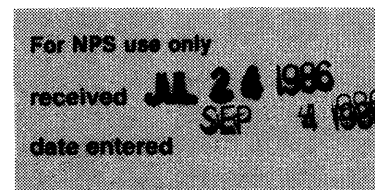


**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Surety Building

Item number

Page 1

2. Location

117 North Third  
Muskogee, Oklahoma 74401

4. Property Owner

Howard L. Garrett  
2715 Boston  
Muskogee, Oklahoma 74401

7. Description

The Surety Building is an eight-story commercial structure constructed in 1910. It is finished with red brick (laid in running bond course), marble, and glazed terra cotta. The building is rectangular in shape (approximately 55' x 120') and has a flat roof.

The first floor base on north and east sides is light-colored marble and has a plain cornice. These first floor marbled sides which face Third and Broadway Streets are punctuated with large display windows. The north and east sides each have large canopied entryways. Flanking these entryways are decorative terra cotta treatments of foliage and above each door are terra cotta gargoyles. The first floor display windows are separated by marble pilaster-like mullions with terra cotta foliage at capitals.

Although the window arrangement and brick finish is similar to upper six stories, the second floor on north and east sides is delineated by an ornately decorated cornice with a foliage treatment. The second through eighth stories on north and east sides have paired 1/1 double-hung sash windows. On the east side the paired windows are grouped in three vertical bands separated by brick pilasters. The north side paired windows are grouped in seven vertical bands separated also by brick pilasters. The eighth floor windows on the north and east sides are topped with elaborate terra cotta lintels and keys.

Fenestration in the rear wall consists of a ribbon-like arrangement of five 2/2 double-hung sash windows on floors two through eight. The first floor rear has three casement-type windows. A glass door with transom is located in rear wall and fire escape stairing is located on floors two through eight.

On west side, there is a two-story adjoining building. Above the two-story adjacent building on west side, there is a setback of approximately 10' x 40' in center of wall. The setback has four 2/2 double-hung sash windows on floors three through eight. The flanking wings each have two 2/2 double-hung sash windows on floors three through eight on exterior walls and one 3/3 double-hung sash window on interior walls for floors three through eight.

The Surety Building possesses many Chicago School characteristics, especially the influence of Louis Sullivan design. There is terra cotta relief ornamentation on first and second floor cornices and above the eighth floor fenestration. The Sullivan-esque vocabulary is also reflected in the vertical bands of windows rising to a boldly projecting cornice. The roof level cornice features white terra cotta dentils on north and east sides.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

data entered

Continuation sheet Surety Building

Item number

Page 2

The canopied entryways were added in the 1920s when McEntee's Diamond Store occupied the first floor. Although some windows have been replaced, the basic structure as well as all decorative elements remain intact.

10. Geographical Data

- a. Less than one acre
- b. Southeast Muskogee, Oklahoma 7.5"
- c. Zone 15 Easting 285580  
Northing 3958520
- d. East 50' of Lot 3, Block 7, Original Townsite of Muskogee, Oklahoma.