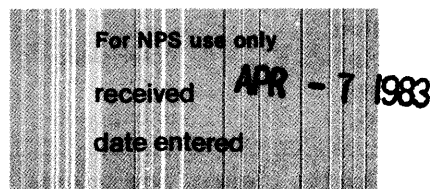


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections



1. Name

historic Old Plant Office Building

and/or common Same

2. Location

OK 51-A

street & number United States Gypsum Company N/A not for publication

city, town Southard N/A vicinity of congressional district

state Oklahoma code 40 county Blaine code 011

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	N/A being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name United States Gypsum Company

street & number

city, town Southard N/A vicinity of state Oklahoma

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of County Clerk

street & number Blaine County Court House

city, town Watonga state Oklahoma

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Oklahoma Preservation Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1981 federal state county local

depository for survey records Preservation Office, Oklahoma Historical Society

city, town Oklahoma City state Oklahoma

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date N/A _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Constructed in 1905, the Old Plant Office Building is a structure of very simple design. It measures approximately 21 feet by 54 feet, the balloon frame is enclosed by clapboard siding, the structure rests on a poured concrete foundation, and on the north end a portico covers an entryway with two double sash windows symmetrically placed on either side of the door. The porch floor is also of poured concrete. On each side of the structure are four unevenly spaced windows. Also, to the rear of the west side of the building is another entryway with a small concrete stoop, covered with an aluminum awning. The two gables are without decorative elements; the roof is covered with composition shingles.

There is no physical evidence that the structure has been altered from its initial design. The rear door may be of more recent origin, but if it is it did not destroy the integrity of the building or its function as a plant office.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1905

Builder/Architect George H. Southard

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Old Plant Office Building is significant because of its historical relationship to the principal industrial activity in Blaine County, Oklahoma. In the county is one of the purest gypsum deposits in the United States. Commercial exploitation of the mineral began as early as 1902, but it was not until 1905 that George H. Southard opened his mine and mill in the community that now bears his name. In 1912 the United States Gypsum Company acquired the property and has since operated the facility as its Southard plant. After quarrying the mineral rock ($\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$) is calcinated (removal of water) and turned into plaster or an inert filler. The ore taken from some 4000 acres of land, is refined and processed into 260 different products that are shipped daily in 30 railroad cars and 15–20 trucks. The plant employs approximately 230 people and has an annual payroll of over \$2,000,000. Vendors sell annually to the plant goods valued at more than \$3,000,000. Put differently, the Southard gypsum plant is the industrial base of Blaine County.

The Old Plant Office Building was the headquarters of the George H. Southard Company at the genesis of mining and milling operations in 1905. It continued in that capacity following the purchase of the operation in 1912 by the United States Gypsum Company. There are additional office facilities today, but the building still houses clerks and administrators critical to the management of the plant. Just to the rear of the structure is the huge mill and processing facilities of the company. Since those are of relatively recent vintage, only the Old Plant Office Building reflects the development over time of the gypsum industry in Blaine County as well as all of Oklahoma.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Heritage Book Committee, Their Story: A Pioneer Days Album of the Blaine County Area (Okla. City, 1977), p. 7, "United States Gypsum Company, Southard Okla.," np., 1976.

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Southard

Quadrangle scale 7.5 min.

UMT References

A

1	4	5	4	7	3	0	0	3	9	9	0	0	6	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

Beginning at the northwest corner of Sec. 10, T18N, R12W, go 450 feet east, 561 feet south, 87 east, thence south 66 feet, east 33 feet, north 66 feet, and west 33 feet. It is situated just east of the new Southard Plant headquarters.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title W. David Baird

organization Oklahoma Preservation Survey date 1981

street & number 502 Math Sciences telephone 624-5678

city or town Stillwater, Oklahoma State University state Oklahoma

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title C Emmet Self date 3/18/83

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is

James McClure date 5/13/83

Chief of the National Register

Attorney Patrick Andrews date 5/10/83

Chief of Registration