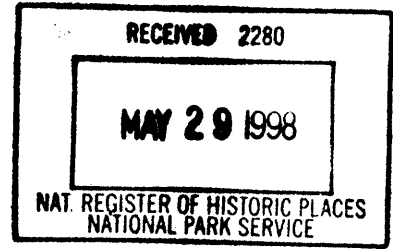


NPS Form 10-900  
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM



=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Prague City Hall and Jail

other names/site number n/a

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number 1116 Jim Thorpe Boulevard not for publication N/A  
city or town Prague vicinity N/A  
state Oklahoma code OK county Lincoln code 081  
zip code 74864

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this XX 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 XX meets      does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant      nationally      statewide XXX locally. ( N/A See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Blair Wade  
Signature of certifying official 18 May 1998  
Date

Oklahoma Historical Society, SHPO  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property      meets      does not meet the National Register criteria. (      See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is       
 entered in the National Register Edson H. Beall 6/26/98  
     See continuation sheet.  
     determined eligible for the       
     National Register       
     See continuation sheet.  
     determined not eligible for the       
     National Register       
     removed from the National Register       
     other (explain):     

Bay  
Signature of Keeper Date  
of Action

---

---

5. Classification

---

---

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

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

---

---

6. Function or Use

---

---

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>GOVERNMENT</u>	Sub: <u>city hall</u>
<u>GOVERNMENT</u>	<u>correctional facility</u>
<u>GOVERNMENT</u>	<u>firestation</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>GOVERNMENT</u>	Sub: <u>city hall</u>
<u>GOVERNMENT</u>	<u>correctional facility</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

---

---

7. Description

---

---

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK  
roof ASPHALT  
walls BRICK  
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)

- 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.
- 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)

ECONOMICS  
ARCHITECTURE  
POLITICS/GOVERNMENT  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance 1936-1948  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

=====  
8. Statement of Significance (Continued)  
=====

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

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder Leonard H. Bailey, Architect  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

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

=====  
10. Geographical Data  
=====

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>14</u>	<u>710010</u>	<u>3929440</u>	3	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>
2	<u>N/A</u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	4	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>

N/A 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 Cynthia Savage, Architectural Historian

organization State Historic Preservation Office date January 1998

street & number 2704 Villa Prom, Shepherd Mall telephone 405/522-4478

city or town Oklahoma City state OK zip code 73107

=====  
Additional Documentation  
=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage  
or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form  
Prague City Hall and Jail  
Lincoln County, Oklahoma

Page 8

=====  
Property Owner  
=====

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

name Town of Prague

street & number 1116 Jim Thorpe Boulevard telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Prague state OK zip code 74864-3523



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 9

Prague City Hall and Jail  
name of property  
Lincoln County, Oklahoma  
county and State

SUMMARY

The Prague City Hall and Jail is a one-story, brick, Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival style building located in Prague, Lincoln County, Oklahoma. The building has functioned as the city hall since its construction in 1936 using a grant from the Public Works Administration. The building is located on the north edge of the historic central business district. Across the street is the modern, metal fire department building and other small commercial buildings of various styles and degrees of integrity. Further to the north of the building is the beginning of residential development. The building has a flat roof with a stone coping along the front and side elevations. The windows are metal with the majority being casement windows with brick headers and sills. The building has been minorly altered with a new aluminum-and-glass front door, the replacement of the shingles on the vestibule roof and the cinder block infill of a garage entrance on the rear of the building. Nonetheless, the building continues to maintain a high degree of integrity of setting, location, design, workmanship, materials, feeling and association.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The west elevation serves as the facade of the building. This is also the most decorative elevation with a symmetrical Mission style parapet crowned by a pinnacle with finial. Directly under the pinnacle is a stone name plate with "City Hall" inscribed. Symmetrically located is the vestibule which also has a Mission style parapet with a cartouche and exposed rafters. The roof of the vestibule was originally covered with ceramic tile but at an unknown date this was changed to asphalt shingles. Centrally located in the vestibule is a non-original single aluminum-and-glass door with a fixed transom window and side light. The original door was a french door without a transom window. Flanking the door and located on either side of the vestibule are small fixed windows. These windows have six panes except for the window immediately south of the door which has four panes and a non-original night drop opening in the lower two panes of the window. Flanking the vestibule in the west elevation are two large windows. The north window retains its original casement window with fixed lights on the sides and tops. The south window has the original fixed lights to the sides and top but the interior casement has been altered to a large, single pane, fixed window.

The north and south elevations are nearly identical in appearance with five casement windows and decorative details of stone coping, brick headers and sills. The only difference between the two elevations is the window spacing and, on the rear of the north elevation, there is an attached, shed roofed, awning.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 10

Prague City Hall and Jail  
name of property  
Lincoln County, Oklahoma  
county and State

On the north elevation the windows are regularly spaced beginning from the western side of the elevation. There are no windows in approximately the back one-fourth of the north elevation. On this rear portion, a shed roofed awning has been attached to the building. There is various equipment stacked against the building under the awning.

On the south elevation, the windows are not equal distance from each other and extend to the back portion of the wall. The westernmost window is placed approximately the same distance from the west corner as the westernmost window on the north elevation. The second window on the south elevation is located at some distance from the first window. The second and third windows are located the closest together on the south elevation with the fourth window slightly further away. The fourth and fifth windows are spaced equally apart on the eastern portion of the elevation.

The east (rear) elevation has three casement windows with steel grills and two non-original pedestrian doors. The steel grills on the windows are included on the building's blueprint. The north and south elevation parapets are visible from the back elevation. Historically there was an overhead door on the southern portion of this elevation but it was infilled with concrete block and a pedestrian door at an unknown time. The brick header remains in place. The second door was originally a narrow door but was replaced at an unknown date with the existing standard size door. The narrow brick header remains in place.

The Prague City Hall and Jail is set back further from the sidewalk than the other two buildings on the block. This allows for a circular walk and a nice landscaped area in front of the building. This has been retained from the original design of the building; however, at some point, the north part of the walk was graded and rails were installed to create a handicap accessible ramp. Due to the large tree on the northwest side of the walk and other foliage, this minor alteration is barely noticeable.

ALTERATIONS:

The Prague City Hall and Jail has undergone a few minor modifications on the front and rear of the building. The front door was changed from a french door to a large, single aluminum-and-glass with a transom and sidelight and a night drop was installed in the small, south window of the vestibule. Also on the west elevation, the ceramic tile on the vestibule was replaced with asphalt shingles and a handicap accessible ramp with rails was incorporated into the front circular walk.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section   7   Page  11 

Prague City Hall and Jail  
name of property  
Lincoln County, Oklahoma  
county and State

=====

On the rear elevation, the overhead door was infilled with concrete block and a pedestrian door. The overhead door brick header provides visible evidence of the original configuration. Additionally, the narrow door to the north of the overhead door on the east elevation has been widened to accommodate a standard size door. Again, the original brick header remains in place.

The only alteration to the side elevations is a shed roofed awning, which has been attached to the rear of the north elevation. Because there are no walls, this awning does not impact the building's integrity.

All of these modifications are minor in scale and do not detract from the overall integrity of the building. The Prague City Hall and Jail continues to maintain its integrity of materials, workmanship, setting, location, design, feeling and association to a fairly high degree.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 12

Prague City Hall and Jail  
name of property  
Lincoln County, Oklahoma  
county and State

Summary

The Prague City Hall and Jail is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with the Public Works Administration (PWA) and as the seat of government for the city of Prague. Further, the city hall is eligible under Criterion C for its architectural significance as an excellent example of Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival public architecture in Prague. The building, constructed in 1936, was designed by Leonard Bailey, an Oklahoma City architect. The city hall is one of two identified PWA buildings in Prague. The other, a municipal auditorium and gymnasium, was also designed by Leonard Bailey but it does not maintain its integrity due to the addition of metal dressing rooms to the facade.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

On September 22, 1891, over 20,000 persons made the run for about 900,000 acres of Sac and Fox, Pottawatomi, Shawnee and Iowa tribes surplus land. Out of this run, the Oklahoma counties of Lincoln and Pottawatomie were developed and the already existing counties of Payne, Cleveland and Logan were expanded. In southeastern Lincoln County, beginning with the 1891 opening, there were several small communities which developed to serve the area but none of these communities really flourished. The lack of growth was hampered by the lack of close rail transportation. The closest railroads were at Stroud, twenty miles north, and Shawnee, twenty-eight miles southwest.<sup>1</sup>

As in the 1889 land run, a number of Czech settlers made the 1891 land run. Locating in the southeastern portion of Lincoln County, these settlers soon attracted other settlers of the same ethnic heritage. Although comprising only 5.8 percent of foreign stock, immigrants and first generation American-born in Oklahoma in 1910, the Czech population achieved notable visibility in the ten north central Oklahoma counties including Lincoln, Canadian, Garfield, Grant, Kay, Kingfisher, Noble, Oklahoma, Payne and Pittsburg. In 1948, it was estimated that one-third of Prague's population was Bohemian with Bohemians owning and operating two-thirds of the businesses in town. This strong ethnic identity continues to this day with an annual *Kolache* Festival in the spring.<sup>2</sup>

In 1901, the residents of southeastern Lincoln County learned that the Fort Smith and Western Railroad planned to build a line between Fort Smith, Arkansas, and Guthrie, Oklahoma. The railroad would pass through Lincoln County in the southeast corner and continue northward through the county into Logan County. In addition to the railroad, the Fort Smith and Western Railroad also had a contract

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 13

Prague City Hall and Jail  
name of property  
Lincoln County, Oklahoma  
county and State

with the banking firm of Hoffman, Charles and Conklin of the Sac and Fox Agency to lay out a series of townsites along the route beginning on the western line of the Creek Nation to Guthrie.<sup>3</sup>

An important site to be determined along the line was for a coaling station. Although the existing town of Lambdin was favored, the firm of Hoffman, Charles and Conklin experienced difficulties in the negotiations with the land owner. As such, they decided to locate the coaling station on the northeast and southeast quarters of section twenty-eight and thirty, two miles southwest of Lambdin. Purchasing the land from the families of Frank Barta and John Simek, two early Lincoln County Bohemian farm families, Hoffman, Charles and Conklin gave the Fort Smith and Western Railroad a right-of-way to build the necessary coal chute.<sup>4</sup>

As part of the deal, Mrs. Barta was allowed to name the town. In remembrance of Prague, Czechoslovakia, Mrs. Barta chose the name Pra-ha. In 1902, a storekeeper in the small community of Dent, Squire Valasak, anglicized the name, making it Prague (pronounced with a long "a" and not a short "a").<sup>5</sup>

Oklahoma's town of Prague officially opened with the sale of lots on May 20, 1902. Commercial lots sold for \$200 to \$700 and residential lots went for \$10 to \$100. Within six months of the city opening, the population in Prague reached 600. By statehood in 1907, the town population stood at 998. The 1920 census revealed that growth within the city was slow but occurring. In 1920, 1,127 residents were recorded. Although never experiencing a tremendous boom, Prague continued to grow so that by 1930 the population stood at 1,299. Contrary to much of the rest of the state, Prague did not lose residents during the Great Depression years of the 1930s,<sup>6</sup> instead gaining 123 citizens which brought the town population to 1,422 in 1940.<sup>6</sup>

Similar to many other Oklahoma communities, Prague flourished as an agricultural center. Situated twenty-eight miles from Shawnee and twenty miles from Stroud and Seminole, Prague enjoyed a sizable trade area. The primary crop in the area during the early decades was cotton and by 1927 the community boasted three cotton gins and the Union Cotton Oil Company. Although the low market prices of cotton after World War I and a boll weevil infestation in 1928 hurt area production, the Union Cotton Oil Company remained in operation until after 1948. The company survived the loss of the railroad in 1938 and, during the trying years of the depression, even purchased many farms in the surrounding community.<sup>7</sup>

Another significant economic factor in the development of Prague during the first half of the twentieth century was the presence of several oil fields in the area. Although it was not until 1931 that an oil field was opened in the immediate

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 14

Prague City Hall and Jail  
name of property  
Lincoln County, Oklahoma  
county and State

=====

vicinity, Prague enjoyed a variety of connections to nearby oil fields. The discovery of oil in the 1915 Paden Field resulted in the leasing of much land around Prague by oil companies. During the 1920s, the opening of several fields which transported goods through Prague again resulted in an economic surge for the small city.<sup>8</sup>

When established, the town of Prague utilized the commission form of government. This type of government continued in use until 1927 when the city government adopted the mayor-council type.<sup>9</sup> After 1948, the city changed to a city manager form of government with a five man council which elected the mayor from its members.<sup>10</sup>

In 1936, The Prague News-Record described the city hall then in use as a "...decrepit mouse trap..." which would "probably fall down if given a little more time." This was somewhat of an overstatement since the old city hall remains extant today, a small, heavily altered building located south of the PWA city hall. Nonetheless, the city alleviated the perceived mouse trap situation with the construction of a new city hall. Although an application to the PWA for a new city hall had been filed "many moons ago," it was not until July 1936 that Prague Mayor H.W. Hartman received a wire from Washington D.C. that the PWA had allocated \$6,316 for the construction of a city hall and jail in Prague.<sup>11</sup>

Formally known as the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works, the PWA was created in June 1933 as one of Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal Era programs. In an effort to assist citizens in distress and stimulate the national economy during the trying times of the 1930s, President Roosevelt legislated twenty-nine different acts between 1933 and 1939. The bills were structured to sustain various parts of the economy with the majority seeking to provide some type of relief for the unemployed. The PWA was enacted to "prepare a comprehensive program of public works." In doing this, the PWA was intended "to create employment and aid industry by the construction of useful public works of enduring social value."<sup>12</sup>

Similar to other New Deal Era programs, the PWA relied on a partnership between the federal, state, county and city governments to stimulate employment. Local public bodies submitted applications to the PWA for the construction of desirable improvements. The PWA than reviewed the application to ensure that 1) the application was submitted by a public body which represented the people and that the project complied with applicable local, state and national laws; 2) the project was financially sound and the applicant was in a financial position to provide its share of construction costs; and, 3) the project was feasible from an engineering standpoint.<sup>13</sup>

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 15

Prague City Hall and Jail  
name of property  
Lincoln County, Oklahoma  
county and State

Unlike other New Deal Era programs, most specifically the Works Progress Administration, the PWA was intended to stimulate private industry. By bolstering private industry, the PWA created an increase in private employment which helped to relieve the widespread local, state and national unemployment problem without resorting to the "dole." The WPA, in contrast, was aimed specifically at employing the jobless on worthwhile public work projects for which the workers received public relief money. The PWA made grants and loans to public bodies for the hiring of architects, contractors and laborers to construct useful public works. They did not provide direct relief to the unemployed in the sponsoring community.<sup>14</sup>

Once an application was approved and the applicant agreed to build the project according to the rules and regulations of the PWA, the PWA gifted forty-five percent of the project cost outright to the sponsoring body. If the applicant had the legal authority to borrow money, they could also borrow the remaining fifty-five percent from the PWA but this was considered a loan which had to be repaid. Once the money was in place, the community solicited contracts for project construction by open, competitive bidding. The PWA remained a supervising participant in the project through construction. After the project was completed to PWA specifications, the PWA retained no control over the use of the project.<sup>15</sup>

The Prague city council submitted plans to the PWA for a 48' X 65' brick building which would accommodate a police court, jail, fire department garage, city clerk's office and a large council chamber. The project was estimated to cost \$14,000. Included in the projected costs were funds for acquisition of lots and pavement. Once the city received notice of approval, immediate steps to accept the funds and begin the project were taken.<sup>16</sup>

By early September, 1936, the location of the building, facing west on Broadway (now Jim Thorpe Boulevard) between Eleventh and Twelfth street north of the O.T. Garage, had been selected. The plans, drawn by Oklahoma City architect Leonard Bailey, were in place and it was predicted that "dirt will be flying by the first of next month." Somewhat changed from the original plans, the September 1936 specifications called for a 46' by 65' building with a 6' by 20' covered entrance vestibule. Located towards the rear of the building was to be the jail, fire department garage and vault. The police courtroom, city clerk's office and council chamber were situated to the front of the building. The Prague News-Record noted that the contract for the project closed on September 25, 1936, although the contractor was not specified.<sup>17</sup>

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 16

Prague City Hall and Jail  
name of property  
Lincoln County, Oklahoma  
county and State

Near the end of November, the city hall was nearing completion with window glass being set. The new city hall was occupied by January 20, 1937, although the jail had yet to receive their first guest. Additionally, hampering completion of the project to PWA standards, was a lack of hardware and other equipment. Nevertheless, the building was put in immediate use with public meetings being held there by March, 1937.<sup>18</sup>

The Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works continued as a separate agency until July 1, 1939, when it was consolidated with the Federal Works Agency under Reorganization Plan No. I of 1939. Under the Federal Works Agency, work continued under the name Public Works Administration. In the same reorganization plan, the Federal Works Agency also incorporated the Works Progress Administration (renaming it the Works Projects Administration), Public Buildings Branch of the Procurement Division, Public Roads Administration and the United States Housing Authority.<sup>19</sup> The Federal Works Agency continued in operation until June 30, 1949, when it was abolished and the agency functions transferred to the General Services Administration.

Between June 1933 and March 1939, the PWA funded projects in 3,069 of the nation's 3,071 counties. These projects ranged from conservation projects, electric power plants, sewage disposal and waterworks projects, and construction of school buildings, hospitals and numerous public buildings. Total, the PWA was allotted over 2.4 billion dollars. This money was made available by appropriations or sales of securities by the National Industrial Recovery Act, Emergency Appropriation Act for Fiscal Year 1935, Emergency Relief Appropriations Act of 1935, Deficiency Revolving Fund, First Deficiency Appropriation Act of 1936 and Public Works Administration Appropriation Act of 1938. Of the 2.4 billion dollars allotted, the PWA expended nearly 1.7 billion dollars by February 1939 and had obligated all but 15 million of the remaining 751 million dollars on a variety of projects nationwide.<sup>20</sup>

In terms of public buildings, 4,287 buildings were constructed using allotments from the PWA. Of this, 1,492 were buildings for administration, legislative, judicial and general governmental purposes built in partnership with cities, counties and states. This included 206 city and town halls, 295 courthouses, 101 fire stations, 12 combined fire and police stations, 15 police stations, 126 jails and prisons and 130 other city, county and state administrative and office buildings. In outright gifts, the PWA granted over a hundred million dollars for the construction of city, county and state government buildings. They also loaned nearly 18 million dollars towards the total estimated cost of over 313 million dollars.<sup>21</sup>



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 17

Prague City Hall and Jail  
name of property  
Lincoln County, Oklahoma  
county and State

In Oklahoma, the PWA undertook 302 projects with non-federal partners. The total estimated costs of these projects was just under 52 million dollars. The PWA allotted nearly 39 million of the total projected cost. The projects ranged from the construction of hospitals, schools, waterworks, sewage disposal, electric power plants and government buildings.<sup>22</sup> Some of the larger PWA projects in Oklahoma included the construction of the municipal complex in Oklahoma City, consisting of the Municipal Building, County Courthouse and Jail (NR-1992) and the Municipal Auditorium (now called the Civic Center); Ardmore Municipal Building; Garfield County Courthouse in Enid (NR-1984); Ponca City Library; Oklahoma Military Academy Field House and Auditorium in Claremore; the Doctors' and Nurses' Quarters at the Indian Hospital in Talihina; and the Cushing Municipal Light and Power Plant.<sup>23</sup>

Although not having the widespread economic impact of other New Deal Era programs, such as the Works Progress Administration, the PWA was an important component of the efforts to stimulate the economy during the Great Depression. Aimed specifically at aiding private enterprise, the PWA helped boost employment in the private sector with the employment of professionals, such as architects and engineers, to wage-earners, such as skilled and unskilled construction workers. This, in turn, helped to relieve the number of dependent persons on the "dole." Between June 1933 and February 1939, the Department of Labor revealed that PWA projects provided nearly 2 billion hours of employment at construction sites and an additional 4 billion plus of indirect labor employment in private industry.<sup>24</sup>

Beyond stimulating the area industry and economy, the construction of buildings like the Prague City Hall and Jail also facilitated the workings of numerous town governments across the state and nation. Similar to numerous other types of public buildings, such as schools, many Oklahoma government buildings had become obsolete or, in some instances, were nonexistent. Due to their inability to procure sufficient funds, especially during the trying economic times of the Great Depression, many counties and towns were not able to construct the necessary improved facilities. However, with the assistance of such New Deal programs as the WPA and PWA, several city halls, jails and county courthouses were constructed to improve the quality of local government in many Oklahoma towns.

The construction of new city halls allowed the respective community government to function with a new efficiency. The improved facilities centralized the seat of city government and also allowed for an expansion of city records and services. Additionally, the new buildings enhanced the community identity. The city hall, often the identifying building of small towns, was critical to the town's self-image.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 18

Prague City Hall and Jail  
name of property  
Lincoln County, Oklahoma  
county and State

The only other identified PWA aided building in Prague is the Municipal Gymnasium and Auditorium. Although designed by the same Oklahoma City architect, Leonard Bailey, the gymnasium is in more of a Commercial style and has been adversely impacted by the construction of metal dressing rooms on the facade.

There are no other identified New Deal Era buildings in Prague. The 1987 thematic survey of WPA projects in central Oklahoma, including Lincoln County, did not identify any WPA buildings in Prague. Local lore holds that the residents of Prague were not receptive to the type of dole inherent in the WPA program.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Prague City Hall and Jail is an excellent example of a Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival style public building. Located on the northern edge of Prague's central business district, the city hall is the only public building in Prague in this style. Although undergoing minor modifications, the city hall continues to possess striking features of the Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival style. These include two Mission shaped parapets with stone coping. Also outstanding is the decorative detail on the parapets. The upper parapet with its pinnacle crowned by a finial and the stone name plate. The lower parapet with its cartouche and exposed rafters.

To the south of the city hall, is the Park Funeral Home, currently the Prague Historical Museum. This building exhibits a Spanish style influence with green ceramic tiles and a square parapet. However, this building is a more of residential type of building and does not possess the stylized characteristics of the Prague City Hall and Jail.

ENDNOTES

1. William Ray Tower, "A General History of the Town of Prague, Oklahoma, 1902-1948," (M.A. Thesis, Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College, 1948), 6.
2. Karel D. Bicha, The Czechs in Oklahoma (Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1980), 21-23, 69. See also Tower, "A General History," introduction.
3. Tower, "A General History," 9-10.
4. Ibid., 9-10.
5. Ibid., 11.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 19

Prague City Hall and Jail  
name of property  
Lincoln County, Oklahoma  
county and State

6. Doris Hinson Pieroth, "The Only Show in Town: Ellen Whitmore Mohrbacher's Savoy Theater," The Chronicles of Oklahoma, LX:3 (Fall 1982), 266, 268. See also Tower, "A General History," 11, 13, and 50.

7. Tower, "A General History," 15 - 20.

8. Ibid., 28-30.

9. Ibid., 49.

10. Melva Losh Brown, CZECH-TOWN, U.S.A., Prague (Kolache-ville) Oklahoma, (Norman, OK: Hooper Printing, Incorporated, 1978), np.

11. The Prague (Oklahoma) News-Record, 29 July 1936 and 23 September 1936.

12. The Story of PWA: Building for Recovery, (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1939), 1.

13. Ibid., 1, 3, 6-7.

14. Ibid., 4.

15. Ibid., 3-4, and 8.

16. The Prague News-Record, 29 July 1936.

17. The Prague News-Record, 2 September 1936, 23 September 1936, and 14 October 1936.

18. The Prague News-Record, 25 November 1936, 20 January 1937, and 3 March 1937.

19. C.W. Short and R. Stanley-Brown, Public Buildings: A Survey of Architecture of Projects Constructed by Federal and Other Governmental Bodies Between the Years 1933 and 1939 with the Assistance of the Public Works Administration, (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1939), preface.

20. America Builds: The Record of PWA, (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1939), 264 and 272.

21. Ibid., 283 - 291.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section   8   Page  20 

Prague City Hall and Jail  
name of property  
Lincoln County, Oklahoma  
county and State

=====

22. Ibid., 285 and 269-271.

23. Short, Public Buildings, 28, 30, 58-59, 104, 132, 232, 166, 390, and 505.

24. The Story of PWA, 5-6.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9,10 Page 21

Prague City Hall and Jail  
name of property  
Lincoln County, Oklahoma  
county and State

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- America Builds: The Record of PWA. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1939.
- Bicha, Karel D. The Czechs in Oklahoma. Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1980.
- Brown, Melva Losh. CZECH-TOWN, U.S.A., Prague (Kolache-ville) Oklahoma. 2nd ed. Norman, OK: Hooper Printing, Incorporated, 1978.
- Pieroth, Doris Hinson. "The Only Show in Town: Ellen Whitmore Mohrbacher's Savoy Theater." The Chronicles of Oklahoma. LX:3 (Fall 1982): 260-179.
- Prague City Hall Blueprints, Available Prague Historical Museum, Prague, Oklahoma.
- The Prague (Oklahoma) News-Record. July 29 1936 - 3 March 1937.
- Short, C.W. and R. Stanley-Brown. Public Buildings: A Survey of Architecture of Projects Constructed by Federal and Other Governmental Bodies Between the Years 1933 and 1939 with the Assistance of the Public Works Administration. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1939.
- The Story of PWA: Building for Recovery. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1939.
- Tower, William Ray. "A General History of the Town of Prague, Oklahoma, 1902-1948." M.A. Thesis, Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College, 1948.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 5-8, Block 13, Original Townsite, Prague, Oklahoma.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries include the property historically associated with the city hall.