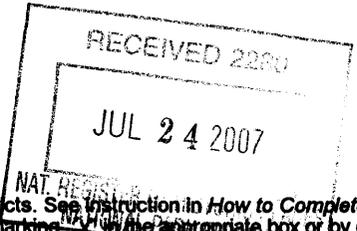


915

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 determination for individual properties and districts. See instruction in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Woodward Federal Courthouse and Post Office

other names/site number Woodward Public Schools Administration Building

2. Location

street & number 1023 10th Street [N/A] not for publication

city or town Woodward [N/A] vicinity

state Oklahoma code OK county Woodward code 153 zip code 73802

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] State Historic Preservation Officer 7-23-07 Date

Oklahoma Historical Society
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register See continuation sheet.
- other, explain See continuation sheet.

[Signature: Edson H. Beall] Signature of the Keeper 9.6.07 Date of Action

Woodward Federal Courthouse and Post Office
Name of Property

Woodward County, Oklahoma
County/State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not count previously listed resources.)

Contributing		Noncontributing	
1		0	buildings
0		0	sites
0		0	structures
1		0	objects
2		0	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/post office
GOVERNMENT/courthouse

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/government office

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH & 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS:
Renaissance Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE
walls BRICK
roof ASPHALT
other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Woodward Federal Courthouse and Post Office
Name of Property

Woodward County, Oklahoma
County/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.)

Property is:

- 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Politics/Government

Architecture

Period of Significance

1919-1957

Significant Dates

1921

Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Whetmore, James A., supervising architect
Henry & Hatfield, builder

Woodward Federal Courthouse and Post Office
Name of Property

Woodward County, Oklahoma
County/State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1. 14 464870 4032200
Zone Easting Northing

2. Zone Easting Northing

3. Zone Easting Northing

4. Zone Easting Northing

[] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jim Gabbert/architectural historian

organization Oklahoma Historical Society

date 5/2007

street & number 2401 N. Laird Ave.

telephone (405) 522-4478

city or town Oklahoma City

state OK

zip code 73105

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Woodward Public Schools

street & number PO Box 668

telephone _____

city or town Woodward

state OK

zip code 73802

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. 470 et seq).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

Woodward Federal Courthouse and Post Office
Woodward County, Oklahoma

Section number 7 Page 1

DESCRIPTION

The Woodward Federal Courthouse and Post Office is a two story, yellow brick building with a flat-topped, hipped roof located at the northwest corner of Main and 10th streets in downtown Woodward. There is a flag pole at the southwest corner of the building and a parking lot to the north. The footprint of the building is rectangular, with the long axis paralleling Main Street. The south elevation serves as the main facade; it is symmetrical, with seven bays highlighted by five round arch openings on the first floor. The main entry is centered on the south side; there is a secondary entry on the east side and a loading dock on the rear, or north side. The bulk of windows are 8/8, wooden sash with flat lintels. Alterations to the exterior are minor and consist of the addition of an ADA accessible ramp on the east side and the replacement of the original slate roof with asphalt shingles. The interior's first floor is intact, albeit with a dropped ceiling. The second floor has had new wall finishes and dropped ceilings.

Exterior

The Woodward Federal Courthouse and Post Office was completed in 1921 by the contractor Henry and Hatfield of Indianapolis, Indiana. The Renaissance Revival style building stands two stories on a basement and is capped with a flat-topped, hipped roof. A contributing flagpole is located at the southwest corner of the building. The building features a steel skeleton. The asphalt shingle roof has a large brick chimney offset on the rear slope; the original slate roof was removed in the 1980s. Two heavy-duty air conditioning units are located on the flat section of the roof, but are not readily visible from the street, however, a tall radio communications tower projects from the center of the roof. The walls are yellow brick, laid in a common bond. A belt course of headers and rowlocks runs between the basement and first floors.

The primary façade of the building is the south elevation. (photo #1) This elevation is axially symmetrical, with seven bays. The second floor window openings are identical in size and feature 6/6, single hung, wooden sash windows. The lintels are flat, with alternating soldier and double rowlock bricks. The sills are slightly corbelled, header bricks. The outermost windows of the first floor are identical to those of the second. The center five bays, though are the architectural highlight of this façade. Each features a round arch opening with a fanlight. The central bay is the entry and features double entry doors flanked by three pane sidelights. The doors are steel, with three glass panels. The sidelights have a narrow panel below the three stacked lights. A ten pane transom, with two pane sidelights, is located above the entry, below the fanlight. This has been obscured with a sign board. The fanlight features three concentric bands of glass; all the panes have been painted. Flanking the entry opening are two window bays that mimic the entry. In lieu of parged doors, though, is a single four pane window atop a paneled kick board. The sidelights are slightly wider, and have only two panes, and the transoms have four panes. The fanlights for these and the other openings have only two concentric bands of lights, and again the fanlight's panes have been painted over in white. The outermost two of the arched openings each contains a large window set atop a single paneled spandrel. There is an 8/8 window with four pane sidelights. The fanlight have been painted over. There are four decorative carriage lamps located on the walls between each of the arched openings. The metal lamps have arched lights and a tall spire surrounded by shorter finials, giving the appearance of a crown. (photo #8) The entry is reached by wide, concrete steps that extend out to include the middle three bays. The steps have low, brick wingwalls and two pipe rails. The basement level is lighted by windows set in concrete wells. The barred windows are located below the outer two first floor openings.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Woodward Federal Courthouse and Post Office
Woodward County, OklahomaSection number 7 Page 2

The west elevation has different fenestration on each level. (photo #1) The basement has four openings, with a wide distance between the middle two. The first floor has five 8/8 windows, evenly distributed. A small light sconce is located just north of the center window's upper-left corner. The second floor had four windows, each 8/8, while a pair of smaller. Louvered vents take the place of a central window. There are two vents, approximately 1/3 the size of the standard window opening, but with matching sills and lintels.

The north, or rear elevation is distinguished by a flat-roofed, single story, projection centered on the first floor that serves as a loading dock and by the large window openings that light the courtroom space on the second floor and the working space of the post office. (photo #2) Access to the basement of the building is reached by a stairwell located east of the loading dock. The wall surface of the rear is not flat, not on the same plane. There is a slight step back from the wall plane, one brick width, approximately twenty feet in from each corner. Centered in this panel, between the corner and the step back, each floor has a single 8/8 window. Just west of the second floor's westernmost window is a narrow, three pane window that lights a bathroom in the former judge's chamber. The windows on the rear are not regularly spaced; the large windows are clustered in the center 1/3 of the wall surface. On the second floor, there are three of the large windows, which consist of a single 8/8, hung window with 2/2 hung sidelights. A single pane transom is located above each sidelight and a four pane transom is over the 8/8 unit. On the first floor, flanking the loading dock, are oversize window units. These consist of 12/12 hung sashes with narrow, 3/3 hung sidelights. The loading dock projection is 16 feet wide and 9.5 feet deep. It has a flat roof with a concrete coping. Located on the wall above the roof is a wide clerestory window, roughly matching the transoms of the second floor windows. There is a single, steel door located on the east wall that is reached by concrete steps. Paired steel doors are centered on the north wall; a heavy lug sill, painted yellow, projects out from the wall surface. Below this sill, at grade level, there is a steel-wrapped bump guard. To the east of the loading dock is a concrete stairwell that leads to the basement. A single window is located on the basement wall in the well. A metal pipe rail protects the stairwell and also serves as a rail for the loading dock steps.

The east elevation is the secondary public façade and faces onto 10th Street. (photo #3) This elevation has been somewhat marred by the construction of a concrete wheelchair ramp. The fenestration is symmetrical. There are five windows on the second floor. The spacing is not identical; the three inner windows are slightly closer together and they are slightly smaller than the outer windows. All of the windows are 8/8, but the width of the inner three openings is less than the outer two. On the first floor, the pattern is the same, but in place of the southernmost window is a single entry door. This door is a steel and glass replacement, flanked by sidelights and topped by a five pane transom. A pair of carriage lights flanks this entry and a wooden sign board is located on the wall above. The ADA-compliant ramp and a set of concrete steps dominates the grade level of this elevation. The ramp slopes north to the parking area, and then back south to the side street. The steps exit straight east from the entry. Both the steps and the ramp have a steel balustrade.

The roof, hipped with a flat deck, has a wide overhang and a built-in gutter. The gutter downspouts and scuppers are located on the north and south sides, between the first and second windows on each elevation. The boxed eaves feature cyma-recta consoles alternating with diamond patterns on the soffit. A simple entablature, with a plain frieze and a dentiled cornice, wraps around the building just below the eaves. (photo #7)

Interior

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Woodward Federal Courthouse and Post Office
Woodward County, OklahomaSection number 7 Page 3

The interior of the federal building has seen the most change, although much of it is cosmetic. Spatially, the use of the building was segregated by floor. The basement and first floors were dedicated to the post office while the second floor served as offices and courtroom space for the federal district court.

The first floor served as the post office. The primary entry is from the south and the doors open into a small, wooden vestibule. (photo #4) This "airlock" is approximately 8'x10' and is constructed of oak. There is a pair of single light doors that open inward, flanked by half-height sidelights. The side walls have large, 15 pane fixed windows above a five panel knee wall. At each corner, pilasters are capped with stylized, fluted capitals that support an entablature that delineates the top of the vestibule. The roof of the vestibule is flat; above it the fanlight above the exterior door disappears behind. The floor plan features a U configuration. The work area, or sorting room of the post office, occupies the center/rear section. Public space wraps around it; offices are on the west end, a staircase is on the east end, and the lobby runs across the south side.

The floors are terrazzo, in 2x4 foot rectangles. The walls are plaster with a paneled wood wainscot. A marble base wraps around all interior walls, including the vestibule. The ceiling has been obscured by a dropped grid and acoustical tile. This dropped ceiling hides the window tops, but they are intact. The interior plaster walls have also been covered with a thin plastic panel system. Door and window surround, though, are original. The oak woodwork is stained a honey color; the surrounds are 4" flat boards with simple molds. The wainscot has a series of long panels and is capped with a chair rail. At the east end of the lobby is the secondary door, also set in a wooden vestibule, but proportionately smaller than the main door. A staircase is located north of this door and leads to the second floor. The stair makes two right angle turns and has two intermediate landings. The balustrade is iron, painted black, with simple picket stiles and a wooden rail. The stairs are marble, but have been covered with a rubberized, high traction coating. (photo #6)

The second floor is office space, primarily, with the courtroom occupying the center north area. On this floor, the wall treatment is the same as the first, wooden wainscot surmounted by plaster walls that have been covered with plastic sheeting. Dropped ceilings of acoustical tile do not obscure the transoms over the office doors, though. (photo #5) The floor is entered at the east end, via the staircase. A long hall extends to the west, and offices occupy the entire south and west sides. Individual offices retain elements of original material, especially in door and window surrounds. The walls have, for the most part, been paneled with thin, light plywood paneling. Immediately west of the stairs, a small hall leads to an office and the rest rooms. The restrooms retain much original fabric. The courtroom is off center on the north edge of the hall. It has two entrances, both with pocket doors and leather-clad swinging doors. The pocket doors are inoperable, due primarily to the carpeting that covers all floor surfaces. The paired swinging doors are set on large brass hinges. The black leather surface is studded with round fasteners that create a rectangular panel and that also surround the single, oval light centered high in each door. These windows have brass frames. The courtroom itself has been modernized with new carpet, furnishings, and dropped ceiling.

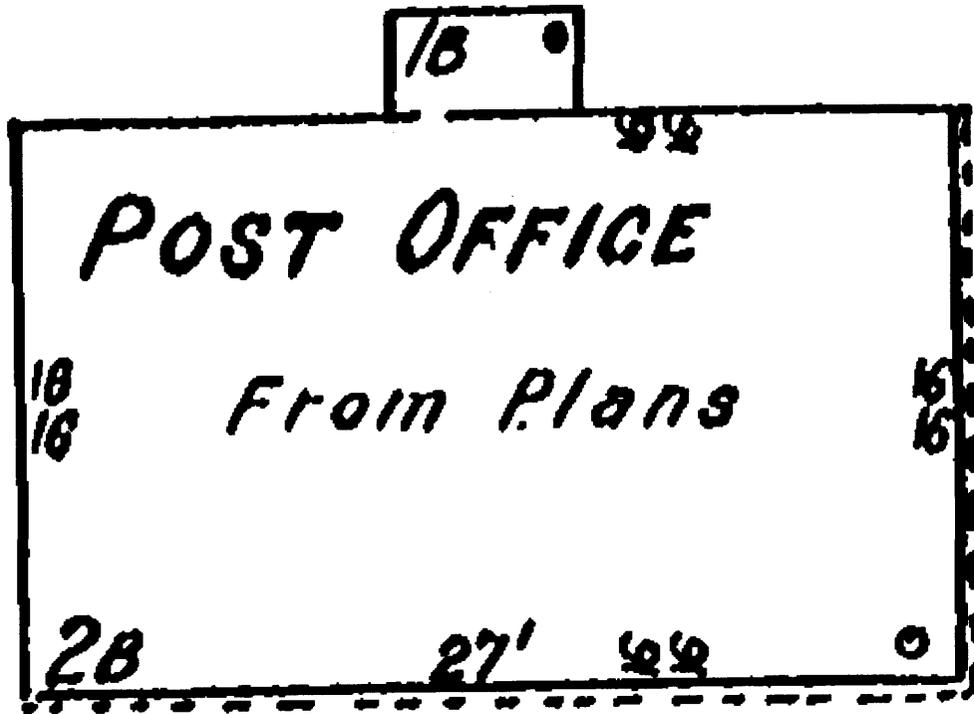
The building retains a high degree of integrity. Its location, setting, feeling, and association are intact. The materials are intact, although in some case obscured, but the design remains. The integrity of workmanship suffers, though, from the newer materials placed over the originals. As these are entirely located on the interior, and for the most part in less accessible spaces, this is less of a concern.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Woodward Federal Courthouse and Post Office
Woodward County, Oklahoma

Section number 7 Page 4



1920 Squiborn Map

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Woodward Federal Courthouse and Post Office
Woodward County, OklahomaSection number 8 Page 5 **SIGNIFICANCE**

The Woodward Federal Courthouse and Post Office building is a significant resource in the city of Woodward. Long anticipated in its construction, this Renaissance Revival style building is significant architecturally to the community. The grand and imposing nature of the style befits a building as important as the federal building, and there are few rivals for it in the city. It reflects the taste and trends in federal architecture in the period between the turn of the 20th century and the Great Depression. The building also reflects the competition to acquire public, especially federal, buildings as a signal of success. The City of Woodward and its congressman, Representative Dick Morgan, lobbied successfully to receive a substantial appropriation for the building, whose construction was delayed by the country's entry into the Great War.

Background

The city of Woodward is not only the county seat of Woodward County, it is the largest city in northwest Oklahoma. Located in the northwest corner of the state, adjacent to the panhandle, Woodward boasts a population of nearly 15,000. It is located on the bank of the North Canadian River, just down river from Camp (later Fort) Supply, a military establishment created during George Custer's Indian Campaign of 1868. It was from Camp Supply that Custer made his way south to ambush Black Kettle's band of Cheyenne as they camped for the winter on the banks of the Washita River.

Woodward had its beginnings in 1887 when the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe railroad established a siding and roundhouse at a point along their line through western Oklahoma from Kiowa, Kansas and into the panhandle of Texas. Though one of a number of sidings placed along the route though the Cherokee Outlet, the Woodward siding soon became the most important; it became the primary shipping point for freight going in and out of Fort Supply, twelve miles to the west. The siding was located near the military road that connected Fort Supply with Cantonment and Fort Reno, to the southwest. Although the Cherokee Outlet would not be opened for settlement until 1893, the Woodward siding attracted a number of businesses catering to both the military traffic and to the cattle ranches that leased Outlet land.

Woodward, whose name origin is disputed, nonetheless received a post office in February, 1893, six months before the Outlet was opened to settlement. Woodward was selected as a Government Land Office location in preparation for the land run, which commenced at noon on September 16, 1893. The Land Office was located in the center of a government plat, which, due to a survey error, was located west of the already established Santa Fe depot, roundhouse, and siding. The first day of the run, a townsite was claimed and platted on the 160 acres that surrounded the depot, creating rival towns. Denver, as the rival plat was named, was oriented to the rail line; Woodward to the cardinal directions. Where the two plats abutted, there was created a jog that remains today at Division Street.

Woodward and Denver, later East Woodward, were eventually joined into one entity, spurred on by the relocation of the Santa Fe depot to a spot near Division Street. And while trade with Fort Supply was an initial economic driving force for the town, it was agriculture and cattle ranching that became the basis for the local economy. The town, located on a major railroad, became a shipping point not only for cattle, but for carload after carload of broomcorn, kaffir corn, and later wheat. In 1912, the Wichita Falls & Northwestern (later the M-K-T) railroad pushed into Woodward from the south, linking the area to markets such as Fort Worth and Oklahoma City (via Elk City).

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Woodward Federal Courthouse and Post Office
Woodward County, OklahomaSection number 8 Page 6

Woodward experienced steady, if unspectacular growth. In seven years, from the Run of 1893 to the census of 1900, more than 2,000 people called the city home. By 1920, that number had almost doubled. At the end of World War II, nearly 6,000 people lived within the city limits. The year 1947 brought a defining moment to the city; a tornado swept from southwest to northeast through the heart of Woodward. The April 9, 1947 tornado flattened 200 square blocks and killed over 100 citizens. Residential areas and much of downtown suffered incredible damage, but the "western resilience" of this old frontier town led the people of Woodward to rebuild. The city continued to grow, spurred on by oil and gas field discoveries in the 1950s and 1960s until the population settled in around 15,000 in the mid 1990s.

There has always been a federal presence in Woodward. Woodward was the main shipping point for supplies in and out of Fort Supply. It was the location of a Government Land Office from the opening of the Cherokee Outlet in 1893 until statehood. Just west of Woodward is the Southern Plains Range Research Station of the USDA; the field station was opened as the Great Plains Field Station in 1913.

Federal Courthouse and Post Office

Attracting a federal construction project for a town in your district seemed to be the goal of every congressman. It was a sign that you were working for the best interests of your district and that you had achieved some clout in Washington. Woodward resident, and 2nd District Congressman Dick Morgan delivered for his constituency. In February, 1913, Congressman Morgan wired home to Woodward the news that the city was in line to get \$110,000 for the construction of a federal building. Included in an omnibus building bill wending its way through the approval process in the House of Representatives, Woodward's promised allotment was nearly 1/3 of the \$370,000 to be given to the entire state. When the bill finally passed, in early march, 1913, Woodward's promise of \$110,000 was secure, along with \$250,000 for Oklahoma City, \$100,000 for Tulsa, \$80,000 for Durant, \$55,000 for Chandler, and \$10,000 each for Frederick and Hobart. Senators Owen and Gore were responsible for the increase and geographic distribution of the "pork."

No friend of Congressman Morgan, a Republican, the *Woodward Democrat* nonetheless heralded the news in an editorial on February 21, 1913: "Woodward is elated, tickled, all stuck up and feel (sic) her oats, you bet! The House Committee on Public Buildings has reported favorably and attached to the omnibus building bill, recommending \$110,000 for a federal building at Woodward. Representative Morgan deserves much praise for his efforts on behalf of Woodward and every citizen resident of this city, regardless of politics, is loud in praise of Mr. Morgan's untiring zeal in securing this appropriation, which, tacked onto the omnibus bill, practically insures its enactment. Woodward is feeling rather chesty, and with the fine federal building at an early date and other great things in prospect, will continue her onward march."

Such an announcement caused some consternation and even jealousy in other towns. Newspaper published Henry J. Allen of Wichita, Kansas, raised hackles in Woodward with his inflammatory article "Opening Big barrel of Juiciest Pork," in which he decried the appropriation of \$110,000 for Woodward, a town 'not on the map.' The *Woodward Democrat* responded that citizens and members of congress are well aware that Woodward is indeed "on the map." In a February 28, 1913 article, the *Democrat* notes that: "Woodward is a federal city, that is a Federal Court is held here... Woodward... has one of the largest land office(s) in the United States..." The Woodward Land Office's receipts for 1912 almost equaled those of the entire state of Kansas, according to the article, which goes on to extol the virtues of Woodward's second class post office and the great amount of

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Woodward Federal Courthouse and Post Office
Woodward County, OklahomaSection number 8 Page 7

freight and other business handled by its two railroads.

Woodward was in the midst of a small building boom in 1913. Directly across the street from the site eventually chosen for the new federal building a three story hotel of sixty rooms, the Baker Hotel, was completed. Five new brick commercial buildings were erected on Main Street within a block of the Baker Hotel. However, the decision on where to construct the new federal building was not yet finalized.

By the time a site was selected and purchased, at the northwest corner of Main Avenue and 10th Street, but before construction bids were issued, a stumbling block arose which would derail construction. The Great War intervened to temporarily halt the funding of this and many federal construction projects. While the federal government maintained an isolationist stance regarding entry into the war, it did cut back on many of its expenditures. The Woodward federal building remained in limbo for the duration.

The end of the war brought rejoicing in Woodward and across the country. It also brought, after a short respite, a resurgence in construction in all sectors, public and private. During the war, the Woodward Chamber of Commerce wired Congressman Morgan a voluntary withdrawal of its claim for early construction of its promised federal building. Morgan duly noted the patriotic language of the letter and promised that Woodward was still a priority. With the signing of the armistice, the Chamber of Commerce again sent letters to Morgan, lobbying for construction of their promised building.

Representative Morgan wired good news to his constituents in Woodward. A short notice in the *Daily Oklahoman* on December 1, 1918, less than a month after the armistice was signed, announced that "architect's drawings will be completed in thirty days and advertisement for bids will be started immediately thereafter." On May 12, 1919 the *Daily Oklahoman* in a special report touted the progress being made in Woodward, "enjoying probably its greatest building boom," announcing that many new bungalows were under construction and that the new federal building contract had been awarded. The *Woodward News-Bulletin*, on the same day, named the contract winner – Henry & Hatfield Construction of Indianapolis, Indiana, would begin work on June 9, 1919. The article noted that due to high materials costs, that the original appropriation of \$110,000 would not be enough to furnish the building and that Representative Morgan anticipated additional monies could be appropriated. Work actually commenced on June 12, 1919 with Edward Henry as the superintendent. Henry and his wife moved to Woodward, anticipating over a year of work.

Work was steady in the construction of the building. Material shortages, though slowed progress. It was April, 1921 before the building was completed and opened for business. A front page article in the *Woodward News-Bulletin* extolled the virtues of the completed building: "The workmanship, materials, and finish entering into the building are of a high class and the whole is a credit to Woodward and to Messrs. Henry & Hatfield, who built it." The article describes the uses of the floors, with the courtroom, judges chambers, and court offices located on the second floor, the first floor given over to the post office, and the basement to utilities, lockers and dressing rooms, and storage.

Unfortunately, Congressman Dick Morgan did not live to see the completion of his pet project. In the middle of his term in the newly-designated 8th District, Morgan passed away. In an article on April 29, 1919, extolling the Congressman's virtues and the opening of the new building, the *Woodward Democrat* did bring a sour note to the otherwise festive occasion. The newspaper noted that "The post office department is hardly sufficient for the needs of our city... The growth of Woodward in the next five years will require an addition to the building..." While the addition never came, the post office did leave for a new facility in 1964.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Woodward Federal Courthouse and Post Office
Woodward County, OklahomaSection number 8 Page 8

Architecture

The plans for the building came out of the Treasury Department, with James A Whetmore as the Supervising Architect. The Renaissance Revival style of the building reflects the federal government's typical use of monumental and picturesque revival styles. Classical Revival, Neo-Classical and Beaux Arts Classical are the typical styles used in federal buildings of this time period in Oklahoma. The courthouse/post offices of Tulsa, Oklahoma City, McAlester, Muskogee, Enid, Chickasha and Lawton all used a Classical vocabulary, with colonnades or pilasters, symmetrical facades, and ample Greek ornament. The federal buildings in Woodward, though, relied more on the Renaissance Revival detailing, for its impressive street presence. The dominant features of the building are its first floor openings. The symmetrical placement of the over-sized, round arch openings, the hipped roof with widely overhanging eaves, and the horizontal nature of the building are hallmarks of the style. The form of the building is referred to by Richard Longstreth in his 1987 book The Buildings of Main Street as an arcaded block, "characterized by a series of tall, evenly spaced, round arch openings across a wide façade with no separate bracketing elements at the ends," and that the "type is ultimately derived from loggias – great arcaded porches – built in Italian cities during the Renaissance."

There are two other monumental public buildings in Woodward, the county courthouse and the Convention Hall. The Woodward County Courthouse is a Depression-era project that utilizes the stylized classicism that has come to be known as PWA Deco. The stylized pilasters and Greek ornament of the building do not compare with the federal building stylistically. The Convention Hall, though, does retain a great deal of Renaissance Revival feel to it. Built in 1917 and designed by the noted Oklahoma City firm of Hawk & Parr, the yellow brick Convention Hall matches the federal building in massing and ornament. However, its integrity has been diminished first by two additions – the fire station and the city hall – that were added in to 1930s by the WPA, and second by the alteration of the roofline, possibly after the 1947 tornado. The original design of the building featured a two-story lobby section with a prominent portico. The auditorium section, three stories in height, had a scalloped parapet centered over the lobby section. This has been removed. The fire station and the city hall are added on the west and east sides, respectively, and subsequent additions to *those* additions use materials other than brick. The overall effect is to severely diminish the historic character of the building. There are a scattering of houses in Woodward that fall under the Renaissance Revival style, but none have the monumentality of the federal building.

The Woodward Federal Courthouse and Post Office is the best example of Renaissance Revival style architecture in Woodward. Its location on a prominent corner in downtown adds to its presence in the city. It is the most prominent public building in the downtown and it reflects trends in governmental architectural preference in the period 1900-1930. It retains a high degree of historic integrity and is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, at the local level of significance.

Government/Politics

As the editor of the *Woodward Democrat* pointed out, "Woodward is a federal town." The federal presence was evident in Woodward from the moment the first train arrived at the newly-laid siding with materials for Fort Supply. The Land Office and the location of a branch federal district court for Oklahoma Territory solidified its claim as "a federal town." The Organic Act of 1890 placed the Oklahoma Territory federal court in the Territorial capitol of Guthrie. It was in 1910 that the offices of

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the Western District Court moved to Oklahoma City with the capitol, although court sessions were still held in Guthrie. In 1911, the smaller district courts were designated. Courts operated in Guthrie, Oklahoma City, Enid, Lawton and Woodward. The Woodward federal district court served a ten county area that included the panhandle and the northwestern-most counties. A population of over 140,000 citizens was thus represented. Federal court dockets were held each November in Woodward until 1948 and sporadically thereafter.

Towns across the state vied for federal plums – post offices being the most common federal construction activity. Woodward benefited in 1913 by being an already established court town and by having a congressional representative in a position to push for a large allocation. Rather than a small post office, Woodward was allotted a combination Courthouse and Post Office building of substantial size. Woodward benefited as well by the location of the Great Plains Field Station just outside of the city limits. This Department of Agriculture research station was established in 1913, the same year that the appropriation for the federal building was pushed through congress. It is apparent that the new state of Oklahoma wielded some influence in the federal legislature, and that Woodward's representative actively promoted his district.

The Woodward Federal Courthouse and Post Office represents the considerable federal presence in the city. The building served a dual role – as a judicial seat of the federal government and as a place where federal services were doled out on a daily basis. Until the post office moved out in 1964, the building stood as an elegant representative of the federal government's role in the daily life of Woodward.

The building is significant locally for its role as a significant federal presence Woodward as well as for its architectural significance at the local level. It retains a high degree of historic integrity and warrants inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 10, 11, and 12 of Block 53, Original Town

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Includes the property historically associated with the Woodward Federal Courthouse and Post Office