

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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

1. Name

historic

and/or common Clay Tile Grain Elevators in Northwestern Oklahoma TR

2. Location

street & number Multiple - See Continuation Sheets

N/A not for publication

city, town

N/A vicinity of

congressional district

state Oklahoma

code 40

county Harper

code 003

3. Classification

Category

☐ district

☐ building(s)

☐ structure

☐ site

☐ object

☒ Thematic Group

Ownership

☐ public

☒ private

☐ both

Public Acquisition

☒ in process

☒ being considered

Status

☒ occupied

☒ unoccupied

☐ work in progress

Accessible

☐ yes: restricted

☒ yes: unrestricted

☐ no

Present Use

☒ agriculture

☒ commercial

☐ educational

☐ entertainment

☐ government

☐ industrial

☐ military

☐ museum

☐ park

☐ private residence

☐ religious

☐ scientific

☐ transportation

☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership - See Continuation Sheet

street & number

city, town

vicinity of

state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Clerk's Office

street & number Alfalfa County Courthouse/Harper County Courthouse

city, town Cherokee

/ Buffalo

state Oklahoma

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1982

☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Oklahoma Historic Preservation Survey

city, town Stillwater

state OK

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See Continuation Sheet	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Clay Tile Grain Elevators in Northwestern Oklahoma symbolize the development of wheat farming into the region's major enterprise as well as characterize the structural technology for grain elevators in the post-World War I period. These extant structures are located in Northwestern Oklahoma, the heart of Oklahoma's "wheat country," and share the common characteristics of being situated within the boundaries of agriculturally based towns and along the former major transportation link, the railroad line, for easy access to markets. Though no standardized form or plan was employed, they share many physical similarities in design and scale due to the construction techniques of the time. The use of hollow 5" thick red clay tiles (approximately 9"x12") gave greater structural strength to the elevators as opposed to the technique of using wood that required a rectangular shape, smaller forms, and resulted in lower holding capacities and increased fire hazards. The standardized curved tiles dictated the size and shape of the cylindrical storage bins and flat tiles were used for erection of elevator shafts as well as other appurtenant sections to grain elevators. This dictated the basic style, proportions, and scale of the structures: the use of a central elevator shaft (usually 50' high constructed of brick or clay tile) flanked by rows of curved clay tile cylindrical storage bins (typically 30' high); a shed roofed clay tile delivery dock; concrete foundations and platforms; slanted roofs and wooden grain shoots. Although the use of tile dictated the basic form, builders found room for individuality in style as can be noted by the use of gable or hipped roof shafts, combinations and placement of storage bins, and positioning of other appurtenant sections.

The staff of the Oklahoma Historic Preservation Survey conducted a windshield survey of Northwestern Oklahoma during the Summer of 1982, under the supervision of Dr. Mary Ann Anders, locating applicable structures in Alfalfa and Harper Counties. After the initial investigation, further research (consisting of interviews with local residents and property owners; examination of courthouse records, maps, local historical publications, historical photography, and scholarly studies concerning the region; and an examination of the various sites) verified the historical and architectural integrity of these nonimated properties

No other agricultural related properties within the region maintain as much structural integrity as these clay tile elevators.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> see continuation Sheet	<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1910s - 1920s **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Clay tile elevators are significant because they show the architectural transition of building techniques from wood to concrete structures related to agriculture as well as the permanence and importance of the wheat industry in the commercial development of small rural northwest Oklahoma communities in conjunction with the arrival of railroads in the region. These buildings are unique in their use of hollow red clay tile in that it makes a more durable building material and provides a less combustible storage area than the earlier technique of using wooden structures and this indicates a developing engineering technology that would eventually evolve into large concrete elevators.

This construction technique is unique to Oklahoma's early statehood period prior to the Great Depression and these nominated elevators are the only remaining structures in Oklahoma using this technique. Because wheat was the major agricultural product of northwest Oklahoma, the tile elevators helped to solidify the region as an agricultural center thus providing major impetus for town development and increased railroad traffic necessary for shipping wheat to market as well as providing a reliable means of importing people, supplies, and farming equipment. During World War I and the post-war period, the wheat industry in the region boomed bringing with it a greater demand for larger, more durable, storage facilities that led to the development of clay tile grain elevators.

Of the many tile elevators that existed in this area, these fine nominated structures are the only known clay tile elevators maintaining their structural integrity. Others have been destroyed deliberately or by fire caused by explosion, or are in a state of disrepair due to lack of maintainance. The nominated properties include: two grain elevators in Buffalo (Feuquay Elevator and the Old Farmers' Co-op Elevator); the Ingersoll Tile Elevator; the Farmers' Co-op Elevator of Cherokee; and the Farmers' Exchange Elevator in Goltry.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____ See Continuation Sheets

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UMT References

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheets

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

state Oklahoma code 40 county Alfalfa code 003

state Oklahoma code 40 county Harper code 059

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Karen Bode Curths/George N. Otey

organization Oklahoma Historic Preservation Survey date August 1982

street & number Oklahoma State University telephone (405) 624-5678

city or town Stillwater state OK

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

C. E. Metcalf

8/8/83

title

date

For HCPS use only	
Thereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<i>[Signature]</i>	date
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 1 of 1

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Clay Tile Grain Elevators in Northwestern Oklahoma Thematic Resources
State Oklahoma

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. Farmers' Co-op Elevator

Substantive Review

Keeper

Dr. McClelland 10.7.83

Attest

2. Farmers' Federation Elevator

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Helena Byers 10/7/83

Attest

3. Farmers' Exchange Elevator

Substantive Review

Keeper

Dr. McClelland 10.7.83

Attest

4. Feuquay Elevator

Entered
National Register

for Keeper

Helena Byers 10/7/83

Attest

5. Ingersoll Tile Elevator

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Helena Byers 10/7/83

Attest

6.

Keeper

Attest

7.

Keeper

Attest

8.

Keeper

Attest

9.

Keeper

Attest

10.

Keeper

Attest