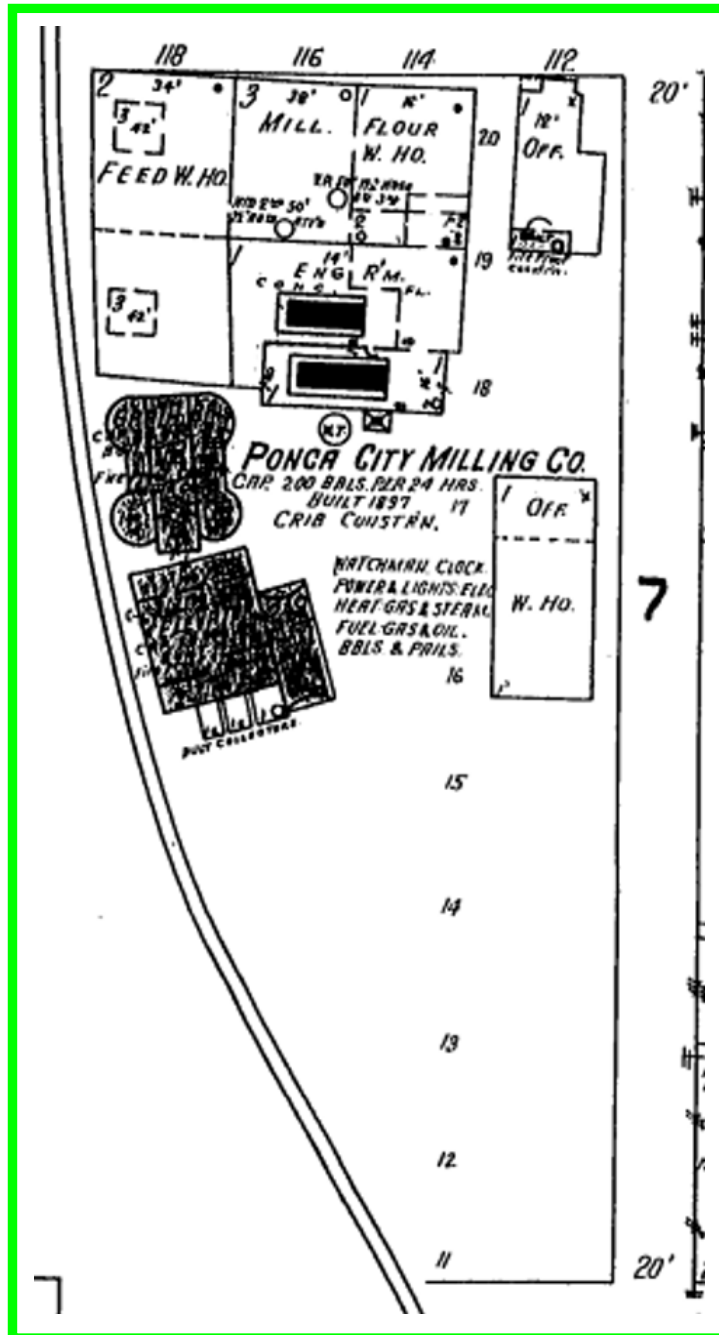
County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 11

Page 21



Close-Up: 1925 (Sheet #11)

Credit: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map Co.

By 1925, the capacity to produce has been increased to 200 barrels per 24 hours. The north part of the warehouse has been converted into an office. Two separate elevator structures have been added just south of is now called the 'Feed Warehouse.' The details of the new structures are illegible for this edition of the maps. The new elevators follow the curve of the train tracks.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Ponca City Milling Company Elevator

Name of Property

Kay County, Oklahoma

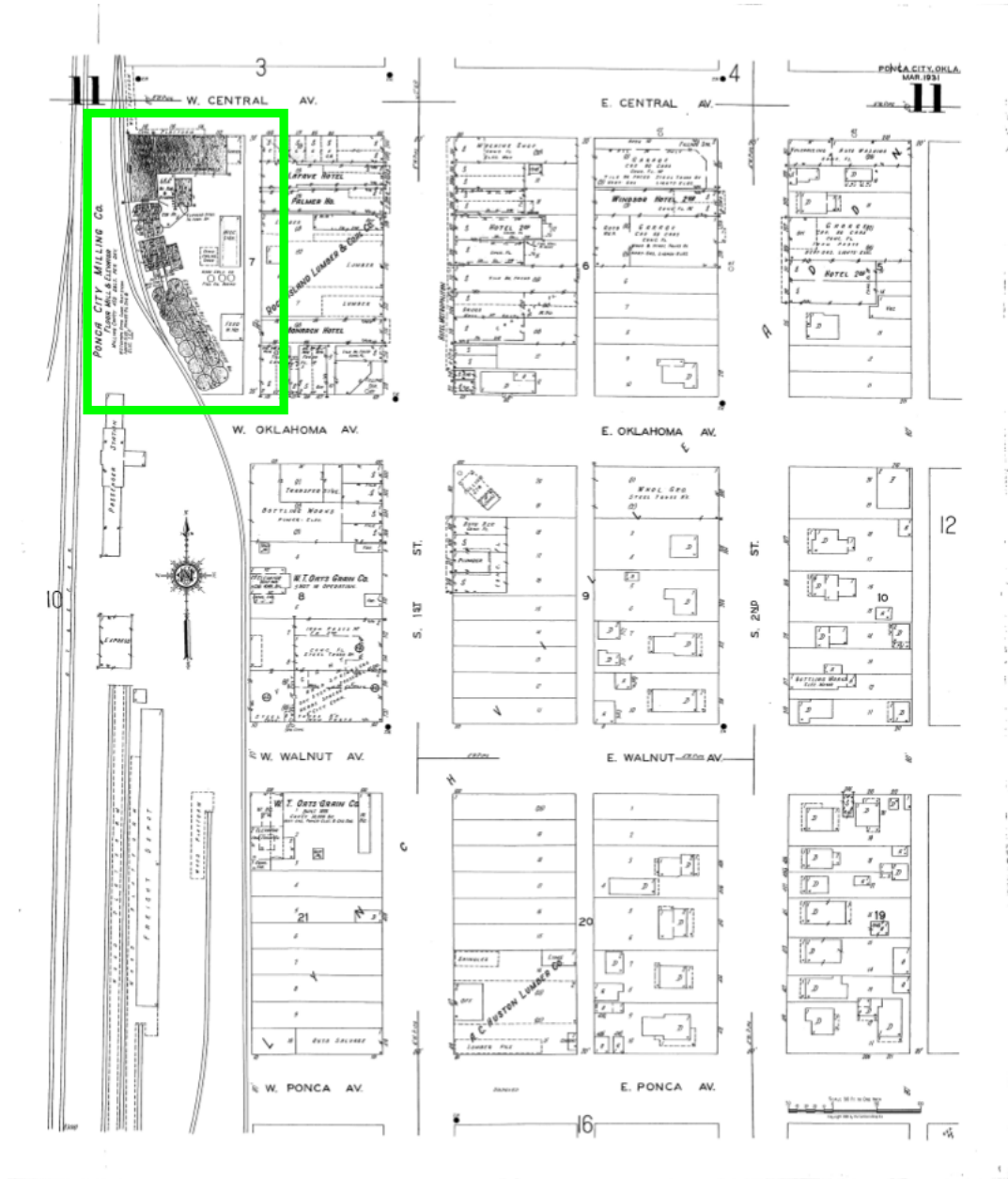
County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 11

Page 22



Big Picture: 1931 (Sheet #11)

Credit: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map Co.

By 1931 the mill had been significantly changed.

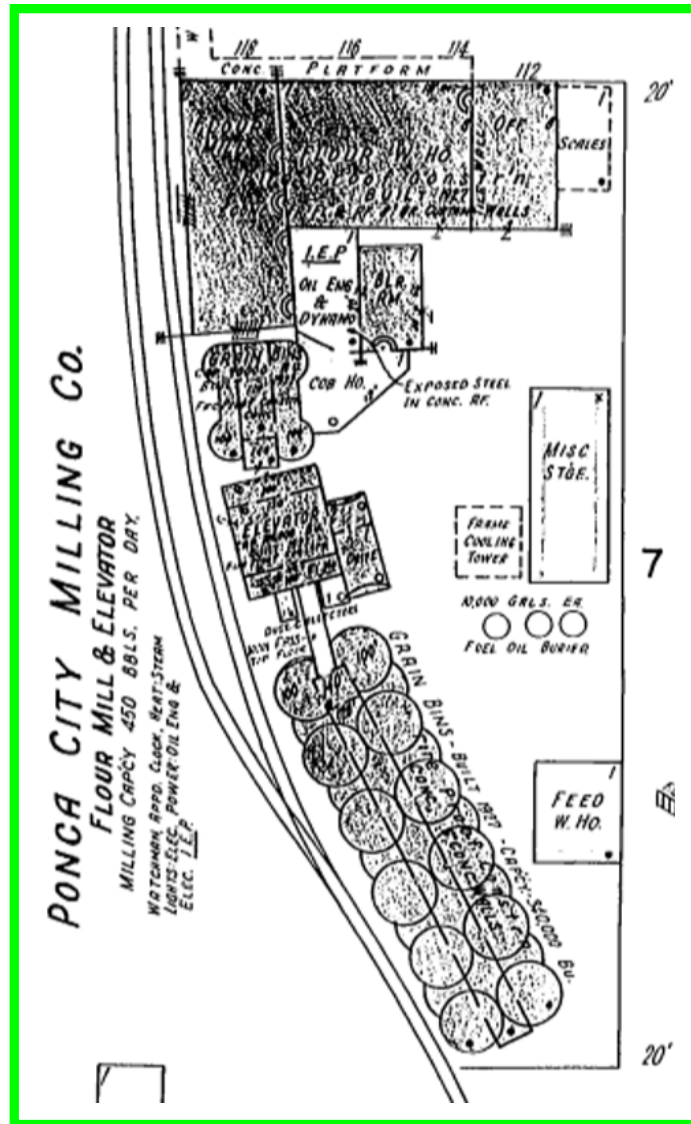
**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Ponca City Milling Company Elevator
Name of Property
Kay County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 11

Page 23



Close-Up: 1931 (Sheet #11)

Credit: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map Co.

The mill in 1931 has experienced significant change. The earlier cobbled together structures appear to have been completely removed and replaced with concrete structures. The long string of grain bins is documented to have been constructed in 1927. There is a physical connection from the south bins to the elevators just north. The early structures north of the grain bins first documented in 1925 now connect to the flour mill. The new grain bins have 340,000 barrels in storage capacity and follow the historic train track path. The mill also increased its production to 450 barrels a day. The flour warehouse and the office are also new fire-proof structures with a platform on the north. On the east side of the office, a scale station was added. The grain warehouse was now a miscellaneous storage building with a frame cooling tower to its west. South of that were three 10,000-gallon containers of fuel oil. A feed warehouse replaced the former cribs. A new boiler building that is disconnected from any of the other buildings is to the south of the flour warehouse.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Ponca City Milling Company Elevator

Name of Property

Kay County, Oklahoma

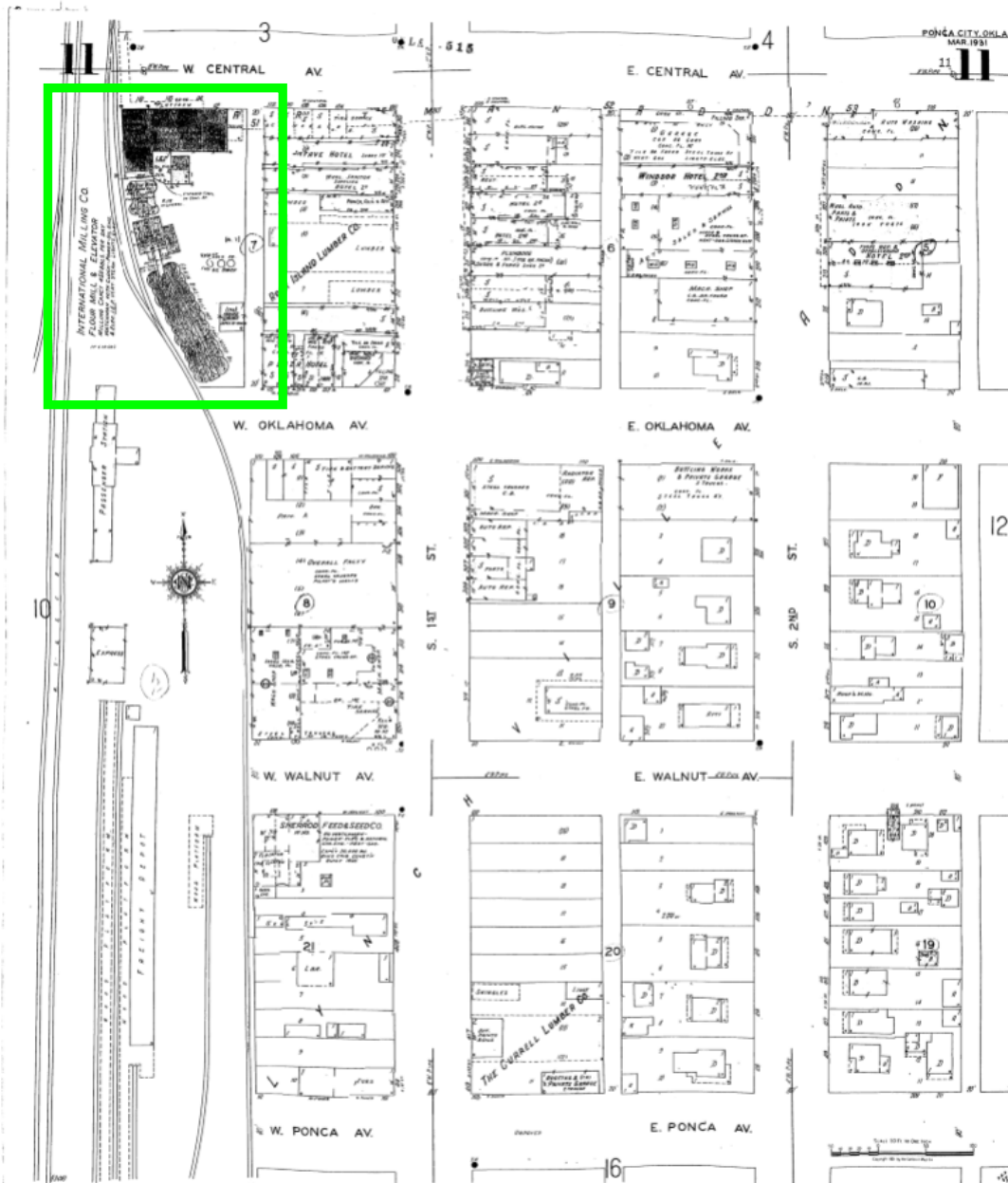
County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 11

Page 24



Big Picture: 1947 (Sheet #11)

Credit: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map Co.

This last available Sanborn map shows the Ponca City Milling Company, and its environs, as much it looks today with the large granaries and the commercialized downtown streets.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Ponca City Milling Company Elevator

Name of Property

Kay County, Oklahoma

County and State

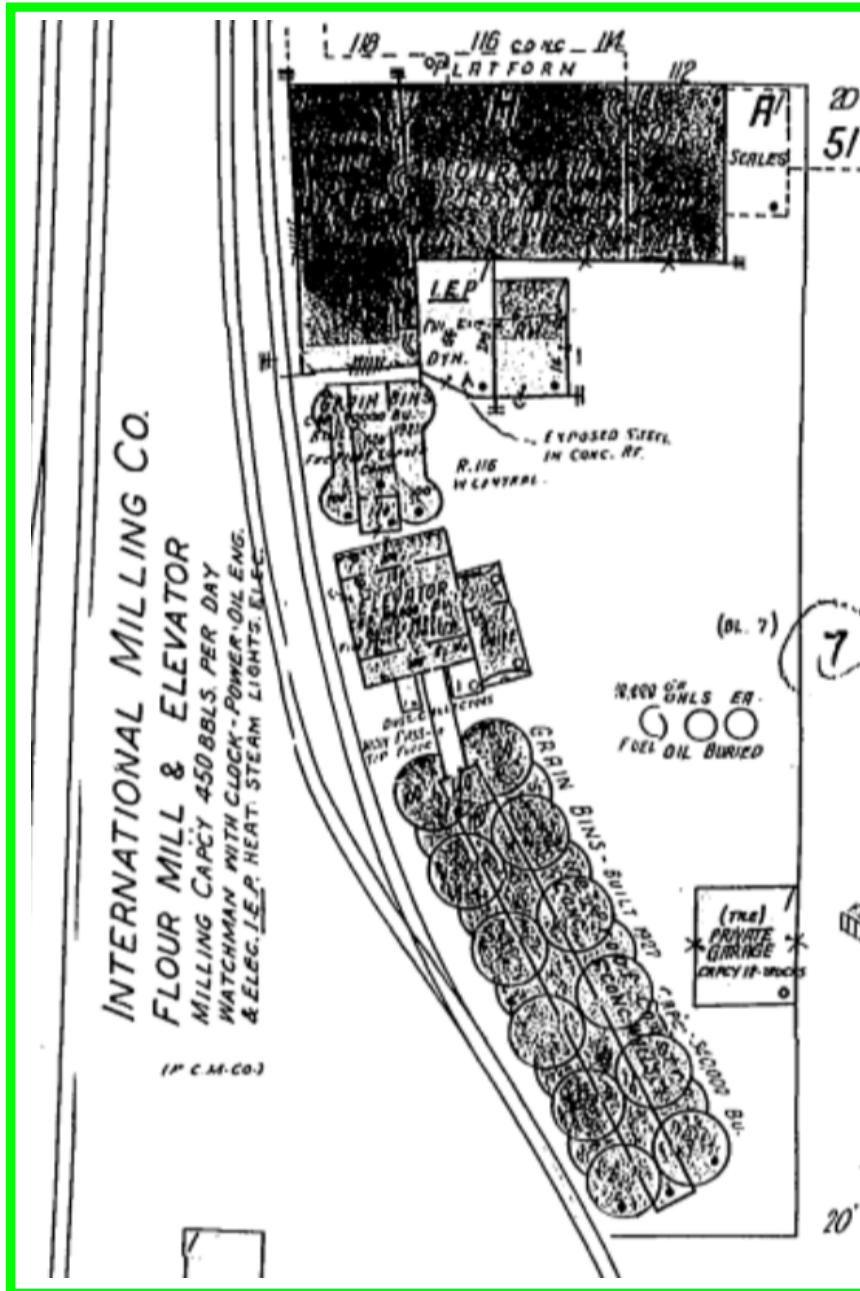
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 11

Page 25



Close-Up: 1947 (Sheet #11)

Credit: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map Co.

Through 1947, the mill appears to have retained its 1931 capacities, structures and appearance. The feed warehouse on the southeastern edge of the building is now a private garage. The miscellaneous storage building is no longer extant. This is the last available Sanborn Map of the Ponca City area.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Ponca City Milling Company Elevator

Name of Property

Kay County, Oklahoma

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 11

Page 26



Historic Image #1: Circa 1927

Courtesy of Oklahoma Historical Society

The west elevation of the six-story brick-clad structure which predates the towering granaries to its south. The train tracks ran adjacent to the mill, making transferring the milled products easy to transport.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Ponca City Milling Company Elevator

Name of Property

Kay County, Oklahoma

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 11

Page 27



Historic Image #2: Circa 1947

Credit: Oklahoma Historical Society

In 1947 a fire caused thousands of dollars of damage. The six-story brick tower to the north (right) and the single-story office area to the east (forward of the brick tower) remain distinguishable for the visible concrete column and beam structure with brick infill.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Ponca City Milling Company Elevator

Name of Property

Kay County, Oklahoma

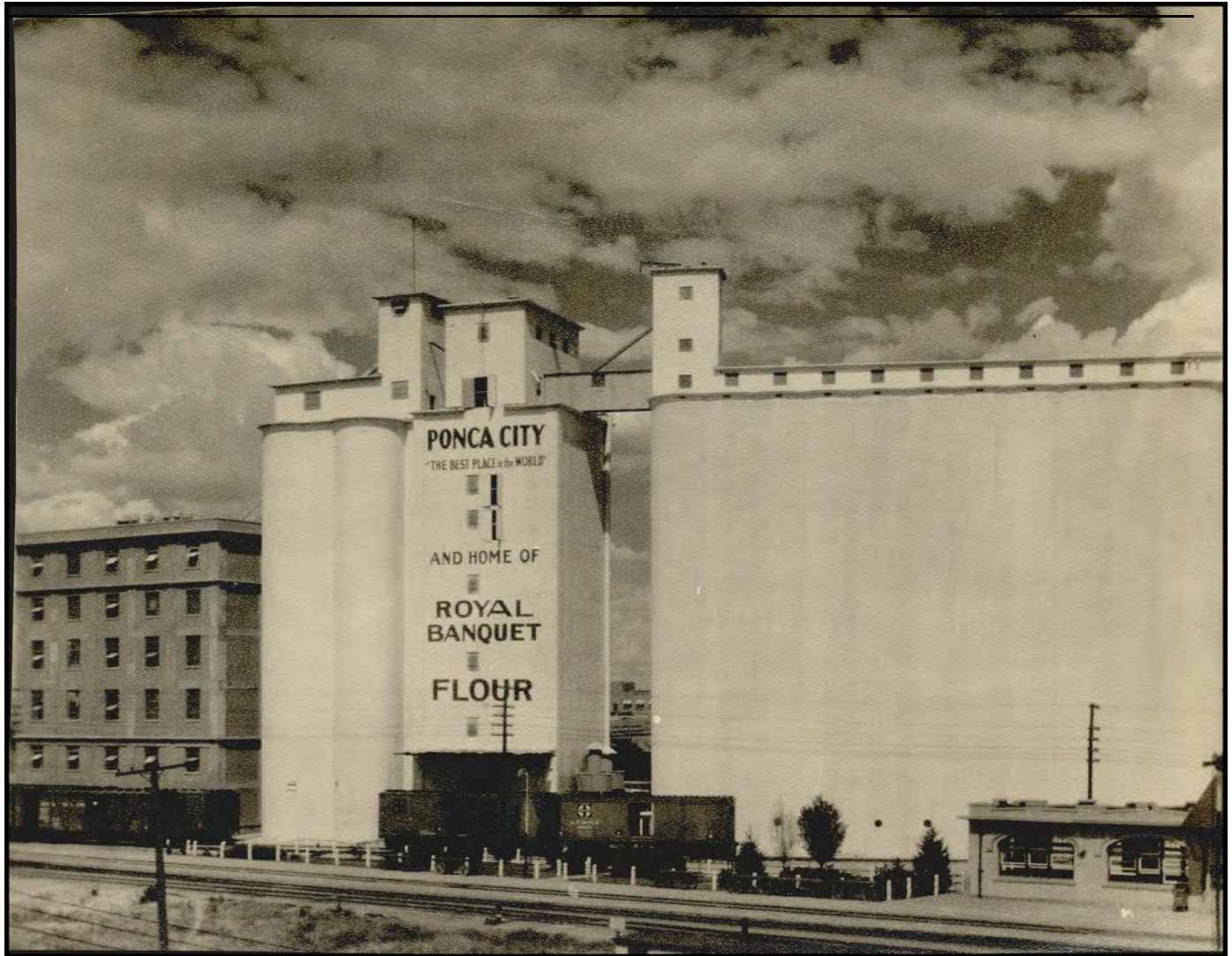
County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 11

Page 28



Historic Image #3: December 18, 1930

This 1930 photo shows the west elevation of the Mill. The mills and train tracks are in full operation here.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Ponca City Milling Company Elevator

Name of Property

Kay County, Oklahoma

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 11

Page 29



Historic Image #4: April 23, 1949

Credit: Oklahoma Historical Society



Enlargement of a part of the image above

1949 Ponca City was a bustling downtown, with the Ponca City Milling Company Elevator towers in the background. Identified in the green box in the upper left-hand corner of the top and enlarged in the bottom image, the mill details of the past that remain associated with the elevator today are identifiable. The “Robin Hood Flour” is now a ghost sign.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Ponca City Milling Company Elevator

Name of Property

Kay County, Oklahoma

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 11

Page 30



OK_KayCounty_PoncaCityMillingCompanyElevator_0001

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Ponca City Milling Company Elevator

Name of Property

Kay County, Oklahoma

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 11

Page 31



OK_KayCounty_PoncaCityMillingCompanyElevator_0002

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Ponca City Milling Company Elevator

Name of Property

Kay County, Oklahoma

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 11

Page 32



OK_KayCounty_PoncaCityMillingCompanyElevator_0003

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Ponca City Milling Company Elevator

Name of Property

Kay County, Oklahoma

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 11

Page 33



OK_KayCounty_PoncaCityMillingCompanyElevator_0004

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Ponca City Milling Company Elevator

Name of Property

Kay County, Oklahoma

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 11

Page 34



OK_KayCounty_PoncaCityMillingCompanyElevator_0005

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Ponca City Milling Company Elevator

Name of Property

Kay County, Oklahoma

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 11

Page 35



OK_KayCounty_PoncaCityMillingCompanyElevator_0006

Ponca City Milling Company Elevator

36.702630, -97.084870

Legend



Google Earth

© 2013 Google

700 ft





Robin Hood
FLOUR

PONCA CITY
Habitat
for Humanity
ReStore
USED
HOME
FURNISHING
BUILDING
SUPPLIES





2

Robin Hood
FLOUR

CAT
330F



ROBIN
ELEVATOR





Robins Hood
FLOUR

NOTICE
DO NOT
DISPOSE
OF WASTE
HERE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Ponca City Milling Company Elevator

Multiple Name:

State & County: OKLAHOMA, Kay

Date Received: 5/30/2019 Date of Pending List: 6/19/2019 Date of 16th Day: 7/5/2019 Date of 45th Day: 7/15/2019 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: SG100004172

Nominator: SHPO

Reason For Review:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal | <input type="checkbox"/> PDIL | <input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Photo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver | <input type="checkbox"/> National | <input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource | <input type="checkbox"/> Period |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> CLG | |

Accept Return Reject 7/15/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: The Ponca City Milling Company Elevator is locally significant and meets National Register Criterion A under the area of Commerce. Erected between 1922 and 1930, the imposing complex of structural concrete and brick milling and grain storage structures was directly associated with Ponca City's early twentieth century development as a significant commercial agricultural trade center for the surrounding region. Centralized independent milling or storage facilities like these provided direct connections between farmers, rural rail-side storage facilities, and major consumer markets.

Recommendation/ Criteria: Accept NR Criterion A

Reviewer: Paul Lusignan

Discipline: Historian

Telephone: (202)354-2229

Date: 07/15/2019

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

EXHIBIT "A"

PROPERTY OWNER FORM

Name of Property: Ponca City Municipal Historic Airport

Location of Property (Street/City/County): 22341 Waverly Street
Ponca City, Kay County

I, Catherine Montgomery, AIA, hereby certify that the following constitutes the complete list of owners of record for the property named above. This information was obtained from the Kay County Assessor's Office.

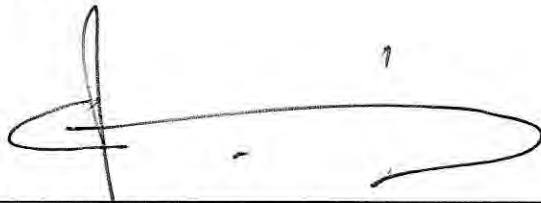
Name: City of Ponca City

Address: 516 East Grand Avenue

City: Ponca City

State: OK

Zip Code: 74604

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Catherine Montgomery', written over a horizontal line.

(Signature of Nomination Preparer)

Typed Name and Title: Catherine Montgomery, AIA President

Date: May 9, 2018

Note: If nomination affects multiple property owners, please contact the SHPO's Architectural Historian at 405/522-4478 for details on how to document all property owners.

EXHIBIT "B"
ELECTED OFFICIALS FORM

Name of Property:

Location of Property (Street/City/County):

1. For the above referenced property, provide both:

Mayor's Name (if within a city or town):

Address:

City/State/Zip Code:

AND

Name of Chairman, Board of County Commissioners:

Address:

City/State/Zip Code:

2. The above named property is located in Oklahoma Senate District(s):

The State Senator(s)' name(s) and address(es) is (are):

3. The above named property is located within Oklahoma State House of Representatives District(s):

The State Representative(s)' name(s) and address(es) is (are):

Note: The above information is used for satisfying federal requirements for notification that properties are being considered for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places and for courtesy notices of listing in the National Register.



Oklahoma Historical Society

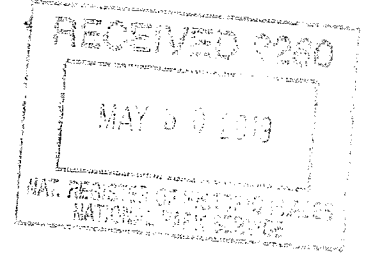
Founded May 27, 1893

State Historic Preservation Office

Oklahoma History Center • 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive • Oklahoma City, OK 73105-7917
(405) 521-6249 • Fax (405) 522-0816 • www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpom.htm

May 28, 2019

Joy Beasley
Keeper and Chief National Register and
National Historic Landmark Programs
National Park Service
1849 C Street NW, Mail Stop 7228
Washington D.C. 20240



Dear Ms. Beasley:

We are pleased to transmit thirteen National Register of Historic Places nominations for Oklahoma properties. The nominations are for the following properties:

Enid Downtown Historic District (Update and Boundary Increase), Enid, Garfield County
Charlotte Marland House, 919 East Grand Avenue, Ponca City, Kay County
First Presbyterian Church, 1505 East Grand Avenue, Ponca City, Kay County
Jack and Helen Cleary House, 13 Hillcrest Drive, Ponca City, Kay County
Marland Estate, Inc. Gatehouse, 747 North 14th Street, Ponca City, Kay County
Ponca City Milling Company Elevator, 114 West Central Avenue, Ponca City, Kay County
Ponca City Municipal Airport Hanger, 2231 Waverly Street, Ponca City, Kay County
Ponca City Power Plant, 1420 North Union Street, Ponca City, Kay County
Temple Emanuel, 1201 East Highland Avenue, Ponca City, Kay County
First Church of Christ, Scientist, 302 North 7th Street, Muskogee, Muskogee County
Hotel Muskogee, 26 West Broadway Street, Muskogee, Muskogee County
Capitol Hill Commercial Historic District, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County
Stonegate Elementary School, 2525 Northwest 112th Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County

All members of the Historic Preservation Review Committee (state review board) were present for the public meeting at which each of these nominations was considered and the recommendation to the State Historic Preservation Officer was formulated. Therefore, the member possessing the requisite professional qualifications for evaluation of each nominated property participated in the recommendation's formulation.

We look forward to the results of your review. If there any further questions regarding the nominations, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Lynda Ozan
Deputy State Historic
Preservation Officer

*Enclosures