

# DATA SHEET

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Oklahoma
COUNTY:	Seminole
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	JAN 27 1975

### 1. NAME

COMMON:

W. E. Grisso Mansion

AND/OR HISTORIC:

### 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

612 Highway 9 East

CITY OR TOWN:

Seminole

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

3rd Carl Albert

STATE

Oklahoma 74868

CODE

40

COUNTY:

Seminole

CODE

133

### 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC (Yes/No)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes: Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Mrs. W. E. Grisso

STREET AND NUMBER:

612 Highway 9 East

CITY OR TOWN:

Seminole

STATE:

Oklahoma

CODE

133

### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:

Seminole County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Wewoka

STATE

Oklahoma

CODE

133

### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

none

DATE OF SURVEY:

Federal

State

County

Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE

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STATE:	Oklahoma
COUNTY:	Seminole
ENTRY NUMBER	
DATE	

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Grisso Mansion is located on a hill above Seminole to the north of what is now Highway 9. A Mr. Bob Kenyon of Oklahoma City was the architect and construction was started in 1926. The house is of brick in the magnificent Spanish tradition. It is said the mansion originally cost over \$500,000.

The mansion has a roof of tile in bright earth colors. The brick is a golden beige. The front view of the home shows the two-story-high windows of the living room, arched at the top as are other windows of the front facade. The arches of the portico rest on Corinthian capitals atop spiral columns. The arches are Moorish in feeling with scalloped trim which is used above the windows, also.

The elaborate moulding about the front door is baroque in feeling and is flanked by niches repeating the scalloped trim. Beautiful grill trim surrounds the balcony. Of the four chimneys atop the roof, no two are treated alike.

Beneath each window on the east and west sides, the rear, and looking into the courtyard are flower boxes resting on grill supports and adorned with urn, arabesque, and rosette motifs in the Moorish manner. The arched courtyard windows have brick arches above, in contrast to the scallop trim on the other arched windows. All windows are casement windows and those without arches still have the scallop trim. Above each, on the trim is a shield in relief.

Many types of torch and lantern lights are on all outside walls. These are beautiful grill and metal fixtures.

One of the most interesting things about the mansion is the doors. There are eleven doors opening onto the courtyard alone. These are each treated uniquely with mouldings in different designs. Carving and beveled glass are also used.

The mansion is presently just like it was in 1927, with the exception that central heat and air conditioning have been added.

There are 26 rooms within the house proper.

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**5. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |                                       |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |  |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

Constructed in 1926-27

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art          | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

William Edward Grisso came to the Seminole area from Arkansas about the turn of the century before the great "boom" days of the '20's began. In 1909 Mr. Grisso married Maggie Rooker and the two became important members of the community. Mr. Grisso studied to become a doctor; however, finances prevented him from completing his studies and he thus opened the Seminole Drug Store.

At the end of the 1921 depression Mr. Grisso found himself, as did many others, greatly indebted. Yet he had a remarkable ability of turning anything to success. Thus, by the time the oil boom began, he was already on top of the world again. He was doing well when the discovery well came in on his land. After the oil began to come in, Mr. Grisso became rapidly very wealthy and became president of the Grisso Oil Company.

Many of the early "oil baron" mansions of the United States are located in Oklahoma such as the Marland, Phillips, Kerr mansions and others. The Oklahoma Historical Society hopes to provide a tour of these "oil mansions", as several of the original owners have given their homes to the State. Mrs. Grisso is in the process of giving her home, the Grisso Mansion, and all its furnishings with approximately 5 acres of land to the State of Oklahoma. She wants to announce the gift as Oklahoma opens its Bicentennial celebrations.

Every governor of Oklahoma has been entertained many times in the Grisso Mansion prior to Mr. Grisso's death. At one time he was State Highway Commissioner and as such was responsible for State Highway 99 construction through Seminole County, Oklahoma.

Mr. William Edward Grisso is listed in Who's Who in the South and Southwest, 2nd Edition, 1950.

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**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Eberlein, Harold Donaldson, Spanish Interiors Furniture and Details, Architectural Book Publishing Company, Inc., New York, 1940

Tabdili, Mary Ann, Grisso Mansion, Seminole, Oklahoma, Highway 9, May 7, 1969, historical research paper

Who's Who in the South and Southwest, 2nd Edition, 1950, page 392

Mrs. W. E. Grisso and her daughter, Mrs. Pauline Martin

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		°	'	"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		°	'	"
SE	° ' "	° ' "		°	'	"
SW	° ' "	° ' "		35	14	48
				96	39	47
APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: <u>5.388</u>						
LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES						
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY		CODE		
				<del>123</del>		
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:		CODE		
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:		CODE		
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:		CODE		

UTM  
14/71266  
3902126  
C10

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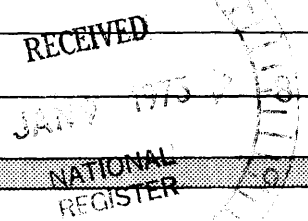
**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Donald L. Coffin S.H.P.O.

ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: 1-2-75

STREET AND NUMBER: Route 1

CITY OR TOWN: Guthrie STATE: Oklahoma CODE: 083



**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: Donald L. Coffin

Title: S.H.P.O.

Date: 1-7-75

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

[Signature]  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 1/27/75

ATTEST:  
[Signature]  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 1-17-75