

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER Various PAGE 13

Bank of Gage

Location: 18 Main Street, Gage, Oklahoma, Ellis County, 73843.

Owner of Property: Bonnie F. Sapp, 18 Main Street, Gage, Oklahoma 73843.

Description: Condition-Fair; original site.

This two-story brick building measures 60'x120' and was originally constructed to house both the bank and an adjacent store. The flat-roofed structure has a composition roof of tar and three chimneys, one of which projects above the roofline. Only three elevations of the building are visible, the south elevation being connected to a row of commercial buildings. The building rests on a concrete foundation and full length brick pilasters accent the visible corners of the building. A machicolated beltcourse and cornice decorate the building. The main entranceway to the bank is on a recessed wall at the northeast corner of the building, with the second floor of the building projecting forward to complete the rectangular shape of the building. The northeast corner of the building is supported by a single, square, unfluted column constructed of brick. The entranceway is a single wood door with a full glass insert and appears to have been originally flanked by full side lights, however, these sidelight panels are covered with plywood. A three pane toplight measuring 3'x6' covers the entire entranceway. The east elevation of the building has a full store built in the left or southern part of this elevation and has a recessed central entranceway flanked by full, fixed display windows, measuring 6'x6'. Clearestory windows over the display windows have been sealed over with plywood. The northern half of this elevation has a large window that measures 6'x8' and permitted light to enter the bank. This window also had toplights that are now sealed. The second floor fenestration consists of three double, double-hung windows with wood sills and two single, double-hung sill windows arranged from south to north in an adequate spaced pattern of two doubles, one single, one double and one single. A large metal awning covers the portion of the elevation that was the bank and is mounted above the bank's picture window. The north elevation of the structure is somewhat similar to the east elevation. An identical window for the bank is placed in an approximate location to its twin on the east elevation but the toplight to the window is exposed showing a set of three lights with the center light being divided equally along a horizontal plane. This window also has an awning identical to the east elevation. An addition was built on the west elevation that extends this elevation but the date of erection is not available. The addition is similar to a small commercial store. A central entranceway is flanked by 4'x4' fixed windows that have a triple toplight. The remainder of the first floor of this elevation has a side entranceway to the bank that is a single wood door with a single 2x2 glass insert. A 2'x2' transom is mounted above the door. A single double-hung window is mounted to each side of the door. The second floor of this elevation originally had five windows similar to those of the second floor east side. One single, double-hung and four double, double-hung windows were arranged with the single window at the easternmost part of the elevation. The addition has two paired, double-hung windows, one above each of the first floor display windows and a single, double-hung window above the first floor door. The west elevation has been stuccoed and has a single wood door and four single, double-hung windows. The

(See continuation sheet #14)

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building does have a full basement used for storage. The bank portion of the building is now used for storage and still has the pressed tin ceiling and the original vault. The second floor of the building has been remodeled into apartments but only one is presently occupied. The adjoining stores are also vacant.

Significance: 1901- Architect/Builder: S.A. McMannis (builder).

This building housed the first banking facility to serve both the town of Gage and what would eventually become Ellis County. The building was constructed by S.A. McMannis and designated the Bank of Gage. Chartered on 6 June 1901, the original stockholders were S.A. McMannis, Elsie Daniels, and Jake Pryor. The bank served the many needs of the community for years until it was robbed in 1920. Most of the bank records were destroyed and the bank was unable to recover from the loss. The Bank of Gage merged with the Farmers State Bank of 22 October 1921. During its existence the bank helped both settlers and businessmen get a financial foothold in this area of the county and gave its subscribers a sense of well-being by providing for their many needs. After the merger of the bank, the building continued to house a number of local businesses. Lippincott Hardware, Millers Hardware, Baxters Drugstore, Brownie Tiffin's Pool Hall, E.H. Ball Dry Goods, and Johnson's Mortuary. By the 1960's, the bank building itself was used for storage, but additions to the building continued to provide shelter for other businesses and community groups. For many years, a barber shop was in operation in the addition to the rear of the main building and the upstairs has been converted to apartments. Youth groups and senior citizens also meet in these facilities.

Acreeage: Less than one acre. Quadrangle Name: Gage. 7.5.

Verbal Boundary Description: Lot 1 & 3. Block 4, Original town of Gage. Section 3, Township 21N, R24, SE $\frac{1}{2}$ , SW $\frac{1}{2}$  and SW $\frac{1}{2}$ , SE $\frac{1}{2}$ .

UTM: Zone 14

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