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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Tillman County Bank of Grandfield  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 123 W. 2nd N/A Not for publication  
city, town Grandfield N/A vicinity  
state Oklahoma code OK county Tillman code 141 zip code 73546

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	_____ objects
			<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. N/A See continuation sheet.

[Signature] May 8, 1992  
Signature of certifying official 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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.  
 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:) \_\_\_\_\_

[Signature] 6/18/92  
Entered in the National Register  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/financial institution

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/business

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Italian Renaissance

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls BRICK

STONE: Limestone

roof ASPHALT

other STONE: Marble-entry pediments

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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## Summary

The Tillman County Bank of Grandfield is a two-story, red brick Italian Renaissance Revival commercial building with a limestone cornice supported by limestone brackets. It is located on a corner lot in downtown Grandfield, Oklahoma, a small agricultural community located in south central Oklahoma, approximately forty miles south of Lawton. Few alterations have occurred since it was constructed circa 1910, and the building continues to retain its architectural integrity.

## Description

The bank is located on the southeast corner of West Second and South Simpson Street on a twenty-five-foot lot. The building extends toward the rear of the lot approximately seventy-five feet, where it abuts the three-story, red brick Grandfield Hospital (vacant). Two bays wide and five bays long, the Tillman County Bank denotes the west end of the Central Business District of Grandfield. The two-story building has an impressive limestone cornice supported by limestone brackets. Segmental arches are used over each of the upper story windows. Both of these features identify the building as Italian Renaissance Revival.

The entrance, a single entry door framed by a segmental arch with limestone caps at either side, faces Second Street. The front of the building consists of two bays, with the entry located in the west bay and a single fixed window located in the east bay. Brick pilasters flank the entrance, with a flat cornice of limestone and marble above. Inset at the centerpoint of the marble cornice is a marble disc. The bottom two feet of the brick pilasters are incorporated into the limestone band which wraps around the entire base of the building. There is a second entrance on the west side of the building which is identical to the front entry.

The wide band of limestone, which wraps around the base of the building, also serves as the sill for the first floor windows. The original first floor windows have been replaced with fixed metal and glass, and the upper one-third of each has been covered with aluminum siding to conceal the interior dropped ceiling.

The upper floor of the building is separated from the first floor by a continuous belt course of limestone, which also serves as the sill of each of the second floor windows. The broken, segmental-arched lintels link with a belt course to form a visually distinctive continuous lintel. The second story window openings have been covered with vertical aluminum siding.

A limestone cornice, typical of the Italian Renaissance Revival style of architecture, wraps around both sides of the building and is supported by limestone brackets. A brick parapet stands approximately two feet above the cornice and is capped with a narrow band of limestone.

## Alterations/Additions

The alterations to the exterior of the building include the removal of the original first floor windows and the installation of glass and aluminum fixed windows. The original upper floor windows remain; however, they have been covered with vertical aluminum siding. The interior of the building has been converted to individual offices; however, the original vault and its elaborate Neoclassical surround remains in place. The second floor has not been altered. These changes have not affected the integrity of the building.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE

ARCHITECTURE

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1910-1931

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder

Unknown

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

1910

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property less than one (1) acres

UTM References

A 

1	4
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5	2	9	08	10
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3	7	87	5	60
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Zone      Easting                      Northing

C 

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B 

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Zone      Easting                      Northing

D 

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property occupies the east 75' of Lot 1 of Block 20 of the Original Townsite of Grandfield, Oklahoma.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the land that has been associated historically with the property.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Maryjo Meacham  
organization Meacham & Associates date November 18, 1991  
street & number 709 Chautauqua telephone 405 321 6221  
city or town Norman state Oklahoma zip code 73069

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### Summary

Built circa 1910, the Tillman County Bank of Grandfield is architecturally significant as an outstanding example of Italian Renaissance Revival architecture in Grandfield. It is also historically significant as one of Grandfield's early financial institutions. The Tillman County Bank retains its defining exterior features. The second floor offices and the original bank vault remain intact. The property was in use as a bank from ca. 1910 until 1931, the end of the period of significance.

### Historical Background

In December of 1906 the Big Pasture was opened by sealed bids, marking the last large region in Oklahoma to be settled. Grandfield, located in the middle of the Big Pasture, was platted in 1908 and incorporated on January 10, 1909. The downtown businesses initially served the farm community, but as early as 1911 the discovery of oil also influenced the growth of the town. The early tests did not prove to be too successful, but in 1917 a second surge of interest and drilling resulted in an oil boom for Grandfield. The town became crowded with oil field workers and speculators. The next year the first oil refinery was built and it was followed by six more. All but one, the Union Oil Refinery, eventually shut down before the early 1930's. Bell Oil and Gas Refining Company eventually acquired the Union Oil Refinery and operated it in Grandfield until the early 1960's. Through the years, agriculture has continued to play a vital role in the economic viability of the community.

### Downtown Grandfield

The Grandfield Central Business District is approximately two blocks long and is spread east and west along Second Street between Simpson Street and Taylor. In 1910 two banks were built, forming the cornerstone of Grandfield's downtown development. A third bank was also constructed (ca. 1914) shortly thereafter. The First National was located at the corner of Main and Second and the Tillman County Bank was one block west on the corner of Simpson and Second Street, its present location. The third bank, now demolished, was located across the street from the First National Bank. All three buildings were two-stories in height and stood out from the majority of the surrounding buildings, which were only one-story.

### Commercial Significance

The Tillman County Bank of Grandfield is one of three banks which served the area surrounding Grandfield from approximately 1910 until the Great Depression, when prices for cotton, wheat, and oil plummeted. The Tillman County Bank Building and the First National Bank Building are the only remaining bank buildings built in Grandfield before the Depression. Neither building is used for its original purpose. The Tillman County Bank is historically significant for its association with the economic development of Grandfield.

The Tillman County Bank of Grandfield had its origins in the early town of Kell. Originally named the Tillman County Bank of Kell, the bank was chartered on March 24, 1908, with a twenty-five year charter. The incorporators were Charles E. Lawrence of Kell, president; Duval Jackson of Kansas City, Missouri; and Walter C. Thomea of Kell. In 1908, soon after the towns of Kell and Eschiti merged to form Grandfield, the bank moved to Grandfield and changed its name to the Tillman County Bank of Grandfield. The current building, however, was not constructed until about 1910.

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Small town banks were important to the livelihood of small towns and the surrounding agricultural communities. Early in the development of Grandfield, when the town's economy was based primarily on agriculture, i.e. cotton and wheat, the three banks supported the efforts of the local farmers and financed related agricultural facilities, such new cotton gins and grain elevators. The banks were also important to the numerous downtown businesses including dry goods stores, drug stores, cafes, and hotels.

After the First National Bank shut its doors in 1923, the Tillman County Bank was one of two banks which continued to operate in Grandfield. Many small town banks did not survive the Great Depression and the drastic drop in oil prices and agricultural products. Along with many other banks, the Tillman County Bank became a casualty of the Depression. It failed on January 10, 1931. The Tillman County Bank is the best example of a financial institution remaining in Grandfield. The one remaining bank has since moved from its original downtown location; the building was demolished and replaced with the Grandfield Public Library (ca. 1960). Compared to the remaining First National Bank, the Tillman County Bank served as a bank for eight years longer and retains a higher degree of architectural integrity.

The Tillman County Bank of Grandfield continues to stand as a symbol of the early, prosperous days of the city. It is historically significant to Grandfield and the surrounding area for the role it played as a leading financial institution from 1910 until the early 1930s and continues to maintain a high degree of architectural integrity.

### Architectural Significance

The Tillman County Bank is an excellent example of the Italian Renaissance Revival style of architecture and is the only example of this style in downtown Grandfield. Located on a prominent downtown corner, the style of the bank suggests permanence and stability. The building, with its extensive use of limestone and the well-articulated details, stands out from all of the other downtown buildings and it is easily the most impressive commercial building in the downtown.

The surrounding commercial district is made up of small storefronts, mostly one-story, with turn-of-the-century architectural features. No particular style dominates the downtown; however, there are several yellow brick buildings with narrow green and red tile roof visors cantilevered out from the parapet. This characteristic is typical of the Mission Style, a style which dominates Frederick, Oklahoma, a slightly larger city just west of Grandfield.

While a wide variety of architectural styles were popular at the end of the nineteenth century, many small town commercial buildings were not built with any one style in mind. However, small town banks were the most likely to follow a conventional style and were often the largest and most elaborately constructed buildings in the downtown. Architectural styles popular during the first quarter of the twentieth century include Renaissance Revival and Classical Revival styles, styles which came into popularity shortly after the Colombian Exposition at Chicago in 1893. The Tillman County Bank, a two-story Italian Renaissance Revival building, is indicative of this phenomenon.

The Italian Renaissance Revival style, chosen for the design of the Tillman County Bank, was popular from the end of the nineteenth century until the mid-1930's. Characteristics of the style include arched openings and a

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strong sense of horizontality--often emphasized with elaborate cornices and belt courses. Typically arches were used on the first floor of Italian Renaissance Revival buildings, however, this feature is displayed on the second-floor windows of the Tillman County Bank Building. The elaborate cornice and brackets, the belt courses, the alternating fenestration, the contrasting limestone, and the marble incorporated into the entry are all characteristics of the Italian Renaissance Revival style, and define the bank as architecturally significant to the community.

The Tillman County Bank Building is the only building constructed in Grandfield which represents the Italian Renaissance Revival style of architecture. This building is architecturally significant to the city of Grandfield and continues to maintain a high degree of integrity.



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