

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUN 11 1980
DATE ENTERED SEP 8 1980

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

Citizen's State Bank

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

NW Corner of Seminole & Main Streets

__ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Marble City

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

No. 2

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Oklahoma City

CODE

40

COUNTY

Sequoyah

CODE

135

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

__ DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

__ STRUCTURE

__ SITE

__ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

__ PUBLIC

PRIVATE

__ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

__ IN PROCESS

__ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

__ OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

__ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

__ YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

__ NO

PRESENT USE

__ AGRICULTURE

__ COMMERCIAL

__ EDUCATIONAL

__ ENTERTAINMENT

__ GOVERNMENT

__ INDUSTRIAL

__ MILITARY

__ MUSEUM

__ PARK

__ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

__ RELIGIOUS

__ SCIENTIFIC

__ TRANSPORTATION

OTHER: vacant

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Ms. Waneva Thomas

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Marble City

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Oklahoma

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the County Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

Sequoyah County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Sallisaw

STATE

Oklahoma

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Oklahoma Comprehensive Survey

DATE

1980

__ FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Oklahoma Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Oklahoma City

STATE

Oklahoma

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input 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 _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Citizens State Bank building is a solid two-story rectangular block finished in the stone for which the town became famous. It measures 25 feet across its east front, 60 feet along its south side. A low foundation is of coursed rubble limestone, approximately 18 inches thick and laid on large bed rocks. Walls on the east and south are of random ashlar limestone. The north wall, shared with the adjacent building, is of red brick. The back wall is coursed rubble limestone. A wide, smooth limestone water table marks the first floor level on the two street sides.

Two horizontal bands of similarly dressed stone, laid in four thin layers, form the corbelled street cornices atop the building and a strong delineating line between the two floors. This latter banding forms the "roof" of the front porch created by the diagonal main entrance on the southeast. The porch itself is supported by a single Doric column of "marble" - actually soft white limestone - which carries the second story corner. The east front has a double window on the first floor, two single windows above. The south side wall has five ordinary double-sash windows upstairs, four down, with a rear entrance doorway. The back wall has only two windows upstairs. A small first floor window has been blocked. Several of the sashes have been broken and are boarded up. The double front doors, each having a single pane over two panels, have also been covered for protection from the street.

The front doors open directly into the main banking room, whose wooden partitions and teller cages have been dismantled and stored upstairs. On the right, at the rear of this long, narrow room, is the vault. On the left is the side entrance vestibule, with the stairs to the partitionless second floor. Upstairs walls are of exposed stone and brick, painted white. Ceiling is the unfinished underside of the 6-inch tongue-and-groove roof decking. Floor is of 4-inch tongue-and-groove boards.

First floor walls are plastered. The ceiling is of stamped metal, painted white. Floor is poured concrete. The brick and stone walls are all load bearing, reinforced by four 8-inch-square marble columns in a row midway through the span of the first floor and four similar columns, of wood, on the second. Ceiling joists on both floors are of two-by-six-inch lumber laid on 18-inch centers parallel to the front facade. Despite broken windows, leaky roof, and generally dilapidated appearance, the building still appears to be structurally sound.

6 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> _ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> _EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> _MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> _SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> _1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> _ART	<input type="checkbox"/> _ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> _MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> _THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> _1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> _EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> _PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> _TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> _1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> _COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> _INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> _POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> _OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> _INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1902 BUILDER/ARCHITECT N/A

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Citizens State Bank is, in the words of a recent HABS report, in "an unusually elegant late Neo-Classical design, in a town almost totally devoid of any architecturally pretentious structures." It was erected shortly after the turn of the century when discovery of large marble deposits in the vicinity prompted a short-lived boom. When the boom collapsed, so did the town, which is now approaching ghosthood status. (Population in 1970: 229.) The bank building itself, however - as has been pointed out in previous Oklahoma nominations - represents something much more important than the ambitious dream of a would-be small-town banker. It represents, in a very real sense, frontier hubris ... the ever-optimistic spirit of "boosterism" that characterized rural America well into the 20th Century (when sophistication finally became chic) ... the strong local pride that small towns everywhere have felt for the solid architectural anchor to their business district and the promise of even better things to come.

In the case of Marble City that promise, alas, was never fulfilled, despite an auspicious start. The town actually began as Kedron, which served from 1835 until the Civil War as post office for Dwight Mission. (Dwight was one of the state's first, most important, and longest sustained missionary efforts on behalf of the Cherokees.) It was so designated again in 1886. Then in 1895 the name Kedron was changed to Marble. And in 1906, with the quarries going strong and the discovery of immense new marble deposits, Marble became Marble City - thereby indicating that hubris does indeed tend to be self-fulfilling ... if only temporarily. A sensational land boom followed, old settlers report. A hotel was built, a newspaper, the Marble City Enterprise, established. The town was at its peak.

But the boom was short-lived, this despite the arrival of a railroad. Difficulties in production and in loading in a highly competitive field, according to Historian O. B. Campbell, "caused business to slump within a few years, and the glamour of Marble City faded." Today the most impressive symbol of this faded glamour is the solid, impressively plain-but-not-unattractive Citizens State Bank Building, a lone, elegant column guarding its beveled corner entrance.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Historic American Buildings Survey, undertaken by the National Park Service in cooperation with the Oklahoma Historical Society and the Cherokee National Historical Society, 1975

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED
UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Marble City, Oklahoma

QUADRANGLE SCALE 7.5 minute

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 334000 3938740

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot 19, Block 35, Marble City Townsite

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Kent Ruth, Deputy

ORGANIZATION

Oklahoma Historical Society

DATE

January 1980

STREET & NUMBER

Historical Building

TELEPHONE

405/884-5456

CITY OR TOWN

Oklahoma City

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

DATE

Blenn Jordan
6/3/80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

9/8/80

ATTEST:

CLERK OF REGISTRATION

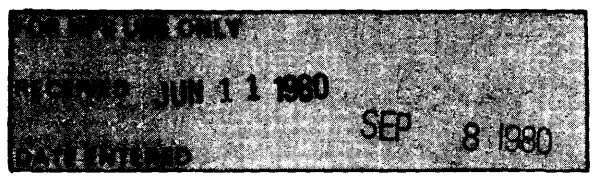
DATE

8/29/80

Kristin J. O'Connell

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

CITIZEN'S STATE BANK

The bank itself failed in the distant past and the building has long been empty. But its preservation and National Register is sought as a symbol of the town's past importance and its role in the history and development of the Marble City area.