

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

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1. Name of Property

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historic name F.W. Meaders Residence  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Location

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street & number 521 South Broadway not for publication N/A  
city or town Ada vicinity N/A  
state Oklahoma code OK county Pontotoc code 123  
zip code 74820

3. 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (N/A See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Bob Lashburn 2-20-07  
Signature of certifying official Date

Oklahoma Historical Society, SHPO  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is Edson H. Beall 4.4.07  
 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): \_\_\_\_\_

Edson H. Beall \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper Date of Action



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6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: single dwelling

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: BUSINESS Sub: office building

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\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> & 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS:

Italian Renaissance

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

roof TERRA COTTA

walls BRICK

\_\_\_\_\_

other brackets,outriggers WOOD

arches, capstones, coping CAST STONE

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets).

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8. Statement of Significance  
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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 a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance 1929  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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8. Statement of Significance (Continued)  
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Significant Dates 1929  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder Ross, Albert, Architect  
\_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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9. Major Bibliographical References  
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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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10. Geographical Data  
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Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>14</u>	<u>712420</u>	<u>3849727</u>	3	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>
2	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	4	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>

N/A See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet).

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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11. Form Prepared By  
=====

name/title Jocelyn Lupkin

organization Robison & Associates Architects date November 15th, 2006

street & number 2927 The Paseo telephone (405) 524-4544

city or town Oklahoma City state OK zip code 73103

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Additional Documentation  
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Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative digital photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====  
Property Owner  
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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name First Baptist Church

street & number 521 South Broadway telephone (580) 332-4121

city or town Ada state OK zip code 74820  
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F.W. Meaders Residence  
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**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION**

**General**

The F.W. Meaders Residence is an outstanding example of an Italian Renaissance brick residential building. The residence was constructed in 1929.

The Meaders Residence is located in Ada, Oklahoma on the southeast corner of the block bounded by South Broadway on the East, East 16<sup>th</sup> on the South, South Townsend on the west and East 15<sup>th</sup> on the north. The Meaders Residence has a wide setback from the street, in proportion to its impressive facade.

The Meaders Residence is an important focal point on South Broadway, which is a major north/south street in Ada. It has a gracious, generous and beautiful physical presence that stands in contrast to the much more modest proportions of the neighboring residential areas and the much larger contemporary church to the north.

The residence is two stories tall above grade, with a basement below grade. There is also a two-story detached brick garage associated with the residence. The second story of the garage was, originally, an apartment.

The Meaders Residence has a poured concrete basement and foundation reinforced with steel beams and columns. The basement was designed to be resistant to damage by tornadoes. The exterior walls are thirteen inches thick and constructed of solid red brick from the Ada Brick Plant. The brick pattern is a running bond with a soldier course where the soffit at the enclosed overhang meets the wall, and below the cast stone cornice at the arcaded porch and porte cochere.

The building floor plan is slightly asymmetrical. The main portion of the house is T-shaped, with a central rectangle and two-story slightly projecting wings on the west end of the north and south elevations forming the cross bar of the "T". A one-story wing that is centered on the two-story wing projects from the south side of the house and a one-story porte-cochere projects from the north side of the porch, over the driveway.

The main roof is hipped, with contiguous smaller hips over the two-story projections. The porte-cochere roof appears to be flat, and the projecting wing on the north has a very low slope roof that reads as flat from the street. A small, low pitch, intersecting gable with eave returns is centered over the

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second floor on the east side. It is directly over the front door and sidelights. Roofing material is terra cotta tile with decorative finials at the apex of the second floor gable, hip ridge ends at the main hip, and the smaller hips over the two-story wings. The second floor roof and the roof over the south projection have wide overhangs with wide, simple wood faciae and a wood board finish enclosing the soffits. They also appear to have internal gutters, since the downspouts originate from within the soffit.

**East Elevation:**

(Refer to photos 1, 2, 4, 5, 9, 10 and 12)

The east, or front, elevation has a deeply recessed arcaded porch along its entire length, which is terminated with an arched porte-cochere. The porch is generously proportioned, with three segmental arches with an a-b-a rhythm. The flanking arches are approximately fifty percent larger than the center arch. The arches are separated by tall, straight, massive brick columns that continue above the first floor porch roof to form piers at the perimeter of the second floor balcony. A wrought iron railing runs between the piers. The piers terminate with cast stone caps and large cast stone urns. A wrought iron railing also runs between the columns at the first floor and inside the flanking arches.

The arches at the porch and porte cochere are banded with cast stone, with thick articulated bands at the bases and springpoints of the arches that make the vertical portion of the bands read as a pilasters. The apex of each cast stone band at the arches has a keystone that projects up into the brick field. A cast stone cornice terminates the roof line of the first floor porch. It is interrupted by the brick piers, which project out from the porch wall surface to the same depth as the face of the cornice. The port cochere arch is approximately double the size of the center arch and about 1.5 times the size of the arches that flank the center arch. Short cast stone brackets, approximately two feet on center, encircle the cast stone cornice at the porte cochere roof.

Four steps lead up to the porch at the center arch. The steps are flanked with low brick endwalls with a cast stone cap which project out from the brick piers which flank the center arch. The steps and porch are concrete.

The main entry is located at the center of the main portion of the house. The entry is a paneled door with divided light sidelights and is directly west of the center arch. Triple window bays of hung divided light wood windows flank

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the entry and are directly west of the flanking arches. The window light pattern in each bay is four over one, eight over one, and four over one. Each set of windows has a continuous cast stone sill. At the one-story wing projecting to the south, the east wall is dominated by two triple window bays. The windows are single-hung and the window light pattern is four over one. The bays are divided by a short span of brick infill.

**South Elevation:**

(Refer to photos 5, 6, 7, 8 and 11)

The south elevation is asymmetrical. A two-story wing projects south from the west end of the main portion of the house. It has a triple window bay with a divided light pattern of six over one. Centered under the two-story wing, the one-story wing projects further south and to the east and west. It extends slightly beyond the west wall of the main portion of the house and east to the east side of a brick chimney. The chimney is located east of the center of the main rectangular portion of the house and it projects out slightly from the wall. The chimney terminates with corbelled brick. On the east end of the south side of the main portion of the house are two sets of paired windows vertically stacked at the first and second floors. The windows are hung and the divided light pattern is six over one. On the west side of the chimney at the second floor is a single six over one hung window.

The one-story projecting wing is symmetrical, with triple windows flanking a centered wood divided light wood door at a small porch. The window light pattern is four over one. The porch is one step up, with cast stone urns at the outside corners. A small, shallow gable projects out over porch. The gable is supported by built up wood brackets which rest on engaged cast stone columns similar to those at the west porch arcade. The gable interrupts and projects in front of the roof overhang and has a tile roof with a decorative cap and finial.

**West Elevation:**

(Refer to photos 7 and 11)

The west elevation is the back of the building. It is basically flat and windows appear to have been arranged with respect more to room arrangement than to the formal composition of the elevation. This is the only elevation where windows do not stack vertically or symmetrically. A back door is on the first floor at the north end. A concrete stoop with a metal railing leads to the door. A small double window with a divided light pattern of four over one is

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about a third of the way down from the northwest corner. A triple window that matches those on the first floor of the east elevation is on the first floor towards the south end of the main portion of the house. The south projection has a pair of hung windows with six over one lights that occupy the central third of the wall. A brick interior chimney towards the back of the house is most visible from this elevation. This chimney is smaller than the one on the south and terminates in corbelled brick that is similar to that of the south chimney.

**North Elevation:**

(Refer to photos 1, 3, 9 and 12)

The north elevation has the porte cochere as a continuation of the arcaded porch on the east and the central portion of the house and a two-story projecting wing on the west. The two-story wing corresponds to the one on the south elevation, however, it appears to be about twice as wide running east and west. The two-story wing has two bays of hung double windows with a six over one light pattern on the second floor and one bay of double windows and a single window with a six over one light pattern on the first floor. The groups of windows stack vertically. East of the projecting wing, on the main portion of the house, there are double windows with a six over one light pattern on both the first and second floors that are stacked vertically.

The porte cochere has an arched opening which is the same size as those on the east and south sides of the arcaded porch. The porte cochere roof is supported by massive square brick columns at its northeast and northwest corners. The columns are terminated at the top by square cast stone caps below the brick soldier course that runs below the cast stone cornice and brackets.

**Interior Layout and Features:**

The house has fourteen rooms. In its heyday, when it was used as a residence, it had five bedrooms, two bathrooms, a living room, dining room, breakfast room, kitchen, library, sunroom, and an upstairs sitting room. In addition, the balcony above the arcaded porch was designed to be used as a sleeping porch.

The first floor is entered from the front (east) arcaded porch and the central door. A wide central hall running east and west gives access to the first floor rooms and to a stairway to the second floor. The dining room was located north of the main entry and the living room was to the south. A breakfast room

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was located west of the dining room and centered on the north side. The kitchen and mudroom were located west of the breakfast room and on the west side of the house. Winding stairs down to the basement were located between the dining room and kitchen, south of the breakfast room, and north of the main stair up to the second floor. The library was directly west of the living room and was accessible from the central hall. The one-story wing on the south side of the house contained the sunroom on the east side, which was accessible from the living room; and a bedroom and bath on the west side, accessible from a hall running north and south from the side porch on the south to the library.

The second floor had three bedrooms for the children on the north, a bathroom, numerous closets, a sitting room in the southeast corner and the master bedroom in the southwest corner. All the rooms were accessible from a hall around the central stair. The roof of the first floor arcaded porch, with its decorative cast stone planters and ornamental metal railings, was used as a balcony and open air sleeping porch, weather permitting. It is accessible from a centrally located divided light french door on the east end of the central hall.

**Additional Features:**

The house has some unusual features. According to Joe Meaders, the youngest of the Meaders children, Mr. Meaders had sheets of shale stacked at an angle against the exterior reinforced concrete basement walls, so that ground water would be diverted away from the basement. The basement has a steel reinforced structure to provide resistance to tornado damage. The walls above grade are thirteen inches thick and constructed of solid brick from the Ada brick plant. The house also had innovative mechanical and electrical features. It was constructed with automatic steam heat that was distributed throughout by concealed radiators, and rooms were ventilated by means of louvered doors with sliding solid panels that could be moved into place when privacy was desired. In case of an emergency, a master switch was provided to turn on lights in all of the rooms and closets.

Interior features include arched double french doors to the living room, dining room and sunroom. The house also has tiled fireplaces, a tiled sunroom floor and marble kitchen counters.

**Alterations:**

The F.W. Meaders Residence is notable for its integrity and condition, despite its contemporary use as a church-related office building. The following changes were noted:

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An historic photo shows decorative brackets under the soffit of the main hipped roof. The brackets were spaced approximately two feet on center. These appear to be similar to, but smaller than, the brackets which still exist at the porte cochere roof edge.

The screen door at the main entry is no longer there. The front door appears to be a new, solid, paneled door with new hardware. A new storm door is installed at the south entry and storm windows have been installed. Despite these changes, the exterior of the main residence is substantially intact.

**Garage**

A two-story detached garage sits northwest of the residence. Square in plan, the garage matched the house in materials. Capped with a pyramidal roof, the brick garage had residential space on the second floor. The automobile entries were on the east elevation. The second floor has two sets of paired 6/1 windows on each elevation. However, the garage is considered a noncontributing resource due to interior and exterior alterations and additions. It retains its original form and roofline, but a contemporary standing seam metal roof was installed to replace the original tile roof. One of the two garage doors has been filled in with a pedestrian door and adjacent window surrounded by board and batten siding. The other garage entry has been infilled with two windows and board and batten siding. The second story of the garage was, originally, an apartment. In recent years, the first floor of the garage has also been converted to living quarters. A one-story utility building with wide masonite siding has been constructed on the north side of the garage. This addition effectively doubles the footprint of the building.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance**

The F.W. Meaders Residence is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, as the best example of an Italian Renaissance style residence in Ada, Oklahoma and because of its association with one of Ada's most prolific architects, Albert Ross. The house is currently owned by the First Baptist Church of Ada, but its significance lies in its architectural merit, satisfying criteria consideration "a" for a religiously-owned property.

**Historic Context**

Ada was founded in 1890, in the northeastern portion of the Chickasaw Nation when J.M. and J.B. Daggs came from north Texas and settled on what was to be the southwest side of Ada.<sup>1</sup>

Jeff Reed, another settler from Texas, came to Ada in 1891 and established its first store. J.B. Daggs opened a second store and a post office. Reed submitted the name of his eldest daughter to the postmaster (after having two previous names rejected because they were already registered) for the official name of the post office. The third name, Ada, was approved and the post office had an official address: "Ada, Chickasaw Nation, Indian Territory." Ada opened its first school in 1892 and, by 1895, in addition to a new store opened by Reed, Ada could boast of a drugstore, grocery, blacksmith, and a sawmill.<sup>2</sup>

The railroad was an important influence in the development of Oklahoma, and Ada was no exception. In 1896, John W. And Henry G. Beard promoted a railroad connecting Sapulpa, Oklahoma to Sherman, Texas, and the railroad route included Ada. The minor obstacle of Chickasaw ownership of the lands containing the railroad route and right-of-way was effectively dealt with when, in 1898, the federal government passed the Curtis Act, which resulted in stripping the Five Civilized Tribes of power and control over their lands. In 1899, construction contracts were let on the Saint Louis and San Francisco railroad and promoters were given the right to develop town sites along the route. The Beards and others organized the Oklahoma and Indian Territory Improvement Company to get acreage for a townsite. 250 people settled in Ada and established a school ,

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<sup>1</sup>Marvin E. Kroeker and Guy W. Logsdon, Ada: Queen City of the Chickasaw Nation, (Virginia Beach, VA: The Donning Company Publishers, 1998), p. 17.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid. p. 18.

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church, masonic hall and seven or eight businesses in the "old town" area.<sup>3</sup> (The Ada original townsite was an area bounded by Ash Avenue on the west, Townsend Avenue on the east, South 6<sup>th</sup> Street on the south and South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street on the north.)<sup>4</sup> The construction of the railroad was completed in December of 1900 and Ada's population grew to between 750 and 1000 people.<sup>5</sup>

In early March of 1900, "W.H.P. Trudgeon... an original promoter of the railroad...; Albert Rennie... a member of the Chickasaw Nation as well as an attorney for the [Oklahoma and Indian Territory Improvement] Company; and A.H. Constant... a member of the Company, traveled to Ada to inspect the potential site and to obtain land." They interviewed the citizens, walked the railroad right of way, and suggested that the townsite be moved south of the railroad. They "...closed a deal with Albert Perry, a Chickasaw Indian, for 190 acres of land, taking the headright in the name of George B. Rennie, a Chickasaw Indian... [and they] made a plat of the town... This plat began with First Street and went south to the alley between 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Streets. The north and south streets were designated as avenues beginning with the center of the town, naming the first avenue as Broadway... The survey was then made, the streets, avenues, alleys, blocks and lots designated and the new town ushered in..." and the old townsite was formally abandoned. In April of 1900 a bridge was constructed over the Little Sandy Creek so that buildings could be moved from the north side to the south. The first new building at the new townsite location was constructed on North Broadway and South 10<sup>th</sup> Street for the Ada Evening News. Two more buildings were constructed, 108-110 East Main, the Rollow Building and I. Harris Clothiers; and 101 East Main, the First National Bank, at the intersection of Main and Broadway.<sup>6</sup>

The turn of the century saw a great boost in commercial development as a result of railroad construction. In 1900, the Ada Brickyard was opened. In 1901, the City of Ada was incorporated, 15,000 bales of cotton worth \$600,000 were shipped out of Ada, the Ada Milling Company was established and, to serve a

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<sup>3</sup>Ibid. p. 19.

<sup>4</sup>Suzanne McFarlane, ed., "Historical Walking tour of Ada, Oklahoma, Centennial Edition, 1901-2001," (Ada Centennial Commission, Ada, Oklahoma, 2001), p. 1.

<sup>5</sup>Kroeker, p. 21.

<sup>6</sup>Ibid., pp. 19-22.



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growing population, a private school was opened.<sup>7</sup> In 1903, Ada purchased this school to be used for public education of its elementary and secondary students.

In 1905, two major developments spurred Ada's development. It was recognized that the town needed a better water supply and Wintersmith Lake, a dam and reservoir east of town, was constructed. As a result, Ada attracted the Oklahoma Portland Cement Company, which required a large water supply, as well as the limestone which naturally occurs in the area. Also, the Missouri, Kansas, and Texas (Katy) Railroad built a line to serve Ada in that year.<sup>8</sup>

Oklahoma attained statehood in 1907. In that year, Ada graduated its first high school class and it became the seat of Pontotoc County.<sup>9</sup> In 1909, the City Hall and Fire Station were constructed at 12<sup>th</sup> Street and Broadway and Main Street and Broadway were paved. After a "fierce competition," in 1910, Ada became the home of the Ada Normal School, a two-year teachers educational facility that grew into the present-day East Central University. Ada also attracted its third railroad line due to its shipping potential. In 1911, a pump station and twelve inch water line were constructed to provide a better water supply for the growing town.<sup>10</sup>

Subsequent development of the downtown into the 1920's and 30's shows a cluster of building in the area bounded on the north by South 10<sup>th</sup> Street, on the south by South 14<sup>th</sup> Street, on the west by Stockton Avenue and on the east by Constant Avenue. Broadway Avenue, Main (11<sup>th</sup>) Street and 12<sup>th</sup> Street were the most densely developed during this period.<sup>11</sup>

**Energy**

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<sup>7</sup>Ibid.

<sup>8</sup>Ibid.

<sup>9</sup>Ibid., p. 28.

<sup>10</sup>Ibid., p. 50.

<sup>11</sup>McFarlane, p. 3.

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Ada's size and proximity to two major oilfields made it a major petroleum industry service center after 1913. The first nearby major oil field discovery, the Allen oilfield, "...located northeast of Ada in the Canadian River valley, produced oil and gas during two periods of the first half of the twentieth century. The first period, from 1913 to 1916, tapped small, reliable volumes of oil from the shallow (300-800 feet) Boggy, Savanna, Wapanucka, Cromwell, and Gilcrease sands. Three smaller fields west of the Allen pool - Francis, West Francis, and Conservation Francis - were developed after 1916 but declined after 1920."<sup>12</sup> However, the subsequent discovery of other oilfields in close proximity to Ada provided even greater opportunities.

Ada's agricultural and commercial progress did not benefit everyone equally. In 1917 poor tenant farmers and share croppers launched the "Green Corn Rebellion" to draw attention to their desperate plight. The short-lived rebellion was squelched in the fields near Ada. The United States' entry into World War I diminished the school population, but after the war the population rebounded and automobiles and mechanized farming made paved roads necessary.<sup>13</sup> By 1920, Ada had a population of 8,012 and the county population was 30,949.<sup>14</sup>

In 1921, the Beebe Field was tapped and, in 1926, the Greater Seminole Oilfield was discovered, to be followed by the Fitts Oilfield.<sup>15</sup>

The economic importance of oil in the region and to Ada is underscored by the fact that, between 1900 and 1935, more than 8.8 billion barrels of crude were pumped from the Mid-Continent Region, which stretched from central Texas,

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<sup>12</sup>George O. Carney, "Energy South Central Oklahoma 1900-1930," (Stillwater: Oklahoma State University, 1985), 55.

<sup>13</sup>Kroeker, p. 56.

<sup>14</sup>Ibid., p. 75.

<sup>15</sup>Oklahoma Historical Society with the Oklahoma Petroleum Council, "Historical Tour of Oklahoma's Oil & Gas Industry," (Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association of Oklahoma website, www.okmoga.com, 2006), Item 13.

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across Oklahoma and over to eastern Kansas. In twenty-seven of the years between 1900 and 1935, the Mid-Continent Region ranked first in domestic oil production and, in twenty-two of the years during that same period, Oklahoma ranked first among the Mid-Continent Region states in production and for nine years it was second.<sup>16</sup>

Ada is equidistant between the southern sector of the Greater Seminole Oilfield and the Fitts Oilfield. The Fitts Oilfield was the area of petroleum production that was most important to the rise of Ada as a prosperous oil town. The Fitts Oilfield was located southeast of Ada in the valley of Sheep Creek in eastern Pontotoc County. Discovered August 1, 1934, the Fitts was relatively isolated from other major fields, and it contained three production sands that were exploited with newer technologies in this later period.<sup>17</sup> By 1938, the Fitts was the second-largest-producing field in the country and, due to its proximity to Ada, it attracted thousands of new residents and new business to the town. The wealthy oil families of Ada built mansions, manifesting their fortunes in residential development.<sup>18</sup>

**Architectural Significance**

The F.W. Meaders residence is eligible for the National Register because it is the best remaining example of an Italian Renaissance residence in Ada, Oklahoma.

The F.W. Meaders family was prominent in Ada from the time of its early development. The Meaders Oil Company was owned by pioneer Ada oilman Frank W. Meaders. Meaders was born in Texas in 1877 and came to Ada with his wife in 1902. The Meaders Oil Company was a small independent company that saw success during the first (1913-16) and second (beginning in 1928) production phases of the Allen Oilfield in northeast Pontotoc County. The Meaders Oil

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<sup>16</sup>Oklahoma Historical Society with the Oklahoma Petroleum Council, Introduction.

<sup>17</sup> Kroeker, p. 91.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid., p. 96.

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Company was one of Ada's first oil distributors. In addition, Frank W. Meaders built the first service station in Ada, which was located near the present site of the Ada Evening News building at 10<sup>th</sup> Street and South Broadway.<sup>19</sup> Two of Meaders' sons, Guy and Joe, also had service stations on Main Street.

Mr. and Mrs. Meaders traveled to Oklahoma City, where they were influenced by houses on Northwest 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Streets in the Heritage Hills area.<sup>20</sup> For their residence, located at 521 South Broadway, the family turned to a local, but prominent architect, Albert Ross, who designed many of Ada's important buildings, including the Ada Public Library.<sup>21</sup> Ross was a prolific architect, credited with hundreds of designs in Oklahoma, over ninety of them in Ada alone. He designed a number of buildings on the campuses of East Central State University in Ada and Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant. Ross worked in a wide variety of architectural styles. His Colonial Revival style Ada Public Library and streamlined art moderne Sugg Clinic in Ada are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Ross was respected by his peers and was the third Oklahoma architect named as a Fellow in the American Institute of Architects.<sup>22</sup>

Constructed at a cost of \$32,811, the Meaders residence was a showpiece, with grounds occupying half a city block south of the Ada business district.<sup>23</sup> At the time of its construction, the location (between 15<sup>th</sup> Street and 16<sup>th</sup> Street on South Broadway) "...was considered so far south, that Mrs. Meaders was adamant about not building any further out of town."

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<sup>19</sup>Brad Bays, ed., "Architcturel/Historic Intensive Level Survey of Ada, Oklahoma," (Oklahoma SHPO, 2006), excerpt from draft.

<sup>20</sup>Patterson, Item 29.

<sup>21</sup>McFarlane, p. 2.

<sup>22</sup> Everett, Diana, "Sugg Clinic" National Register of Historic Places nomination, 1999. On file Oklahoma SHPO, Oklahoma City.

<sup>23</sup>Bays, excerpt from draft.

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The Meaders Residence is representative of the wealth and development in Ada that was engendered by the early phases of petroleum production, before the onset of rotary drilling techniques and the discovery of the giant Fitts Field (1934) that brought rapid development to Ada during the prewar and war years. It is also representative of the opulent years preceding the onset of the Great Depression. The Ada mansion was built when Frank Meaders was fifty-three years old and at the height of his career as an independent oil producer.<sup>24</sup> The property remained in the Meaders family as late as 1966, when Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bartley Meaders, son and daughter-in-law of Frank W. Meaders, resided there.

Oil money influenced much of the construction in Ada in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Large homes that reflect both the tastes of the day and the wealth of their occupants began to appear on the streets around town. The F. W. Meaders house is the most prominent of those houses south of downtown. Located three blocks from the Pontotoc County Courthouse on Broadway, the historic main north/south axis of town, the Italian Renaissance Revival style house is a departure from its older, smaller neighbors. At the time the Meaders house was completed, the blocks surrounding it were filled with primarily one story, frame residences with the occasional two story or brick house interspersed on the streetscape. The Meaders house itself replaced an existing single story, frame house with a hipped roof.

A number of larger homes constructed during this period were located farther south of downtown, along Kings Road, an east/west road that marks the south boundary of the city. Here, atop a bluff, is a concentration of large homes dating from the 1920s and 1930s. Set on large lots with deep setbacks, the houses on Kings Road are primarily Colonial Revival in design. They comprise their own district, separate from the residential areas to their north.

The Italian Renaissance Revival style is marked by its distinctive roofline, typically a low-pitch hipped roof covered in tile, wide, boxed eaves with brackets, an elaborated entrance, and a symmetrical facade. Common is an

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<sup>24</sup> Bays, excerpt from draft.

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arcaded *loggia* or porch. The walls are always masonry.<sup>25</sup> The Meader house demonstrates all of these characteristics: the tile roof of the Meader house has widely overhanging eaves; the main entry is centered on the axially symmetrical facade and features a wide door with flanking sidelights. The load-bearing brick walls are constructed of brick made within a mile of the house.

Italian Renaissance is not a common house style in Oklahoma and even less so in Ada. In fact, there are no other houses identified that match the distinctive characteristic of the style. F. W. Meaders, in his decision to hire noted architect Albert Ross, chose to set himself apart. By looking at the styles and types of houses found in the best neighborhoods of Oklahoma City for examples, it is clear that Meaders was not influenced by the existing housing stock of Ada.

The Pontotoc County Courthouse, located only a couple of blocks north of the Meaders residence, exhibits elements of the Second Renaissance Revival. The influence of Classicism is evident in the courthouse: fluted pilasters and engaged columns atop a rusticated, arcaded base, all executed in smooth-dressed limestone. The Second Renaissance Revival differs from the Italian Renaissance Revival in the character of design elements. The Classicism of the Second Renaissance Revival is more formal and more academic than that of the regional revivals. Although reflecting a distinct revival period, and while contemporaneous, the two styles are differentiated enough that they need not be compared.

The F. W. Meaders residence is eligible for the National Register because of the unique combination of its style, size, amenities, materials, and condition. The design and construction of the F. W. Meaders residence was a high point for architectural expression within its community, as well as a physical manifestation of one of the most vibrant periods of Ada's development. It is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C, as representative of a period of architecture marked by large-scale, impressive houses of a distinctly European derivation. It is currently owned by the

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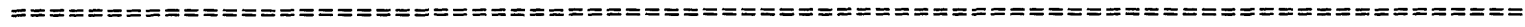
<sup>25</sup> McAlester, Virginia & Lee, A Field Guide to American Houses, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984, pp 397-399.

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Baptist Church and used as office space for the church. Its significance lies entirely in its design and thus satisfies criteria consideration A.

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**Verbal Boundary Description:**

A tract of land in the South ½ of the East ½ of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 33, Township Four (4) North, Range Six (6) East, described as follows:

Lots 13 through 16, Block 126, Ada Original Townsite, Ada, Pontotoc County, State of Oklahoma.

**Boundary Justification:**

The boundaries reflect the property historically associated with the F. W. Meadors House.

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**Photo Labels:**

Photo #1 (OK\_PontotocCounty\_Meaders1.tif)  
Jocelyn Lupkin (applies to all photographs)  
September, 2006 (applies to all photographs)  
Oklahoma SHPO (applies to all photographs)  
Camera facing west/southwest (elevations)

Photo #2 (OK\_PontotocCounty\_Meaders2.tif)  
Camera facing west (garage elevation)

Photo #3 (OK\_PontotocCounty\_Meaders3.tif)  
Camera facing southwest (elevations)

Photo #4 (OK\_PontotocCounty\_Meaders4.tif)  
Camera facing west (front, or east)

Photo #5 (OK\_PontotocCounty\_Meaders5.tif)  
Camera facing northwest (elevations)

Photo #6 (OK\_PontotocCounty\_Meaders6.tif)  
Camera facing north (elevation)

Photo #7 (OK\_PontotocCounty\_Meaders7.tif)  
Camera facing northeast (elevations)

Photo #8 (OK\_PontotocCounty\_Meaders8.tif)  
Camera facing north/northeast (elevations)

Photo #9 (OK\_PontotocCounty\_Meaders9.tif)  
Camera facing southwest (elevations)

Photo #10 (OK\_PontotocCounty\_Meaders10.tif)  
Camera facing west (elevations)

Photo #11 (OK\_PontotocCounty\_Meaders11.tif)  
Camera facing northeast (elevations)

Photo #12 (OK\_PontotocCounty\_Meaders12.tif)  
Camera facing southwest (elevations)