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

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

For NPS use only received MAY 2 3 1984 date entered JUN 2 2 1984

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms

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### 7. Description

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#### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Oklahoma State Bank, constructed in 1908, is a two-story commercial building which stands on the northwest corner of Baty and Main Street in downtown Mulhall, Oklahoma. It is adjoined on the north by a one-story vacant commercial building and on the west by a narrow alley located between west wall and a one-story building. It is finished with coursed ashlar native sandstone on east and south walls and random ashlar native sandstone on north and west walls. The floor plan is square-shaped with cutaway entry on the southeast corner of the building.

The east side has three 1/1 sash windows in first floor and four 1/1 sash windows in the second. A wood panel door is located on the north end of the east side's first floor.

The south wall has two 1/1 sash windows in both the first and second stories.

The second story wall on the north has two 1/1 sash windows above the one-story adjacent building.

The west wall (alley side) has two 1/l sash windows in each floor and a rear wood panel exit door.

The cutaway entry on the southeast corner of the building has one 1/1 sash window in the second floor and a double wood panel door in the entryway. There are two interior chimney stacks near west wall.

Decorative elements include round arches which frame all door and window openings. These arches have keystone elements over first floor windows and entrance door. The cutaway entry is framed by sandstone pilaster and there is similar pilaster at each corner. A coursed ashlar string course delineates first and second floors and lug sills are used below all windows.

One of the most impressive features of the building is the pressed tin cornice with exquisite detailing. The cornice is highlighted with minature dentils and molded sunrise elements set between brackets. There is extensive use of finials and gargoyle-type decoration at the corners of the cornice. Above the cornice of the cutaway entry is a molded ornament treated with a sunrise, or wagonwheel, pattern.

Although a new bank building was constructed in 1982 and banking operations were moved from the nominated property, great care has been used in maintenance of the building and retention of its architectural integrity. Special maintenance crews have recently painted the metal cornice and repaired the flooring of the interior. Future plans for use of the building include arts, crafts, and historic artifact displays drawn from the local area and as a focal point for community events and annual celebrations.

## 8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400-1499 1500-1599 1600-1699 1700-1799 1800-1899X 1900-	agriculture  X architecture  art X commerce communications		 science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation
Specific dates	1908 - 1982	Builder/Architect Unkr	 

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Oklahoma State Bank Building is historically and architecturally significant because: (1) chartered in 1908 it was the first bank in Mulhall and is the oldest existing commercial structure in the town which retains its architectural integrity, (2) it remained in operation from 1908 to 1982 making it one of the oldest banks in continuous service in Logan County, and (3) it is one of the oldest and best remaining examples in north central Oklahoma of the Richardsonian Romanesque style applied to a commercial building.

Founded in 1908, the Oklahoma State Bank was the first such commercial enterprise in Mulhall, a small agricultural community established shortly after the Land Run of 1889 which opened Oklahoma Territory for settlement. The original owners of the bank included D. C. Dwinnell, John and Ed Donohoe, and George Buford.

Like many small Oklahoma towns, Mulhall experienced fires, the Great Depression of the 1930s, and other periods of economic recession. Yet through these periods of economic and social instability, the Oklahoma State Bank continued to provide banking services such as cash for transactions, loans for capital investment, and a secure place for depositors and investors.

The Oklahoma State Bank building's architecture is one of the best existing examples of the Richardsonian Romanesque style in north central Oklahoma as applied to a commercial structure. The effective and straightforward use of native sandstone gives the building an overall sense of mass and heaviness characteristic of H. H. Richardson's style. The coursed ashlar finish provides both horizontal and rough texture to the building. The use of round arches in framing the door and window openings further emphasize the Richardsonian Romanesque vocabulary. Giving further stylistic treatment to the building are the use of water table elements above first and second story windows, lug sills below windows, and recessed window openings arranged in rows. The only departure from the Richardsonian Romanesque vocabulary is the decorative tin cornice which includes minature dentils, molded sunrise elements, and extensive use of brackets and finials.

For 74 years the Oklahoma State Bank building played a significant role in the commercial history of Logan County by remaining a strong financial institution during periods of economic uncertainty and for 75 years has retained its architectural integrity making it one of the best surviving examples of Richardsonian Romanesque architecture applied to a north central Oklahoma commercial structure.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Interview: Jim Patterson, September, 1983, Mulhall, OK.

Logan County History Vol. II.

Oklahoma Travel Handbook by Kent Ruth

**Geographical Data** Acreage of nominated property less than 1 acre Quadrangle scale 1:24,000 Quadrangle name Mulhall Oklahoma **UTM** References Verbal boundary description and justification Lot 10, Block 11, Original Townsite of Mulhall, OK List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries state code county code N/A state code county code Form Prepared By Claudia Ahmad Supervised by Dr. George O. Carney name/title date December, 1983 organization Department of Geography telephone 405-624-6250 street & number Oklahoma State University 0klahoma 74078 city or town Stillwater state State Historic Preservation Officer Certification The evaluated significance of this property within the state is: X local national \_ state 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. 5/16/84 State Historic Preservation Officer signature title date For NPS use only I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register Grosvenz Keeper of the National Register Attest: date Chief of Registration