

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 11 1978

DATE ENTERED OCT 10 1978

**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

Norman Historic Preservation District

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

105 W. Main and 100 to 232 E Main St

100 and 200 blocks of East Main Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Norman

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

No. 4

STATE

Oklahoma

CODE

40

COUNTY

Cleveland

CODE

27

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Various owners

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Norman

VICINITY OF

STATE

Oklahoma

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the County Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

Cleveland County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Norman

STATE

Oklahoma

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Oklahoma Comprehensive Survey

DATE

1977

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Oklahoma Historical Society

Oklahoma City

Oklahoma STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD (for the most part)	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED (to varying degrees)	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The proposed Norman Historic Preservation District includes 45 buildings along both sides of the first two blocks of East Main Street and one-time Interurban Depot on and isolated site across the tracks on West Main. As the dates vary from 1890 to 1971, so do the styles of architecture. But perhaps the anchor, physically (as it should be in a small town!) as well as architecturally, is the City National Bank, completed in 1922. With its six massive, two-story ionic columns and ornamented portico, the handsome brick and stone structure gives the entire district a solid classic underpinning. In contrast, at the opposite end of the 100 block, is the Sooner Theatre Building (cf. No. 8), one of the rapidly diminishing members of old "movie palaces" still standing in the state. Not only is it in quite good condition - it also boasts a noteworthy Spanish design, by one of the state's better known architects, Harold Gimeno, and retains much original art work and artifacts finishing details executed by Gimeno and his artist father.

No. 107-109 (cf. map) is a double brick structure with a rather fine 50-foot false-fronted brick facade. (This creative use of brick for ornamentation of otherwise plain brick facades and cornices, a strong characteristic of small-town business buildings around the turn of the century, features many of Norman's Main Street structures.) No. 111-113, the old Seawell Opera House, has a less attractive brick cornice atop its third-story facade, but is an older and more historic building. Designed by Tom Bowling and built by W. H. Seawell in 1890, it was the year-old city's first three-story building and served as a meeting hall and entertainment center, with performances ranging from Vaudeville to opera.

In the 200 block, still on the north side of Main, the Rambo and Spanns buildings are identical. They date from the 1890s and have unusually fine brick false fronts, as noted above. Although the builder and designer are unknown, use of a single pair of large double windows, topped by a bold arching cornice, suggests the influence of Joseph Foucart, well-known architect who left his mark on Guthrie, Perry, and other Oklahoma Territory towns in the 1890s. No. 213 is a somewhat similar two-story brick building, although here a three-window bay separates single windows across the front of the building and there is a window-wide false tower on the side over the stairway. Here, too, are strong arching stone window cornices and an attractive upper facade.

Of special interest and historic significance is the Central Block, No. 217-225. When constructed in 1891, these five separate 25-foot, two-story buildings had a common brick facade topped by a pressed-iron cornice sporting five identifying cartouches. The largest and most elaborate identified the Central Block and this central building housed the Boston Store from 1891 to 1902. Its owner was W. W. Wingate, manager of the Norman Mill and Elevator. The building immediately to the west (No. 219) bore the name of W. C. Renfrow, Oklahoma's third Territorial Governor. He was the first president of the Norman State Bank, a strong civic booster of the city's educational and religious institutions. The westernmost building in the Central Block bore the name of J. A. Jones, an organizer of the Norman State Bank and like Renfrow, an active civic community leader. Only the Jones and Renfrow cartouche remain. As for the facades, only the second (No. 219) retains much of its original

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

"Born Grown" is the catchy title of a recent book on Oklahoma City. The Sooner State's capital was spawned April 22, 1889, by a unique "run" that saw virgin prairie sprout hundreds of tents and crude wooden structures in a day to create something of an "instant city." At the same time, however, several other such cities were being created. Two of these were Guthrie and Norman. And today, while Oklahoma City has been "urban renewed" to the point of virtual unrecognizability both Guthrie and Norman have managed to cling to much of their early-day appearance. The heart of Guthrie, indeed - Territorial capital of Oklahoma and, until 1910, the state capital, as well - is already on the National Register as a Historic Preservation District. With this nomination a similar designation is being sought for the heart of Norman's downtown business section.

* * * *

The proposed Norman Historic Preservation District consists of 45 buildings - 21 on the north, 24 on the south - along the first two blocks of East Main Street, plus the isolated building immediately west across the Santa Fe railroad tracks. They range in age from 1890 (only one year after the town was begun) to 1971. At least eight were erected before 1900, including the one-time Seawell Opera House, the new town's first three-story brick structure. (Interestingly enough, the one HPD structure already nominated for the National Register, the Sooner Theatre Building, occupies the site of Norman's first brick building of any size. It was erected in 1889.) Five of these eight are on the north side of the 200 block. Many of the buildings on the south side of the 100 block date from the years immediately following the 1902 fire that leveled all but the two easternmost buildings. Another serious fire explains why half of the 200 blocks, on the south, dates from the early 1920s. Also from this period is the solidly classic City National Bank, which replaced the first stone bank, built in 1889. The isolated structure west of the tracks dates from 1913 (the long-time Interurban station).

As dates of erection vary, so do the styles of architecture (as detailed in No. 7). Along the way are examples of most of the popular commercial building designs, from the brick fronts with pressed iron cornices and cartouches, through the elaborately ornamented brick facades and classically pillared marble institutions, to the modern glass and stone blocks (the 6-story Commerce Building, erected in 1971). Bulk of the structures, however, date from the 1890s and the first quarter of the 20th century. And although many of them have had their fronts modernized in recent years, this has been done largely through use of metal and plastic panels, glass blocks, and other materials that have covered up rather than destroyed the original

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Womack, John, Norman - An Early History, 1820-1900, Norman, 1976.

Miscellaneous Materials researched by the Project Restoration Committee and the Cleveland County Historical Society.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

*see continuation sheet
LEWISVILLE 10/6/78*

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

QUADRANGLE NAME _____

QUADRANGLE SCALE _____

UTM REFERENCES

D A	114	6411	6919	318	918	5110
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING		
C	114	6411	71515	318	918	4110
E						
G						

A B	114	6411	91318	308	918	6410
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING		
B D	114	6412	01010	318	918	5112
F						
H						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The district extends from center of Jones Str. on the east to the center of Crawford Str. on the west, and includes the North & South sides of 100 & 200 blocks of E. Main.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Kent Ruth, Deputy

ORGANIZATION

Oklahoma Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER

Historical Building

CITY OR TOWN

Oklahoma City

DATE

February 1978

TELEPHONE

405/884-5456

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

Harry P. DeLoach Sr. D.

DATE

5-8-78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

10/10/78

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

10/6/78

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

W. M. ...
William Lebour

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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No. 7 Description

integrity. No. 217 has been covered with artificial stone, No. 221 with stucco, No. 223-225 with aluminum panels.

Most significant structures on the south side of the 200 block are No. 216 and No. 218, which were built in 1899. The west wall of No. 216 was the only firewall on the west end of the block when fire in 1923 destroyed the original block of buildings stretching to it from Peters Street - a 175-foot sweep of store buildings with a common decorative facade. No. 216 retains the integrity of its facade while a grille now covers part of the duplicated facade on No. 218.

Another big fire, in 1902, destroyed most of the original business buildings on the south side of the 100 block. Oldest surviving building (No. 126-128) dates from 1894 and has recently had a partial restoration. First and second floors have been renovated. When false fronts were removed to restore the facade original iron columns were exposed. The ornate, projecting pressed iron cornice and cartouche have also been repaired and restored. (Interestingly enough, this building was erected by the only company in continuous operation since the founding of Norman in 1889) No. 124, the two-story brick building immediately to the west, and one of the first to be rebuilt following the 1902 fire, has a notable brick facade, with its cartouche in a panel of its ornamented false front. Notable, too, is a graceful second-story bay window.

Interurban Station across the street ~~is~~ an isolated segment of the district, and dates from 1913. Also of red brick, its interior was altered in 1976 to accommodate a nostalgic interurban-era restaurant.

Excluded
Lebanich
10/5/78

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List of Intrusions
Norman Historic District
Cleveland County
Oklahoma

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Commerce Building | 1111 North Peters |
| 2. First National Drive-In Area | 132 East Main |

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No. 8 Significance

fronts. Several owners have already stripped away these latter-day materials and restored the building fronts to much of their appearance when built. The most recent restoration has even seen the pressed iron cornice and cartouche replaced and restored.

There is reason to believe this trend toward preservation and restoration could continue. A Project Restoration Committee that has been inventorying the downtown district's resources, preparing helpful city ordinances, discussing building code changes, and otherwise attempting to build up support for a preservation plan. One spokesman has expressed optimism that downtown merchants who so far have not shown much interest in the project will eventually join the ranks of those already restoring their buildings. He has pointed out that Norman was a Run of '89 town whose "historical integrity" remains because the original Main Street is, for the most part, still intact. "Sitting alone in a desert you'd say, 'tear 'em down,' but all in a row, they're really something." And so . . . this nomination for the Norman Historic Preservation District.

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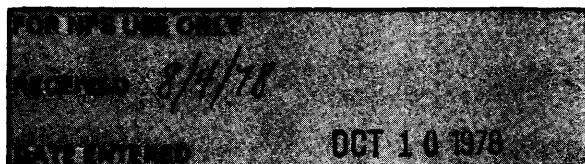
Verbal Boundary Description

The district includes on isolated structure, the Interurban Restaurant.

2/1/78
10/5
LEISOVICH

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Norman Historic Preservation District

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Item Number 7. The Norman Historic Preservation District represents the human commercial core of the town as it was established with the Oklahoma Land Run of 1889. The original tents and wooden buildings were replaced within a matter of a few years and the present brick and stone structures have stood since the last decade of the nineteenth and the first years of the twentieth centuries. The district including the Inter-urban depot have a physical integrity and cohesiveness both to the trained and the untrained eye.

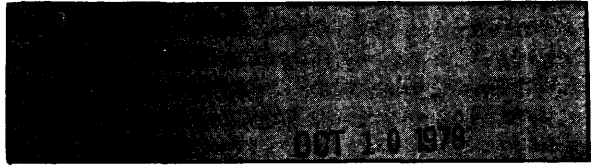
Item Number 8. Historically the district stands as a whole through the social and commercial use made of it over three quarters of a century. The pedestrian traffic moved freely through the area despite the railroad right-of-way. Each of the major towns in the area of the Unassigned Lands was placed at twenty and thirty mile intervals along the existing Santa Fe track. The Interurban transportation system was an integral part of this social and commercial movement through the first half of the twentieth century.

Item Number 10. Acreage: 9.5 acres
Quadrangle Name: Norman
Quadrangle Scale: 1:24,000

Verbal Boundary Description: The north and south boundaries of the District extend half-way into the alleyways behind the buildings.

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1

Norman Historic District

List of property owners:

Wilburn C. Hall
124 E. Main
Norman, Oklahoma 73069

Security National Bank
200 East Main Street
Norman, Oklahoma 73069

R. C. Berry
% Robert Berry
1909 First National Bldg.
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74103

Robert & Leon Calogkey
109 East Main Street
Norman, Oklahoma 73069

Mack Barbour
627 Classen Blvd.
Norman, Oklahoma 73069

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Thompson
539 NW 38th Street
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73118

Max & Adlyn Dillingham
220 East Main Street
Norman, Oklahoma 73069

Harry & Yumalee Bowman
230 Morgan Drive
Norman, Oklahoma 73069

Mack Lee Rose
1010 North Lea
Roswell, New Mexico 88201

Finis Ewing Estate
Vera Ewing
613 North 4th
Purcell, Oklahoma 73080

Loretta Pace
825 Hoover
Norman, Oklahoma 73069

Robert Pendarvis
104 East Eufaula
Norman, Oklahoma 73069

L & R Enterprises
P. O. Box 25189
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73125

G. Dan Rambo
205 East Main
Norman, Oklahoma 73069

Matilda Ambrister
1115 Classen
Norman, Oklahoma 73069

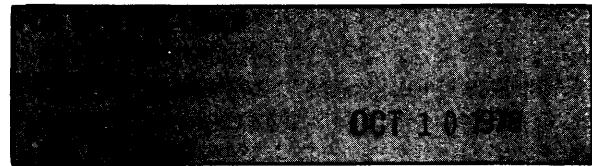
Ada N. Berry
6421 Avondale
Room 208
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73116

E. H. Stubbemah
% B. J. Drace
2535 Walnut
Norman, Oklahoma 73069

Eugene Loeffehol
3522 4th Avenue
Norman, Oklahoma 73069

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2

Norman Historic District

List of property owners continued:

Frank McFarland
(address not available)

Norman, Oklahoma 73069

John Goodno
217 East Main
Norman, Oklahoma 73069

Max and Maryanne Fischer
1511 Ann Arbor
Norman, Oklahoma 73069

Richard B. Talley
219 East Main
Norman, Oklahoma 73069

City National Bank & Trust
131 East Main
Norman, Oklahoma 73069

Adair and Patten
111 North Peter
Norman, Oklahoma 73069

Dorothy C. Raymond
% John Buckingham
100 Park Drive Bldg.
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73102

Harold and Ruth Gineno
1400 Sycamore
Santa Ana, Calif. 92701

First Nat'l Bank & Trust
116 North Peters
Norman, Oklahoma 73069

J. D. Davis
105 East Main
Norman, Oklahoma 73069

Mattie Wettengel
6020 E. University Blvd.
Dallas, Texas

Leon Calonkey
109 East Main
Norman, Oklahoma 73069

Sam McCall
106 East Main
Norman, Oklahoma 73069

Jeff Burcham
117 East Main
Norman, Oklahoma 73069

Dillingham Welsher
220 East Main
Norman, Oklahoma 73069

Robert Flagler
117½ East Main
Norman, Oklahoma 73069

Glen Floyd
116½ East Main
Norman, Oklahoma 73069

Jewel Irene Tull
1602 North Porter

Alfred Morse
Rt. 3, Box 39

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3

Norman Historic District

List of property owners continued:

Kennet Square, Pennsylvania

Florence Briscoe
201 S. Broadway
Marlow, Oklahoma 73055