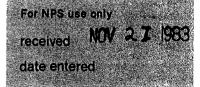
United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory---Nomination Form



<u>N/Anot for publication</u>

code

151

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms* Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Territorial Buildings in Downtown Alva, Oklahoma

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Flynn, College, Barnes, and Fourth

city, town Alva

____ vicinity of

state Oklahoma

code 40

13

county

Woods

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
district	public	<u>X</u> occupied	agriculture	museum
building(s)	<u> </u>	unoccupied	_ <u>A</u> commercial	park
structure	both	work in progress	educational	private residence
site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	entertainment	religious
object	in process	yes: restricted	government	scientific
•	being considered	X yes: unrestricted	industrial	transportation
X Thematic	U	no	military	other

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership (See Continuation Sheet)

street & number

city, town

vicinity of

state

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Woods County Courthouse

city, town 🚽 Alva

state Oklahoma

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title	Oklahoma Compreh	nensive Survey	has this prope	rty been deter	rmined eligi	ble? ye	sX_ no
date	1982			federal	_X_ state	county	iocal
-l *A		Ol-lahoma Uiata	mical Conjety	Brogorug	tion Off	ico	

depository for survey records Oklahoma Historical Society, Preservation Offic

city, town Oklahoma City

state OK

7. Description

Condition	
-----------	--

X excellent _____ deteriorated ______ ruins _____ fair _____ unexposed
 Check one
 C

 ______ unaltered

 _______ altered

Check one __X_ original site ____ moved date

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Territorial Buildings of Alva, Oklahoma, comprise thirteen buildings dating from 1901 to 1905. They are located in a three block area facing towards the Woods County Courthouse. (See attached map) Ranging from one to two stories in height, they were erected for retail shops, offices, banks and other commercial establishments.

The architecture is consistently Plains Commercial. All of the buildings are of red brick masonry and have decorative elements in the forms of friezes, pilaster strips, semi-elliptical arched windows, and contrasting window sills and stringcourses.

The most distinctive feature of the buildings is that they form coherent blocks of period buildings. There are harmonies of style and size, similarities of decorative elements, and horizontal alignments through the use of bands of upper story windows, continuous friezes, stringcourses, and awnings. These buildings, once part of a thriving, territorial town square, make a clear statement of the historical context out of which they were born.

For descriptions of individual buildings see continuation sheets.

8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 1800–1899 X 1900–	agriculture <u>X</u> architecture art <u>X</u> commerce communications	
Specific dates	1901-1905	Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The significance of the Territorial Buildings of Alva is that they are an excellent example of the architectural style prevalent in early twentieth-century Oklahoma. Moreover, they bear strong witness to the rapid commercial development of one of the last urban frontiers of the United States.

Established in 1886, when the Sante Fe Railroad was extended through Indian Territory, the town of Alva was a mere whistle stop. Its name derived from the founder, Alva Adams, an attorney for the railroad. With the opening of the Cherokee Outlet in 1893--the last great land rush--the town boomed. Within a year the present layout of streets and lots into a small, tight town square was established. The original buildings were frame. From 1901 to 1905, the territorial years of Oklahoma, however, major reconstruction took place; substantial red brick structures replaced the older buildings.

The construction of the brick buildings was a clear sign of Alva's prosperity in the early twentieth century. Alva was the political center of one of the largest western counties--being the Woods County seat--and the economic center of a more extensive area. The early economy of the town was based upon the railroad, wheat agriculture, and a local college. Farmers from across Woods and the surrounding counties brought their wheat to Alva, the central shipping point. While in town they attended to their financial matters at the banks, made purchases at the various mercantile stores, and frequented the other commercial establishments in the square. The prominence of wheat agriculture also led to the development of a large milling industry that brought additional prosperity to the community. The Alva stores and businesses also served during territorial times a growing community of students and faculty from the Northwestern State Normal School (now called Northwestern Oklahoma State University), which was founded in 1897 just four blocks from the town square.

The architecture of the territorial buildings--thirteen brick structures erected from 1901 to 1905--was of a type that reflected the style and environment of the period. Plains Commercial style was the prevalent architecture in the other urban cities of western Oklahoma. The red earth colors of the construction material and the strong, simple lines--reminscient of the modest frame buildings--fit the roughness of the newly settled area. Yet the decorative features--friezes, arched windows, and stringcourses--demonstrate the aspirations of a modest but growing community.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Crissman, George and Ruth					
Industrial Development De					City, N.
Sanborn Map Company, "Alv Evelyn Kamas, Interview,			09; 1915; 1920	; 1930,	
Dr. Timothy Zwink. Interv					
10. Geographi			, in the second s		
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state N/A	code	county		code	
state N/A	code	county	Υ.	code	؛ :
11. Form Prepa	ared By			······································	
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name/title Kenneth N. Hopk:	ins		· · ·		
organization Oklahoma Histo	ric Preservation	C	ate August, 198	32	
street & number Oklahoma Sta	ate University	1	elephone (405) (524-5678	,
city or town Stillwater		S	tate Oklahoma		
12. State Histo	oric Prese	rvation	Officer C	ertificatio	n
The evaluated significance of this	property within the sta	te is:		, 	
national	state				
As the designated State Historic P 665), I hereby nominate this proper according to the criteria and proce	ty for inclusion in the I	National Register	r and certify that it h		89
State Historic Preservation Officer		reteal	рейский и сове с на составляет и составляет на составляет и совети на составляет на составляет на составляет на При на составляет на составл При на составляет на состав	10/31/83	
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For NPS use only					
I hereby certify that this prop	erty is included in the	National Register	A. the		
Jec Contin	valen Al	erfin	date 7		
Keeper of the National Registe	r i station de la company	0			
Attest:			date		
Chief of Registration				the second s	alfacta ie

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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Continuation sheet	Item number	Page

Multiple Resource Area Thematic Group

State <u>Woods County, OKLAHOMA</u>	Data /Pignatura
Nomination/Type of Review	Date/Signature
¹⁷ 11. Building at 519 Barnes Street Substantion	Keeper <u>Kernun</u>
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¹² . Building at 504 Flynn Street	Keeper Return
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