

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received MAR 7 1988  
date entered

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

1. Name

historic

and or common Eufaula Business District

2. Location

street & number Area within Lots 89, 90, 100, 101, 102 on  
Main Street between Pine and Grand Streets. NA not for publication

city, town Eufaula NA vicinity of

state Oklahoma code 40 county McIntosh code 091

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	NA in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	NA being considered	<input checked="" 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 Multiple ownership (See continuation sheet)

street & number NA

city, town NA NA vicinity of state NA

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number McIntosh County Courthouse

city, town Eufaula state Oklahoma

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1980 \_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records Oklahoma Historical Society, Preservation Office

city, town Oklahoma City state Oklahoma

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## 7. Description

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**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved      date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Eufaula Business District is a group of thirty commercial buildings along three blocks on both sides of Main Street between Pine and High Streets. These structures are combinations of locally made red brick and native sandstone, built between 1899 and 1916. This district still forms the heart of the commercial district in Eufaula which is still quite active (and as such buildings have been kept up), partially due to the business brought in by recreational activities on Lake Eufaula. Most of the structures still display their original design, with only a few attempts to rejuvenate facades or street level entries.

The structures range in size from one to three stories. Built as stores, offices, restaurants, barbershops, banks, hotels, and other businesses necessary in a bustling community in early day Oklahoma, the facades of red brick, buff-colored brick, concrete, stringcourses, lintels, sills, and parapet walls. Some of the more impressive structures reflect a Richardsonesque use of architectural elements in the blocky design, rusticated textures, and ornamentation help distinguish the buildings and provide visual activity in the townscape.

The visual unity of the district's character lies in the consistency of scale, materials, and uniform set backs from the street, as well as in the horizontal alignments of the streetlevel display windows, clearstories, and bands of windows on the upper levels. The district is bounded on both ends of Main Street by an abrupt change in scale, materials, design and purpose of newer businesses including a car dealership, service stations, fast food businesses. The district's boundaries have been the traditional boundaries of the main commercial district since 1899 with only a few other older commercial buildings scattered on side streets. The cohesion in this group of buildings accurately reflects the quick emergence of the community from railroad boom town to thriving commercial center.

**BUILDINGS CONTRIBUTING TO THE CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT:**

(Note: Numbers key to the sketch map of the district. For the sake of consistency and clarity, building names are the known historic names.)

1. 223 N. Main: 1910-1916, a one story midwestern brick commercial building divided into three storefronts by flattened pilasters of brick with decorative brickwork friezes. This structure once housed the offices of the Indian Journal, the oldest continuous newspaper in the state. (see right building, photo #1)

2. Eufaula National Bank Building, 201 N. Main: 1901-1904, a two story red brick structure with decorative brickwork including the battlement, toothed stringcourse, and diamond shaped brickwork within flat-topped arches above second story windows. Other features include rusticated sandstone lintels, stringcourses that accentuate the roofline and the area dividing the two floors and arches on the corner entry. These arches

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## DOWNTOWN PROPERTY OWNERS

Building numbers are taken from item number seven.

<u>Bldg.# and Address</u>	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Mailing Address</u>
1. 223 N. Main	Max and Ilene Bridges	233 N. Main Eufaula, OK 74432
2. 201 N. Main	Mr. and Mrs. Jarold Bush Casey	Rt. 1, Box 240 Shawnee, OK 74801
3. 139 N. Main	Mr. and Mrs. Boyd Knight	139 N. Main Eufaula, OK 74432
4. 137 N. Main	Mr. and Mrs. Boyd Knight	139 N. Main Eufaula, OK 74432
5. 133 N. Main	Mr. and Mrs. Harry Chenault	512 S.W. 4th Checotah, OK 74426
6. 127 N. Main	Mrs. Grace Wortham	127 N. Main Eufaula, OK 74432
7. 121 N. Main	Richard T. Willis	121 N. Main Eufaula, OK 74432
8. 117 N. Main	Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell B. Palmer King	117 N. Main Eufaula, OK 74432
9. 113 N. Main	Ms. Nina Jean Plamer	416 Forest Eufaula, OK 74432
10. 101 N. Main	State National Bank Robert Lee Simpson III, Pres.	102 N. Main Eufaula, OK 74432
10. 101 N. Main	Mrs. Norma Jean Sellers	509 Forest Eufaula, OK 74432
11. 100 S. Main	Mr. and Mrs. Bill Smith, Jr.	123 Foley Eufaula, OK 74432
12. 102 & 104 S. Main	Mr. and Mrs. Bill Smith, Jr.	123 Foley Eufaula, OK 74432

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13.	116 S. Main	Mr. and Mrs. Martin R. Rucker	116 S. Main Eufaula, OK 74432
14.	224 N. Main	First Christian Church	223 N. Main Eufaula, OK 74432
15.	218 N. Main	Dr. and Mrs. Robert E. Farrow	218 N. Main Eufaula, OK 74432
16.	216 N. Main	L.G. Finance Company	3216 Dartmouth Ave. Dallas, TX 75205
17.	214 N. Main	L.G. Finance Company	3216 Dartmouth Ave. Dallas, TX 75205
18.	202 N. Main	Mr. and Mrs. Fred P. Wendel	202 N. Main Eufaula, OK 74432
19.	134 N. Main	George Holuby and Johnny Sellers	134 N. Main Eufaula, OK 74432
20.	126 N. Main	Mr. and Mrs. Boyd Knight	139 N. Main Eufaula, OK 74432
20.	126 N. Main	Mr. D.C. Janeway and Mrs. Mary Ruth Wendel	126 N. Main Eufaula, OK 74432
21.	102 N. Main	State National Bank Robert Lee Simpson III, Pres.	102 N. Main Eufaula, OK 74432
22.	101 S. Main	Jerome D. Wilson and Charles V. Wilson	P.O. Box 543 Jay, OK 74346
23.	107 S. Main	Mrs. Jean Lackey	107 S. Main Eufaula, OK 74432
24.	109 S. Main	Kenneth Lackey	115 S. Main Eufaula, OK 74432
25.	111 S. Main	Kenneth Lackey	115 S. Main Eufaula, OK 74432
26.	115 S. Main	Kenneth Lackey	115 S. Main Eufaula, OK 74432

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- |     |             |   |                                    |
|-----|-------------|---|------------------------------------|
| 27. | 121 S. Main | Mrs. Ene Watts                                    | Rt. 2, Box 57<br>Bixby, OK 74008   |
| 28. | 131 S. Main | Charles C. Downum                                 | 55 Forest St.<br>Eufaula, OK 74432 |
| 29. | 133 S. Main | Mildred Ballard<br>c/o Hugh Ballard               | 5508 Grand<br>Ft. Smith, AR 72904  |
| 30. | 137 S. Main | Eufaula Auto Supply, Inc.<br>c/o Byrd Farrow, Jr. | 137 S. Main<br>Eufaula, OK 74432   |

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on the corner entry. These arches are supported by a stylized column at the corner of the street and form the base of a Richardsonian rounded corner extending to the roofline. The original 1" glazed white and green tiles on the sidewalk under the entry spell out Eufaula National Bank. Other entrances to the building carry the typical storefront appearance with clerestories above. (See corner building, photo #1)

3. Southwest corner of Main and Railey: 1910-1916: a two story brick building with concrete detailing in the bracketed modified cornice, in the lintels, in the sills, in the surrounds, and in the keystone above the door. Decorative accents include the paired medallions in the ends of the cornice, the stringcourse of vertical brick above the second story windows, the diamond reminiscent of a keystone above the windows, and the vertical brick watertable. (See corner building at right end of streetscape, photo #2)

6. 127 S. Main: 1905-1910, a two story cement block commercial storefront building. Among the most notable features of this building are slightly projecting concrete surround lintels above the two doublehung sash windows on the second level, centered above the clerestory of the storefront. Other concrete ornamentation includes sills, cornice, stepped roofline, and pilaster strips. (See fourth building from right on streetscape, photo #2; or building on right end, photo #3)

7. 121 N. Main: 1910-1916, a two story buff brick commercial building divided into two storefronts, each receiving different treatments on the roofline but otherwise similar in decorative features. The central entrance between the two storefronts consists of a round arched entry with brick voussoirs and concrete skewbacks and keystone. Metal star-shaped tie rod end caps are visible above the second story windows. Concrete ornamentation consists of the watertable, sills, decorative square insets in pilasters, pilaster reference capitals, as well as edging on the south half's semicircular pediment false front. Brick detailing includes the bracketed cornice and squared arch references above the three pairs of windows. The clerestory on the south side has been covered by a corrugated panel, and the recessed entry below the clerestory has been replaced by a brick facade containing a single window, but the clerestory and glass storefront are still visible on the north side. (See right building, photo #3)

8. C.H. Tully Building, 117 N. Main: 1899-1901, a two story red brick commercial storefront that reveals the impact of Richardsonian styling on small town architecture in the rusticated sandstone on the lintels, stringcourse, semi-elliptical arches above the second story windows, pilaster capitals and battlement finials. The brick corbels under the modified

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cornice of the stepped gable's false front provide additional textural detailing. (See second building from left, photo #3)

9. 113 N. Main: 1899-1901, a two story red brick commercial storefront that continues the rusticated sandstone stringcourse of the C.H. Tully building but incorporates it into a cornice with stepped brick brackets between the first and second stories. The second story uses contrasting yellow brick for detailing in another cornice, details, stringcourses, entablature, and arched references above the paired double sash windows. (See left building, photo #3)

10. Foley/Bank Building, 101 N. Main: 1899, a three story, Richardsonian red brick, arcaded block that originally housed a bank, hotel, barbershop, restaurant, and retail stores. The building itself was divided vertically by flattened pilasters and variations in the fenestration patterns, each street level entry receiving distinctive treatment. Bands of windows, sandstone and brick stringcourses. The rusticated sandstone foundation, corbelling on the parapet wall, and the broken cornice connect the building horizontally. Each level of windows received a different treatment: the sandstone stepped arches of the street level windows, the brick segmental arch lintels on the second floor and the round arches on the third floor windows. The Richardsonian rounded corner of rusticated brick capped with a bell-shaped cupola projects at an angle to the streets and above the roofline. Two bands of decoration in a wooden ring (garlands and medallions) support the iron-clad cupola. The corner entry to the bank received special treatment with two stylized tooled sandstone columns with corinthian capitals and resting on large plinths of tooled stone. These support a rusticated sandstone arched entry which was recessed with two shallow steps and a semicircular clerestory above the door, topped with the carving of "Band" between two flattened and stylized pilaster capitals. Originally, a second story iron balcony decorated the central portion of the east facade above the hotel entry. The building has long been the focal point of the business district. (See photo #4)

11. Sorbee Building, 100 S. Main: 1899, a single story sandstone block building with rusticated sandstone and brick pilaster strips on the Main Street facade. Rusticated sandstone lintels above the paired clerestory windows and cornice as well as the stucco frieze and recessed entry complete the facade of the first building completed after the fire in 1898. (See corner building, photo #5)

12. 102 and 104 S. Main: 1910-1916, a one story red brick commercial building divided into two storefronts with paired decorative brickwork friezes above the clerestories. (See center building, photo #5)

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13. 116 S. Main: 1910-1916, a one story red brick commercial storefront with a series of stringcourses in yellow brick and concrete above the pilasters which alternate three rows of brick with one row of projecting brick on a concrete base. The alley windows, while in disrepair, are still original as is the recessed entry's design. (See left building, photo #5)

14. First Christian Church Building, 224 N. Main: 1910-1916, a single story red brick church with flattened pilasters dividing the windows into bays on the north side with brick archivaults above the windows, with a palladian style window on the west, and with concrete stringcourses. Though originally designed and still used as a church, the building's design also permitted it to function as a commercial structure if the need arose. The church has been an important visual element in the commercial district since its construction, providing the northeastern boundry for the business district. Because of the demolitions of other churches for the nearby man made Lake Eufaula, it is also the oldest remaining church left in Eufaula. (See left building, photo #6)

16. 210 N. Main: 1910-1913, a two story red brick commercial structure with three large round arched windows of three rows of brick on the upper level. These windows, which originally held double sash windows, now contain single fixed panes. Brick pilasters with concrete caps edge the building and a brick frieze and concrete cap course above the arched windows complete the visual variety of the upper level. (See third building from right, photo #6)

18. Burdett Building, 202 N. Main 1899-1901, initially a single story structure, the Burdett Building gained a second story between 1910 and 1928 but was returned to a single story building after a fire in 1928. This building features a squared brick corner column and flattened entablature above a deeply recessed, angled opening which is used as a drive through. The side street facade has a high rusticated stone watertable supporting a series of flattened pilaster strips. Brickwork on the front and stone on the side as well as the gutters and collector boxes have been painted white. While the building had two stories it served as the original location of the McIntosh County Courthouse. The rebuilt building retained many of the original one story building's details. (See corner building, photo #6)

19. Brown Brothers Building, 134 N. Main: 1900, a two story red brick commercial storefront with a high concrete watertable and brickwork detailed decoration above the second story windows including brick corbels, stepped stringcourse, toothed stringcourse, and a stringcourse stepping around the windows. The main focal point is the angled corner with a



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decorative parapet wall, a stone name plate inscribed with "BROWN BROS 1900" and an archivaulted half-round window-like area above the second story window. A corrugated aluminum sign runs below the second story windows, covering the original clerestory area. (See corner building, photo #7)

20. Foley Building, 126 N. Main: 1899, a two story rusticated sandstone commercial building divided into two storefronts with paired windows above each clerestory. Brackets and a cornice with a parapet wall decorate the upper level. Stringcourses of sandstone define the window sills and frieze on the second story, as well as banding above the clerestory level. Pilasters on the first floor bracket the clerestories. The upper story houses the local chapter of the Masonic Lodge, one of the oldest chapters in the state. (See stone building, midblock, photo #7)

22. Morhart Building, 101 S. Main: 1900, a two story stuccoed brick commercial building with a variety of stringcourse decorations above the second story and between levels a segmented course between each level of windows, round archivaults above the corner window on the second story. The last three bays on the north side were added, probably between 1901-1904 and continue many motifs. Stepped brickwork accentuates the flattened pilaster strips at the first floor level. The main entry is recessed in the angled corner with special emphasis on the corner decorations. Smaller side entrances received a variety of treatments as appropriate for office or stores. (See corner building, photo #8)

27. 121 S. Main: 1910-1916, a one story painted brick commercial building that is divided into two storefronts. The primary features of this building are the angled recessed entry and display area with a metal post supporting the ceiling above the entry and the parapet wall with the frieze area of a five brick deep stringcourse, the square ventilation holes below which serve as decoration, and the single brick stringcourse below with dentils. (See building midblock to left of two story structure, photo #8)

28. 131 S. Main: 1901-1904, a two story sandstone commercial building which had brick facing applied after a fire following 1910, with a drive-through on the lower level south half and a small storefront on the northern half with a row of double hung sash windows on the second story. Architectural features include segmental arches above the second story windows and a continuous concrete sill and a small cornice near the roofline and a decorative brickwork frieze. There are also rows of chimneys on each side of the building, which are now stucco over stone. (See two story structure, midblock, photo #8)

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29. 133 S. Main: 1910-1916, a one story midwestern brick commercial storefront with a variety of stringcourses above the clerestory. (See building to right of #28, photo #8)

30. 137 S. Main: 1910-1916, a single story midwestern brick commercial building divided into two storefronts with bands of decorative brickwork and pilaster strips. The northern storefront retains the original recessed wooden display and entry. (See two storefronts at right end of block, photo #8)

NON-CONTRIBUTING PROPERTIES

With the exceptions of #15 and #21, which are later infill structures, these non-contributing properties consist of historic buildings which have had simple "face lifts" by applying wood or metal facings. In most cases, these alterations could be easily removed to reveal the historic facades.

4. 139 N. Main: 1916-1928, a one story brick commercial storefront with a new facade of wood shingles and a mansard roof which does not conform to the traditional character of the district. (See second building from right, photo #2)

5. 133 N. Main: 1910-1916, a one story brick commercial building with a corrugated aluminum facade. (See third building from right, photo #2)

15. 218 N. Main: 1950's, a single story, low profile office building of buff and brick. This building is surrounded by taller structures, which minimize its visual impact. (See photo #6)

17. 214 N. Main: 1910-1916, a one story brick commercial building with a metal facade. (See second building from right, photo #6)

21. 102 N. Main: 1970-1978, a one story modern brick commercial building which filled in a vacancy left by a recent fire. The use of red brick the low profile, common setback, and the banding of metal at the same level as many clerestories and commercial signs on older structures mitigate the visual intrusiveness of this building. (See last building in closest block on right, photo #7; or building on left of photo #9)

23. 105 S. Main: 1901-1904, a one story midwestern red brick commercial storefront that has been overlaid with an angled board and batten facade. A shake clad, steeply pitched gabled roof motif caps the store window and entry way. (See building to right of two story structure, photo #9)

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24. 109 S. Main: 1899-1901, a one story brick commercial building with an addition extending off the back built between 1910 and 1916. Recent renovations of the building include a corrugated metal facade. (See third building from left of corner, photo #9)

25. 111 S. Main: 1910-1916, a single story brick commercial building with a metal clad facade. This building houses the offices of the Indian Journal, the oldest newspaper in the state. (See fourth building from left of corner, photo #9)

26. 117 S. Main: 1901-1904, a one story, midwestern brick commercial storefront which has been covered by a wooden facade consisting of clap-board extending to the door and window lintels with board and batten above. A shake clad, steeply pitched gabled roof motif projects from the facade over the doorway. (See right building, photo #9)

There have been few structural intrusions in the district, the most notable being the new State National Bank building, but its low profile does not significantly disturb the character and scale of the early twentieth century business district. The structures built after 1937 constitute less than ten per cent of the buildings in the district and are compatible with earlier buildings in terms of scale, design and materials. These structures, though not contributing to the historical context of the district, reinforce the overall character of the business district by filling in vacant spaces and providing a visual continuity to the street-fronts.

NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY

<u>Type</u>	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Non-Contributing</u>
Building	21	9
Structure	0	0
Site	0	0
Object	0	0
Total:	21	9

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the region.

With statehood Eufaula became the county seat of McIntosh County, which strengthened its commercial influence in the area. By 1916 Eufaula's commercial development had matured, which was reflected in the diversity of businesses in the district. The Foley Bank Building, on the northwest corner of Main and Foley Streets, housed a bank, hotel, and restaurant. Other buildings in the Eufaula Business District contained opera houses, a filling station and automotive store, a telephone exchange, movie theater, and businesses of jewelers, druggists, and professional offices. Statehood and commercial enterprise had transformed Eufaula from a railroad depot and a few general stores to a community that constituted the political and economic center of McIntosh County. The commercial district was the hub of this activity, and its buildings reflected the pride of its citizens.

A number of buildings in the Eufaula Business District deserve special mention. One of these is the Sorbee Building. After the fire of 1898 the town's citizens needed a place to rebuild, so Mr. Sorbee donated land to the town so that the new business district could be built away from the railroad tracks, which were a fire hazard. His building was the first to be constructed. Two other buildings in the district have housed the offices of the Indian Journal, the oldest continuous newspaper in the state. The Foley/Bank Building, built by Eufaula's most prominent merchant and first mayor Cornelius Foley, housed a bank, hotel, barbershop, and other commercial establishments. This building still serves as the focal point the commercial district. The Eufaula National Bank, built between 1901 and 1904 constitutes a sterling example of the style and quality of brick masonry available around the turn of the century. The original location of the county courthouse was across the street in the second story of the Burdett Building, which is now a sporting goods store. The only religious structure in the district is the First Christian Church, which is the oldest church building left in town. Taken together, these buildings and others in the district comprise a coherent group that continue to dominate the townscape. They stand apart from later buildings on Main Street, which lack the architectural details and consistency in materials, scale, and setbacks of those in the historic business district.

The buildings in Eufaula's commercial district are a testament to the town's early commercial successes. Though the commercial vitality of the town waned in the 1930s with the collapse of the cotton market, Eufaula's position as a county seat helped to maintain the town's commercial stature. In the 1950s the construction of a major recreational lake which borders the town of Eufaula bolstered the town's economy and assured its continued commercial success. As a unit, the Eufaula Business District embodies an important component of the town's history and commercial development, particularly since both the district's use and visual character have changed very little with time.

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Major Bibliographical References

Eufaula Public Library, Vertical File on Eufaula. Various brochures.  
Parkhurst, Dean, "Historical and Tourist Information on Eufaula, Oklahoma"  
received from Eufaula Chamber of Commerce files.  
Sanborn Map Company, "Eufaula, Oklahoma," October, 1910; April, 1916;  
June, 1928  
Sanborn-Perris Map Company, "Eufaula, Indian Territory," February, 1894;  
February, 1899; March, 1901; January, 1905.  
Twin Territories (Muskogee, Indian Territory), Vol. 1, Number 11 (October,  
1899) pp. 216-223.

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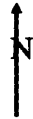
Item number 10

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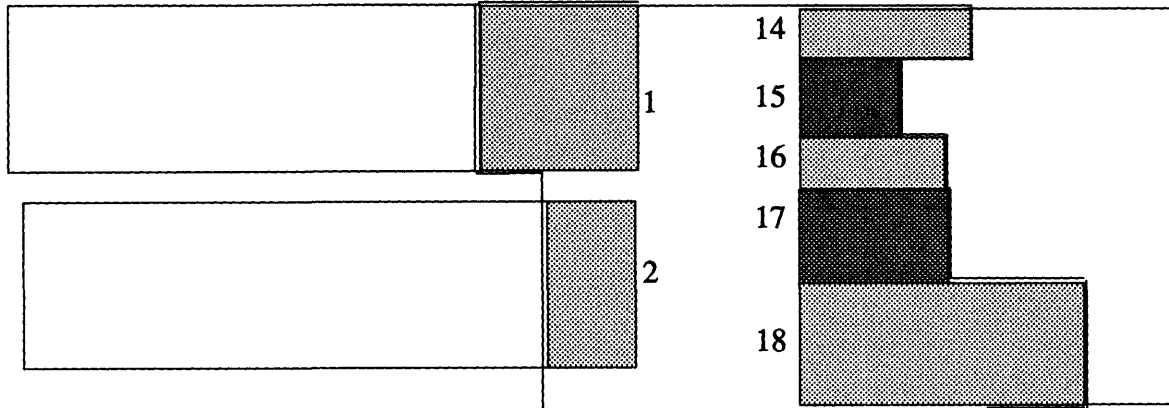
The Eufaula Business District consists of those buildings facing Main Street along the west and east sides of that street from Pine Avenue to the alley between Foley Avenue and Grand Avenue on the west side of Main Street and extending to Grand Avenue on the east side of Main Street. The exact boundary line is shown on the sketch maps accompanying this nomination form. The maps are drawn to scale and are the plat maps for the downtown portion of the City of Eufaula.

For the Eufaula Business District, it is not possible to draw a straight boundary line. Most of the blocks in this portion of Eufaula have neither alleys nor utility rights-of-way in the middle of the blocks. Thus, it is not possible to reference a straight boundary line using this normal device. Further, construction of later buildings on parallel streets was such that some buildings touch or almost touch the rear wall of the historic buildings composing the district. If straight lines based on a common depth from the front facade of the buildings would result in a line actually cutting through buildings which are not a part of the district. No feasible alternative to the above description is possible. Therefore, the boundary lines are drawn along the rear of each building in the district as illustrated on the sketch maps.

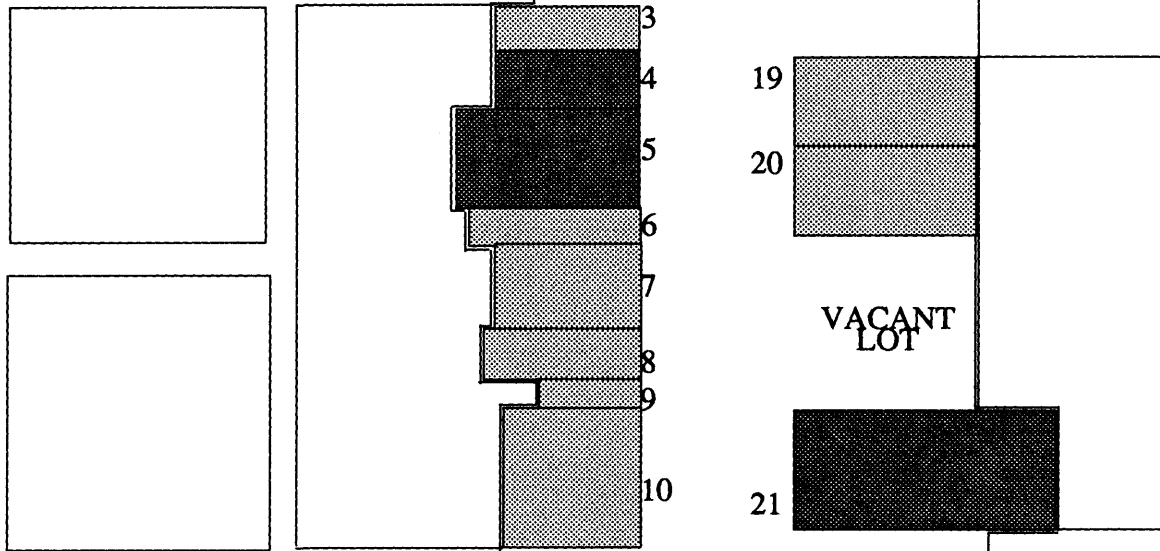
PINE AVENUE



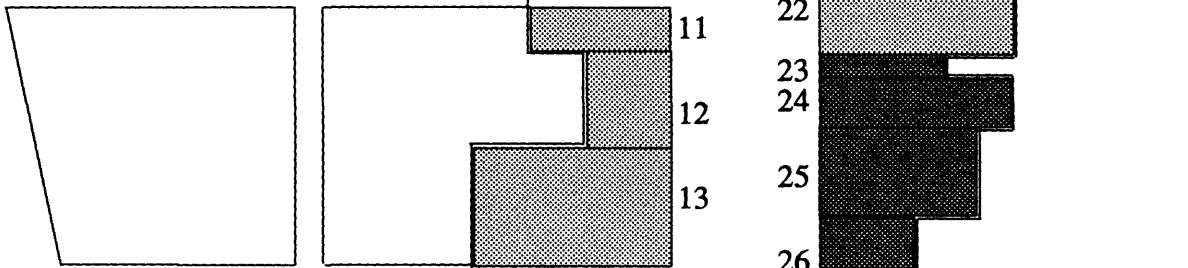
Sketch map number one: Eufaula's historic district delineated according to whether or not a property contributed to the district's historic



RAILEY AVENUE



Foley Avenue  
(S. H. 9)

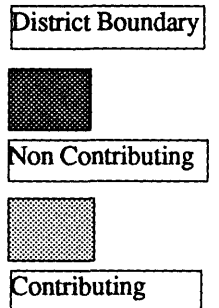


HIGH STREET

MAIN STREET

(U.S. 69)

EUFULA'S DOWNTOWN BUSINESS DISTRICT



scale: 1" = 50'

## 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 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 checked="" 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** 1898-1937

**Builder/Architect**

Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Eufaula Business District is historically significant to the community of Eufaula because it served as the center of commercial activity for the Eastern Oklahoma town and the surrounding rural areas. Beginning as a railroad town in Indian Territory, Eufaula was able to provide both transportation for farmers' products and the goods they wished to buy. This relationship between the town and its rural areas has not changed substantially with the passage of time. The early commercial successes of Eufaula's merchants is reflected in the district's architecture, which constitutes a fine example of early twentieth century small town commercial architecture emphasizing Richardsonian Romanesque and late Victorian styling. Many of these merchants left their names on the more prominent buildings in the district, reflecting their sense of civic pride and personal accomplishment with the construction of their business houses.

Eufaula's commercial district was primarily the result of three events, the arrival of the M.K. and T. Railroad in 1872 (the first railroad in what is now Oklahoma), the fire in 1898 that destroyed many of the wooden structures in the town's original commercial zone, and the concurrent passage of the Curtis Act. The arrival of the railroad was the initial justification for the town of Eufaula and provided the transportation links necessary to create a commercial center, while the fire provided the incentive to rebuild in more durable materials. The Curtis Act, which mandated the division of tribal lands and the setting aside of townships, inspired confidence among the merchants, who were mostly whites, that they would not be evicted as intruders in Indian Territory. Together, these events resulted in a construction boom with over half of the structures in Eufaula's business district built before statehood in 1907.

These buildings reflected the community's confidence and sense of place, and also attested to the community's importance as a commercial center. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth century cotton was the main agricultural product of the region, and Eufaula possessed both the transportation links and the machinery necessary to process the crop, including a cotton seed oil mill across the tracks from the business district. Eufaula's merchants also supplied the material needs of the region's farmers, who frequently made their major purchases of the year with the income from their harvest. The most prominent of Eufaula's early merchants, C.E. Foley, C.H. Tully, J. Burdett, and W.G. Morhart, built their business houses with the profits gained from commerce with the region's farmers. These buildings, which stand today, bear the names of these men and are evidence of Eufaula's commercial significance to



# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Benedict, John R. History of Muskogee and Norhteastern Oklahoma. Chicago: S.J. Clark Publishing Co., 1922  
Bicentennial Edition, Indian Journal, June 1976.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 6

Quadrangle name Eufaula, Okla.

Quadrangle scale 7.5' (1:24000)

### UTM References

A 

1	5	2	6	5	1	6	0	3	9	0	7	7	1	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

E 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

### Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet

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

state NA code NA county NA code NA

state NA code NA county NA code NA

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Scott Hugh Baxter & Karen Bode Baxter

organization Preservation Consultants date September, 1987

street & number 819 S. Sunset Drive telephone 327-2910

city or town Alva 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 *[Signature]*

title *[Signature]* date 25 February 1988

### For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

*for* *Beth Grosvenor Boland* date *4/14/88*  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration