

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Citizens Bank Building

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 107 E. 9th Street \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Stillwater \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district No. 6

state Oklahoma code 40 county Payne code 119

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name City of Stillwater, Department of Community Development (Brad Gambill, Director)

street & number 723 S. Lewis

city, town Stillwater \_\_\_ vicinity of state Oklahoma

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the County Clerk

street & number Payne County Courthouse

city, town Stillwater state Oklahoma

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Oklahoma Comprehensive Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1978  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Oklahoma Historical Society

city, town Oklahoma City state Oklahoma

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## 7. Description

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**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved      date \_\_\_\_\_

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

The Citizens Bank building is one of a group of three commercial structures facing north on East Ninth Street, just off Stillwater's Main Street and within the city's Central Business District. The former bank is a one story sandstone and brick masonry constructed building.

The Citizens Bank is a modestly conceived commercial structure with eighteen inch thick walls of locally quarried red sandstone laid up with a sand and lime mortar in a coursed ashlar pattern. The rock faced stone is used on three walls with a brick party wall on the west. The main facade is divided into two strong design elements; an arcade of round-headed windows and entrance door all topped with lunettes each trimmed in squares of colored glass and an entablature. The latter begins with a string course dividing the lower level from the upper. The architrave is a plain band of sandstone blocks with three recessed areas that align with the keystones of the arcades below. The remainder of the entablature consists of a pressed tin frieze and cornice. The overall facade design then stresses the horizontal flow of the stone courses, the arcading, and large lights. That movement is relieved by vertical minor accents that suggest bays. Each arch defines a bay. Its keystone aligns with a recess in the architrave. Each bay is further defined by brackets in the cornice.

Decorative detailing is limited to ploychomy and moulded elements--limestone sills, steps, impost blocks, keystones and string course--raised rosettes and leaf forms in the frieze, mouldings and a name plate in the cornice, and pinnacles on the brackets (one is missing as is a date plate which sat on the name plate).

The original brass hardware is still part of the first panel and glass door. The interior had an oak floor, sand plaster walls, and a "ceiling board" (2" tongue and groove) ceiling. The wall coverings are the original. The ceiling had been recovered, following a fire, with Celetex. The original floor has been removed to accommodate excavation, termite treatment and rehabilitation. One back window has been filled in by the new construction outside the bank. The interior space is one large space, 22' x 30' with a 16' ceiling height.

# 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
	<input type="checkbox"/> invention			

Specific dates 1894 Builder/Architect

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Citizens Bank building's historical significance centers upon the strength of its design and its commercial history. Stillwater plays a major role in the birth of Oklahoma and the bank's design reflects the enthusiasm and commitment of the territorial people of the Stillwater area. Citizens Bank is the oldest existing commercial building in the city and only one of two buildings which reflect the robust Romanesque revival styles that characterize many public and commercial buildings in the last quarter of the Nineteenth Century. The use of this structure also suggests the boom of frontier commercialism as more than a dozen businesses occupy the space from 1894-1936.

In 1891 Mary J. Hand bought Lot 6 of Block 43 of Original Town Stillwater and her husband Henry E. Hand, first president of the bank, built Citizens Bank in 1894. George Brock is reported to be the contractor. In 1900 the bank acquired a national charter and moved to larger quarters as the National Bank of Commerce. After the bank moved out these businesses moved in successively: a harness and bridle shop (which later sold automobile tops), a barber shop with Stillwater's first beauty shop, a cafe, a Justice of the Peace who at various times ran a pawn shop, real estate office and insurance business. Local informants also suggest a feed store, bakery, clothing store and saloon also occupied this building or parts of it. From 1936-1978 the building served as a shoe repair shop.

The strength of the design, through good scale and effective massing, coupled with the rich history of activity in this commercial building document its local and state significance. Changes to the exterior and interior have been minimal. By the end of 1980 this building and two smaller brick buildings east of the Citizens Bank will be rehabilitated. The smaller buildings will become office space for a public oriented agency, such as United Way, and the bank will become a general meeting space. The Department of Interior Standards for Rehabilitation will be followed. This rehabilitation will preserve the only remaining half-block of historic commercial buildings in the CBD.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Chapman, Berlin B., The Founding of Stillwater, Oklahoma City, Times Journal Publishing, 1948.  
 Cunningham, Robert E., Stillwater, Where Oklahoma Began, Norman, University of Oklahoma Press, 1957.

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED  
 ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property less than one acre  
 Quadrangle name Stillwater South, Oklahoma

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle scale 7.5 min

### UMT References

A 

1	4	6	7	4	8	0	0	3	9	9	8	0	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The East 70 feet of Lot 6, Block 43, original town of Stillwater, Payne County, Oklahoma.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Herbert Gottfried  
 organization Jennings, Gottfried, Cheek/Preservationists date June 20, 1980  
 street & number Rt. 5 Box 189G telephone 405 377-6399  
 city or town Stillwater 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature F. Glenn Jordan

title SHPO date 12/10/80

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>Beth Grosvenor</u>	date <u>2/24/81</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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

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

For NPS use only
received 6/3/83
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Citizens Bank Building - (listed on the National Register 2-24-81)

Location: 107 E. 9th St., Stillwater, OK

Owner: City of Stillwater; 723 S. Lewis; Stillwater, OK

Location of Legal Description: Payne Co. Courthouse; Stillwater, OK

Description:

Condition - good; unaltered; original site.

The Bank Building is a one story red sandstone with three arcade openings, A window on either side of the central entry. Each arch contains a limestone keystone, with round headed windows over single lights and doorway with colored glass lunettes. The string course and sills are of limestone.

Significance:

1894. Builder: George Brock

The buildings is significant for its commitment to Stillwater's commerce, first as the local banking institution followed by a harness shop, and the community's first beauty salon.

Acreage: under one acre

Verbal Boundary Description: Lot 6, Block 43, Original Town Stillwater

UTM: 14-674800-3997920 Stillwater South, OK