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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

RECEIVED 2280

JUL 29 2016

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for not applicable. For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

Nat. Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Central Fire Station

Other names/site number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A

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

## 2. Location

Street & number: 623 Southwest D Avenue

City or town: Lawton State: OK County: Comanche

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A \_\_\_ B X C \_\_\_ D

July 25, 2016

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau  
or Tribal Government

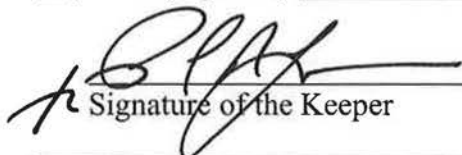
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**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

  
Signature of the Keeper

9/7/2016  
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

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

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

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT: fire station  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT: fire station  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions.)

Commercial Style

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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### Summary Paragraph

The Central Fire Station, located in downtown Lawton, Comanche County, Oklahoma, is a two-story, Commercial style building with an ornate facade constructed of a polychromatic mix of red, gold and brown brick with striking cast stone ornamental detail. Constructed in 1930-1931, the building was designed by local architect Guy Dale and erected by the F.H. Daggs Construction Company of Hollis, Oklahoma, as part of \$100,000 community bond issue. In 1957, as part of another major bond issue, a second floor classroom was added to the rear of the Central Fire Station, replacing the original four-story drill tower. While modifying the 1930 design of the building, the 1957 work also represents a major evolution within the fire department's history and, thus, is associated with the community planning and development significance of the building. Typical of a fire station, the front of the building is dominated by three symmetrical garage openings containing replacement, metal and glass, paneled, overhead doors. On the rear of the building, there is a fourth garage opening. The historic garage doors on the rear of the building are double, swinging, metal with twelve-lights in the upper half. The main pedestrian entry is located in the westernmost bay on the front of the building, The existing, glazed slab, aluminum framed, pedestrian door is a replacement but the historic, Art Deco, granite door surround remains intact, as does the black Wichita Mountains granite wainscoting below the single windows flanking the door. A continuous flat awning extends across the façade between the first floor openings and a four-part clerestory. The three clerestories above the garage openings have been painted. Above the pedestrian door, the west three-quarters of the clerestory has been replaced with three replacement, one-over-one, metal windows and, in the

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east corner, a window air conditioning unit. On the second floor of the facade, the original, multiple light, metal casement windows have been replaced with one-over-one, hung, metal windows. The second floor windows on the west elevation have been bricked in and the second floor windows on the other rear elevations have been replaced. The first floor windows in the back portion of the building, including in the engine room, remain historic, multi-light, metal, pivot windows. The interior of the building has undergone some modification but, overall, retains its original configuration and many materials and finishes. This includes the brass poles that provided direct access from the dormitory to the engine room and the yellow, glazed, structural tile in the engine room, stairwell, and upstairs restrooms. The holes around the brass poles have been covered with wood lids as a safety feature. Overall, the Central Fire Station retains a good degree of historic integrity. The replacement of the exterior doors and windows diminishes the integrity of materials but the shape of the window openings were not changed so the building retains its integrity of design.

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### **Narrative Description**

The Central Fire Station faces south to D Avenue on the southwest side of Lawton's historic central business district. The two-story, irregular shaped, brick building has a concrete foundation and a flat roof of unknown materials. Centrally located on the front portion of the roof is a metal flagpole. Towards the rear of the roof, there is a tall antenna that has guy wires securing the antenna to metal poles attached to the side walls of the building.

The south elevation is a striking polychromatic mix of red, brown and gold brick laid in different patterns (see photograph 1). The lower part of the front wall is clad with a contrasting black granite that was locally obtained from the nearby Wichita Mountains. The majority of the facade, including the two-story sections on the outside edges of the front elevation and the entire section of wall above the second floor windows, is laid in a stretcher bond. The three inside, two-story, corbelled columns dividing the facade into four bays are laid in a stacked bond which creates a distinctive pattern that contrasts with the stretcher bond in other parts of the wall. The ornamental brick tables ornamenting the wall between the first and second floors feature a third bonding pattern. The brick in the tables, accented by cast stone ornaments, is laid in a herringbone pattern.

The facade is symmetrically divided into four vertical bays that are horizontally divided by a full-width, flat, metal, suspended awning. Each bay is recessed with brick corbeling along the sides of each dividing column giving the bays more depth. On the first floor, the west three bays contain matching, overhead, paneled, garage, replacement doors. Underneath the dividing awning, the three stacked bond pilasters separating the bays all have modern lights located near the top that replaced historic lights in about the same location. While the two outside stacked bond pilasters each have modern signage below this, the center pilaster features a bronze construction plaque. The plaque does not appear in early photographs of the building available at the Museum of the Great Plains in Lawton. The plaque reads "1930/FIRE STATION/CITY OF LAWTON/ FRED C. LARRANCE, MAYOR/ TODD SANDERS, CITY CLERK/R.B. MCCOY, CITY TREAS./CITY COUNCIL/T. J. TYREE/CHAS. S. GRAYBILL/L. E.

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TURBEN/L. BURTON/ J. H. LEDGERWOOD/FRANK C. RICE/ROBT.  
McCALMANT/LOGAN GRABLE/J. F. NEELY/H. A. ANGUS/ SIM SHEPPARD, CHIEF  
FIRE DEPT./GUY DALE F. H. DAGGS/ARCHITECT CONTRACTOR.”

The easternmost bay contains a centrally located pedestrian door with an elaborate granite surround. The replacement, glazed slab, aluminum framed door is topped by a large transom that has been covered with a sign that has the Lawton Fire Department shield above the words “Central Fire Station.” The Art Deco style door surround features incised ornamentation along the header and three-quarters of the sides. The lower portion of the surround is not ornamented to match the granite wainscoting below the windows that flank the door. The windows flanking the pedestrian door have been modernized with smaller, one-over-one, hung, metal windows. The upper portion of the original window opening has been filled with siding. The windows have a soldier brick surround with cast stone ornaments in the upper corners. The soldier brick pattern extends along the sides and coping of the easternmost first floor bay with the brick in the center laid in a running bond.

The flat awning is situated directly above the garage doors. Directly above the awning are clerestories in each bay. The symmetrical clerestories in the three garage bays have been fully covered with paint so the historic, three-part, multi-light windows are now opaque but remain in place. The clerestory above the pedestrian door has been replaced with three metal, hung, one-over-one windows and, in the opening on the east side, a window air conditioning unit. The remaining opening around the air conditioning unit has been infilled with wood. Each of the clerestories has a header brick surround with cast stone corner ornaments.

Above the clerestories in each bay are ornamental brick tables. In addition to the herringbone brick, the matching tables feature a cast stone diamond ornament in the center and a matching half diamond on the edges. A series of small, diamond shaped, cast stone ornaments create a line in the center of the table and connect the larger ornaments. Around the tables, there are two courses of brown, red and gold brick laid in a stretcher bond. Surrounding this on the sides and tops, is a course of header bricks with decorative cast stone ornaments in the corners which match the surrounds around the clerestories.

The second floor windows were originally, double, eight-light, metal, casement windows with four-light transoms. The current second floor windows are one-over-one, hung, metal. The upper portion of the window opening has been infilled with gold painted siding. The windows have a continuous cast stone sill that extends the full width of the each bay. Each bay contains three second floor windows separated by two corbeled brick pilasters. The narrow front pilasters have cast stone ends and tops which extend into the brick surround around the upper part of the bay. The header brick surround around the windows corresponds to the uppermost course of brick headers defining the bay. As with the other brick surrounds on the second floor, the corners of the window surround are marked with cast stone ornaments.

Between each bay on the front elevation corresponding to the upper part of the second floor window, are rectangular cast stone ornaments. Extending below the transom level, these

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ornaments feature a fluted background with a center diamond ornament. The ornaments are only on the three stacked brick bond pilasters separating the façade into four bays. The two outside section of walls are not ornamented. Centrally located above the two center bays in the upper wall, there is a prominent cast stone nameplate that reads "CENTRAL FIRE STATION." Extending the full width of the west elevation is a cast stone coping. The coping has a repetitive triangular pattern.

The west elevation, as well as the north and east elevations, of the Central Fire Station was constructed of a common red brick laid in an American bond (see photograph 2). As constructed in 1930, the rear (north) portion of the west elevation was one-story with a four-story drill tower on the far north side. The drill tower was removed around 1955 and, as part of the 1956 bond issue, a second floor classroom addition was added to the back one-story section of building in 1957. The addition is distinguished by a slightly different colored red brick and that it is not as tall as the original two-story section of the building. Historically, a one-story building abutted the fire station on the west side. The building has been removed, leaving a plaster and tar remnant on the fire station wall that extends the full length of the west wall. Due to the adjoining building, there were historically no first floor windows on the west side of the building. The exposed second floor of the original portion of the west elevation contained about five windows. All original windows have been infilled with brick. The rear second floor addition featured no window openings on the west wall.

Due to the irregular shape of the building, the north elevation of the Central Fire Station consists of three unequal sections (see photograph 3). The westernmost section is located adjacent to the alley and features a garage opening. The opening has double, swinging, metal doors with twelve-lights in the upper half of each door. There are no openings on the second floor of the westernmost section. The upper wall is broken up by two metal drain spouts which extend from the top of the second floor to the ground. To the west of the east drain spout, there are two narrow electrical conduits which extend from near the top of the second floor to just above the top corner of the east side of the garage opening.

The large middle section of the north elevation contains the hose tower on the east side which is slightly taller than the rest of the section with a projecting, vented, pyramidal top. There are no openings in the lower hose tower wall. A metal drain spout separates the hose tower from the rest of the middle section. The rest of the middle section is symmetrically divided into two parts. The east part contains a single, recessed, metal, paneled, grade-level door that has a large four-light window. Directly above the door is a metal, multi-light, pivot window with a continuous concrete sill. The second floor of the east part of the middle section of the north elevation contains three single window openings, each with a separate concrete lug sill. The two east windows now feature replacement, one-over-one, hung, metal windows. The third window now contains a window air conditioning unit with the remainder of the window opening filled with wood.

The west part of the middle section of the north elevation features a large triple window. The center pivot section of each window composing the triple window is six-light with a three-light

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fixed bottom and a six-light fixed upper section. Like the other first floor window in this section of the north elevation, the triple west window features a continuous concrete sill. To rid the interior engine room of the exhaust fumes, there is a metal vent pipe in the top west corner of the triple window that extends above the roof. Another metal vent is located in the top east corner of the triple window. The second floor of the west part of the middle section of the north elevation matches the east part with three single window openings featuring separate concrete lug sills; however, the west two windows have been completely infilled with red brick. The remaining east window has been replaced to match the corresponding second floor windows in the east part of the middle section, including the wood infill in the upper section of the opening.

The east section of the north elevation consists of two parts. The north one-and-one-half-story part features two window openings on each level (see photograph 4). Located towards the east side, the first floor window openings are paired, except the west window has been infilled around a window air conditioning unit. The east window is a replacement, one-over-one, hung, metal. The sill is obscured by vegetation. The mid-level contains two narrow windows. The west window has a window air conditioning unit in the bottom with the upper two-thirds of the window infilled with a wood-framed, fixed, single pane window. The east window is a replacement, one-over-one, hung, metal window. Both the mid-level windows have concrete lug sills. Separating the two mid-level windows is a metal drain spout which turns to the west between the mid-level and first floor windows. There are no windows towards the west half of the north part of the east section of the north elevation. Behind the narrow metal coping, the roof of the north one-and-one-half-story part is flat, creating a balcony area that is safeguarded by a metal railing along the edge of the east section of the north elevation. In the west corner of the flat roof, there is a nonoriginal metal awning with a side wall. Between the nonhistoric metal covering and the north elevation, there is a set of metal stairs that extend to the roof.

Set back from the north one-and-one-half-story part of the east section of the north elevation is the second floor portion of the east section. This portion of the building contains three windows, two of which correspond to the upper flight of stairs connecting the engine room to the second floor. These windows are original to the building and consist of vertical, three-over-three, hung, metal, wire glass windows. Along the edge of the roof, there is a metal coping.

The east elevation also consists of several sections. The longest section is the two-story part on the rear of the building (see photograph 3). As with the west elevation, this part of the building clearly shows the second floor addition added in the late 1950s. The first floor contains seven window openings, although the southernmost window has been infilled with wood and a window air conditioning unit. The remaining six windows retain their original, multi-light, metal, pivot windows that are the same type that compose the triple window on the first floor of the west part of the middle section of the north elevation. The east elevation windows have individual concrete lug sills.

The second floor of the east elevation contains a pedestrian entry towards the north side. The paneled second floor door is accessed by a set of metal stairs. To the south of the door, there are three windows. The windows have been replaced so they are now one-over-one, hung, metal



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with wood in the upper part of the window opening. Unlike the other windows that have concrete lug sills, the second floor windows in the 1950s addition have brick sills. Above the metal coping, there is a metal railing which extends along the south half of the roof.

The middle section of the east elevation has several different parts (see photograph 4). On the far north corner, is the hose tower which also has no openings in the east wall. To the south of this, is a one-story part with a flat roof. Obscured by mechanical equipment, the one-story part has at least one metal, pivot, multi-light window towards the south side. Above the flat roof of the one-story part, the east wall is set back in a flat plane to the top. On the mid-level corresponding to the upper wall of the engine room, there are five original windows. These windows match the historic windows in the second floor portion of the east section of the north elevation. The windows are vertical, three-over-three, hung, metal with wire glass. These windows have a projected brick surround composed of header bricks. Two of the windows have been retrofitted with large exhaust vents. The second floor windows in this part of the north elevation have been replaced with metal, one-over-one, hung windows. The northernmost window on the second floor is wider than the two center windows. All three windows have concrete lug sills. Partially obscured by the metal covering that raises from the west corner of the one-and one-half-story portion of the east section of the north elevation, there is a second floor pedestrian entry that is flanked by two single windows. The entry consists of a metal slab door. The windows appear to be one-over-one, hung, metal, although the north window is obscured by the metal covering. At the top of the wall, there is a narrow metal coping.

The front portion of the east elevation is obscured by the adjacent, later, two-story building at 621 Southwest D Avenue (see photograph 5). Barely visible on the south corner of the east elevation is a single, vertical three-over-three, hung, metal window. This is the only opening in the front portion of the east elevation.

## INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The majority of the first floor consists of the commodious, three-bay, engine room (see photographs 6, 8-12, 16 and 20). All four walls of the engine room are clad with a yellow, glazed, structural tile that according to the select surviving 1930 plans available at the Central Fire Station was "NATCO Vitritile." The tile, made by the National Fireproofing Corporation (NATCO), was sold by the Coates Company of Kansas City, Missouri. The fireproof tile extends from the coated concrete floor to the concrete ceiling on the west side and the dropped ceiling tiles on the east side of the engine room. The columns dividing the engine room are also clad with the structural tile. Original metal light fixtures remain on the columns (see photograph 7). Off the northeast corner of the engine room is the hose tower (see photographs 13 through 15). With a concrete floor and above-grade concrete foundation, the brick walls of the hose tower extend without interruption above the second floor. Off the northwest corner of the engine room there is a long, one-story equipment room, originally termed the workshop (see photographs 17-18). The equipment room is original to the building as it appears on the January 1931 Sanborn Fire Insurance map which notes the building was delineated "from plans." The room has a sloped, plain concrete floor and brick walls. Off the west side, there is a small workroom that is

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accessed with a paneled wood door with six lights in the upper portion. Dividing the equipment room from the engine room is a historic, wood, paneled, overhead door (see photograph 19). Off the southeast corner of the engine room is a small office area that contains a vault off the north side. There are various other small rooms off the east side of the engine room between the office area and the hose tower.

The stairs to the upper floor are also located off the east side of the engine room (see photographs 20-22 and 25-26). The stairs go up one flight to a landing that separates two office areas. From the landing, the stairs go up one more flight to the second floor of the fire station. The bottom flight of stairs has yellow, glazed, structural tile wainscoting. The second floor contains a modern kitchen area, as well as several offices and bathrooms. Like the engine room, the walls of the bathrooms are clad with the yellow, glazed, structural tile. On the west side of the second floor is the large, open, dormitory area (see photograph 23). The dormitory retains the two-story brass poles that provided direct access to the engine room (see photograph 24). The round opening around the poles have been covered with wood due to safety concerns. The former second floor classroom, located north of the dormitory, has been converted to an exercise and storage area.

## ALTERATIONS

The Central Fire Station has been altered by replacement of the majority of second floor windows and the front overhead garage doors. It is unknown specifically when the doors and windows were changed, although newspaper photographs of the building in 1975 show the metal casement windows still in place.<sup>1</sup> The building retains original windows on much of the first floor, as well as several second floor windows on the east side of the building. While the changes to the windows and garage doors detracts from the building's integrity of materials, the size of the openings remains intact and distinguishable, allowing the building to maintain its integrity of design. The removal of the drill tower and addition of the rear second floor were accomplished within the building's period of significance. Accordingly, these modifications do not detract from the Central Fire Station's historic integrity. The interior of the building has been modernized but retains much of the distinguishing, yellow, glazed, structural tile on both the first and second floors. Overall, the Central Fire Station retains its integrity of location, design, setting, workmanship, feeling and association to ably convey its historic and architectural significance.

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<sup>1</sup> *Lawton (Oklahoma) Constitution*, 11 March 1975.

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### 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 grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Community Planning &  
Development  
Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**  
1930-1957  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**  
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Dale, Guy, architect  
Daggs, F.H., builder

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Central Fire Station, located in downtown Lawton, Comanche County, Oklahoma, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under Criterion A for its association with community planning and development. As evidenced by the 1930-1931 construction and 1957 expansion of the Central Fire Station, fire protection is a vital community service that reflects community development. The fire station is also eligible for the National Register under Criterion C for its local architectural significance as a distinctive, 1930s, brick, Commercial style fire station. The period of significance for the building extends from 1930 through 1957, corresponding to the construction of the building and the improvements made to the building under a bond approved by Lawton voters in 1956.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Situated in southwest Oklahoma, Lawton is located in the former Kiowa, Comanche and Apache lands. Even before the opening of these lands to non-Native American settlement in August 1901, Lawton was chosen to be the seat of the newly formed Comanche County. Allotted 320 acres for the original townsite, Lawton quickly outgrew its boundaries. Lawton's continued expansion from its incorporation in 1901 through the 1960s was due largely to its varied economic base. The city benefited from the surrounding agricultural community, various industrial and commercial concerns and the presence of Cameron State Agricultural College (now Cameron University), but, most importantly, from Fort Sill. Established in 1869, the federal military installation was located only four miles north of the original Lawton townsite and now immediately borders the north edge of the city. Although Lawton maintained a fairly steady population throughout its first decades, it experienced small bursts of growth at various times, predominately related to activities at Fort Sill. However, it was the 1940s when World War II created an unprecedented demand on Fort Sill and, therefore, Lawton, that the town entered a period of sustained growth. This era of expansion continued over the next two decades as Cold War developments kept Fort Sill at high levels of personnel.<sup>2</sup>

In opening the nearly three million acres of former Kiowa, Comanche and Apache lands to settlement at the turn of the twentieth century, the federal government tried a new approach, the land lottery. On August 6, 1901, nearly 25,000 people were on hand in Lawton to bid on the 1,200 lots to be auctioned. Following that initial swell, Lawton's population declined to 5,562 people at Oklahoma's statehood in 1907. In 1910, the population had grown to 7,788 residents, a respectable increase of 2,226. The boom in population during this three year period was attributable to the War Department's decision to maintain Fort Sill as a U.S. Army installation,

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<sup>2</sup> Oklahoma Historic Preservation Survey, *Reconnaissance Level Survey of a Portion of Lawton*, (Available Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 1992), 13-22.

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rather than closing it and turning the military reservation over to the Apache Prisoners-of-War as anticipated previous to the turn of the century. The 1920 census recorded an additional 1,142 people residing in the city for a total post-World War I population of 8,930. Ten years later, the Lawton population stood at 12,121 citizens. Another 5,934 persons moved to Lawton during the 1930s, undoubtedly attracted by the multi-million dollar federal works program ongoing at Lawton and Fort Sill, creating a total of 18,055 people in Lawton at the time of the 1940 census. One of the most significant population increases occurred during the World War II decade of the 1940s. Nearly doubling the previous census count, 16,702 persons moved into Lawton during that period, bringing the total city population to 34,757 in 1950. The 1950s also resulted in tremendous development for the community as the city again nearly doubled in size to reach a 1960 population of 61,697, a gain of 26,940 citizens. The proximity of Fort Sill, mobilized for World War II and the ensuing Cold War, accounts for much of this population explosion. Growth continued over the next decade as the number of Lawton residents expanded by 12,773 to reach 74,470 in 1970.<sup>3</sup>

From a general economic perspective, Lawton never really experienced any times of major community financial hardship. Within two years of the town opening, Lawton possessed three ice plants, two grain elevators and two cotton gins, among other industries. By the mid-1930s, eighteen industries operated out of Lawton and the city was a major wholesale marketing, distributing, and manufacturing center for southwest Oklahoma. The city's central business district grew from twelve city blocks in 1920 to thirty city blocks by the mid-1960s. During the Great Depression, the city's economy was bolstered by the \$4.4 million building program started at Fort Sill in 1933. To complete the required work, it was necessary to hire several thousand men. The program continued through the 1940s with a total of \$14 million being expended. Also aiding the community during this period were the many projects undertaken by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) within the city limits and by the Civilian Conservation Corps at the nearby Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge. Lawton experienced tremendous growth in the 1940s as Fort Sill mobilized for World War II. Fort Sill was not subject to post-war reductions, thereby continuing as a major economic force in Lawton. The industrial and retail base established in the city prior to the war expanded, allowing Lawton to serve southwest Oklahoma's trade and service needs.<sup>4</sup>

"A Treacherous Enemy" is how fire was described in the 1961 *Lawton: A Child of the Prairie*. In 1902, fire destroyed two city blocks along D Avenue, as well as the March Brothers' Hardware. Two years later, "a big prairie fire swept in from the mountains in front of a strong norther." The townspeople formed a bucket brigade to put the fire, successfully saving the town. Former Deputy United States Marshall Heck Thomas, famous for his capture of the Bill Doolin Gang, served as the Lawton fire chief during the city's first seven years, as well as the first police chief. Until 1911, volunteers manned the fire department. Because of the change in city governmental

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

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systems from mayoral to charter and commission in 1911, the fire department was reorganized with six permanent firefighters.<sup>5</sup>

On Saturday, January 11, 1930, another devastating fire destroyed the nine month old First Christian Church. According to the *Lawton Constitution*, the fireman fighting the church fire were hampered due to the fire department's pumper having broken the week before "when the local department attempted to answer a call to Anadarko." The "disastrous fire" caused an estimated \$30,000 in damages and resulted in immediate discussions about a \$71,000 bond to be included in the March 18, 1930, election. The bond would provide equipment for the fire department, as well as a new fire station. At the time, the fire department was housed in the red brick city hall that fell to the wrecking ball in the 1960s as part of Lawton's urban renewal effort.<sup>6</sup>

The Tuesday after the fire, the Lawton city council decided that "accurate figures on the needs of the Lawton fire department" would be obtained before the bond issue was definitely placed on the March 18, 1930, election. Within a week, a committee composed of Councilmen Turben, Hopps and McCalmant had been formed to "work together" in determining the needs of the fire department improvements. By mid-March 1930, the bond for a new fire station and additional equipment was raised to \$100,000 and was on the March 18, 1930, election along with a \$600,000 water improvement bond and a \$50,000 bond for improvement of Squaw Creek and the North Addition sewer. With Fort Sill's status as the home of the Field Artillery School hinging on a sufficient supply of water, the water improvement bond dominated the election coverage.<sup>7</sup>

Despite concerns about low voter turnout, both the water and fire improvement bonds were approved by voters. Voters approved the \$100,000 fire bond with a majority of 779 to 353. In contrast, 1031 votes were cast for the water bond with only 215 votes against. The approval of the bonds "was hailed by local business men (*sic*) as the starting of (a) new era of progress for the city."<sup>8</sup>

Bids on the sale of bonds for the water and fire improvements were received by the Lawton city council on April 29, 1930. By that time, remodeling of the fire department's existing space at the city hall had been added to the fire improvement bond. However, due to the high rate of interest, all of the bids received in late April 1930 were rejected. Shortly after this, the repaired First Christian Church was dedicated following "extensive remodeling." Bids on the fire improvement bonds were received again on May 20, 1930. Following review by a committee composed of councilmen, as well as one containing private citizens, the bid of the American-First and Exchange National Bank was recommended for approval. The Attorney General's office approved the sale of the fire station bond on July 9, 1930.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Esther Powell and Ruth Roberson, *Lawton: A Child of the Prairie*, (Lawton, Oklahoma: C and J Printing Company, 1961), 72-73. See also Oklahoma Historic Preservation Survey, *Reconnaissance of Lawton*, 17-21.

<sup>6</sup> *Lawton Constitution*, 12 January 1930 and 13 January 1930.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid*, 15 January 1930, 22 January 1930, 9 March 1930, 16 March 1930 and 17 March 1930.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid*, 18 March 1930 and 19 March 1930.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid*, 29 April 1930, 30 April 1930, 1 May 1930, 20 May 1930, 21 May 1930 and 9 July 1930.

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In early August 1930, it was announced that construction was anticipated to begin within thirty days on three community projects. In addition to the fire station, these included the sewer in the North Addition and erection of a combination high school and grade school for Lawton's African American population. The announcement was apparently precipitated by the approval of the fire station's site. Located on the north side of the 600 block of Southwest D Avenue, the fire station was to be immediately east of the Acme Laundry. The preliminary plans for the building had already been prepared by local architect Guy Dale. As detailed in August 1930, the plans called for "three driveways for three pieces of apparatus (*sic*)," as well as a hose drying tower, drill tower and a "smoke room which will be used for drilling and practice by the fireman." The second floor of the building was to contain a dormitory, recreation room, kitchen, bath and locker rooms, plus a separate bedroom for the fire chief. At an estimated cost of over \$40,000, the building was to be "constructed of brick, concrete and steel with face brick used to make the building more attractive."<sup>10</sup>

The city received the monies for the fire station and North Addition sewer in late August 1930. At their September 2, 1930 meeting, the city council voted to advertise for bids for construction of the fire station. The bids were set to be opened at the council meeting at the end of the month. In anticipation of the bid opening, the three lots on which the fire station was slated to be constructed were cleared beginning the week of September 21, 1930. The houses previously on the lots were moved by September 28, 1930 and construction work was anticipated to begin within ten to fifteen days of letting of the contract. At the end of September 1930, it was believed that over twenty copies of the plans had been provided to interested contractors.<sup>11</sup>

As expected, the city council let the contract for construction of the fire station at their September 30, 1930 meeting. F.H. Dags Construction Company of Hollis, Oklahoma was the lowest of eleven bidders with a bid of \$34,308 excluding plumbing, heating and electrical work. These other costs were expected to raise the final price to \$38,958.<sup>13</sup> The building architect thought the "contract price as very favorable, considering all the details of the plans."<sup>12</sup>

Less than ten days after the contract award, Lawton Mayor Fred Larrance announced that excavation work for the new fire station would begin on Monday, October 14, 1930. Dags Construction Company was expected to arrive in the city at that time and work was to begin immediately. Shortly after this, the local newspaper announced that the plans for remodeling of the city hall had been approved with remodeling work expected to begin after the fire station was completed. At the end of October 1930, the city council approved the purchase of a Mack International Motor Company pumper truck and 3,000 feet of new fire hose.<sup>13</sup>

In mid-December 1930, architect Dale informed the city council that the fire station would likely be completed in January 1931. Dale also "complimented the work of the contractor." Further

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<sup>10</sup> Ibid, 7 August 1930.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid, 26 August 1930, 3 September 1930, 21 September 1930, 26 September 1930.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid, 1 October 1930.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid, 9 October 1930, 22 October 1930 and 29 October 1930.



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indication that Daggs' work was satisfactory was the city council's award of the city hall remodeling job to Daggs Construction Company in early January 1931. By the third week of January 1931, the workmen working on the fire station had completed laying the brick. However, completion of the building was anticipated to take an additional thirty-five days.<sup>14</sup>

Taking slightly longer than anticipated, the Lawton firemen were set to move into the new fire station on Monday, April 20, 1931. Minor work that remained to be accomplished consisted of cleaning plaster that had fallen on the tile walls in the "apparatus room" and installing fixtures. The state underwriters pronounced the building as "one of the best in state." The building was further identified as being fireproof. With floors and roof made of concrete, the building featured exterior windows and doors that were "framed with steel." The interior doors were the only elements "composed of wood." The "buff vitrified tile" in the apparatus, or engine, room was deemed to be "washable and of permanent construction."<sup>15</sup>

As built and in addition to the engine room, the building contained a workshop, smoke and gas room, hose drying room, stock rooms, dormitory, kitchenette, drill tower, shower baths, gymnasium and a private office for the chief. The workshop was located off the rear of the engine room and featured a "rear entrance off the alley and another entrance to the apparatus room." Above the rear of the workshop was the four-story drill tower. The drill tower was to be used for practice of "all the tasks required at a fire, including practice with a life net, lowering and raising of hose and ladders." On the second floor of the drill tower was the smoke and gas room. In this space, the fireman were able to "mix chemicals and familiarize themselves with the various kinds of smoke they will encounter in fighting fires."

Also on the first floor was the main office, located in the southeast corner with a vault immediately to the north. The purpose of the vault was to store the fire records. Off the east side of the engine room on the second floor were a storage room, tool room, battery and alarm signal room and the hose tower. The second floor dormitory was located in the southwest corner of the building with the gymnasium, or recreation area, immediately behind it to the north. A second floor room centrally located towards the front of the building was to be used as a reading room. In the southeast corner of the second floor was the private office and bedroom for the fire chief. On the northeast side of the second floor were the "shower baths" and kitchenette. The floors in the first floor office area and on the second floor were laid with composition tile. A gas-steam heating system was provided to heat the building. The city council voted to accept the new building at their April 21, 1931, meeting, despite concerns about remaining plaster drips on the structural tile in the engine room, "several paint blisters on the walls" and only two coats of paint throughout when the specifications called for three.<sup>16</sup>

To celebrate the completion of the building, a Firemen's Dance was held from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. on July 4, 1931. With "old-time folk dances" downstairs swinging to Uncle Abner's string orchestra, the Oklahoma Sooners played "the most enticing of modern dances" on the second

<sup>14</sup> Ibid, 17 December 1930, 7 January 1931 and 22 January 1931.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid, 19 April 1931.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid, 19 April 1931 and 22 April 1931

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floor. With over 1,000 people in attendance, the \$300 raised from the dance was to be used to purchase equipment for the station kitchen and other “things badly needed by the department.” For example, the building lacked window shades, forcing the firemen to “turn out the light” while getting ready for bed. As part of the preparation for the dance, Fire Chief Sim Sheppard ordered “that all firemen wash their ears and see that their shoes are shined for the big housewarming.”<sup>17</sup>

The Central Fire Station served the Lawton community as the only fire station for over ten years. The dramatic increase in population, coupled with increasing pre-war activities at Fort Sill, resulted in the Lawton Fire Department expanding to nineteen fulltime, paid firemen by around 1940. In late 1941, a \$300,000 bond was again presented to the Lawton voters for improvements which included construction of additional fire stations and equipment. Fire Stations #2 and #3 opened in 1942 with Fire Station #2 located at 811 Lee Boulevard and Station #3 at 17<sup>th</sup> Street and Ferris Avenue. Both of the supplemental 1942 stations were just one bay in size with the Central Fire Station remaining the main firefighting facility in the community.<sup>18</sup>

With the 1950s also creating tremendous growth within the Lawton community, another bond issue was presented to the voting public in 1956. As with the 1930 bond, the issue was preceded by a local fire that caused considerable damage. Lawton’s C.R. Anthony Department store at 405 D Avenue suffered a \$250,000 fire the night of July 25, 1956 with an estimated \$50,000 in damage to adjoining buildings. The fire injured five firefighters and took three hours to being under control. Critical to controlling the fire were two fire trucks, as well as other support, provided by Fort Sill’s Fire Department. Shortly after the fire, Harold E. Kuhlman, chief engineer for the Oklahoma Inspection Bureau which was a division of the state fire marshal’s office, explained the improvements needed for the Lawton Fire Department. In addition to new pumper trucks and a new aerial ladder truck, Kuhlman indicated that the city should relocate both Fire Station #2 and #3 to be closer to “heavily populated areas.” Another recommendation included the addition of eleven firemen to the existing department staff of thirty-five. Kuhlman also explained that if the improvements were not made, the city could be re-rated for fire insurance purposes which could raise annual fire premiums by about \$80,000. As in 1930, a special committee selected by Mayor C.R. Ellsworth on August 1, 1956 to study the needs of the Lawton Fire Department was the first step taken.<sup>19</sup>

Within a week, a \$250,000 fire department improvement bond issue was being presented for approval of the city council. With about \$65,000 slated for purchase of new trucks, the remaining monies was to be used to construct two new fire stations and purchase accessory equipment including 4,000’ of 2½” hose, 1,500’ of 1½” hose, a generator, floodlight and smaller equipment such as fire hooks and axes. The city council approved the bond ballot at their August 7, 1956, meeting and set the voting date for August 21, 1956.<sup>20</sup>

<sup>17</sup> Ibid, 3 July 1931 and 5 July 1931. See also *Lawton (Oklahoma) News Review*, 2 July 1931 and 9 July 1931.

<sup>18</sup> “Our History,” *Lawton Fire Department History*, <http://www.cityof.lawton.ok.us/fire/History.htm>, accessed 7 January 2016. See also *Lawton Constitution*, 7 December 1941.

<sup>19</sup> *Lawton Constitution*, 26 July 1956, 1 August 1956, 7 August 1956 and 17 August 1956.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid, 7 August 1956 and 8 August 1956.

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The day before the 1956 fire bond went before the public, the Mayor declared Tuesday, August 21, 1956, as “Fire Department Improvement Day.” As part of his proclamation, Mayor Ellsworth called “upon the registered qualified property tax-paying voters of the City of Lawton to go to the polls and vote for the needed improvements.” Notably, the newspaper article about the Mayor’s proclamation identified that part of the bond money would be spent on rebuilding the drill tower which had been “recently removed from the roof of Central Fire station (*sic*) as a result of damage to the roof.” At noon time on August 21, 1956, the vote on the fire improvement bond was “running normal” with 192 votes cast in the twelve voting precincts. With thirty-five votes cast, the precinct with the heaviest turnout at noon was located at Fire Station #3.<sup>21</sup>

With a three-to-one approval rate, the 1956 fire improvement bond was approved by 1,499 Lawtonians with only 501 voting against it. The day after the bond election, it was announced that the fire bonds would be sold on September 11, 1956. Additionally, the Oklahoma City architectural firm of Noftsger and Lawrence had been retained to design both the new fire stations and the drill tower which was to be relocated to “city property near the old airport at a cost of \$20,000.”<sup>22</sup>

While the bond election moved at lightning speed, the actual work did not proceed as speedily. In early July 1957, almost a year after the bond election and following construction of the new fire stations, the city council ordered bids to be received at their July 23, 1957, meeting for erection of the drill tower and a classroom “annex.” The classroom annex was to be built on the rear of the Central Fire Station. The bid for the classroom annex, also called the “lecture room addition,” included general work, plumbing, heating and electrical work. Plans for the project were available from Noftsger and Lawrence Architects in Oklahoma City. With bids apparently exceeding available funds, the drill tower and classroom annex project went back to drawing table. The city council voted at their July 31, 1957 meeting to open new bids on the new plans and specifications at their August 20, 1957 meeting.<sup>23</sup>

Four bids were submitted to the city council at their August 20, 1957 meeting. However, only one bid came in under the project architects’ estimate. The W.D. Ford and Son Construction Company submitted a bid of \$29,480 and Noftsger and Lawrence estimated project cost to be \$29,500. The city council then referred the bids “to the fire committee, city attorney, city engineer, fire chief and architects for study and recommendation to the council” the following week. At their August 27, 1957 meeting, the council gave conditional approval to the Ford bid.<sup>24</sup>

Construction work on the new classroom annex was quickly underway. In November 1957, the city council approved installation of new floor tile at the Central Fire Station. It is unclear if the project was related to the classroom annex project or possibly replacement of tile throughout the

<sup>21</sup> Ibid, 20 August 1956 and 21 August 1956.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid, 22 August 1956.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid, 3 July 1957, 11 July 1957, 23 July 1957 and 31 July 1957.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid, 15 August 1957, 20 August 1957, 21 August 1957 and 28 August 1957.

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building. A photograph of the new classroom in use was published by the *Lawton Constitution* on December 9, 1957. The photograph captures the several firemen attending a lecture by George Orgain, an Oklahoma State University fire protection field instructor. The week-long course in early December 1957 was the second part of a training program started two months previously concerning the problems and responsibilities of commanding and supervising a fire company. Apparently delayed due to the drill tower component of the project, the city council voted to accepted the drill tower and the classroom annex at its January 22, 1958 meeting.<sup>25</sup>

Over the years, the Central Fire Station provided many benefits to the community, including a variety of educational opportunities. In October 1941, a week-long training school was held at the Central Fire Station by the Oklahoma State University Extension Service and co-sponsored by the Oklahoma Firemen's Association. In attendance were twenty-six fireman from twelve cities and Fort Sill. At an elementary level, tours for grade school students were commonplace for decades, often related to National Fire Prevention week activities. The tours typically left the children "wide-eyed" after seeing the "mysteries of the big red building which is the hub of Lawton's fire fighting (*sic*) activities." The fire station also benefited from community support. In August-September 1948, the Lowery-Whitehead American Legion Post sponsored a campaign to purchase a portable iron lung that was to be "kept at the Lawton fire station for emergency use in treatment of polio." With all but about \$300 raised by the community, the \$1,209 piece of equipment was "placed at the disposal of the public in the" Central Fire Station at the end of September 1948. The remaining \$300 was paid by the Comanche County Tuberculosis Society.<sup>26</sup>

## ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Central Fire Station is architecturally noteworthy within the Lawton community for many reasons. Most obviously, the building is an excellent, distinctive example of a brick, Commercial style building constructed in the 1930s. While Lawton had a thirty-block downtown area in the 1930s that would have contained numerous similar buildings, urban renewal in the 1960s and 1970s left Lawton with few remaining pre-World War II buildings. In addition to a new city hall and county courthouse, a new library with an adjacent park took out almost an entire block of the central business district. More sizably, construction of the modern, indoor Central Mall resulted in the demolition of "no less than twelve blocks of the central business district." In an effort to keep up with the times, "the remaining older retail properties usually received new window treatments or major façade alterations." While there are a few other remaining examples of pre-World War II, Commercial style building in downtown Lawton, the Central Fire Station remains an exemplary example due to the unusual mixture of brick pattern, include stacked and herringbone, and the striking cast stone detailing.<sup>27</sup>

In terms of government buildings, the Central Fire Station is the oldest extant city building. The red brick city hall that housed the police and fire departments prior to construction of the Central

<sup>25</sup> Ibid, 13 November 1957, 9 December 1957 and 22 January 1958.

<sup>26</sup> *Lawton Constitution*, 14 October 1947, 27 August 1948, 29 August 1948, 2 September 1948, 12 September 1948, 16 September 1948, 17 September 1948, 26 September 1948.

<sup>27</sup> Oklahoma Historic Preservation Survey, *Reconnaissance Level Survey*, 3-4.

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Fire Station was demolished in the 1960s as indicated above. While the county government erected a new county building in the 1930s that would have been just a few years younger than the Central Fire Station, the 1930s building was replaced in the 1970s by a modern, high-rise courthouse. Pre-dating the Central Fire Station by fifteen years, the Lawton Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse (NRIS 00000243) was erected in 1915 and remains standing in a sea of asphalt off the west side of the Central Mall. The impressive, pre-World War I, Classical Revival style building is markedly different from the Central Fire Station in terms of both expression and impression. While the Federal Building conveys the authority of the federal government, the Central Fire Station reflects the more humble but no less critical community need for fire protection.

The Central Fire Station was designed by local architect Guy Dale. Born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on January 27, 1871, Dale attended schools in St. Louis, Missouri, and Chicago, Illinois. According to his obituary, he came to Lawton in 1906 to design the First National Bank building. The 1909 *Lawton City Directory* shows that Dale was working as a draftsman in the Lawton architecture office of J. Ira Jones. However, in June 1909, a notice to contractors published in the *Daily Oklahoman* for construction of a public school in nearby Jefferson County identified that Dale as a partner in the architectural firm of Jones and Dale. In late July 1909, the *Lawton Constitution* noted that “Architect Guy Dale of the firm of Jones & Dale came in from Grandfield last night where he has been the past several days transacting business.” Another article published in the *Muskogee Times-Democrat* the very next day reveals the political nature of early twentieth century architecture work. Titled a “Big Row Over Lawton School,” the article pertains to construction of a school in Lawton that was partially funded by federal money. With the Democratic school board pitted against the Republican architectural firm, the Department of the Interior recommended hiring local architects for the job. However, at least at the time of the article’s publication, the school board was “still standing pat on the Oklahoma City firm.”<sup>28</sup>

In August 1911, Jones announced that he was quitting the architecture business in favor of “taking up the work of promoting the new Banker’s Credit Insurance company.” Dale remained working as an architect in Lawton for a time; however, he filed for divorce in September 1911 when his first wife refused to “make her home in Lawton with him” despite that he had “repeatedly sent her money for the trip.” Dale married his second wife in Dallas in 1912 and by 1917, Dale had relocated to Corpus Christi, Texas, where he was reportedly the first architect to practice in that city. By 1925, Dale had returned to Lawton and was working as both an architect and the city engineer.<sup>29</sup>

Dale continued to work as an architect until about a year before his 1945 death. A complete list of his work has yet to be developed. In addition to his work on the First National Building that reportedly originally brought him to Lawton and which was also identified as a prominent work

<sup>28</sup> *Lawton City Directory*, 1909, available via [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com), accessed 13 November 2015. See also *Lawton Constitution*, 20 November 1945; *Daily Oklahoman*, 10 June 1909; *Lawton (Oklahoma) Constitution-Democrat*, 26 July 1909; and, *Muskogee (Oklahoma) Times-Democrat*, 27 July 1909.

<sup>29</sup> *Lawton Constitution*, 10 August 1911, 14 September 1911 and 20 November 1945. See also *Laredo (Texas) Weekly Times*, 24 June 1917 and *The Corpus Christi (Texas) Times*, 23 June 1947.

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of J. Ira Jones upon his 1911 retirement from the practice of architecture, Dale designed the Central Fire Station, Becker Funeral Home and Old South Cafeteria in Lawton. He was also the architect for the 1940 addition to Lawton's Carnegie Library. As indicated above, he worked in various Oklahoma counties, including Comanche, Jefferson and Tillman, as well as in various Texas counties. His career in Texas and Oklahoma spanned nearly four decades. His earlier work in Chicago, Illinois, remains undefined. While more work remains to be done to determine Dale's overall professional contribution, his design and supervision of construction of the Central Fire Station is noteworthy. The building is an excellent example of both the Commercial style and a fire station.<sup>30</sup>

As testament to Dale's architectural skills, the Central Fire Station remains the hub of the Lawton Fire Department to the present day. It is the oldest, continuously operating fire station in Lawton. While this may not remain true much longer as advancing technology, larger fire trucks and accommodation needs may result in construction of a modern fire station to replace the Central Fire Station, the building merits recognition for its contribution to Lawton's community development, as well as its architectural significance as an excellent example of a Commercial style, fire station designed by local architect Guy Dale.

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<sup>30</sup> Ibid, 10 August 1911, 20 November 1945 and 15 June 1970.

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**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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** N/A

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** Less than 1 acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 34.604328 | Longitude: -98.398037 |
| 2. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |
| 3. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |
| 4. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |

**Or**



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**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |          |           |           |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Lots 19-21, Block 38, Lawton Original, Comanche County, Oklahoma.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries includes the property historically associated with the Central Fire Station.

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**Form Prepared By**

name/title: Cynthia Savage, Architectural Historian, for  
organization: Lawton Heritage Association  
street & number: 346 County Road 1230  
city or town: Pocasset state: OK zip code: 73079  
e-mail: archconsulting.savage@yahoo.com  
telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
date: February 2016

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

Name of Property: **Central Fire Station**

City or Vicinity: **Lawton** County: **Comanche** State: **OK**

Photographer: **Cynthia Savage**

Date Photographed: **1 September 2015**

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

**Photo 0001:** South elevation, camera facing north.

**Photo 0002:** West elevation (center) and south elevation (right), camera facing northeast.

**Photo 0003:** North elevation, camera facing south.

**Photo 0004:** East elevation (right), camera facing southwest.

**Photo 0005:** South elevation (center) and east elevation (right), camera facing northwest.

**Photo 0006:** Interior engine room towards west (left) and north (center and right) walls, camera facing northwest.

**Photo 0007:** Interior engine room light fixture, camera facing northwest.

**Photo 0008:** Interior engine room towards north wall, camera facing north.

**Photo 0009:** Interior engine room towards east (left) and south (center and right) walls, camera facing southeast.

**Photo 0010:** Interior engine room towards south (left) and west (right) walls, camera facing southwest.

**Photo 0011:** Interior engine room towards westernmost garage door, camera facing southwest.

**Photo 0012:** Interior engine room towards north wall, camera facing northeast.

**Photo 0013:** Interior hose tower towards top, camera facing northeast.

**Photo 0014:** Interior hose tower towards east wall, camera facing east.

**Photo 0015:** Interior hose tower towards floor, camera facing northeast.

**Photo 0016:** Interior engine room towards equipment room, camera facing northwest.

**Photo 0017:** Interior equipment room, camera facing north.

**Photo 0018:** Interior equipment room, camera facing south.

**Photo 0019:** Interior equipment room overhead door, camera facing southeast.

**Photo 0020:** Interior engine room towards east wall, camera facing northeast.

**Photo 0021:** Interior stairs bottom flight looking up, camera facing southeast.

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- Photo 0022:** Interior stairs upper flight looking up, camera facing northwest.
- Photo 0023:** Interior second floor towards dormitory, camera facing northwest.
- Photo 0024:** Interior second floor dormitory, camera facing southwest.
- Photo 0025:** Interior stairs upper flight looking down, camera facing northeast.
- Photo 0026:** Interior stairs bottom flight looking down, camera facing northwest.


**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

# Central Fire Station

623 Southwest D Avenue  
Lawton, Comanche County, Oklahoma

## Legend

 34.604328 -98.398037

 34.604328 -98.398037

SW 7th St

Google earth

© 2015 Google



100 ft

# Central Fire Station

623 Southwest D Avenue  
Lawton, Comanche County, Oklahoma

## Legend

 34.604328 -98.398037



34.604328 -98.398037

SW 7th St

SW 6th St

SW C Ave

SW D Ave

SWE Ave



Google earth


© 2015 Google

500 ft

# Central Fire Station

623 Southwest D Avenue  
Lawton, Comanche County, Oklahoma

## Legend

 34.604328 -98.398037



Google earth

© 2016 Google

1000 ft



CENTRAL FIRE STATION





CENTRAL FIRE







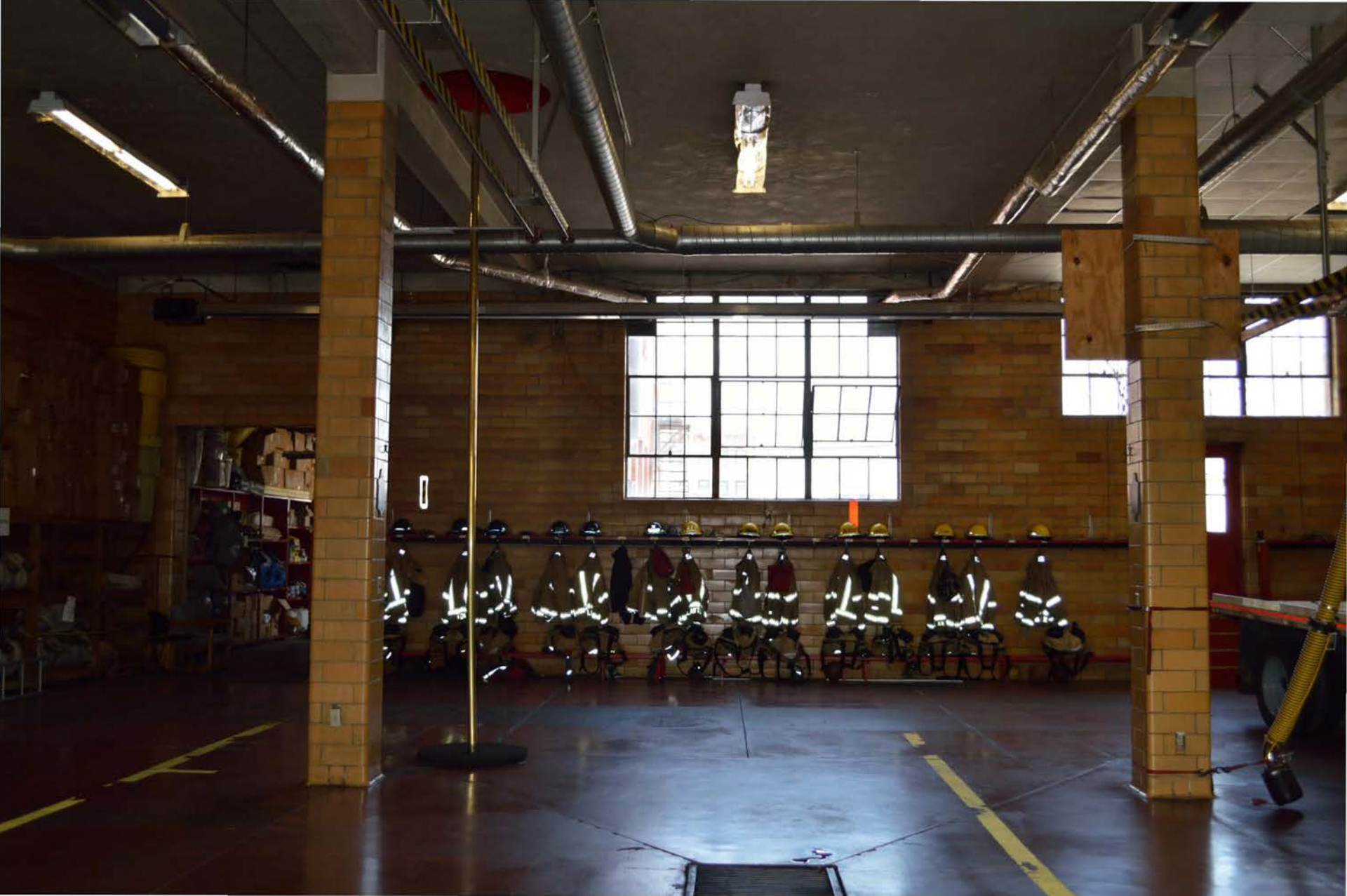


CENTRAL FIRE STATION

Starlight  
ONE RELEASE  
NO OTHER SERVICE











REGION  
3

S 61443









DURING HOISTING  
OPERATIONS  
PERSONNEL ARE TO  
BE WEARING HELMETS

SAFETY GLASSES  
AND  
GLOVES REQUIRED

































# Oklahoma Historical Society

Founded May 27, 1893

## State Historic Preservation Office

Oklahoma History Center • 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive • Oklahoma City, OK 73105-7917  
(405) 521-6249 • Fax (405) 522-0816 • [www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpom.htm](http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpom.htm)

July 26, 2016

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief  
National Register and National Historic Landmark Programs  
National Park Service 2280, 8th floor  
1201 "I" (Eye) Street, NW  
Washington D.C. 20005

RECEIVED 2280

JUL 29 2016

Nat. Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service

Dear Mr. Loether:

We are pleased to transmit eight National Register of Historic Places nominations and one additional documentation for Oklahoma properties. The nominations are for the following properties:

Fort Towson (additional documentation), Fort Towson, Choctaw County  
Central Fire Station, Lawton, Comanche County  
Klingensmith Park Amphitheater, Bristow, Creek County  
Lincoln Park Bathhouse, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County  
Mutual Savings and Loan Association Building, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County  
Pruett House, Stillwater, Payne County  
Downtown Claremore Historic District, Claremore, Rogers County (owner objection)  
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Oklahoma Building, Tulsa, Tulsa County  
Downtown Tulsa YMCA, Tulsa, Tulsa County

The member of the Historic Preservation Review Committee (state review board), professionally qualified in the fields of architecture was absent from the public meeting at which each of these nominations was considered and the recommendation to the State Historic Preservation Officer was formulated. However, the member possessing the requisite professional qualifications for evaluation of each nominated property was present and participated in the recommendation's formulation.

We look forward to the results of your review. If there may be any questions, please do not hesitate to contact either Lynda S. Ozan of my staff or myself.

Sincerely,

Melvena Heisch  
Deputy State Historic  
Preservation Officer

MKH:lso

Enclosures



# Oklahoma Historical Society

Founded May 27, 1893

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16-618

Photos

RECEIVED 2280

AUG 19 2016

Nat. Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service

August 17, 2016

Paul Lusignan  
Historian, National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service 2280, 8th floor  
1201 "I" (Eye) Street, NW  
Washington D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Lusignan:

Enclosed is the CD with the tiff files for the Central Fire Station, Comanche County, Oklahoma.

Please let me know if you need anything further.

Sincerely,

Lynda Ozan  
National Register Program Coordinator

Enclosures

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Central Fire Station  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: OKLAHOMA, Comanche

DATE RECEIVED: 7/29/16 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/18/16  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/02/16 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/13/16  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000618

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

     ACCEPT      RETURN      REJECT                      DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**The Central Fire Station is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under Criterion A for its association with community planning and development and under Criterion C for its local architectural significance as a distinctive, brick, Commercial style fire station. Located in downtown Lawton, the Fire Station was completed in 1930-1931 (with an addition in 1957) and provided an important civic infrastructure element to the growing community. The fire station was an essential component to the urban expansion and development of the community in the pre-war period. The building's unusual mixture of brick patterning, include stacked and herringbone, and the striking cast stone detailing mark it as an exemplary example of local Depression-era design.**

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept Criteria A+C

REVIEWER Paul R. Lusignan DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE                      DATE 9/7/16

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.