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# 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

~~First National Bank of Erick Building~~

AND/OR COMMON

The 100th Meridian Museum (now)

## LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

101 South Main St.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Erick

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

No. 6

STATE

Oklahoma

CODE

40

COUNTY

Beckham

CODE

009

## CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input 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 RESIDEN
<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:

## OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

The 100th Meridian Museum Inc.

STREET & NUMBER

Box 564

CITY, TOWN

Erick

VICINITY OF

STATE

Oklahoma 73645

## LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the County Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

Beckham County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Sayre

STATE

Oklahoma

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Oklahoma Comprehensive Survey

DATE

1978

FEDERAL  STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Oklahoma Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Oklahoma City

STATE

Oklahoma

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The bank building, standing east-west on the southwest corner of the intersection, is roughly 25 x 80 feet in size. It has two full floors above a basement, only the east two-thirds of which has been excavated. The basement is divided into two rooms, each originally having its own outside stairway from the sidewalk. The stairs on the east, which no longer exist, served the basement barber shop. The stairs on the north served the furnace room. The building's first heating system was coal-fired, a low pressure sectional boiler supplying steam radiators. The boiler is still in place. Water for it was stored in two basement cisterns. (The museum that now occupies the building is currently installing a new inside stairway into this middle room.)

The bank utilized the eastern three-fourths of the ground floor. An 8 x 12-foot brick vault occupied the inside corner. Still intact, it is plastered inside and out, covered with several feet of earth. Upstairs were (are) six offices, entered from a long hallway. Access was by stairway from the sidewalk just beyond the banking area. No significant changes have been made in the building from the time it was erected in 1907, Oklahoma's statehood year. In 1954 first floor windows were replaced and the front entranceway modernized with glass blocks. Inside a new ceiling was hung in the banking area, but the original pressed iron ceiling remains intact above it. Over all the building is in fairly good condition.

As noted in No. 8, ornamentation is quite limited. Only a classic pediment with shell design finials distinguishes the corner entrance elevation. The pediment itself serves as cartouche. An unadorned parapet tops the east and north elevations. The banking section features beneath this parapet a rather handsome entablature of projecting brick arches under a dentiled cornice of pre-cast white stone. (Unfortunately, a misguided spruce-up attempt many years ago led to an all-inclusive paint job in a color that can best be described as fermented mustard. Museum officials hope this paint can in time be scraped off to restore the beauty of the good quality red bricks.) To date no one has been able to explain why almost no exterior ornamentation was extended to the west 20 feet of the building. It may or may not have been a conscious "below the salt line" decision, but this non-banking section has no proud marching of romanesque arches to support its undentiled cornice - only a plain horizontal course of cut stone to separate its two floors.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
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 **1907** BUILDER/ARCHITECT **A Mr. Stone (builder)**

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In appearance and function the First National Bank Building of Erick is not unlike countless other small town bank buildings erected around the turn of the century. The Citizens Bank opened on the site in 1902 - a year after Erick itself was established - in a frame building. It became a "National" bank in 1905 and two years later the building being nominated was erected - a solid, two-story brick structure, one of the first completed in Erick. And until 1968, when it was abandoned in favor of a new facility at the other end of the block, it was the hub of the community.

Banking occupied the front 60 feet of the first floor. But a barber shop occupied the back 20 feet. (For a time there was also a four-chair barber shop in the basement!) The upstairs, again following a familiar small-town pattern, accommodated the area's leading business and professional people ... at least four attorneys over the years, three insurance agents, a dentist, two doctors. Even the judicial arm of local government occasionally used the bank building. At various times one Justice of the Peace maintained an office on the second floor, another held court in the basement.

The building thus served the town and community significantly in a number of different ways. And today, appearing much as it always has, it is serving in yet another way. As the 100th Meridian Museum it will not only preserve and display the area's heritage and artifacts, but dramatize an interesting aspect of its history as well. The 100th Meridian north of Red River to the 37th parallel was set by treaty as the western boundary of the Louisiana Purchase (1803). But the various surveys trying to determine the meridian varied almost as much as a degree (56 miles at Erick). The McClellan Survey of 1852-1853 actually placed this entire area in Texas. But the Gennett Survey of 1927-1929 finally determined the present Oklahoma-Texas boundary. And, appropriately enough, an official bench mark used in that survey is imbedded in the east foundation wall of the bank (now museum) building.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Newspaper files of the Beckham County Democrat, now the Erick Democrat, published continuously since 1907, and other materials searched by the 100th Meridian Museum

Personal interviews of oldtimers identified with the bank, also conducted by the museum

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

DATA NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Erick, Oklahoma

QUADRANGLE SCALE 15 minutes

UTM REFERENCES			QUADRANGLE SCALE		
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	14	421161	3	891050	
B					
C					
D					
E					
F					
G					
H					

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot 1, Block 28, Original Townsite of Erick

## LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE <b>Kent Ruth, Deputy</b>	DATE <b>June 1979</b>
ORGANIZATION <b>Oklahoma Historical Society</b>	TELEPHONE <b>405/884-5456</b>
STREET & NUMBER <b>Historical Building</b>	STATE <b>Oklahoma</b>
CITY OR TOWN <b>Oklahoma City</b>	

# 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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE *H. Glenn Jordan*

TITLE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE **9/18/79**

**FOR NPS USE ONLY**

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *Sally S. Olsh* DATE **12/11/79**  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Rob Groves* DATE **10/6/79**  
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION