NPS Form 10-900	OMB No. 1024-0018		
(Rev. 10-90)	C		
United States Department of the Interior National Park Service			
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM			
1. Name of Property			
Downtown Hobart Historic District [preferred]			
other names/site number			
2. Location			
street & number <u>Roughly bounded by Jefferson St</u> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , Washington Street,	4 <sup>th</sup> , and the 200 & 500 block of South		
Main Street. not for publication <u>N/A</u>			
Town Hobart vicinity NA	72(51		
state <u>Oklahoma</u> code <u>OK</u> county <u>Kiowa</u> code <u>075</u> zip code	/3031		

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#### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  $\underline{X}$  meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_\_\_ statewide  $\underline{X}$  locally. (<u>N/A</u> See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Art Alablem	1-25-05	
Signature of certifying official Date		
Oklahoma Historical Society, SHPO		
State or Federal agency and bureau		
In my opinion, the property meets does for additional comments.)	s not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation	sheet
Signature of commenting or other official Dat	te	
State or Federal agency and bureau		
4. National Park Service Certification		
I, hereby certify that this property is: ventered in the National Register	n H. Ball 3/10/05	
See continuation sheet.	a re later 2/10 (0)	
determined eligible for the		
National Register		
See continuation sheet.		
determined not eligible for the		
National Register		
removed from the National Register		
other (explain):		
/// 5	Date	
of Action	n	

of Action

### 5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- X private
- X public-local
- \_\_\_\_ public-State
- X public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- \_\_\_\_ building(s)
- <u>X</u> district
- \_\_\_\_ site
- \_\_\_\_ structure
- \_\_\_\_ object

Number of Resources within Property

ContributingNoncontributing6830buildings13structures13structures5objects6939Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register \_3\_\_\_\_

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

## 6. Function or Use

Cat: <u>COMMERCE/TRADE</u> Sub: <u>Department Store</u>	
COMMERCE/TRADE Financial Institution	
<u>COMMERCE/TRADE</u> <u>Specialty Store</u>	
GOVERNMENT County Seat	
GOVERNMENT City Hall	
GOVERNMENT Post Office	
Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	
Cat: <u>COMMERCE/TRADE</u> Sub: <u>Financial Institutions</u>	
COMMERCE/TRADE Department Store	
COMMERCE/TRADE Specialty Store	
RECREATION AND CULTURE Museum	-
SOCIAL Meeting Hall	-
GOVERNMENT County Seat	
GOVERNMENT City Hall	
GOVERNMENT Post Office	

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation <u>CONCRETE</u> roof <u>ASPHALT</u> walls <u>BRICK</u> <u>STUCCO</u> <u>METAL</u> other \_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

#### 8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- <u>X</u> A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- \_\_\_\_\_B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- <u>X</u> C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
  - \_ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- \_\_\_\_\_A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- \_\_\_\_B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- \_\_\_\_D a cemetery.
- **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- **F** a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance <u>1901 - 1954</u>

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Downtown Hobart Historic District
Kiowa County, Oklahoma

8. Statement of Significance (Continued)

Significant Dates \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

Cultural Affiliation <u>N/A</u>

Architect/Builder <u>McCanse, William, architect</u> <u>Etherton, W.A., architect</u> <u>Gordon, J. Riley, architect</u>

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- \_\_ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- \_ previously listed in the National Register
- \_ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- \_\_ designated a National Historic Landmark
- \_\_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #\_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data

- X State Historic Preservation Office
- \_\_\_\_ Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- \_\_\_\_ Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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Downtown Hobart Historic Distr	ict
Kiowa County, Oklahoma	

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property <u>36</u>

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing
1 \_\_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_
2 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_
X See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By	
name/title <u>Stephen Boyd</u> , Program Director; edited by .	Jim Gabbert, Architectural Historian, OK/SHPO
organization <u>Hobart Main Street Program</u>	date <u>6 01-04</u>
street & number <u>106 W. 4th</u> telep	hone <u>580/726-4206</u>
city or town <u>Hobart</u> state <u>OK</u> zip	code <u>73651</u>
Additional Documentation	
Submit the following items with the completed form: Continuation Sheets Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the A sketch map for historic districts and properties have	
Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the pr	roperty.
Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any	additional items)

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### **Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name See Attached (More than 50 owners)

street & number \_\_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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Downtown Hobart Historic District name of property Kiowa County, Oklahoma county and State

### Narrative Description

### SUMMARY

The Downtown Hobart Historic District is centered on the courthouse square in the Kiowa County seat. Comprising all or parts of 10 blocks, the district contains 108 resources, including buildings, sites, structures, and objects, of which sixty-eight contribute to the district's historic character. The city is laid out in a standard grid pattern oriented to the cardinal directions. The topography is flat. The district includes buildings fronting on Washington, Main, and Jefferson Streets, which run north/south, and on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Streets, which run east/west.

The Chicago, Rock Island, & Pacific railroad creates a distinct boundary for the south side of the district. To the north, the commercial district gives way to churches, schools, and residences. West of the district are more modern, late 20<sup>th</sup> century commercial buildings and to the east is a dispersed residential neighborhood. Main Street shows some landscape elements, most notably Bradford Pear trees dispersed along the sidewalks obscuring building facades, but for the most part the streetscape is typical of western Oklahoma towns – wide streets and a sense of openness

There are 105 enumerated resources, of which three have been previously listed in the National Register. Others, such as a statuary grouping on the courthouse lawn are listed once but constitute multiple resources in the final resource tally. Sixty-eight resources are considered contributing to the district while forty are considered noncontributing. Of these forty, a number are smaller object or structures located on the courthouse lawn.

The district includes a number of two story brick buildings that represent Late Victorian styles, as well as more typical one and two story buildings that represent 20<sup>th</sup> century styles. Main Street and 4<sup>th</sup> Street contain the highest concentration of two story buildings. The most common alterations to the historic buildings consist of altered storefronts or covered second floor windows. Evaluation of the contributing status of resources reflects the effects of the changes on not only the character defining aspects of the resource itself, but on the effect of the changes on the streetscape. Wholesale modernization of storefronts seems to have occurred in the post World War II era. While these changes might compromise the architectural integrity of the affected building to some degree, they also reflect the continued commercial success of the district well into the post war era.

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Overall, the district remains cohesive. The most notable changes to the historic fabric of the district occur on 4<sup>th</sup> Street south of the courthouse where an entire block of buildings has either been demolished or greatly altered recently. Still the district retains a great deal of integrity of location, design, setting, feeling, workmanship, association, and materials.

### PREVIOUSLY LISTED RESOURCES

Hobart Public Library (80003267) 200 S. Main Street. 1912. Architect: William McCanse. A Carnegiefunded library of one story on a raised basement. It is red brick with limestone accents The central entry is reached by a flight of limestone steps. The entry has a limestone surround with egg and dart molding. A pediment with a limestone cartouche is centered above the cornice.

Hobart City Hall (78002240) 106 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. 1912. Architect: W. A. Etherton. A three story building constructed in the Classical Revival style I n1912, the City Hall is distinctive in its use of polychrome brick on the parapet above the limestone cornice and in the spandrels of the tall, round arched windows. First floor windows have been modernized.

Kiowa County Courthouse (84003094) 314 S. Main Street. 1903/1935. Architect: J. Riley Gordon. Centered on the courthouse square, the Kiowa County Courthouse is a red brick, Second Renaissance Revival style building of red brick with yellow sandstone trim. In 1935, a matching addition was added to the east side. Flat, stone lintels, brick and stone pilasters, and a full entablature are the main decorative features.

### RESOURCES

South Jefferson Street, East Side

 230 S. Jefferson St. C. 1935. One story, Commercial style building of yellow brick. Industrial steel sash on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street façade, an offset entry on the Jefferson Street façade with an offset, replacement display window. Recessed panels and corbeled pilasters decorate the main facade; there are garage doors on the far eastern

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side of the south elevation. Another display window, on the west corner of the south elevation, has been covered. Contributing

- 2. 300 S. Jefferson St. C. 1925 Lumber sheds. The street façade of the sheds are sheathed in yellow brick, while the sides are of 3" lap siding. The gabled roof has standing seam metal sheathing, and exposed rafter tails. The plan of the building is U-shaped, surrounding the former office (310 S. Jefferson). The brick façade had a stepped parapet and corbelled panels. Contributing
- 3. 310 S. Jefferson St. c. 1925 Office for the lumber yard. This single story, flat roof building has been altered with new fenestration and vertical wood siding. Noncontributing due to alterations.
- 4. 312 S. Jefferson St. One story, yellow brick, vaguely Commercial Style building with a new storefront and large wood awning obscuring the bulk of the façade. Noncontributing due to alterations.
- 5. 314-316 S. Jefferson St. c. 1905 One story, red brick, Commercial Style, two-part building. Corbel table above offset overhead door openings; off-center entries; display windows replaced with smaller units and openings infilled with vertical wood siding. Contributing
- 6. 318 S. Jefferson St. *Burke Building*, 1903. Two story, red brick, Italianate Commercial building. Simple cornice with corbel table and stone name plate reading "19 Burke 03." Second floor windows are regularly spaced, 8/8 wood frames with stone sills and segmental arch lintels. Steel header over storefront, two offset entries. **Contributing**
- 7. 320-322 S. Jefferson St. c. 1905 Two story, two part business block in the Italianate Commercial style. Simple cornice with corbel table, a row of diamond corbels below. Nine segmental arched windows, evenly spaced. Two are boarded, but the others are 8/8, wood frame. The north storefront has an overhead door opening; the south storefront has a newer, smaller, display window and door with the balance of the original opening infilled with wood. A central, round arched entry leads to the second floor. The walls are painted white t oa point just above the second floor windows. **Contributing**
- 8. 324 S. Jefferson St. c. 1903 Two story, painted red brick, Italianate Commercial style building with five

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bays. 1/1 windows have segmental arch lintels and stone sills. The cornice has a corbel table with a diamond corbel band below. There is an iron header over the storefront; an offset entry to the second floor, intact (but painted) transoms, a recessed entry flanked by large display windows and tile kicker wall. **Contributing** 

- 9. 326 S. Jefferson St. c. 1903 Two story, red brick, Italianate Commercial style building. Four bays wide, its detailing matches that of 324 S. Jefferson. A ghost sign reading "Painters of Everything" is evident above the diamond corbel band. Intact transoms above altered storefront (infilled with wood). **Contributing**
- 10. 328 S. Jefferson St. c. 1903. Two story, red brick, Romanesque Revival style commercial building. Four bay façade. Corbel table below parapet, with a band of terra cotta ornamental panels below the corbel table. Four patterns of panels flowers and roundels. Window frames are round arched, with square-top, 9/9 sash and recessed brick spandrel panels, each with a terra cotta ornament centered in the spandrel. Newer, c. 1950 aluminum and glass storefront with an offset entry and glass block clerestory. Contributing
- 11. 330 S. Jefferson St. c. 1903. Two story, red brick, Romanesque Revival style commercial building. Three bay façade with single bay on clipped corner and fifteen bays on 4<sup>th</sup> Street side.. Corbel table below parapet, with a band of terra cotta ornamental panels below the corbel table. Four patterns of panels flowers and roundels. Arcaded, round arch windows on first floor, with corbelled hoods supported on brick pilasters with stone capitals. Two on Jefferson Street façade, ten on 4<sup>th</sup> Street, along with three entry doors. Main entry on clipped corner, stone surround, arched transom. **Contributing**

South Jefferson, West Side

- 11. 225 S. Jefferson St. c. 1940. One story, concrete block, utilitarian building of no distinctive style. The façade has an infilled storefront and an offset, new, overhead garage door. The sides of the building each have three steel industrial sash windows. The side walls diminish in height as the parapet steps down from approximately fifteen feet to ten feet. Noncontributing due to alteration.
- 12. 229 South Jefferson St. c. 1928/1940. One story, box and canopy type filling station with an added on service bay. The station, once a Sinclair dealer, is canted on the lot. The service bay, attached to the west side, is oriented parallel to 3rd Street. The station features a central door flanked by multi-pane, fixed display

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window. The walls are stucco with brick pilasters. The service bay is red brick and has two overhead doors with a central man door. The two doors are newer, one from the 1960s, one from the 1990s. Contributing

13. 301 S. Jefferson St. c. 1905/1936-37. Kiowa County Jail. Two stories on a raised basement. The original jail, constructed circa 1905, had a Romanesque Revival flair, with round arch windows. In 1935-36, the Works Progress Administration (WPA) remodeled and added onto the old jail. The east side of the T-plan jail building was rebuilt, using a very spare architectural vocabulary. The rear wing's height was raised to match the front. The building has a raised, concrete basement with steel sash, hopper type windows. The main entry is centered, with a concrete, quoined, surround. The windows are simple steel casements, with thinner-width openings on the south side. There is a flat roof and a simple corbelled dentils below the parapet. The rear wing has round arched openings, and newer brick to carry the walls up to full height. Contributing

South Main Street, East Side

- 14. 200 S. Main St. 1912 Hobart Public Library. Previously listed in NRHP.
- 15. No Address. C. 1910. *Water Tower*. Located just south and east of the library. Eighty feet tall, on four legs of X-braced, steel C channel beams anchored on concrete piers. Cylindrical tank with conical cap, riveted plates, and an encircling catwalk. A 10" pipe leads to the ground. **Contributing**
- 16. 212 S. Main St. c. 1929/1940. Two story, Commercial style building with yellow brick façade and red brick side and rear walls. Façade lacks ornamentation. Two second floor windows have new sash, plain lintels and sills. Clerestory windows are in original configuration, but with new glazing. Flat awning supported by chains matched original. Offset entries flank 4 part display window. Building appears to have had "facelift" c. 1940. Contributing
- 17. 214 S. Main St. c. 1929. One story, Commercial Style building with a stepped parapet. Corbelled brick panel between parapet and clerestory (covered in tin). Flat, wooden awning secured with chains. Offset entry with large, 4 part display window. Contributing

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- 18. 216 S. Main St. c. 1940. One story, yellow brick with red basket weave panels. Commercial style. Four part, wood frame display windows with offset entry door. Concrete block side walls. Contributing
- 19. 224 S. Main St. c. 1970. Parking lot with simple carport-type structure with steel legs and corrugated roof. Site of former building – floor and foundation still visible. Noncontributing structure.
- 20. 228 S. Main St. c. 1930. One story, yellow brick, Commercial style building with stepped, pedimented parapet. Parapet has a concrete coping. Two storefronts, each with clerestory windows are covered with fiberglass. Storefronts have been updated with smaller units aluminum framed. Flat awning; interesting arrow-like sign. Contributing
- 21. 314 S. Main St. 1940. Kiowa County Office Building. One story on raised basement, Art Moderne, red brick building constructed by the WPA. Central entry with wide limestone surround entry is almost full two stories in height. Brushed aluminum letters above entry spell out "Kiowa County," WPA shield to south of entry. Four pane windows, aluminum framed, on each level flank entry. A garden wall bond panel serves as a spandrel between floors. Flat concrete lintels and sills. Paired windows on side walls. Contributing
- 22. 320 S. Main St. 1903/1935. Kiowa County Courthouse. Previously listed.
- 23. 320 S. Main St. c. 1920/1975. Sculpture/monument group. Two E. M. Viquesney sculptures, Spirit of the American Doughboy and Spirit of the American Sailor, each completed about 1920, a drinking fountain sponsored by the WCTU, a granite monument honoring the bicentennial and a circle of concrete park benches all either moved here from other locations or placed here about 1975. Five Noncontributing objects.
- 24. 320 S. Main St. c. 1990. Gazebo and plaza. Octagonal gazebo with bell-cast roof and brick foundation and a concrete and tile plaza shaped like and configured as a map representing Kiowa County. Two Noncontributing structures.
- 25. 400 S. Main St. c. 1903/1990. Two story bank building, originally oriented to 4<sup>th</sup> street, completely remodeled in mid 1990s, new exterior materials, new windows and doors. Noncontributing due to age.

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- 26. 408-410 S. Main St. 1903. Two story, red brick, Italianate Commercial style building block with eight bays. Stone coping on simple cornice, date block centered on parapet on a flared projection, sawtooth belt course just below parapet. Eight segmental arch windows with stone sills; windows boarded. Newer storefront with infill brick and large metal awning over clerestory. **Contributing**
- 27. 412 S. Main St. 1903. *Lenau Building*. Two story, red brick, Italianate Commercial style building. Four bay with corbel table, name/date block in semi-circle above parapet. Brick corner pilasters have stone caps. Four segmental arch window openings. Cast iron header; storefronts are newer, aluminum framed with an off center entry to first floor and offset entry to second floor. Newer flat porch awning. **Contributing**
- 28. 416 S. Main St. c. 1905. One story brick building of no particular style. Façade covered in wood shake awning; new storefront. Non-contributing due to alterations.
- 29. 418 S. Main St. c. c. 1905. One story brick building of no distinctive style. New aluminum frame storefront and aluminum siding obscure original design. Noncontributing due to alteration.
- 30. 422 S. Main St. c. 1980. Contemporary style bank building, set back from street. Dark brown brick walls and mansard type roof. Noncontributing due to age.
- 31. 500 S. Main Street. C. 1925. One story, red brick Commercial style building. Pedimented parapet and corner pilasters with stone caps are the primary features of the building. Built as an auto dealership, the corner once had a recessed driveway, but has been enclosed, and the old overhead door has been infilled with wood and a single pedestrian door. Contributing
- 32. 504 S. Main St. c. 1925. One story, Commercial style, red brick building with a basketweave panel below a simple parapet cornice. Intact clerestory windows are painted over; there is an original awning, wood framed display windows and original offset entry door. **Contributing**
- 33. 508 S. Main St. c. 1925. One story, two part Commercial style building of red brick. Clerestory windows are covered with wood; there are newer, aluminum farmed storefronts with a single central entry and an offset overhead door. The parapet has a concrete cap. Contributing

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South Main Street, west side

- 34. 201 S. Main St. c. 1928. Gish Funeral Home. Two story, Renaissance Revival style house with brick walls and a tile roof. A metal gabled roof addition is visible from the street. The fenestration is regular, with Palladian French doors offset on the first floor, a central entry with a transom, two 6/6 windows flanking. Second floor has paired 6/6 windows offset and three, single, 6/6 centered. A porte cochere is on the south side; a garage is at the rear of the lot. The garage has a tile roof and three original garage doors. Two contributing buildings.
- 35. 209 S. Main St. 1959. Two story, International style building constructed as the telephone exchange. Brick first floor with pebbled concrete panels on second, 1" tile covered pilasters define the bays. The entry is recessed and offset and a band of awning windows is found about 9 feet up from the sidewalk. Noncontributing due to age.
- 36. 215 S. Main St. c. 1940. One story, Commercial style building of yellow brick with a brown brick basketweave panel below a simple, concrete capped parapet with corner pilasters. Offset entry with three part, aluminum framed display windows. Metal-clad, flat awning is original. **Contributing**
- 37. 217 S. Main St. c. 1990. One story. Metal, front gabled building. Noncontributing due to age.
- 38. 227 S. Main St. 1931. United States Post Office. James A Wetmore, architect. Excellent example of Renaissance Revival style architecture. The building features and arcade of five arches marking a loggia. Four round arched windows with stone keystones and multipane windows are on each side elevation; paired round arch windows and a central, round arched doorway are in the loggia. The pairs of windows feature braided, Corinthian columns supporting the arched hoods. A band of terra cotta ornaments with cast stone cartouches is below a dentiled cornice. The corners of the building feature corbelled brick quoins. Contributing
- 39. 301 S. Main St. c. 1903/c. 1920. Two story, red brick bank building in the Classical Revival style. There is a metal cornice located below the stone-capped parapet. Brick pilasters extend above the parapet, A globe finial is on the corner. Below the cornice are corbelled panels; at the corners these are replaced with stone

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panels with *bas relief* swags. Just below the swag panels are pediment ornaments. Three 1/1 windows with segmental, corbelled arches face Main Street on the second floor; the Third Street side has three distinct bays, one of three windows, one of nine windows, then one of two windows, all 1/1, with wood frames and arched tops. The Main Street storefront is a large, wood framed display window with the entry recessed in a canted corner. A striated limestone Ionic column supports the second floor corner and defines the entry. Brick pilasters with limestone capitals enframe the display windows on both streets. The Third Street side has a central entry, two large display windows on the west end, and two transomed 1/1 windows between the entry and the corner display window. **Contributing** 

- 40. 303 S. Main St. c. 1920. Matches 301. Three bay façade with irregularly spaced windows. Offset storefront entry, original wooden door and wood frames display window. Storefront flanked by brick pilasters with stone caps. Flat awning over this and 301 storefront. Contributing
- 41. 305-307 S. Main St. c. 1920. One story, Spanish Mission Revival style building block, two storefronts wide. Scalloped parapet with stone cap, corbelled brick panels. Northern storefront has an offset entry and aluminum framed display window, the southern storefront has a central entry flanked by newer, aluminum farmed displays. Contributing
- 42. 311 S. Main St. c. 1980. One story, contemporary style building set back from street. Brick and iron fence at sidewalk creates a landscaped courtyard. This lot has historically been empty. Noncontributing due to age/incompatible design.
- 43. 313 S. Main St. c. 1930. One story, former theater. Entire façade remodeled and obscured with awning and storefronts. Noncontributing due to alteration.
- 44. 315 S. Main St. c. 1930. One story building of no distinctive style. Entire storefront obscured with metal siding and new entry. Noncontributing due to alteration
- 45. 317-319 S. Main St. c. 1927. Two story, brick Commercial Style business block. Dark brick, two storefronts, 4 bays on north storefront, windows boarded. Brick panels with stone corners. South storefront has paired windows, two sets, with stone sills and lintels. There are two entries, each centered in its

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storefront; the storefronts are newer, aluminum framed. Transoms are obscured. Contributing

- 46. 321-325 S. Main St. c. 1925. Two story, dark brick, two part Commercial style block with a corbel table and corbelled panels above the stone lintels. There are four windows in each part of the block, all boarded. There is an offset entry on the north side storefront that leads to the second floor; the transoms are covered and the original storefronts have been replaced with aluminum framed, central entry units. **Contributing**
- 47. 405 S. Main St. 1903 Anheuser Busch Building. Two story, red brick, Romanesque Revival style building with a rounded parapet and name stone, a metal cornice supported by corbels at each corner. There are three arcaded windows on the second floor with brick hoods and elongated keystones. Clerestories are covered in wood and the storefront has a c. 1950, roman brick facing with two offset entries. Contributing
- 48. 407 S. Main St. c. 1903. Two story, red brick, Italianate Commercial style building. Four bays with segmental arch, new single pane windows. Pilasters extend above parapet. Corbeled dentils below stone coping. Corbeled panels below a corbelled belt. Storefront matches 405 S. Main. Contributing
- 49. 411 S. Main St. c. 1903. One story, brick building of undetermined style. New storefront and walls obscured by metal awning render this a noncontributing resource due to alteration.
- 50. 413 S. Main St. c. 1920. No distinctive style on this completely remodeled building. Once the site of an "air dome" theater, this one story building is sheathed in aluminum and has modern storefronts with a central entry. Noncontributing due to alteration.
- 51. 415 S. Main St. c. 1920. No distinctive style on this completely remodeled building. Entire façade modernized in 1960s. Noncontributing due to alteration.
- 52. 419 S. Main St. c. 1930. *Rialto/Kiowa/Esquire Theater*. Spanish Mission Revival style brick building with a scalloped parapet, small clay tile pent roofs. Two terra cotta roundels are offset on the façade above two large, round arch windows. An arcade of five round arch windows is centered in the façade. The marquee dates to the 1950s; the front of the store has dark red glazed tile with a central entry; there are two small storefronts with original doors offset. **Contributing**

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- 53. 421 S. Main St. c. 1925. One story, two part, Commercial Style building of dark brick. A simple parapet with concrete coping tops inset panels of a lighter red brick. The clerestories are intact, but the south storefront has been infilled with wood board & batten siding. **Contributing**
- 54. 423 S. Main St. c. 1925. One story, brick, Commercial style building with a simple parapet and an inset name plaque (blank). Original clerestory windows are intact as is the flat awning. Central entry flanked by newer, smaller displays with new brick knee walls. **Contributing**
- 55. 425 S. Main St. c. 1920 Snug Hotel. Two story, Commercial style building on corner lot. Corner pilasters extend above the simple corbelled parapet. A ghost sign reading "SNUG HOTEL" is visible in an inset concrete panel that spans the width of the building. The second floor has four pairs of 1/1 windows regularly spaced and eleven single 1/1 windows on the Fifth Street side. All have flat lintels. The clerestory and awning are intact, as is the central entry, but the displays are obscured by board & batten siding. Contributing
- 56. 501 S. Main St. c. 1905. No distinctive style on this one story corner building. The façade shows evidence of cast iron columns and storefront, but storefront is boarded up and the walls have been stuccoed at an undetermined time. Noncontributing due to alteration
- 57. 505-507 S. Main St. c. 1930. One story, two part, Commercial style building of painted brick. Simple parapet with pilasters carried through. Two storefronts, the north one with a central entry and the south with an offset entry. Newer aluminum framed displays. **Contributing**
- 58. 507 S. Main St. 1933 Farmers Co-Op. One story, painted brick, Commercial style building with an offset entry, reduced and infilled display windows. South elevation has three 1/1 windows, an awning, and scales. The front of the building dates to 1933, replacing an older, wooden structure. The rear dates to the 1920s. Contributing
- 59. 511 S. Main St. c. 1933 *Farmers Co-Op*. One story, painted brick, Commercial style building. The building has a rhomboidal footprint and is all that remains of the elevator complex. The display window has been boarded over and the entry is offset. **Contributing**

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#### South Washington Street, East side

- 60. 300 S. Washington St. 1929. Elks Lodge #881. An outstanding two story Spanish Mission Revival style building executed in yellow brick. The building fronts both Washington St and Third. The building has a scalloped parapet centered on each façade and pilasters that extend above the parapet walls. Each pilaster has a flat stone cap and a stone urn finial. The pilasters create bays with two windows in each; the windows are wood-framed, multi-pane Craftsman type with flat, corbelled hoods with stone springers. A small, tile, pent covers the windows below the name stone in the Washington Street parapet. Clerestory windows are large multi-pane Craftsman style fixed units above an original flat awning. There are seven bays on the north side, three on the west. Original storefronts with wood framed displays and original doors. A corner sign reading "Stanley Furniture" is of note. Contributing
- 61. 304 S. Washington St. c. 1920. One story, Commercial style painted brick building with simple cornice and corbelled panels. Original awning over infilled storefront. **Contributing**
- 62. 306 S. Washington St. c. 1930. One story, dark brick, Commercial style building with a simple parapet with two corbelled panels. The storefront has a recessed entry and newer, aluminum framed display windows. Contributing
- 63. 308 S. Washington. c. 1930. One story, dark brick Commercial style building with a simple parapet, a corbelled sign panel in a lighter color brick, a metal trimmed flat awning. The storefront is newer, c. 1950, with a central entry, a smaller, flanking display window and an offset overhead garage door. Contributing
- 64. 310 S. Washington St. c. 1930. One story, Commercial style, painted brick building with a corbel table with a stone cap, a corbelled sign panel with unpainted brick. Clerestory windows covered in transluscent fiberglass; the entry is central in the façade, recessed and has a wooden door and a transom; it is flanked by an overhead door to the south and a large display window to the north. **Contributing**
- 65. 320-322 S. Washington St. c. 1927. One story, two part Commercial style brick building. Four brick pilasters create three bays, each with a corbelled panel. Clerestories are intact, but painted over. There is an original awning, paired central, wooden doors and original displays. Contributing

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- 66. 410-412 S. Washington St. c. 1930. One story, Commercial style building in two parts. This yellow brick building was once an auto sales and service business. The north half of the building is set back from the street. There is a stepped parapet with a concrete cap. There are terra cotta roundels and a corbelled panels in the walls. There are central entries on both parts, and offset overhead doors. **Contributing**
- 67. 414 S. Washington St. c. 1925. One story, Commercial style brick business block constructed as a garage. It has a stepped parapet with a stone coping. There are two small, corbelled, basket weave panels flanking a larger plain panel in the main wall above an altered storefront. Contributing
- 68. 416-418 S. Washington St. c. 1928 One story, two part Commercial style building with brick walls. Stepped parapet, concrete coping, corbelled panels. All fenestration has been broken out of one side and the roof is collapsing. The other storefront retains integrity and complements the missing elements. Contributing
- 69. 420 S. Washington St. c. 1928. Identical to its neighbor, but no roof at all and even frames removed from fenestration. Noncontributing due to loss of historic fabric.
- 70. 422-430 S. Washington St. c. 1928. Taller one story Commercial style building with stepped parapet. Recently rehabilitated with new windows, roof. Had been abandoned and derelict. Exterior changes are sympathetic to the original design, with clerestories and wood framed display windows and central door. Third Street side has little alteration and little of note. **Contributing**

South Washington Street, West side

- 71. 301 S. Washington St. c. 1928/1940. Spanish Mission style, box and canopy filling station with added service bays. Stuccoed walls and square piers on the canopy are primary features. The building is angled toward the corner, the service bays are on the south side the first matching the materials and design of the original station and the newer bay being constructed of concrete block. Contributing
- 72. 305 S. Washington St. c. 1935. No distinctive style on this one story building, completely obscured with an aluminum awning and new, aluminum frame storefront with offset entry. Noncontributing due to alteration
- 73. 307-309 S. Washington St. One story, two part building with carrera glass façade. Undetermined date of

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construction. Noncontributing due to age/alteration.

- 74. 311 S. Washington St. c. 1925 One story, brick Commercial style building with an interesting, colonnadelike corbel table, stepped parapet, and parti-glass clerestory. Newer aluminum framed display windows, central entry. **Contributing**
- 75. 315 S. Washington St. c. 1925. One story brick building of undermined style. Façade is obscured by large wood shake awning. Noncontributing due to alteration.
- 76. 319 S. Washington St. c. 1925. One story, brick, Commercial style building with a low corbel table, offset entry, intact clerestories, and a Flemish bond panel over the entry. **Contributing**
- 77. 321 S. Washington St. c. 1925. One story, brick, Commercial style building with a low corbel table, offset entry, intact clerestories, and a Flemish bond panel over the entry. Contributing
- 78. 325-329 S. Washington St. c. 1932/1940. One story, brick, Commercial style business block with multiple storefronts, a corbel table, recessed panels. Northern storefront has entry with transom flanked by 2 displays and an offset entry near the corner. At Fourth Street corner, entry in rounded corner with garden wall bond and glass block. A flat, metal awning shades the entry. **Contributing**
- 79. 401 S. Washington St. c. 1940. Ford Dealership. One story, yellow brick Art Moderne building. Continues to serve as a car dealership. Rounder corner with entry and small, flat, metal awning. Large display windows face Washington, service bays face Fourth Street. Low, barrel arch roof. Contributing
- 413-415 S. Washington c. c. 1925. One story, brick, two part Commercial style building with simple parapet, original clerestories, paired central doors, original wood framed display windows and brick knee walls. Contributing
- 81. 429 S. Washington c. 1925. *Lumber yard*. Brick, Commercial style façade on sprawling lumber yard complex. Stepped parapet, lumber sheds to the north, office entry to the south. Large drive-in openings, one south of office and two north, newer doors and windows in office and a wood shake awning over entry and

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### displays. Contributing

3<sup>rd</sup> Street, North side

- 82. 111 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> c. 1975 *City Administration Building*. Contemporary style brick building. Noncontributing due to age.
- 83. 107 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> 1912. Hobart City Hall. Previously listed.
- 84. 117 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> c. 1935. One story, Spanish Colonial Revival style building. Clay tile, pent roof, stucco walls with stepped parapet on side walls. Central entry flanked by two, smaller display windows. **Contributing**
- 85. 119 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> c. 1925. Box and canopy type filling station with later service bay addition. Service bays date to c. 1950 and are located on the west side of the box office; the building is angled on the lot. Stucco finish; central entry with industrial steel sash and single steel sash window on east side. **Contributing**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, South side
- 86. 110 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> c. 1990. Metal, flat roof building. Noncontributing due to age and inappropriate design.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Street, North Side
- 87. 101 W. 4<sup>th</sup> c. 1990. *BankFirst Bank*. Two story, Neo-Colonial style brick building. Noncontributing due to age.
- 88. 115-117 W. 4<sup>th</sup> c. 1905. Two story, Classical Revival style building with metal, dentiled cornice. Two pairs, each bay, of boarded windows. Continuous limestone sills and lintels. Clerestories are covered and storefronts date to early 1950s with aluminum frames and recessed central entry. Flat awning. Contributing
- 89. 119-123 W. 4<sup>th</sup> c. 1905. Two story, Commercial style with five corbelled pilasters creating four bays, each bay having two sets of paired windows (boarded) with flat stone lintels and sills. There is a metal cornice with corbelled panels below. All clerestories covered; one offset entry on east side leads to second floor.

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Newer metal storefront with aluminum frames, two recessed entries off center. Contributing

90. 203-207 W. 4<sup>th</sup> c. 1960. Single story, undetermined style building that has undergone major alterations with stucco and variegated brick. Noncontributing due to age.

4<sup>th</sup> Street, South side

- 91. 100 E 4<sup>th</sup> Pocket park with commemorative marker noting the presence of a hotel on the lot. Decorative landscaping and benches. Noncontributing site.
- 92. 108 E. 4<sup>th</sup> 1911. Two story, brick Colonial Revival style building with brick pilasters extending above parapet. Scalloped sign plaque extends above parapet and reads "ABSTRACT BUILDING 1911" Pressed metal cornice with brackets. Four oriel windows, 1/1 sash. Pediment over entry. Entire storefront has been sheathed in variegated brick with off-center and offset entries and small slit windows. Noncontributing due to alterations.
- 93. 102-106 E 4<sup>th</sup> c. 1903. *Pioneer Block*. Italianate Commercial style, three part business block. Only the easternmost part of the building retains integrity, with 1/1 windows in segmental arch openings, recessed storefront with clerestories covered in wood. The balance of the building has been gutted or altered. The central section is used as a drive-through for a neighboring bank and has no storefront and only the openings on the façade on the second floor; the west section has been completely remodeled and incorporated int othe building next door. Noncontributing due to alteration.
- 94. 100 W. 4<sup>th</sup> 1903. *City National Bank*. Two story, red brick, Romanesque Revival style building with a long frontage on Main Street. Interlocking, arcaded corbelling below cornice. Pilasters extend above parapet capped with stone gaps with cyma recta molds.. Segmental arch windows on the second floor are all boarded. First floor fenestration altered, only two of many round arch openings visible. Noncontributing due to alteration.
- 95. 102-104 W. 4<sup>th</sup> c. 1903. Two story, two part, Italianate Commercial style business block. Eight bays with segmental arch windows (boarded). Corbel table, corbelled panels. Clerestory covered, newer storefront

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encompasses entire building with aluminum framed displays and a recessed, central, double entry. Contributing

- 96. 106 W. 4<sup>th</sup> c. 1903. Two story, four bay, Italianate Commercial style building of red brick. Recessed panel below simple corbel table above segmental arch windows (boarded). Clerestories stuccoed over; recessed central entry with flanking, smaller displays. **Contributing**
- 97. 108-110 W. 4<sup>th</sup> 1903. Two story, two part Italianate Commercial style brick business block. Corbelled pilasters separate the storefronts; two pilasters segregate the center window of nine from its neighbors. Windows are 1/1 with segmental arches and stone sills. Corbel table and corbel string courses mark the cornice, along with the remains of a projecting date block above the parapet. Clerestories stuccoed over; two storefronts, both c. 1950 with aluminum frames and recessed entries. Contributing
- 98. 112-114 W. 4<sup>th</sup> c. 1903 Two story, red brick, Commercial style two part building. Deep corbel table over two sets of four 1.1 segmental arch windows with stone sills. Pilasters that divide storefronts are sheathed in tile; storefronts in process of rehabilitation. Single offset door leads to second floor. **Contributing**
- 99. 116-118 W. 4<sup>th</sup> 1903. Two story, two part Italianate Commercial style building, similar to 1080110 W. 4<sup>th</sup>. Pilasters define two storefronts with paired pilasters separating the middle window of nine on the second floor. Date block in arched parapet supported by these pilasters. Segmental arch windows with 1/1 wood sash. Steel header, clerestory windows (frosted on east storefront, parti-glass on west). Recessed central entry on east storefront, flush entry on west. Contributing
- 100. 120 W. 4<sup>th</sup> c. 1905/1920. Two story, Spanish Colonial Revival style brick building with a pent roofs of clay tiles flanking an ogee parapet. Ogee features a cartouche depicting pipers reclining against a shield. Pilasters with stone quoins are on the corner and extend above the parapet and are capped by half spheres and acanthus leaves. Three round arch windows with a continuous belt/lintel of stone. Flat awning. Offset entries. **Contributing**
- 101. 124 W. 4<sup>th</sup> c. 1905 One story, Commercial style dark brick building with little embellishment. Entry, displays, and clerestories obscured. Noncontributing due to alteration.

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5<sup>th</sup> Street, North side

- 102. 109-111 W. 5<sup>th</sup> C. 1920. One story, two part Commercial style business block of red brick. Large wooden awning covers upper façade and board & batten siding covers storefronts. Noncontributing due to alteration.
- 103. 115-117 W. 5<sup>th</sup> c. 1920 One story, Commercial style building matching the corner building at 5<sup>th</sup> & Washington (#70). Has dark brick and a stepped parapet. Former hatchery. Entries for storefronts are offset, displays obscured with plywood. Contributing

5<sup>th</sup> Street, South side

- 104. 106-108 W. 5<sup>th</sup> c. 1920. One story, Commercial style brick building with two storefronts. Once a part of building facing Main Street. East storefront has offset entry with transom and wood door; west has off-center entry with wood door, smaller display windows. All have concrete headers. Contributing
- 105. 110 W. 5<sup>th</sup>. c. 1920. No distinctive style. Completely covered in stucco with two centered entries and small display windows. Noncontributing due to alterations.

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Looking toward corner of 4th & Main



Looking west down 4<sup>th</sup> from Main

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### Statement of Significance

The Downtown Hobart Historic District is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A for its association with the history of Hobart's downtown commercial development. The district is also eligible under Criterion C because it contains excellent examples of period commercial architecture reflecting trends and styles associated with the turn of the century and after. The period of significance for the district extends from 1901, the date of the original plat, to 1954, which represents the current cutoff for the National Register of Historic Places.

The Downtown Hobart Historic District is significant as an economic trade center and as the county seat of Kiowa County. Construction in the district happened primarily between 1901 and 1930, during the peak of the agricultural industry in southwest Oklahoma, but the downtown remained commercially viable for a number of decades after that. Hobart, a government-planned county seat on an existing rail line, flourished as a center for county activities. The early presence of a railroad provided two important assets to the community. First, it allowed building materials, which included brick, to be on site for immediate construction of the business district, and secondly, it established Hobart as a major marketing center. Soon after the opening by lottery of the Kiowa-Comanche-Arapaho lands and the auctioning of lots for the townsite of Hobart, two-story brick buildings outlined the courthouse square. As the town gained economic stability, the district grew to include civic buildings and other retail stores. The wave of architectural styles and functions in the Downtown Hobart Historic District reflect the prosperity of the community between 1901 and the 1930s. Commercial buildings that reflect the Late Victorian period share the streets with brick Plains Commercial style buildings of the early 1920s and 1930s. The district has a contributing percentage of 64% (69 out of 108) and includes three buildings previously individually listed in the National Register. Eight out of the thirty-nine noncontributing resources are commemorative objects or structures on or adjacent to the courthouse square; the balance are buildings with unsympathetic alterations or dates of construction significantly outside of the period of significance.

### HISTORIC BACKGROUND

The future county seat of Kiowa County began as the Hardin Post Office, established July 21, 1889 in the Kiowa-Comanche-Apache lands, and was renamed Speed on February 20, 1901. Finally, on July 9, 1909, the town site was

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named Hobart after Vice-President Garret A. Hobart of New Jersey. Hobart's potential as an important economic center during the first part of the twentieth century relied primarily upon its function as a county seat and as an agricultural center for the rich farm lands surrounding it.

With the Washita River to the north and northwest and the North fork of the Red River to its west, the town site commanded the center of the flat fertile Redbed Plains northeast of the Wichita Mountains. The deep rich loam beneath the gentile rolling grasslands produced an abundance of crops including cotton and wheat. Farmers boasted of its productivity even before the Kiowa, Comanche, and Apache reservation opened and the actual town of Hobart existed. Anticipating the prospects of an agricultural gold mine, potential bidders pitched their tents on Hobart's designated town site, a grassy plot on the prairie. They were fully prepared to turn the site into the agricultural/economic center for Kiowa County.

On August 6, 1901, the auction began on the northwest corner of the courthouse square. By the day after, some 2,530 people remained in Hobart and turned the tent city into a boomtown within a year. Merchants, from other nearby towns in counties already settled, quickly constructed a commercial district around the courthouse square. A temporary framed building served as the courthouse until the construction of the permanent courthouse was completed. The sale of town site lots generated over \$180,000 in revenue of which no more than \$10,000 could be used to build the present day courthouse.

The Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad presence on the Kiowa, Comanche, and Apache lands preceded the government lottery of 1901. In 1900, the east/west line ran from Chickasha to Granite, passing through the reservation and stopping at the Kiowa Station, near the newly designed government town site. With readily available transportation for building supplies and merchandise, the "rag town" of the prairie was short lived. In three short years, local industries included the Hobart Press Brick Company, Oklahoma Manufacturing Company for repairing and selling parts for agricultural implements, a cotton oil mill, feed mill and elevator, a cotton gin company, and brewing companies. The commercial brick buildings around the courthouse square suggested a permanent investment unlike the fragile wood buildings often found in boom towns.

By 1907, the Frisco Railroad (Saint Louis & San Francisco) provided north/south transportation for agricultural productions. Cotton farming dominated the agricultural landscape, resulting in numerous cotton gins, cotton oil

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companies, and compress companies locating around the rail yards. Other agricultural commodities included wheat and alfalfa with several mills and elevators.

Fifteen years after the auction of the town site, Hobart's business district extended two blocks beyond the courthouse square on the west, one block to the south, with church and residential areas to the north of the central business district. A few business were established across the street east from the courthouse but not any further east because of the agri-businesses that were established along the railroads that were built along the east side of Hobart. The town's economic viability manifested itself by the large number of two-story commercial brick buildings; an electricity plant; a daily newspaper, the Hobart <u>Democrat-Chief</u>; a telephone system; twenty-two miles of cement sidewalks; eighteen miles of sewer lines; and four miles of storm sewers. Within the same decade, town leaders anticipated Hobart's importance as a civic center with the construction of an elaborate municipal building and a Carnegie Library.

Early educational facilities began in a tent with twelve students and a private teacher. The Hobart National Bank financed the first school. In 1910, the four-story Frances Willard School housed the first high school until the construction of a new high school three years later. The three grade schools in 1930 included a school for the African-American children. Eventually, an educational campus for the high school, junior high school, and elementary school were located on the original land set aside for schools by the government. From 1923 to 1952, the Kiowa Municipal College shared the high school facilities.

Hobart's cultural landscape reflected the clustering of ethnic groups as early as 1904. Evidences of an early German community included a large Lutheran Church and cemetery north of Hobart and three beer distributing companies located in Hobart by 1904—Val Blatz Brewery Company, Anheuser-Bush Beer warehouse, and the Pabst Brewing Company Beer Depot.

Other ethnic groups in Hobart included Native-Americans, although little is written about them after the land opening. Cotton farmers brought African-Americans to work the cotton fields around Hobart before statehood. In 1930, 276 comprised the small African-American community on the east side of Hobart. A "negro" school offered further evidence of the clearly segregated society. After the infestation of the boll weevil and the disastrous Dust Bowl of the twenties and thirties, most of the African-American population of southwest Oklahoma dwindled, but Hobart peaked in 1940 at 408, following by slight losses in the 50's and 60's.

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The opportunity for economic diversity during the first part of the century never materialized, despite the numerous energy explorations. Between 1913 and 1916, oil and gas production in a small pool located east of Hobart stimulated further exploration in Kiowa County. However, exploration around Hobart itself in 1917 failed to reveal any significant accumulations.

Typically, the hardships of the 1930's depression forced a migration of tenant farmers resulting in a loss of economic activity within the trade centers and town population. However, Hobart did not experience the same pattern. Instead, it enjoyed stable population growth from the 1920's to 1950's when the town's population peaked to 5,380 people. Local farmers managed to wait-out the economic struggles of the late 1920's and 1930's. The results of Roosevelt's New Deal Programs in Hobart included extant sidewalks and a city park with a swimming pool, bath house, and tennis courts.

### COMMERCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Hobart Downtown Historic District is significant as an economic trade center and as the county seat of Kiowa County. The district developed between 1901 and 1930, during the peak of the agricultural industry of southwest Oklahoma, and continued to prosper into the 1960s. Hobart is the largest trade center in the area, rivaled only be other county seat towns – Cordell, 20 miles to the north, and Mangum, 25 miles to the southwest.

Hobart, a government-planned county seat, flourished as a center for county activities. The early presence of a railroad provided two important assets to the community. First, it allowed building materials, which included brick, to be on site for immediate construction of the business district, and secondly, it established Hobart as a major marketing center. Soon after the opening of the Kiowa-Comanche-Arapaho lands and the auctioning of lots for the town site of Hobart, tow-story brick buildings outlined the courthouse square. As the town gained economic stability, the district grew to include civic buildings and other retail stores.

Numerous grain elevators and processing plants located near the depots shortly after 1901, but the Chickasha Cotton Oil Company was built sometime in the 1920's. In the general location are machine shops and tractor repair shops. Other agricultural-related businesses included Farmer Co-Op, a feed store on the northwest corner of the 6<sup>th</sup> and Main

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Street with grain elevator; and a three -story, metal clad wheat elevator built in the 1930's on the northeast corner, which was Hobart Seed Co. and operated by the Cloar family.

Retail and services were the primary activities in the business district. Law and medical offices occupied second floor space in many of the buildings, along with insurance brokers and other small businesses. Dry goods, farm implements, auto service and sales, and a whole host of retail operations populated the one and two story business blocks. Theaters, restaurants, and pool halls served the entertainment needs of the town and the surrounding county.

As county seat, Hobart served as the focal point of government business. A large, ornate post office was constructed in the 1930s, directly across from the City Hall, which, in turn, faces onto the courthouse square.

### ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Downtown Hobart historic District contains a good collection of one and two story brick commercial buildings that date from the town's beginning through World War II. A great number of buildings represent each of two periods – Territorial era and the 1925-1935 period. Territorial era buildings are those constructed prior to Oklahoma's statehood in November, 1907. The buildings constructed at this time, especially those prior to 1905, reflect Hobart's immediate success as a commercial and transportation center. Those constructed in the 1920s reflect the results of a boom in agriculture that was already beginning to decline, but whose initial success seemed to promise continued prosperity. The balance of the district's buildings were constructed during the period of significance, a period when commercial growth, while not spectacular, still warranted the expansion or modernization of the building stock.

The buildings constructed during the Territorial era reflect the last gasp of Victorian era architectural design. As the picturesque, highly stylized designs that typified the Victorian era ran into the more restrained, functional designs that were coming out of Chicago and eastern cities, a synthesis of the two philosophies merged into designs that somewhat defy categorization. Still, they retain enough of the stylistic markers to allow us to put names to them. Hobart, like many smaller towns and cities, contains a number of these synthesized designs, buildings that reflect both the influence of late Victorian styles and the modern Commercial style that came out of Chicago.

The Victorian styles, the Italianate and the Romanesque, are characterized by distinctive cornice and fenestration treatments. Arched windows, whether full round arches, or segmental arches, are couple with different textures in

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surface treatments on walls and cornices. Pilasters, corbelling, window hoods, and recessed panels are often found on wall surfaces, breaking up the otherwise smooth planes. Cornices might have corbelled brackets, a corbel table, or an attached cornice of decorative pressed metal.. Finials or other such protrusions might break up the line of the parapet or top of the cornice.

Examples of these Victorian era styles are numerous in the Hobart Downtown Historic District. The Italianate Commercial style is represented by a block of buildings on the east side of South Jefferson Street. These two story, brick buildings were all constructed between 1900 and 1905. Typical is the Burke Building, with segmental arched, 1/1 windows and a decorative corbel table. This building, like its neighbors, does not retain the full-blown Italianate vocabulary of a building constructed around 1890, but instead the look has been somewhat tempered by the more simple, modern lines of the emerging Chicago Commercial style. Still, the textured wall surfaces and hints at Italianate antecedents is enough to classify these buildings in the older era.

Also on South Jefferson, as well as at the southwest corner of Main and 4<sup>th</sup> streets, are examples of the Romanesque Revival style. This style, borrowing heavily from Roman Classical designs and popularized by Henry Hobson Richardson, is another Romantic holdover from the Victorian era. In commercial architecture, the Romanesque Revival style is most commonly found in bank buildings, and in Hobart this remains true. The buildings at 330 South Jefferson and at 100 West 4<sup>th</sup> were both constructed as banks around 1903. Each carries some of the hallmarks of the Romanesque Revival style, most notably the full round arched fenestration with distinct window treatments. The use of mixed masonry – brick and stone – can be seen in the 4<sup>th</sup> Street building in the capped finials and name plates..

Seventeen of the district's buildings fall in the two Victorian era stylistic categories. Other picturesque styles found in the district represent the revival styles popular after the First World War. These "Period Revivals" are reflected in both commercial and domestic architecture in the 1920s and find their antecedents in historic styles of Europe and America. Examples in Hobart include six Spanish-influenced buildings, five Classical or Colonial Revival influenced buildings, and three outstanding Renaissance Revival style buildings. Standing out among the Spanish-influenced buildings are the Elks Lodge, located at 300 South Washington, a great example of Spanish Colonial Revival, and the theater buildings at 419 South main and 120 West 4<sup>th</sup>, both great examples of Spanish Mission Revival. The Classical Revival (not much distinguishable from Colonial Revival in its use of Classical vocabulary in a stylized, but balanced form) can be seen in the Carnegie Library and City Hall, both previously listed in the National Register, but also in the bank

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building at 301 South Main and the noncontributing building at 108 East 4<sup>th</sup>. The Renaissance Revival, while not the most numerous style, has some of the best examples, including the National Register listed courthouse, the US Post Office and the Gish Funeral Home, all on Main Street.

While there are random other, later styles represented in the district, like the streamlined Art Moderne car dealership at 4<sup>th</sup> and South Washington, the majority of the buildings in the district could be classified as Commercial style. The Commercial style is a catch-all, referring to the look of buildings typical to the 1910-1930 era that lack the significant ornamentation of the late Victorian era, but retain enough ornamentation that separates them from the "Modernist" styles of the later decades. Ornamentation tends to be two dimensional, perhaps panels in the walls outlines by differing colors or bonds of brick, flat lintels and simple sills, and more emphasis on the storefront. Storefronts themselves differ from the earlier buildings by becoming more prominent to the street. Recessed entries are either eliminated or exaggerated, bringing more attention to the entry and displays themselves. There are numerous examples of Commercial style buildings in Hobart, from single story brick or stucco versions to large, two part commercial blocks. The north side of 4<sup>th</sup> Street has a prime examples at 119-123 West 4<sup>th</sup> and the Snug Hotel at 425 South Main.

As a whole, the Downtown Hobart Historic District contains one of the better collections of early 20<sup>th</sup> Century commercial buildings in western Oklahoma. Centered on the courthouse square, the district provides a cohesive setting for the collection. Few towns in western Oklahoma can boast as many intact examples early statehood commercial buildings and fewer still of Territorial era commercial buildings.

The Downtown Hobart Historic District is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A for its association with the history of Hobart's downtown commercial development. The district is also eligible under Criterion C because it contains excellent examples of period commercial architecture reflecting trends and styles associated with the turn of the century and after. While the contributing resource count is at 64%, this is tempered by the number of small, noncontributing resources found scattered on the courthouse square and the fact that three prominent buildings have previously been listed in the National Register. Given these considerations, 71% of the buildings contribute to the district. The district retains a high degree of integrity of setting, location, feeling, design, and association. Some negative impact on workmanship and materials is evident in the alteration of some buildings, but not enough to detract from the overall integrity of the district.

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Southeast Corner of 4<sup>th</sup> & Main. Building has been radically altered



Kiowa County Courthouse, circa 1910

OMB No. 1024-0018

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86)

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### Bibliography

Oklahoma State University, Department of History. "Reconnaissance Level Survey of Five Southwestern Oklahoma Towns," Submitted to Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office, 1995. Includes Granite, Hobart, Hollis, Mangum, and Sayre. Provides historic context and background history compiled through numerous primary and secondary sources.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Hobart, Oklahoma Territory (1904), Hobart, Oklahoma (1909, 1916, 1926, 1931, 1948).

UTM Zone 14			
E/N	E/N	E/N	E/N
A. 491600/3875850	<b>B</b> . 491740/3875740	C. 491740/3875540	D. 491600/3875330
E. 491460/3875300	F. 491340/3875400	G. 491340/3875700	H. 491640/3875850

### Verbal Boundary Description

From intersection of Alley between S. Washington and S. Main and W. 2<sup>nd</sup>, east to Alley east of Main, thence south to alley north of lot 13, block 16, thence east to alley east of Jefferson, thence south to East 4<sup>th</sup>, thence west to S. Jefferson, thence south to north lot line of lot 5, block 28, thence west to alley, thence south to Railroad right of way, thence southwest along right of way to alley west of Main, thence north to W. 5<sup>th</sup>, thence west to alley west of S. Washington, thence north to W. 3<sup>rd</sup>, thence east to S. Washington, thence north to point of beginning. See attached maps.

### **Boundary Justification**

The boundaries include the extant historic commercial center of Hobart during the period of significance. Demolitions and alterations to the southeast section of the district resulted in the exclusion of some historic areas.