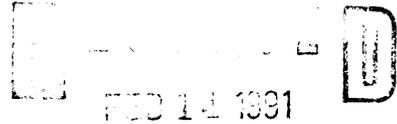


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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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 Severs Block
other names/site number Citizen's National Bank and Trust Company

2. Location

street & number 101 East 6th N/A not for publication
city, town Okmulgee N/A vicinity
state Oklahoma code OK county Okmulgee code 111 zip code 74447

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>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<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 of certifying official [Signature] Date Feb. 7, 1991
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**
 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] Signature of the Keeper 3/22/91 Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: financial institution
COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: financial institution

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Romanesque

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: sandstone

walls BRICK

STONE: sandstone

roof ASPHALT

other N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Summary

The Severs Block, built between 1904 and 1907, is a two-story, flat-roofed, rectangular building of salmon brick, which incorporates a two-story stone building constructed in 1882. The earlier structure, a two-story Romanesque general store, is visible as the building's west wall. This facade is a rock-faced, coursed ashlar wall of locally quarried sandstone with beaded mortar joints. The canted corner entrance looks directly upon the Creek National Capitol (NHL 1966) which is located southwest of the Severs Block on a square centrally located in downtown Okmulgee. Rehabilitated following the Secretary of Interior's Standards in 1989, the Severs Block retains its architectural integrity.

Description

The canted corner entrance of the Severs Block is the focal point of the structure. The entry is encased by two squat concrete columns which rest on square concrete bases. The columns support a brick arch which frames the entry doors. Directly above the arch is the word "BANK." Double wooden doors with single glass panes, single panels below the glazing, and brass kick plates are used at the main entrance.

Salmon-colored brick faces the wall of the south facade, which extends half-way down the 100 Block of East Sixth Street. This facade emphasizes the building's horizontal features, and this orientation is reinforced by the linear repetition of storefronts and the arrangement of the second-story windows framed by the three cast-stone beltcourses. Together, these elements divide the Severs Block into five bands, the topmost being the parapet wall and cast-stone, pedimented nameplate. The next band, between the upper beltcourse and the continuous lintel, is defined by the corbelling of the window recesses, visually forming a series of friezes. Directly below this series of brick recesses are the wooden, double hung, 1/1 sash windows of the second floor. A similar band of corbelling is also located over the first-floor storefronts. The final horizontal element is created by the repetition of storefronts. Limestone is used to define the first floor from the second and is also used in a continuous lintel above the second-floor windows. A third stripe of limestone is located near the cornice of the building.

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The horizontal orientation of the Severs Block's south facade is interrupted by the vertical divisions of brick pilasters. On the second floor the windows are set between the pilasters in rectangular recesses surrounded by corbelled brick. The pilasters, which frame the storefronts and stairway doors, extend from street level to the upper level. Two pilasters extend over the parapet to support the pedimented nameplate - "SEVERS BLOCK." This series of pilasters divides the Severs Block into a series of bays, which are articulated by the repeating storefronts. The one window on the west facade nearest the entrance and the two windows on the south facade nearest the entrance to the bank have multi-paned clerestories above the large, single-pane display windows. The rear of the Severs Block, which faces the alley, is brick, with the exception of the corner twenty-five foot end building (ca. 1882), which is sandstone.

The construction of the Severs Block between 1904 and 1907 incorporated the sandstone facade from the west elevation of the original 1882 F.B. Severs' General Store Building. The western facade, the visible portion of the original building, is a Romanesque stone wall of locally quarried sandstone. Originally six pairs of wooden, double-hung, 1/1 sash windows with arched transoms, segmental lintels, and rusticated sandstone slip-sills lit the second story. Four remain intact and two have been infilled with stone. In contrast, windows and entryways on the ground floor were asymmetrically located and demonstrated heterogenous styles. There were two entrances and three windows at street level on the west facade, the northernmost of which was a paired 1/1 window with a rectangular transom, an entrance with a rectangular transom set in a round arched doorway, and a window with a lunette transom and semi-circular lintel. These doors and windows were not of equal height, nor were they evenly spaced along the facade. The southernmost window remains. The locations of the other entrances and windows can still be seen but have been infilled with matching sandstone. The doorways have been eliminated. The northern entrance is now a window, and the middle entrance serves as a night drop for the bank. The western facade terminates with sandstone quoining, which is the boundary between the stone and brick masonry of the Severs Block.

Rehabilitation

Citizen's National Bank was rehabilitated in 1989, and the results of an extensive remodeling effort made in 1954 were removed. Under a layer of stucco and "Roman" brick, the sandstone and brick walls were exposed. Other elements of the design, such as the entry, were reconstructed using historic photographs. The exterior of the building appears as it did at the time of construction between 1904 and 1907. The rehabilitation of the building was certified by the National Park Service for an Investment Tax Credit in 1989.

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Alterations to the western facade, executed after the period of significance, included bricking-in the windows and doors to accommodate smaller aluminum-framed casement windows, closing ground-level entries, and elevating the roof-line to match the southern facade. Changes to the canted corner entrance of the Severs Block, which originally incorporated the beltcourses, fenestration, and corbelled recesses found on the building's south side, included bricking-in the arched bank entrance and the second-floor window located above the entrance. Renovations in the early 1950's to the south facade included boarding over the upper windows, while windows on the west end were bricked-in to accommodate smaller aluminum-framed windows. First-floor renovations also modified the storefronts by covering the clerestories. Other modifications include the fastening of stucco panels and a brick veneer on the western facade, with similar treatment to the southern facade. These alterations were reversed as part of the certified rehabilitation. None of the alterations made in 1954 remain.

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Commercial Significance

The Severs Block is significant for its role in Okmulgee's development as a regional commercial center. It was constructed by F.B. Severs, one of the few influential white men in Indian Territory. F.B. Severs, an early Okmulgee merchant, moved to Okmulgee in 1868 and opened a store selling general merchandise. On the same site where he began his business, he later erected a sandstone building in 1882. From 1882 until after the turn of the century, the Severs Building was the primary supplier of general goods in the Creek Nation. Twenty-five years later Severs constructed the present 100-foot long building, now known as the Severs Block, which incorporated the 1882 structure. In 1921 the Citizen's National Bank moved into the fifty-foot corner space and continues to reside at this location. The eastern storefronts have been occupied by a variety of merchants over the years.

Okmulgee, which was established in 1869 as the capitol of the Creek Nation, immediately began attracting merchants from other towns, becoming the regional trade center for the area. The Severs Block began in the 1860's when F.B. Severs built a two-story frame general store to serve the Indian capitol and the surrounding farmers and ranchers. Severs' lots were a prime location, directly northeast of the Creek National Capitol. The second building Severs constructed in Okmulgee was a two-story Romanesque structure built in 1882 of locally quarried sandstone. It replaced the original structure and commanded an important position in Okmulgee as the only commercial building constructed of stone, rather than wood.

As Okmulgee's commercial importance continued to grow through the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the Severs Block kept apace. By 1901, Severs expanded his stone building to accommodate a furniture store and tack shop, and in 1903 the building grew to include a stationery and print shop. The following year, recognizing the need for additional commercial space in Okmulgee, Severs constructed a larger, two-story brick building, which incorporated the old sandstone structure and spread over the western one-half of the East 100 Block on Sixth Street. In 1907, the year statehood came for Oklahoma and Okmulgee became the seat of Okmulgee County, the Severs Block was completed. The building provided storefronts and office space for Okmulgee's growing ranks of merchants, bankers, and professionals. One of the first tenants was Okmulgee's first telephone exchange, which had offices on the second floor. The Citizen's National Bank, which remains in the building, moved into the Severs Block in 1921. Later tenants included an eye, ear, nose, and throat specialist, and a jeweler. The Severs Block and its occupants thereby reflected Okmulgee's commercial progress from a town that once served the needs of nearby farmers and ranchers to a regional commercial and industrial center that provided a wide range of goods and services for a much larger and more sophisticated population.

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

Period of Significance

1907 - 1940

Significant Dates

1907

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

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

Summary

The Severs Block is significant for the role it played in Okmulgee's early development as a regional commercial center from 1907 through the first half of the twentieth century. In 1907 F.B. Severs constructed the half-block commercial building, incorporating the west wall of an earlier 1882 sandstone structure. Known as the Severs Block, the building was the location for prominent commercial establishments until the oil boom in 1911. In 1921 the site became the home of the Citizen's National Bank, which continues to reside in the same location. The Severs Block is an excellent example of pre-Statehood commercial buildings.

Historical Background

Frederick Severs (1835-1912) came to the Creek Nation before the Civil War and later became a trusted advisor to the Creek Nation's chiefs. Severs' good relations with the Creeks had made it possible for him to erect the stone building in 1882 with confidence, knowing that he would not be ejected from the Creek Nation as a white intruder. This building was used to house the F.B. Severs General Store, the only general store in Okmulgee until the late 1800s. By 1901 Severs' general store was joined by 4 other stone buildings and one brick building. Other endeavors by Severs included the F.B. Severs Cotton Gin, Grist Mill, and Saw Mill, which was located on the east side of Okmulgee Creek, one-fourth mile northeast of the F.B. Severs General Store.

By the turn of the century Frederick Severs, who had become one of Okmulgee's most influential commercial leaders, saw the need for more storefronts and office space in Okmulgee and began construction of the Severs Block about 1904. When construction ended several years later the west, north, and east sides of the square facing the Council House were almost filled with brick and stone buildings. Many of these buildings were constructed of local sandstone with brick front facades. A total of twenty brick buildings and seventeen stone buildings in Okmulgee are noted on a 1907 Sanborn Insurance Map. These early buildings were one and two stories, similar in style to the Severs Block.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Morris, John w., ed. Cities in Oklahoma. Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Historical Society, 1979.

O'Beirne, H.F. The Indian Territory: Its Chiefs, Legislators and Leading Men. Chicago: American Publishers' Association, 1891.

Okmulgee Historical Society and the Heritage Society of America, eds. History of Okmulgee County, Oklahoma. Tulsa: Historical Enterprises, Inc., n.d.

United States. Works Progress Administration. The History of Okmulgee. Typed copy at the Okmulgee Public Library, 1936.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Company. Maps of Okmulgee for the years 1894, 1896, 1889, 1903, 1907, 1911, 1916, 1920, and 1924.

See continuation sheet

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 1988
- 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

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 2.5 acres

UTM References

A

1	5
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2	3	0	9	1	0
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3	9	4	6	0	4	0
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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

Original Township of Okmulgee, Block 80, Lots 7-12.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes all six lots which have historically been associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Maryjo Meacham date Aug. 15, 1990
 organization Maryjo Meacham & Associates telephone (405)321-6221
 street & number 709 Chautauqua city or town Norman state OK zip code 73069

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National Park Service**

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Continuation Sheet**

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West, C.W. "Return to Glory, Captain Severs and His Hotel." Booklet for Grand Opening of the First National Bank and Trust Company of Muskogee, J.W. Crow, V.P., n.d.