

PH0501211

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

JUL 20 1977

DATE ENTERED

JAN 20 1978

**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

\*\*

Kingfisher Post Office

AND/OR COMMON

The "Old" Post Office

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Main and Robberts

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Kingfisher

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

No. 6

STATE

Oklahoma

CODE

40

COUNTY

Kingfisher

CODE

073

**CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

**OWNERSHIP**

**STATUS**

**PRESENT USE**

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

**ACCESSIBLE**

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER: Vacant

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

United States Postal Service

STREET & NUMBER

475 L'Enfant Plaza

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

VICINITY OF

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the County Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

Kingfisher County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Kingfisher

STATE

Oklahoma

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Special Post Office Survey

DATE

1976

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Post Office was contracted to Dieter & Wenzil Company of Joplin, Missouri. Construction began October 1, 1912, was completed September 1, 1913 - at a cost of \$46,000. The site is approximately 156 x 135 feet, fronting east on Main Street. The building itself, also fronting on Main, is 80 x 46 feet.

Of buff-colored stucco with a red-tile roof, the Post Office sits well off the ground, over a full basement that accommodates boiler, fuel, janitor, and storage rooms. On the main floor the high-ceilinged work area is flanked by mezzanines on either side. These mezzanines are delineated by broad projecting sections on the front exterior. Within these projected wall sections the strongly classic main entrance is divided into thirds by four three-quarter-height pilasters topped by modified Ionic capitals.

One other distinguishing architectural feature would be the rather massive cornice brackets that carry the overhanging hipped roof on all four sides. Simulated keystones feature the window cornices. Otherwise the building is relatively unornamented and not unhandsome.

Back of the building is quite plain, with a crude box-like shelter built over the loading platform and rear entrance. Balance of the site is paved for parking.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Miscellaneous Materials (newspaper clippings, interviews, etc.) collected by the Chisholm Trail Museum, Kingfisher

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>14</u>	<u>59,634,5</u>	<u>3,96,92,1,9</u>	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Kent Ruth, Deputy

ORGANIZATION

Oklahoma Historical Society

DATE

February 1977

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

Harry L. Doubree M.D.

DATE

7-14-77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Charles Scheraga

DATE

1.20.78

DATE

1.17.78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

# 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/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 type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1912 to 1976

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Dieter & Wenzil Company  
Joplin, Missouri

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The area surrounding Kingfisher was well known long before "Old Oklahoma" was opened to settlement by "run" on April 22, 1889. The storied Chisholm Trail ran just east of the town site. The town itself was laid out on land of a cattleman named King Fisher, who had also operated a stage line and maintained a stage station. Government officials designated the town-to-be as location for a land office where claimants to land "won" in the run could file their claims.

Kingfisher was thus off to something of a federally-sanctioned head start and it made the most of it, becoming in early Oklahoma Territory days one of northwestern Oklahoma's most important towns. It boasted respected Kingfisher College for a number of years. And for a time it nurtured dreams of wresting the capital from Guthrie. In 1892 the Oklahoma (Territory) Press Association was organized there, which group in turn established the Oklahoma Historical Society. In 1892, too, Judge Abraham J. Seay, whose jurisdiction extended as far to the north and west as the Oklahoma Panhandle, was appointed the second governor of Oklahoma Territory.

From 1889 to the present one patch of ground in Kingfisher has been intimately associated with the growth and development of the town - the northwest corner of the intersection of Main and Robberts. This so-called "Government Acre" was reserved for official use and it has remained federal property ever since. On the site was erected the Government Land Office - a plain, false-fronted frame building, completed just in time to open its doors April 23. The "run" for land began at noon on April 22. That night a long line of homesteaders began to form, hoping to be among the first to file with government registrars. When the office opened on April 23, Kingfisher (and several other Oklahoma Territory registry points) had a "land office rush" - and the English language had a picturesque new expression.

\* \* \*

With the land office the Government Acre soon accommodated the post office. The town's first postmaster arrived April 29, a week after the run. He set up shop in a tent near the land office. For a short period postal service was transferred to a frame building across the street. By the turn of the century, however, the post office moved back onto the Government Acre - into a one-story brick building erected beside the frame land office. Both were torn down to make way for a new Post Office. Moved into Sept. 15, 1913, it is the still handsome two-story structure now being nominated. It served continuously until 1976, when a larger facility was opened.

The Post Office building and the Government Acre on which it stands have thus together spanned the entire 88-year history of Kingfisher. South edge of the property

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

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Kingfisher Post Office

is marked by Robberts Avenue, honoring Jacob C. Robberts of David City, Nebraska, appointed Register of the U. S. land office for the Western District of Oklahoma. Also in Kingfisher is Admire Avenue, for the land office's first Receiver, Jacob V. Admire of Osage City, Kansas.

\* \* \*

If the City of Kingfisher is successful in its attempt to acquire the now empty Post Office building, it plans to move into it the city library, now occupying cramped quarters in City Hall. Then, fittingly enough, Government Acre would again be serving the Kingfisher area in yet another way as it has now for nearly a century.