

**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 Farmers and Merchants Bank

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 201 West Main St. N/A not for publication

city, town Chouteau N/A vicinity of congressional district

state Oklahoma code 40 county Mayes code 97

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input 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 residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	N/A being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: (day care center)

4. Owner of Property

name Ralph and Evelyn Gardiner

street & number Rural Route 1

city, town Chouteau vicinity of state Oklahoma 74337

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Mayes County Courthouse

city, town Pryor state Oklahoma 74361

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1982 federal state county local

depository for survey records Oklahoma Historical Society - State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Oklahoma City state Oklahoma 73105

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Farmers and Merchants Bank of Choteau, built in 1908, is a two story commercial building constructed of red brick laid in a running bond course and native stone materials. The building is approximately 50' x 150' with a cutaway entry on the northeast corner. It has a flat roof with 2' parapet extending above the roof on all four sides.

Fenestration for the building includes three single pane fixed windows on the east side and one single pane fixed window on the north. Above each of the fixed pane windows and the front entrance, there are semicircular windows with radiating glazing bars. Doors include one panel-type with a single fixed pane located in the cutaway front and a side door in the south end of the east side. The entry door in the cutaway front retains the original wood surrounds and hardware.

Decorative elements consist of round arch brick surrounds over all the windows and the door on the east side. In addition, the cutaway front features limestone pilaster-like columns on either side of the door, a section of native sandstone surrounding the semicircular window, a limestone conice above the native sandstone, and the work "BANK" inlaid in the brickwork above the cornice. At the top of the north and east walls, there are brick cornices with dentil-type adornments. The entryway is highlighted by mosaic tile with the work "BANK" inlaid in the step at the base of the front door. The west and south sides of the building are plain red brick walls laid in a running bond course.

A 50' x 100' shed-type addition was completed in the 1950s. It is constructed of board-and-batten materials and covered with a slate roof. Adjoining the rear, or south, side of the building, it contains three 2/2 sash-type windows on the east and west sides and a window and panel door on the south side. In 1978, the red brick was painted with a buff colored tint.

The nominated property stands in the original business district of Choteau in the 200 block of West Main Street. In 1978 when the building was converted to a day care center, a fenced in playground area was constructed immediately to the west.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1908-1924 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Farmers and Merchants Bank of Chouteau built in 1908, is both historically and architecturally significant because: (1) organized by pioneer businessmen of north-eastern Oklahoma, G.B. Lindsey and D. Heibert, it was the second bank founded in Chouteau and is the only structure associated with financial activity in the town during the period from 1908 to 1924 which is still intact, and (2) its decorative features and combination of construction materials make it one of the best examples of the turn-of-the-century small town Midwestern commercial style of architecture found in northeastern Oklahoma.

From 1908 to 1924, the Farmers and Merchants Bank served the predominantly agricultural area surrounding Chouteau. During this era, a large cotton and cattle industry developed in the region and the bank served as a focal point for making farm loans, serving as a depository, and providing other financial transactions needed in Chouteau which served as a rural market center in Mayes County.

From 1925 to 1943, the building was occupied by the Bynum General Store which continued to provide needed goods for the town's residents and surrounding rural area. In 1944, it became the A & H Hardware and served the community in that capacity until 1975 when it changed ownership and stood vacant for approximately one year. In 1976-77, Fletcher's Auction Service used the building as a storage room for antiques and used furniture, and weekly auctions were held there. In 1978, the building was converted into the Hansel and Gretel Day Care Center and at present still serves that function.

Architecturally, the nominated property embodies several outstanding decorative features for a turn-of-the-century small town commercial building including the cutaway entry highlighted by limestone pilasters on either side of the front door, the semi-circular windows with radiating glazing bars, round arch surrounds over the windows and side door, and the combination of brick, sandstone, and limestone construction materials.

For almost 75 years, the Farmers and Merchants Bank building has housed businesses which have provided a variety of goods and services to Chouteau and the surrounding rural area of northeastern Oklahoma.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Interview with Juanita Cherry, July, 1982.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Choteau, OK

Quadrangle scale 7.5"

UMT References

A

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4	0	0	6	0	4	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

B

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 Zone Easting Northing

C

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Verbal boundary description and justification

East 50' of Lots 1 and 2 and East 50' of North 5' of Lot 3, Block 27, Original Townsite of Choteau, Oklahoma.

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

state N/A code county code

state C code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Claudia Craig supervised by Dr. George Carney

organization Northeast Oklahoma Counties Survey date January, 1983

street & number Oklahoma State University telephone 405-624-6250

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 *C. Emelcaty* date 5/31/83

For HCRS use only I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register <u><i>J. Delores Byers</i></u> Keeper of the National Register	Entered in the National Register date <u>7/14/83</u>
Attest: Chief of Registration	date