

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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Continuation sheet

Item number 7

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4. Bank of Bigheart (Barnsdall) (~~No. 4 on Sketch Map and Photo Nos. 16-20~~) S

Location: 308 ~~West~~ Main St.
Barnsdall, OK 74002

Owner of Property: Maudie Mae Siggins
R. R. #1
Barnsdall, OK 74002

Description:

The Bank of Bigheart is a two-story, native sandstone, commercial building with coursed ashlar finish. It is approximately 25' X 70" and has a flat roof with 3' parapet on all sides except the rear. It is adjoined on the east by a two-story commercial building.

The facade (south side) contains a large traditional Richardsonian Romanesque arched window opening with voussoirs. The window consists of one large fixed pane flanked by two smaller fixed panes in lower part and a combination of six square and quarter-round lights in the upper portion. The window has retained original wood mullions. There is also on the facade's first floor a single door with fixed pane and topped with rough stone lintel. The first floor of the west side has the Richardsonian Romanesque round arched opening similar in design and pane arrangement to the one in the south. To the north of the large arched opening are two 1/1 double-hung wood windows with rough stone wood lintels and lug sills. There are two doors in the center of west side first floor. Both are wood panel type with light in upper half and transomed. There is one fixed pane window with transom to the north of the doors. On the north end of the west side's first floor are two store front openings now covered with wood paneling. The one to the south has double metal doors and four small fixed pane windows flanking the double doors. The other paneled section has two sets of paired, small, fixed pane windows. The second floor of the west side has nine 1/1 double-hung wood windows with rough stone lintels and sills. The original wood trim surrounds remain intact. The rear above the one-story adjacent building includes two 1/1 double-hung wood windows set in the random ashlar wall. The east side adjoins another two-story building. The cutaway entry has round arched door opening with half-round transom. There is a wood panel door with lights in the round arched first floor of the cutaway entry. A rough stone cornice is located above entry door. The second floor of the cutaway entry has one 1/1 double-hung wood window with stone lintel and lug sill. Decorative elements of the building consist of the large, round arched window openings flanking the cutaway entry, nine short chimneys near the west wall, crenellation (battlements) marking corners of the parapet, and an alternating rough stone and smooth masonry decorative frieze. Alterations include replacement of display windows on north end of west side with wood paneled fronts and some minor changes in door openings.

Statement of Significance:

The Bank of Bigheart, erected in 1911, is both historically and architecturally significant because: (1) it is the oldest surviving commercial building in Bigheart (now Barnsdall) and among the four oldest banks in Osage County, and (2) it is one of the finest representations of Richardsonian Romanesque architecture as applied to a commercial building in Osage County.

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The bank served as the only operations of its kind in the community until the 1930s when it was forced to close due to the depression. Since that time, it has housed a variety of businesses including a drug store, license tag agency, and tavern on the first floor; and professional office space on the second.

Richardsonian Romanesque vocabulary includes the round arched entrance in the cutaway corner, the two large round arched openings flanking the entry, and straight-topped, deeply-recessed windows. Characteristic of the style, decorative elements are modest, however, crenellation marks corners of the parapet and there is a decorative frieze composed of alternating rough stone and smooth masonry features. The building has retained its historic and architectural integrity for more than 70 years.

Quadrangle Name: Barnsdall, Oklahoma

Scale: 7.5 minutes

UTM: 14/754040/4049830

Verbal Boundary Description: Lots 1-2, Block 24, Original Townsite of Barnsdall, OK.