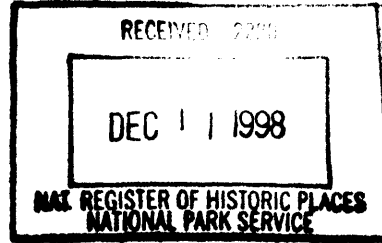


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



1592

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name New Cordell Courthouse Square Historic District

other names/site number N/A

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number Three entire blocks, five partial blocks, and the block on
which the Washita County Courthouse sits. All centered around
the Courthouse Square. not for publication N/A

city or town New Cordell vicinity N/A

state Oklahoma code OK county Washita code 149

zip code 73632

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this XX 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 XX meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (N/A See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 23 November 1998
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:

- entered in the National Register Edson H. Beall 1.7.99
See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register _____
- See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register _____
- removed from the National Register _____
- other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper 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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>50</u>	<u>28</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>50</u>	<u>28</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 2

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

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Commerce</u>	Sub: <u>specialty store</u>
<u>Commerce</u>	<u>business</u>
<u>Commerce</u>	<u>financial institution</u>
<u>Government</u>	<u>courthouse</u>
<u>Government</u>	<u>city hall</u>
<u>Government</u>	<u>fire station</u>
<u>Education</u>	<u>library</u>
<u>Health Care</u>	<u>hospital</u>
<u>Recreation and Culture</u>	<u>theater</u>

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Commerce</u>	Sub: <u>specialty store</u>
<u>Commerce</u>	<u>business</u>
<u>Commerce</u>	<u>financial institution</u>
<u>Government</u>	<u>courthouse</u>
<u>Government</u>	<u>city hall</u>
<u>Government</u>	<u>fire station</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Commercial Style

Classical Revival

Modern Movement

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

roof ASPHALT

walls STUCCO

CONCRETE

BRICK

METAL

other _____

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

=====

8. 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 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)

Commerce
Architecture
Community Planning & Development

Period of Significance 1897 - 1947

=====
8. Statement of Significance (Continued)
=====

Significant Dates N/A

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
 N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Layton, Solomon Andrew - Architect

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

=====
9. Major Bibliographical References
=====

(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: University of Oklahoma
 New Cordell Public Library

=====
10. Geographical Data
=====

Acreage of Property 2.75 acres

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>14</u>	<u>500970</u>	<u>3905180</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
2	<u>N/A</u>	<u>See continuation sheet.</u>		4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

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.)

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Maryjo Meacham, Historic Preservation Consultant

organization Meacham & Associates date June 1, 1997

street & number 766 DeBarr telephone (405) 321-6221

city or town Norman state OK zip code 73069

=====
Additional Documentation
=====

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 black and white photographs of the property.

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

=====
Property Owner
=====

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

name See Attached List

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Section 7 Page 9

New Cordell Courthouse
Square Historic District
name of property
Washita County, Oklahoma
county and State

=====
Materials: foundation Brick

Summary

The New Cordell Courthouse Square Historic District derives its name from the presence of the Washita County Courthouse (NR-1984) which was designed by Solomon Layton and built in 1910. The district includes all of the original business district of the New Cordell Townsite, established in 1897. The district also includes buildings located on two blocks on the north side of First Street. These buildings face the north side of the original square blocks. The original square included six blocks that surrounded the courthouse. The courthouse square is characterized with brick one- and two-story commercial buildings primarily built between 1900 and 1925, with later additions on First Street and in parts of the square. The district includes 80 buildings, 52 contributing buildings and 28 noncontributing buildings.

Description

The New Cordell Courthouse Square Historic District derives its name from the presence of the Washita County Courthouse (NR-1984) designed by Solomon Layton and built in 1910. The district includes all of the extant original businesses of the New Cordell Townsite platted and established in 1897. The original square included six blocks that surrounded the courthouse. Most of the original square and portions of two other blocks are included in the district boundaries. The square is characterized with brick commercial buildings mostly built between 1900 and 1925. The district has outstanding examples of several different styles of buildings, such as the Commercial Style with decorative brick facing, two examples of Classical Revival Style and two examples of the Moderne Style associated with the Works Project Administration in Oklahoma. Some contributing Commercial Style buildings on the square have alterations on the first story of their storefronts. However, the district has a high degree of integrity regarding the original feeling, association and setting because of the uniform setbacks on the buildings, the heights and widths of the stores, and the setting of the square. These contribute to the district's integrity and the alterations minimally impact the overall visual integrity.

During 1996 and 1997 the Cordell Central Business District, which includes the Courthouse Square Historic District, has undergone a number of rehabilitation

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New Cordell Courthouse
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projects. The largest project includes new sidewalks, period lighting, and paved bump outs at each corner. A pocket park was also established on the southwest corner of Main and Market.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

1. The most important feature of the square is the Washita County Courthouse (NR-1984). (Photo #20, #21, #48) Designed in the Classical Revival style, the courthouse is a three-story brick building with a domed clock tower centered at the top of the building. The east and west entrances have prominent steps under a large portico with monumental ionic columns, which are painted white. Copper sheeting covers the tympanums of the pediments. The first floor is constructed of red brick and is separated from the other stories with a white painted water table. The second and third stories are constructed in a lighter colored brick. The building has a projecting cornice and entablature of copper sheeting. The dome of the clock tower is also covered with copper sheeting and is supported by twelve yellow brick arches and white painted Corinthian columns. Four large clock faces are ornamented with lion heads and scrolled pediments above each. The building has metal replacement windows in the original openings. The building was designed by Solomon Layton, a prominent Oklahoma architect in the early part of the century, and built by 1910. The courthouse is the largest building in the district and is prominently in the center of the square. The main roads to the square also line up with the doors to the courthouse, making it visible from a distance and adding to the grandeur of the building. The dome on the courthouse and clocks are visible from the streets on the square and most of the secondary streets. The courthouse continues to serve as the Washita County Courthouse.

2. 203 E. Clay, Fire and Police Station. (Photo #39) This building was built in 1943 in a Works Progress Administration Standardized Style with Moderne influences. The building is constructed of a mix of native sandstone and stucco, with painted lettering for the departments on the side of the building. There are two additions; both concrete block. The first addition has one garage and the second addition has two garages. The drying rack for fire hoses constructed of sandstone was removed when the first stucco garage addition was made. A slightly pitched, metal hipped roof has been installed over the original flat roof. A carport has also been added to the west side of the building.

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New Cordell Courthouse
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3. 118 N. College, Southwestern Bell Telephone Exchange. (Photo #25) This small, one-story, painted brick building with a flat roof was constructed in a Commercial Style circa 1925. The building has a central entry with a wood and glass door and two sets of six-over-six, double-hung windows flanking the door. Simple brick coping serves as the parapet and a small metal non-original hood is over the entry door. A later addition at the rear of the building is one-and-one-half stories and made of brick with no windows. The building is still used by the telephone company.

4. 100 S. College, Florence Hospital. (Photo #31, #32) This building is a two-story, brick, Commercial Style building constructed circa 1904. The building is a good example of early brick Commercial Style, displaying different methods of bricklaying to create texture on the surface of the building. The original double wood storefronts have single wood panel doors with single glass panes. They were rehabilitated in 1997. The windows and doors are framed with wood with wood kick plates. The original metal clerestory windows are exposed. A replica of the original suspended wood canopy was also installed in 1997.

The north side of the building stretches to the alley and has seven bays divided with brick pilasters. The second floor windows are single and paired double hung wood windows with arches. The first four bays, from east to west, have single display windows with fixed clerestories on the first floor. Some are original and some have been restored. The fifth bay has two original clerestory windows but no display windows. The sixth bay contains a staircase that rises to the first floor and to the rear basement. It is inset with four doors. The east door and a south door open to the first floor; two other doors are at the top of the stairs and are on the south and west walls. The original iron railings and staircase are present. The seventh bay has three sets of double-hung arched windows. Below each of the three windows at basement level, are small, single, four-over-four, arched, double-hung windows.

There is a fire door on the bottom story at the rear of the building. The interior second floor, where the hospital was located, is still intact. The first story of the building was formerly used as a department store, first occupied by Patton's Men's Clothing and Furnishings, but is more commonly known as the Molern Brothers Department Store. The Post Office was located under the steps at the early part of the century.

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5. 104-108 S. College. (Photo #32, #34. Historic photographs #56, #55) This two-story building is an outstanding example of the Commercial Style. Built circa 1909, it has three storefronts, with a stairway between the south and center bays on the front of the building that leads to offices on the second floor. The facade utilizes red and yellow brick to create a decorative pattern between the brick cornice and the stone lintels of the second story windows. The stone window sills and lintels are recessed into the brick facing. The original wood storefront, with a center door and side display windows, has been replicated on the south storefront (108 S. College); however, the glass block clerestory (circa 1935) remains. This storefront has a canvas awning. The middle storefront has been altered and has a wood-shingled awning and aluminum and glass doors and windows (106 S. College). The north storefront is glass and aluminum; however, the original clerestory windows are exposed. This storefront also has a suspended wood canopy.

6. 110-112 S. College. (Photo #34) This two-story, building, constructed circa 1904, is a good example of the Commercial Style. The building is divided into two storefronts and has a suspended metal canopy. The building is constructed of painted brick, and has a wire and glass clerestory that is partially visible over the stairway leading to the second story. The entry to the second floor is on the north end of the building. The wood stair to the second story and the wood door at the top of the stairs are original. Both storefronts have aluminum and glass display windows on either side of a glass and aluminum entry door. Above each storefront are two sets of paired metal hung windows that are non-original to the building but closely replicate the historic glazing pattern.

7. 116 S. College. (Photo #33). This one-story, Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival style building was built circa 1920 and used for the offices of the local electric coop. The building is faced in brick and stucco and has a flat roof. There is a large, Mission style parapet on the front of the building flanked by two clay tile pent roofs. The building has a clock face in the front of the building, but no mechanism is visible, nor is there any evidence of a former one. The coping and the surrounds around the windows are brick. The recessed entry is behind a stylized arched center opening and flanked by side lights. Two, original, identical, divided windows flank the entrance. This building is one of the two Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival buildings in the district.

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8. 118 S. College. (Photo #33) This one-story Commercial Style building has a brick facade and side and rear walls of native sandstone in a regular coursed pattern. The building has a suspended metal canopy. Two glazed metal doors in the center front are flanked by two, large, metal display windows. The original clerestory window above the awning is covered with corrugated sheet metal. The building was the Cordell Cleaners when it was built in the late 1920s.

9. 101 E. First, First Baptist Church. (Photo #17, #18) This was the fourth building built by the First Baptist congregation on the same site. This two-story building was built in 1939 and is in a Late Gothic Revival style. The building is constructed of red brick, with stone and cast concrete detailing, and has metal casement windows with stained glass and a rose window over the front entry. There is a raised basement that houses a meeting hall, classrooms, and offices. The entry door is inset under a two-story arch lined with cast concrete. The rose window is under the top of the arch. The sides of the building are lined with two-story arched stain glass windows. Two additional entrances are located on the west side. There is a metal, covered carport at the rear of the building. There is also a small, one-story buff brick addition at the rear of the church.

10. 105 E. First, Cordell Carnegie Public Library. (Photo #17) The library (NR-1989), designed by A.A. Crowell and built in 1911, is a Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival style building constructed of red brick. This is a one-story building which rests on a full height raised basement. The upper floor is accessed by a set of concrete steps flanked by curved wing walls capped with cast concrete slabs. A large concrete water table delineates the first floor from the basement. A belt course of cast concrete surrounds the building and serves as the sill for the slightly arched triplet windows. The windows are double hung wood with fixed transoms above each. The basement also has double hung windows that are visible and accessible by open light wells. There is a hipped roof with wide overhanging eaves and brackets. Each end of the building has a full-height Spanish-styled stepped parapet.

11. 121 E. First, Cordell Post Office. (Photo #12) The post office was built in 1936-1937 in an Early Modern Style. The one-story building is constructed of blond brick with cast concrete facing on the front entry of the building for a decorative effect. The supervising architect was Louis A. Simon and the supervising engineer was Neil A. Mallich. Inside the building is a W. P. A. mural. The building has a flat roof, metal casement windows and a large chimney

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at the rear. There is a landing in the back for mail delivery. An addition, circa 1960, to the building has been made on the west side. Although the addition is similar in design, it is delineated from the original building by a slight variation of brick color.

12. 215 E. First, Washita County Jail. (Photo #11) The Washita County Jail was built with W.P.A. funds in 1940 in a modest Moderne Style. The center of the building is two stories with projecting one-story wings on the east and west sides. The jail has metal doors and metal casement windows covered with bars. The decorative relief is carved into the stucco at the roof line all around the building, and directly under the windows in the front. The building is stucco with a large stucco chimney toward the rear.

13. 219 E. First. (Photo #10) This one-story building, originally framed in wood and built circa 1909, was constructed in the Commercial Style with a wood false front which was later sheathed with concrete blocks circa 1945 (within the period of significance). The building has a large, stepped parapet on the facade with a metal awning. The building has a metal covered gabled roof. There is a single flush wood entry door flanked by metal, multi-paned casement display windows. There is a large, one-story metal building attached to the rear of the building. This addition does not affect the overall integrity of the property.

14. 220 E. First. (Photo #6) This red brick, flat roofed, one-story Commercial Style building was constructed circa 1925. The building faces east and is partially obscured by a large metal canopy; however, the canopy is not attached to the building. The facade is divided into three bays divided by brick pilasters. Contrasting raised brick forms name plates between each bay. The storefront or garage door originally located in the south bay has been infilled with brick. The middle and north bays have small wood storefronts with the original clerestories exposed. The storefronts were infilled with wood circa 1970. There is a single wood door entry and a single garage door entry on the north side. The north side of the building is divided into two bays. The east bay has a single, double-hung window and a single entry door. The larger west bay has a single double-hung window and a garage door. The two bays are separated by a brick pilaster. The building was originally used for an auto repair shop and used car sales.

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15. 221 E. First. (Photo #9, #10). This one-story, flat roofed, concrete block building, built circa 1930, has a single entry door with sidelights and two, small aluminum fixed windows. A suspended metal canopy is over the entry.

16. 223 E. First, Cordell Steam Laundry. (Photo #9, #10) This building was built circa 1918 in a vernacular style. The one-story building has a wood frame and is clad with pressed tin metal designed to replicate wood clapboards. There is a corrugated metal gabled roof. A large parapet covers the gable front of the building. There is a single wood entry door, a metal, sliding garage door, and fixed wood windows on the facade. Portions of the window are missing. There is a single entry door on the east side with a small, metal canopy above. The floor was originally dirt and is visible at the rear of the building on the interior. The building was used for a steam laundry.

17. 108 N. Glenn English. (Photo #7) This one-story, flat roofed Commercial Style building, constructed circa 1915 of native sandstone, has a single entry with a transom window and a garage door opening on the rear. The building was originally used as a garage, and is now used for storage. The building exhibits no distinctive style characteristics.

18. 114 N. Glenn English. (Photo #7) This one-story flat roofed brick Commercial Style building was constructed circa 1929 and has a single entry flanked by two windows. The original storefront has been replaced with glass and aluminum doors and windows similar to the original configuration. There is a suspended metal canopy over the storefront. The building uses modest detailing for the brick sills, lintels, and coping. The building has the same detailing as 116 E. Glen English. The brick building has been painted.

19. 116 N. Glenn English. (Photo #7) This one-story, flat roofed, two-bay, brick, Commercial Style building, constructed circa 1929, has a canted entry on the far north end. The canted entry has a single glass and aluminum entry door with sidelights. On the west side of the canted entry is a display window covered with wood. The street facade has a single, metal overhead garage door, a single aluminum and glass door surrounded by vertical plywood, and two, aluminum and glass, divided display windows. Below the brick coping on both bays are raised brick sign plates. The building has the same brick detailing as 114 N. Glen English and is also painted gray. The building was a former auto repair and filling station.

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20. 100 E. Main, Washburn and Taylor Pharmacy. (Photo #35, #52) This two-story, flat roofed, red brick early Commercial Style building was built circa 1909. The original storefront has been partially replaced with an aluminum and glass storefront. The remainder of the storefront was infilled with brick, circa 1960. The building extends to the alley. There are double hung wood windows on the second floor of the west elevation. Some are exposed and some are covered with vertical corrugated metal. There is a side entry at the rear of the west elevation with a single metal door with a single pane. There is an original transom above with two vertical panes under an arch. There is a small, approximately eight-foot brick addition on the rear with a single paneled wood door. A tall decorative masonry parapet adorns the front and approximately half the west side of the building. 100, 102, and 104 E. Main are identical in design. The building has continuously housed a drug store since it was built. Most of the metal siding which once covered the building has been removed.

21. 101-103 E. Main, City Hall. (Photo #24) This red brick building was constructed in 1922 in the Commercial style. The building has an arched metal truss roof covered with asphalt. The building is two stories in the front with a third story at the rear of the building. The building has small wood windows on the second story that originally illuminated the auditorium. The building has stone insets and decoratively laid brick on the exterior walls of the building. The first story windows on the building have been replaced with aluminum fixed windows. Also, the building was originally built with a garage entrance on the front of the building. This was infilled with brick in the early 1940s but the brick header remains in place defining the opening. The building is still used as the City Hall.

22. 102 E. Main, C.T. Akers Jewelry and Optometry. (Photo #35, #53) This brick two-story, flat roofed building is constructed in an early Commercial Style, circa 1909. The original storefront has been replaced with brick walls, two aluminum fixed windows, and a single aluminum and glass entry door. The building has a fixed metal awning with exposed clerestory windows. The second floor has two, large, paired, double-hung wood windows with brick arches. This building is one of several in a row that have nearly identical upper stories. 100, 102, and 104 E. Main are similar in design. The store was first occupied by Akers, but is more commonly known as Payton Jewelry.

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23. 104 E. Main, Vawter & Company General Merchandise. (Photo #35, #36) This two-story, red brick, flat roofed Commercial Style building was constructed circa 1909. The building has a suspended metal awning with covered clerestory windows. The original storefront has been replaced with aluminum fixed windows and a single glass and aluminum door. The upper story windows are identical in design to 100 and 102 E. Main but have been covered. The masonry on the exterior of the building is very decorative, with masonry arches over the windows. 100, 102, and 104 are identical in design.

24. 106-108 E. Main. (Photo #36) This two-story, fifty-foot, red brick, flat roofed building was constructed circa 1909 and is in the early Commercial Style. It is a double bay building, with two storefronts. The west storefront has been replaced with aluminum and glass doors and display windows. The east storefront is nonoriginal wood and glass. The brick above the storefront is decoratively used to create arches above the windows and is similar in design to 100, 102 and 104 E. Main. On the second story, the west bay has original one-over-one windows, while the east bay has double hung aluminum windows. The storefronts were used for several businesses with professional offices upstairs. The Cordell Beacon and the Palace Barber Shop were among the first occupants in the bottom story, and the public library was once located on the second floor.

25. 109 E. Main. (Photo #23) This brown brick, flat roofed building was constructed circa 1920 in the Commercial Style. The building has a single storefront with aluminum and glass display windows and entry door. The open clerestory is between three brick pilasters that are slightly inset.

26. 110-114 E. Main. (Photo #36, #37) This two-story brick, flat roofed Commercial Style building was constructed circa 1909. It is a double bay building, with two storefronts. The upper story of the building is similar in design to 100, 102, 104, and 106-108 E. Main with paired, double-hung arched windows on the second floor. Above each of the paired, double-hung windows there is a wooden inset under a brick arch. The east storefront has a canvas awning over the glass and aluminum storefront. The west storefront maintains its original configuration and most of the original materials, including the brass and glass storefront windows. It has a wood shingle awning. The entry door on the west elevation is wood and appears original.

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27. 113 E. Main. (Photo #23) This red brick building was constructed circa 1920 in the Commercial Style. The building has a flat roof and a suspended canopy. The storefront has a single aluminum and glass door and aluminum and glass display windows. The clerestories have been covered with wood paneling. The building has decorative stone insets and brick detailing on the parapet and the wall above the canopy.

28. 117-119 E. Main. (Photo #23) This red brick building was built circa 1929 in the Commercial Style. There is a stepped parapet and the blond brick has decorative detailing. The twenty-five-foot bay has been divided into two narrow storefronts. The west storefront has been modified with the application of wood paneling, but the single wood entry door is original. The east storefront is original and has a wood and glass display window and a glazed wood door.

29. 118-120 E. Main, The Calloway Building. (Photo #36, #37, #38) This brick, two-story, flat roofed building was built in the Commercial Style circa 1913. The building has an arched entry on the west end of the facade that leads to the second story with a matching arched window above the entry. The decorative brick is inlaid with stone insets over the windows, stone sills, and stone keystones in the arches. The second floor windows are made of wood and are double hung. On each window there is a central single window with narrow, double-hung wood windows on either side and above the central and side windows are three fixed windows. There is a cast stone belt course with extruded brick below the windows, but above the clerestory. The clerestory on the front of the building is covered with corrugated metal siding, and the original storefront has been replaced with aluminum and glass windows and doors. The east side of the building forms the side of the park and there are no windows or doors.

30. 121 E. Main. (Photo #23) This one-story commercial building is constructed of brick in the Commercial Style circa 1904. There are two raised brick panels over the clerestory which have been covered with vertical wood siding. There is a suspended metal and wood canopy. There is a double storefront with the doors located near the outside walls and display windows located between the doors and the middle of the building. These doors and windows are aluminum and glass. The kickplate is brick.

31. 125 E. Main, Steele Building. (Photo #22) This two-story Commercial Style building was built in 1929 for a local abstracter. The building has a flat roof

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and is constructed of blond brick. It has stone insets on the parapet, including one bearing the name "Steele 1929." The storefront has aluminum and glass windows and doors; however, the configuration is similar to the original. The clerestory is covered with corrugated metal siding. There is also a suspended wood canopy. The second story has double-hung wood windows on the facade and along the second floor of the east elevation. The majority of the east side windows are covered with plywood.

32. 200 E. Main, Oklahoma State Bank. (Photo #42, #50) This is a Classical Revival style two-story commercial building constructed in 1907. The building has a cornice beneath the balustrade on the top of the building and vertical bands of stone running the length of the building. Pilasters on the exterior are capped with ionic column features. The windows are made of wood and are fixed on the lower story and 1/1 hinged on the second story. The building has a canted entry facing the square. The original entrance was demolished in the 1970s and the entire building covered with concrete panels. However, the original appearance of the building was restored (including the reconstruction of the canted entrance) by the owner.

33. 205-211 E. Main, Washita Hotel. (Photo #1, #46) This Commercial Style building was constructed circa 1918 of red brick. The building is two-story with a third story addition (circa 1935) on the east half of the building. It has a flat roof. The three wood storefronts on the front of the building under the metal canopy are original. The face of the building has classically styled pilasters made of brick separating the windows in the front. The windows on the front and side have been covered with wood paneling, but the windows on the rear are wood 1/1 hung windows. The building was originally used for small businesses in the storefronts and office space when it was constructed, but it is best known for its longest occupant, the Washita Hotel.

34. 214-216 E. Main. (Photo #43, #58, #57) This one-story brick, flat roofed Commercial Style building was constructed circa 1900 of brick. The building has two storefronts. The east storefront has a clerestory covered with corrugated metal siding. The sidelights on either side of the east storefront entry were infilled with glass block before 1945. The west storefront was replaced with diagonal wood siding and the clerestory is covered with a wood shingle awning. The windows and door are aluminum and glass. The two storefronts are separated with brick pilasters. Brick pilasters are also located on either side of the

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facade. The parapet on the building has a decorative masonry texture. Behind the building in the alley is a storage building constructed of brick with a metal garage door with a wood transom. It is included as an accessory building. It is not visible from the street.

35. 218 E. Main. (Photo #43) This one-story Commercial Style building was constructed circa 1925 of brick and load bearing tile and finished in stucco, which appears to be an original feature of the building. The clerestory has been covered with plywood and the display windows are wood. The front door is aluminum and glass. The building has a flat roof.

36. 220 E. Main, Cordell Hardware. (Photo #43, #44) This one-story brick, flat roofed Commercial Style building was constructed circa 1925. The storefront has two entries that flank a large wooden display window. The clerestory is covered with horizontal wood clapboards. The east door is paneled with a single pane and is original. The west entry is a non-original wood flush door with a small square single lite in the center. The interior roof is flat, with a vent in the center of the building that is visible from the interior. The ceiling is clad in the original decorative tin.

37. 222 E. Main. (Photo #44) This one-story brick Commercial Style building was constructed circa 1925. The storefront windows and doors are aluminum and glass but maintain a configuration similar to the originals. The clerestory remains intact but has been covered with wood siding. The building continues to maintain its architectural integrity.

38. 224 E. Main, Clines Bakery. (Photo #44) This one-story brick, flat roofed building was constructed in the Commercial Style circa 1925. The storefront has a recessed entry with wood and glass display windows. The door is made of wood and is glazed. The tiled entryway has the words "bakery" inlaid. The original clerestory has been sheathed with horizontal wood siding. The east side of the building has a single aluminum and glass entry doors and four single windows covered with plywood.

39. 225 E. Main, Opera House Building. (Photo #45, #7, #51) This two-story flat roofed Commercial Style building was constructed in 1907 of red brick with stone coping and caps on the tops of the pilasters and merlins on the centered, shaped parapet. The building has its original drain spouts on the ends of the flanking

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pilasters, with a visible drain catch decorated with a star. The storefront has its original configuration with the original wood storefront display windows and aluminum and glass entry doors. There is a plain brick nameplate above the canvas awning. (It originally was painted with the name of the business.) The second story facade windows and east facing windows are 1/1 wood, double-hung windows. A rusticated cast stone belt course serves as the sill for the upper story windows. The second floor double-hung wood windows on the east side are covered with corrugated metal. There are also some small round windows on the first story of the east elevation. There is a secondary entrance on the east side of the building. The east door is a non-original door made of wood with glazing. The Dixie Opera House originally occupied the top floor of the building.

40. 101 W. Main, Alexander Motor Company Building. (Photo #27) This one-story, flat roofed buff brick building was built in a Commercial Style, circa 1925. There are large, wood, display windows on the diagonally placed wall and the street-facing wall. The later red brick garage addition, on the east end of the property, was built before 1940 and has a wooden door on the facade and three glass block windows on the east elevation. In 1997 the building was rehabilitated and the entire exterior was painted. The aluminum and glass windows were replaced with wood windows, wood doors, and wood kick plates. The building was originally used as a car dealership and an auto repair shop. It is currently the Cordell Police Station.

41. 111 W. Main, Gerlach Produce. (Photo #28) This one-story building, constructed of brick in the Commercial Style, was built in 1932. The original storefront has been replaced with one single multi-paned wood and glass door on the east side and metal siding in the remainder of the storefront opening. The original brick above the storefront, the brick pilasters, and the stepped brick parapet remain intact. The Gerlach Produce also produced baked goods and had a creamery, which is reflected in the signage on the front of the building.

42. 120 W. Main. (Photo #30) This building, built circa 1925, is a one-story building with a storage area at the basement level. The building is built on a steep incline. The roof of the building is hipped and covered with asphalt. The building is constructed of red brick and has metal casement windows on the west and rear elevations. The facade has six bays; the third bay from the east originally had a garage door but it has been replaced with fixed windows and the aluminum and glass doors. The remaining single entry doors which face the street

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have been closed off with plywood. The facade windows have been replaced with metal windows, although the original clerestories remain. The windows at the basement level at the rear of the building have been infilled and are not visible from the street. (The building on the east side of the photograph was 118 W. Main. The City of Cordell demolished this building in 1997 and constructed a parking lot for 100 S. College.)

43. 125 W. Main. (Photo #29, #28) This red brick, flat roofed building, built circa 1927, is constructed in the Commercial Style. The building has a large recessed corner entry creating a porte cochere with a large brick pier supporting the roof. The ceiling of the porte cochere is clad in pressed tin. Brick pilasters with finials divide the south and west elevations. The south facade is divided into four bays. A small storefront with a glass block clerestory is located in the far east bay. A single door with a glass block clerestory is located directly west of the storefront. The storefront in the third bay from the east end is covered with vertical metal siding. The west bay is open to the porte cochere. The west elevation has three bays. The north bay has a garage door with the original multi-pane metal windows on either side. The middle bay has a non-original metal double-hung window. The south bay is open. The storefront under the porte cochere has an aluminum and glass storefront in the center with two covered openings on either side. The building was originally used by an auto dealership.

44. 105 N. Market. (Photo #2) This two-story, brick, flat roofed building has been painted on the front elevation, and is in a highly decorative Commercial Style, built circa 1918. The building has a canopy supported by iron columns that is an original feature of the building. The canopy still has its original stamped metal sheathing on the roof. The double storefront has been replaced with aluminum and glass windows and doors. The hung wood triplet windows on the second story are highly decorative. There is a centered fixed window with four panes flanked by single, double-hung, wood windows. Above the fixed and double hung windows are four single fixed windows. Decorative brickwork is used over the tops of the windows and on the parapet. The clerestory has been covered with metal. The building was originally used as a car dealership and garage, but later was connected to 205-211 E. Main through an interior corridor as part of Hotel Washita.

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45. 107 N. Market. (Photo #2) This red brick, two-story, flat roofed building is built in the Commercial Style circa 1904. The building has a flat canopy over the storefront. The storefront has fixed copper (original) windows that flank a replacement aluminum and glass door in the center. The second story has paired, double hung, wood windows with sandstone lintels. A sandstone belt course serves as a sill for the second story windows. The parapet wall on the building uses a contrasting brick pattern to create a decorative pattern. A cornice of projecting bricks is underneath the coping and is set in a diamond pattern. The clerestory has been covered with metal siding.

46. 109 N. Market. (Photo #2) This red brick, flat roofed, one-story building is built in the Commercial Style, circa 1904. The building shares its canopy with the adjoining buildings. Above the canopy is a clerestory window covered with wood. The wall above the canopy is highly decorative, using brick patterns and cut brick in contrasting colors to create a pattern on the parapet.

47. 111 N. Market. (Photo #2) This red brick, flat roofed, one-story building is a modest example of the Commercial Style, built circa 1920. The building retains all of its original features, with exception of the covered clerestory. There are two doors flanked by the original fixed windows with copper trim under the supported canopy. The doors are glazed and made of wood.

48. 112 N. Market. (Photo #13) This building is a Commercial Style flat roofed building constructed circa 1946. The blond brick building is different in color to the adjoining building, but shares the same canopy. There is a fixed metal window flanked by two glazed metal doors on the facade.

49. 116 N. Market. (Photo #13) This flat roofed building is a late Commercial Style building constructed circa 1946. The blond brick building has two windows and an offset entry, with a metal canopy spanning both 116 N. Market and 112 N. Market.

50. 121 N. Market. (Photo #3, #4) This red brick, one-story, flat roofed building was constructed circa 1928 in the Commercial Style. There are aluminum fixed windows flanking the entry. The glazed door is also aluminum and glass. The metal canopy is non-original, but is in the same location as the original. The clerestory windows are partially visible through the fiberglass covering. The brick above the clerestory window has a basket weave pattern inside the sign plate

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area.

51. 111 S. Market, Washita Theater. (Photo #41) This one-story movie theater has a flat roof and was constructed in 1945 in the Moderne style to replace a theater constructed in 1942 and destroyed by fire. The exterior of the building is sheathed with stucco. The building has a marquee on the front, and two small aluminum and glass storefronts flanking the entrance.

52. Located in the alley behind 114 S. Glenn English (marked "A" inside building on map. (Photo #47) This building is made of concrete block and has a gabled roof sheathed in steel with parapeted ends and casement windows. A later addition to this building with a flat roof has been attached to the side. The building was constructed circa 1946 and is a former garage or machine shop.

Noncontributing Resources

1. 106 N. College. (Photo #26, #27) This Commercial Style building was built in 1909. The one-story building, originally constructed of brick, has been covered with newer brick circa 1960. The flat roofed building has a single entrance in the front and is consistent in scale with the rest of the district, although it is noncontributing due to alterations.

2. 116 N. College, City National Bank. (Photo #26) This brick and concrete faced building is a Contemporary styled building with a flat roof built circa 1960. The building is multi-story with the entry under a deep roof overhang in the front. The building has balconies on the south side and a courtyard at the rear. The City National Bank is noncontributing due to age.

3. 114 S. College. (Photo #33, #34) This is a one-story, flat roofed commercial building, constructed circa 1929, which was formerly used as a movie theater, but is now used as a business office. The building was originally in the Commercial Style, but was covered in brick circa 1970. The majority of the storefront is brick with a single aluminum and glass door and two, small, fixed aluminum and glass windows. The size and shape of the building remains the same; however, it is noncontributing to the district due to alterations.

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4. 120 S. College. (Photo #33) This one-story, flat roofed, Commercial Style building was constructed of brick circa 1929. The storefront has been covered with new brick and small narrow windows replace the original storefront windows. The building also has a fabric awning that covers the upper portion of the facade. The building retains its original scale and shape in relation to the district; however, it is noncontributing due to alterations.

5. 100 E. First. (Photo #19) This building is a one-story, blond brick commercial building built circa 1960. There is a flat roof with wide metal coping at the top of the wall and a corner recessed entry. The windows in the building are fixed and made of metal. The building is noncontributing due to age.

6. 106 E. First. (Photo #16, #19) This is a one-story, brick, flat roofed building constructed circa 1950 in a Commercial Style and is noncontributing due to age. The wood shingle mansard awning is non-original. The entry to the building is flanked by two fixed windows made of metal. A wall has been constructed on the side of the building to connect it to a storage building used by the Cordell Beacon at 115 E. Main. The storage building is constructed of brick and is not visible from the street.

7. 110 E. First. (Photo #16) This is a small, one-story commercial building faced with light brown brick and constructed in a Contemporary Modern style circa 1985. The building has a flat roof, a recessed entry, and a drive-through canopy on the side of the building. The building is noncontributing due to age.

8. 218 E. First. (Photo #5) This is a one-story building constructed of concrete block in the late 1960s, and has a gabled roof and offset entry. The exterior is concrete block with some vertical wood siding. The windows are aluminum. The building has no distinctive style features and is noncontributing due to age.

9. 115 E. Main, Cordell Beacon. (Photo #23) This brick building was built circa 1920 in a Commercial Style. The building has a flat roof and is a double-bay commercial building with a suspended canopy. The wood sign over the top of the building covers the low parapet, but all of the features under the sign are intact. The clerestory over the bays is covered with panels but their placement is visible. The windows and doors under the canopy are aluminum and have the same configuration as the original windows and entry. The building is presently the

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home of the Cordell Beacon, a long running newspaper in New Cordell. The building is noncontributing due to the alterations.

10. 116 E. Main. (Photo #37) This one-story, brick building was constructed circa 1909 in the Commercial Style. The original features of the upper portion of the building have been covered with metal siding. The metal siding also covers a large full facade awning. The storefront is aluminum and glass with a brick kickplate. It is noncontributing due to alterations.

11. 123 E. Main. (Photo #22, #23) This one-story commercial building was constructed in the Commercial Style and built circa 1910. The building has been completely covered in stucco, with all the original features covered or removed, and a gabled and columned classically styled pediment added. It has a flat roof. The building is noncontributing due to alterations.

12. 127 E. Main. (Photo #22) This building has no distinctive style and was built circa 1950. The flat roofed building, faced in brick, has a cantilevered metal canopy and fixed metal windows with a glazed aluminum and glass entry door. The entry is centered with floor to ceiling glass and aluminum display windows. The canopy extends the full facade of the building. The building is noncontributing due to age.

13. 201-203 E. Main, City National Bank. (Photo #1, #46, #49) This building was built by the City National Bank in 1903 and was also known as the Bank of New Cordell. This early Commercial Style red brick, flat roofed building was covered with stucco in the 1970s. The bank has a corner entry with the words "Bank" and "1903" inscribed in the stone that is still visible. A projecting triangularly shaped parapet that was at the corner of the building has been removed. The arched windows on the second floor have 1/1 hung wooden windows. The first story windows on the south side of the building have been replaced with fixed windows and glass block. An original secondary entrance to the second story is also located on the south wall of the building. The building is noncontributing due to the exterior covering of stucco and the removal of the corner parapet.

14. 213-215 E. Main. (Photo #46) This one-story, flat roofed building was constructed as a Commercial Style building circa 1935. The upper half of the building has been covered with corrugated metal. The aluminum and glass storefront is set between brick and stucco pilasters. The kickplate is brick. The

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building is noncontributing due to alterations.

15. 217-221 E. Main. (Photo #45) This one-story, brick building was originally constructed as a Commercial Style building circa 1929. There are two storefronts. The east storefront has wood siding, a centered aluminum and glass door and display windows on either side of the entry. The west storefront has an aluminum and glass entry door and display windows. All of the defining features have been removed or covered with a wooden shingle awning. The building is noncontributing due to alterations.

16. 109 W. Main. (Photo #28) This one-story building was originally a brick building constructed in a Commercial Style, circa 1930; however, all of the defining features of the building have been removed and the entry now is oriented toward the alley at the rear. The building has been completely covered with wood shingles and flagpoles have been added to the street facing elevation. The building is noncontributing due to alterations.

17. 115 W. Main. (Photo # 28). This one-story building was originally built in the Commercial Style circa 1927. A Neo-Mediterranean style facade was constructed circa 1997. The building has a flat roof with a brick front with a stepped parapet with a contrasting brick cap. An arch entry is on the west end of the facade. There are two, fixed, single arched windows with aluminum and glass. The building is noncontributing due to alterations.

18. 103 N. Market. (Photo #1, #2) This one-story, brick building has a flat roof and was built circa 1909. The original storefront has been removed and replaced with a single aluminum and glass entry door and a full facade divided-light display window. The original brick facing of the building has been covered with stucco and none of the defining features remain. The building is noncontributing due to alterations.

19. 110 N. Market. (Photo #14) This Commercial Style, flat roofed building was constructed in the late 1930s and is brick. It appears that the original brick facade has been covered with sandstone bricks, circa 1950. The fixed windows and two glazed flush doors are aluminum. The awning is metal. The building is noncontributing due to alterations.

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20. 117 N. Market. (Photo #3) This one-story, flat roofed, commercial building was constructed of brick in the Commercial Style circa 1928. The fifty-foot storefront is divided with a brick pier. The north side of the storefront has a single, full facade display window with a brick kickplate. The south side of the facade has a single wood panel entry door with a single light and a large glass display window with a brick kickplate. All of the original features of the building have been removed or covered with metal siding and a gabled roof has been placed over the original post-supported canopy. The pressed tin under the canopy is still visible. The building is noncontributing due to alterations.

21. 118 N. Market, Jones Clinic. (Photo #13) This flat roofed building is a Modern style building constructed in 1955. The walls and the decorative planters in the front are stucco and have fixed metal replacement windows. The original brick has been obscured. The building has a corner entry. The building is noncontributing due to alterations.

22. 123 N. Market. (Photo #4) This one-story building is a contemporary styled building constructed circa 1970 to be used as a drive-through bankette. The building has a large diamond shaped, wood shingled roof anchored to the ground on concrete footings. The building is sheathed in rock and has a drive-through area under the roof on one side and a teller window. The building is noncontributing due to age.

23. 103-105 S. Market. (Photo #41, #42) This is a two-story, brick, flat roofed building constructed circa 1915 in the Commercial Style. The entire facade has been covered with lightweight concrete panels. There is a single aluminum and glass entry door. All of the original features of the building facing the street have been removed or covered. The building is noncontributing due to alterations.

24. 107-109 S. Market. (Photo #41) This is a one-story, brick, flat roofed building constructed circa 1915. The building has an aluminum and glass storefront with a canvas awning. The upper portion is covered with lightweight concrete panels. All of the original features of the building have been removed or covered with concrete panels and the building is noncontributing due to alterations.

25. 113 S. Market. (Photo #40, #41) This is a one-story building constructed of concrete block circa 1965 in no distinctive style. The building has an awning

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with metal supports and is currently occupied by a sporting goods store. The entire storefront is aluminum and glass with aluminum and glass entry doors. The building is noncontributing due to age.

26. 117 S. Market. (Photo #40) This is a one-story, Commercial Style, brick building constructed circa 1925. The flat roofed building has a mansard wood shingle canopy with turned wood support posts which covers a significant portion of the facade. The storefront has been replaced with aluminum and glass doors and windows. The building is noncontributing due to alterations.

27. 119 S. Market, Carol Building. (Photo #40) This one-story, flat roofed Commercial Style brick building was constructed circa 1945. The original storefront was bricked over circa 1960. There is a single aluminum and glass door and a single aluminum and glass display window. There is also a metal cantilevered canopy. The building is noncontributing due to alterations.

28. 121 S. Market. (Photo #40) This is a one-story, flat roofed, Commercial Style building constructed of load bearing tile, circa 1945. The storefront has been partially covered with vertical cedar siding and there is a row of fixed aluminum and glass windows. The entry door is aluminum and glass. There is a wood awning covered with wood shingles supported with turned wood columns. The building is noncontributing due to alterations.

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Summary

The New Cordell Courthouse Square Historic District is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A for its association with the history of New Cordell's commercial development. The district is also eligible under Criterion C because it contains most of New Cordell's early examples of commercial architecture, and offers some very good examples of different styles associated with the turn of the century and after. The town square is also significant under Criterion C in the area of planning and community development as an excellent example of one of the few extant courthouse squares in the State of Oklahoma. The period of significance for the district extends from 1897, the date of the original plat, to 1947. Some buildings in the district are also individually eligible as excellent examples of late nineteenth and early twentieth century commercial style architecture. Although the town is commonly called simply "Cordell," the original chartered name, which has never been changed, is "New Cordell."

Historic Context/Commerce Significance

The present day area of Washita County opened for non-Indian settlement by land run during the administration of Governor Seay, the second governor of Oklahoma Territory. It was known as the Cheyenne and Arapaho Land Run, and took place April 19, 1892.¹ The eastern half of this area, where New Cordell is located, was promptly filled but the western half continued to be used for cattle grazing for many years after the run. The county where New Cordell is presently located was known as county "H" at the time of the run. Tacola, an established town before the run, was renamed Cloud Chief after the run and became the official county seat.² Cloud Chief was approximately 15 miles from the present location of New Cordell.

¹ Murrell, C.T. "History of New Cordell and Washita County," Who's Who in Washita County. A. Clarence Smith, ed. New Cordell, OK: A Clarence Smith and Todd Tilton.

² "County H is Divided," The Cordell Beacon. Section D, Page 1, Wednesday, April 30, 1992.

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The present site of New Cordell is the second site of the town, which was moved to this location because of the lack of a good water supply at the original location. "Old Cordell," the original town, was one-and-one-half miles from the courthouse square in a natural valley. It was founded by Tom Jones, a homesteader, in 1892. Initially, Jones submitted names for the town to the United States Post Office, but all of the names he chose were already on file for Oklahoma Territory. He then decided to allow the Postal Service to suggest a name for the town, which was common practice at the time. The name of the town selected was Cordell, after Wayne Cordell, the General Postmaster assigned to the new town. The townsite was abandoned and the post office moved to New Cordell in 1897 at the request of the founders. Old Cordell only had thirty-five to fifty residents, with a total of ten families. The town had two general stores, a post office, a hotel, and a blacksmith shop.³

The site of New Cordell was located on the homestead allotments of J.C. Harrel and A.J. Johnson. By the time that the town was moved, the homestead sites were already known as resting stops with good clear water. The two homesteaders hired an engineer, E.G. Ross, to plat the townsite. While plans were being made to move Old Cordell to the New Cordell site in 1897, it was known that Cloud Chief also did not have a good water source. Cloud Chief had to have most of its water hauled in from other places, and there was a possibility that the county seat would be moved. Because of this possibility, the engineer platted a space for the courthouse in the center of the townsite, surrounded by business lots, to create a town square. The courthouse site was donated to the city by the owners of the land, exactly half on Harrel's homestead, and half on Johnson's homestead.⁴ The section line that bounded the edge of their properties runs in the middle of the present courthouse and is the location of Highway 152 running east/west from the courthouse at the front and the rear.

³ "Old Cordell Abandoned for New Site as Town Founded in Exact Center of County." Custer County/Washita County Progress, Clinton, OK: Clinton Daily News, 1937.

⁴ "Three Horses Swapped for New Cordell's Site," Custer County/Washita County Progress, Clinton, OK: Clinton Daily News, 1937.

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The businesses at Old Cordell were given the opportunity to move to the new site. As an incentive to create businesses and increase the population in New Cordell, all residents of Cloud Chief were also given lots by the original homesteaders if they chose to relocate.⁵ An original general store of Old Cordell owned and operated by H.D. Young, moved to New Cordell, and was given choice business lots. Young was given credit in several sources as the official starter of New Cordell, because his store was known throughout the county for fairness in prices and good quality merchandise. Therefore, he could attract people to the town to trade, which in turn attracted merchants.⁶ Another source gave the Cordell Beacon credit for drawing new people into town by publicizing the move and the free lots. The paper, originally started in Cloud Chief, was one of the original and more reputable papers in the county.⁷

New Cordell and Cloud Chief battled for the county seat for several years. The location of the county seat was decided by an act of Congress when the county was opened in the land run of 1892. Immediately after moving from "Old Cordell" to "New Cordell," the founders of New Cordell petitioned to have the location changed because they were in the center of the county, therefore creating less hardship for residents to do legal business at the courthouse. New Cordell also claimed that Cloud Chief had not made sufficient improvements to the water supply system to support the population expected at a county seat. The residents of Cloud Chief, not wanting the county seat to be changed, held firm to their right to be recognized as the county seat because of their original recognition from Congress. The removal of the county courthouse from Cloud Chief would also cause the town to decline and many established businesses did not want to move to, or lose

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ "Old Cordell Abandoned for New Site as Town Founded in Exact Center of County." Custer County/Washita County Progress, Clinton, OK: Clinton Daily News, 1937.

⁷ Murrell, C.T. "History of New Cordell and Washita County," Who's Who in Washita County. A. Clarence Smith, ed. New Cordell, OK: A Clarence Smith and Todd Tilton.

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business, to New Cordell.⁸

During the late 1890s, the battle between the two cities escalated when the residents in central and western Washita County petitioned the three county commissioners to move the county seat to New Cordell. Cloud Chief residents interested in keeping the county seat responded by securing an injunction prohibiting the commissioners from considering the petition since it was illegal to move the county seat without a change in the federal law that originally gave the designation to Cloud Chief. They also called for and were granted a new election of county commissioners for each of the three districts.⁹

After the new commissioners were in office, the petition for a vote to move the courthouse was submitted again. Legal sparring from Cloud Chief resulted in delays, but the election was called by two commissioners, with one commissioner dissenting. Although the plans for an election seemed to violate the original injunction, the legality of the action was unclear due to the number of legal actions filed by parties on both sides of the controversy. Cloud Chief attorneys decided that an appeal was necessary to block the board's order for an election, at least until after statehood. The appeal papers were given to a Mr. Baker, a young lawyer in Cloud Chief who was the son of the county attorney, for timely delivery in El Reno. The lawyer decided instead of making the long trip to deliver the papers that he would mail them, causing the injunction to die because the papers arrived past the filing date.¹⁰

After the loss of the injunction, the election was held, and the county commissioners declared New Cordell the new county seat by popular vote. Cloud Chief supporters still maintained that the election was held illegally, but the

⁸ "Removal of County Seat of Washita County, Oklahoma." Report No. 1065, House of Representatives, 59th Congress, First Session, February 7, 1906.

⁹ "Cordell-Cloud Chief Courthouse Wrangle Raged for Years," Custer County/Washita County Progress, Clinton, OK: Clinton Daily News, 1937.

¹⁰ Ibid.

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county seat offices moved to New Cordell. The sheriff and county clerk maintained offices in both cities, but the records and courthouse property were moved to New Cordell by the commissioners. To complicate matters, two district judges were appointed by different entities to serve the county, and both of them recognized different county seats. Judge McAtee, appointed by the Chief Justice of the Territorial Supreme Court, recognized Cloud Chief as the county seat. Judge Irwin, elected by vote, recognized New Cordell as the county seat and set up court there. Under territorial law, however, there could be only one district court in a county. This created more legal entanglement for the lawyers and judges, because no one knew which court was legal.¹¹

Early in 1904, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in a similar case that county seats in the territory were located by an act of Congress and could not be changed by any law of the territorial legislature. Cloud Chief attorneys filed suit in the Territorial Supreme Court to force the county officers to return to their offices in Cloud Chief. The Territorial Supreme Court ruled in favor of Cloud Chief, giving the officers thirty days to return. In response to the suit, the county commissioners went to Washington to rush a special bill through Congress legalizing the county seat election.¹²

The bill passed legalizing the county seat election. The permanent location of the county seat in New Cordell was the beginning of the decline of Cloud Chief. The population of Cloud Chief dropped from 700 at its peak in 1900 to 100 in 1937, until the town was no longer inhabited. Several businesses moved to New Cordell after it was organized and gained the county seat, some also relocated to surrounding towns. Eight years after the run in Washita County, Cloud Chief was the largest town in the county. The removal of the county seat in 1904 and the lack of railroads running through the town caused the eventual decline.¹³

11 Ibid.

12 Ibid.

13 "Cloud Chief Held in Washita County Land in Early Days." Cordell Beacon. April 19, 1979, Page 9-B.

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New Cordell's development is directly connected with the county seat status and the railroad. Many businesses moved to New Cordell because of the activity connected with the courthouse. In 1902 the Bes Line Railroad (now known as the Frisco) constructed a line through New Cordell coming from Enid, Oklahoma and going to Vernon, Texas.¹⁴ The railroad was a vital form of transportation at the turn of the century, offering means of shipping agricultural goods from New Cordell to other markets. As the economy of Washita County was heavily connected to agriculture, the presence of a railroad made the city an important shipping point, which attracted new industries such as cotton gins and granaries. These industries were located outside the town square, but the businesses located on the square benefitted from the farmers coming into town to sell agricultural products, do business at the courthouse, or secure farm loans from the many lending agencies in town.

The town grew at a steady and rapid rate during the first ten years. By 1908, the population of New Cordell was 2000. The city petitioned the governor of Oklahoma to become a city with first class designation. This was awarded in 1908, and the town elected J.A. Julian the first mayor of New Cordell. Julian resigned at the end of the month and was replaced by Robert Steele, who served for two years.¹⁵ Initially, the courthouse square consisted of wood buildings that were later replaced by stone or brick buildings. By 1910, there were offices for lawyers, abstracters, physicians, general and dry good stores, hardware stores, and other types of specialty businesses. Many brick buildings facing the courthouse were built between 1900 and 1915. The first block to be entirely built of brick faced the south side of the courthouse on Main Street.¹⁶ The majority of this block (East 100 block of Main Street) was constructed in 1909. The final building was completed in 1913.

¹⁴ Murrell, C.T. "History of New Cordell and Washita County," Who's Who in Washita County. A. Clarence Smith, ed. New Cordell, OK: A Clarence Smith and Todd Tilton.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Comparisons between Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps dated 1904, 1909, and 1915 show the pattern of development around the square. (Sanborn Map Company, New York)

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The most important feature of the square is the Washita County Courthouse (NR-1984). The Courthouse is the third courthouse built on the square. The first courthouse on the site, a wood framed building, was moved to New Cordell in 1900 from Cloud Chief. The second building, also a wood framed building, was built to replace the original courthouse in 1902, but burned in a fire in 1909. The present courthouse was designed by Layton, Weymiss, Smith and Hawk in 1910, a prominent architectural firm in Oklahoma.¹⁷ The courthouse is the largest building in the district and is prominently in the center of the square. It is constructed of brick with a stone foundation and has classical features. The front and rear entries appear identical, and face east and west. The main roads to the square also line up with the doors to the courthouse, making it visible from a distance, adding to the grandeur of the building. The dome on the courthouse has clocks built in which are visible from the streets on the square and most of the secondary streets.

The square features many prominent buildings built between 1897 and 1947, with most buildings constructed before 1920. These include three large bank buildings, a city hall, a hospital, an opera house, and several other buildings used for businesses that are highly decorative. First Street, which was a secondary area to develop in the square's business district, has the Cordell Carnegie Library (NR-1989). The library was built in 1911 and is an excellent example of the Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival style. It is also significant for the role it played in the social and educational development of the city.

Other significant buildings that reflect a major trend in the history of New Cordell include the U.S. Post Office (1937) and the Washita County Jail (1940). The U.S. Post Office was a New Deal-era Treasury Department project and, also, has a Works Progress Administration mural on the interior. The County Jail is one of several Works Progress Administration building projects completed in Cordell.

There were three banks operating by 1910 in New Cordell. The first bank, the Bank of F.C. Finerty, built by F.C. Finerty, also specialized in farm loans. This bank

¹⁷ "Washita County Courthouse." National Register of Historic Places Inventory Nomination Form. Prepared August 24, 1984.

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was organized in 1898, shortly after New Cordell was platted for settlement.¹⁸ The bank was operated by Finerty until 1911, when he sold his shares in the bank and it was reorganized as the Farmers National Bank.¹⁹ Finerty remained in New Cordell, opening a smaller farm loan office at 102 E. Main.²⁰ The original bank building, constructed of brick with stone detailing, was demolished in the late 1980s. The location of the bank was the corner lot of block 53 in the Original Townsite of New Cordell, next to 118 E. Main, facing the south elevation of the courthouse.

The second bank to organize in New Cordell was the First National Bank. The first building for the bank was constructed of wood and built in 1900. It was at the present site of 127 E. Main.²¹ In April of 1910, the bank changed its name to Oklahoma State Bank and constructed a brick building at 200 E. Main,²² which is still extant. The bank reorganized as the State National Bank in 1911 (taking on its national charter), then reorganized again in 1920 as Oklahoma State Bank when it gave up its national charter. Before 1939, the charter was reinstated and it

¹⁸ Since this bank was privately owned, it is often not credited as the oldest in New Cordell. Many articles credit the First National Bank as the oldest.

¹⁹ "The Farmers National Bank, Cordell, Oklahoma," 17th Anniversary Edition of the Cordell Beacon, 1914.

²⁰ "F.C. Finerty and Company, First in Farm Loans." 17th Anniversary Edition of the Cordell Beacon, 1914.

²¹ Full Page Advertisement for the First National Bank, The Cordell Beacon. Page 3-B, April 19, 1979.

²² "Opening of Oklahoma State Bank Building," Cordell Beacon. Thursday, April 7, 1910.

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became National State Bank, which has since moved from this building.²³ The original bank building is now occupied by an abstract company and several offices.

The third bank to locate in New Cordell was the City National Bank. The City National Bank Building, known as Cordell National for most of its existence, was constructed in 1903. It is a brick building with stone insets on a corner lot and is located across Main Street from the First National Bank at 201-203 E. Main.²⁴ This building also was the first location of the telephone service, known as Pioneer Telephone Company, that serviced New Cordell.²⁵

New Cordell was also the location of a regionally important private hospital called Florence Hospital. It was located in the upper story of a large commercial building constructed circa 1904 on 100 S. College. The hospital was owned and operated by Doctor A.H. Bungart, who moved to New Cordell after completing his medical degree in Missouri. The hospital, named after his wife, was the first hospital in Washita County, and was still the only hospital in 1914.²⁶ The hospital operated until the early 1940s. The first floor of the building was originally Patton's Mens Clothing and Furnishings. The store was in operation until 1909 when it was purchased by Hunter's Dry Goods.²⁷ Also, the building originally had a side opening which was the location of the Post Office.

²³ "The First National Bank in Cordell," Custer County/Washita County Progress. Clinton, OK: Clinton Daily News, 1937.

²⁴ "Cordell National Bank," Custer County/Washita County Progress. Clinton, OK: Clinton Daily News, 1937.

²⁵ Photographs dated 1910 of the building show the Pioneer Telephone Company signs. Also, 1909 Sanborn Maps show the location inside the building.

²⁶ "A Worthy Institution, The Florence Hospital." 17th Anniversary Edition of the Cordell Beacon, 1914.

²⁷ "Hunters, The Dependon Store." 17th Anniversary Edition of the Cordell Beacon, 1914.

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Other buildings located in the square are present day reminders of the history of New Cordell. For example, the Opera House Building at 225 E. Main, was built in 1907. The building had an auditorium on the second floor, with a general store on the first floor originally called the People's Store. The building was built by the Miller brothers, Johnson and Page, who were local business people in the area.²⁸ Another example is the Dixie Store Building built in 1914 at 118-120 E. Main. It was the second location of the Dixie Store, owned and operated by William Flaxman who started the store in a wood building on the west side of the square in 1911.²⁹

Two buildings associated with the city government and its services are also located on the square. The City Hall Building, built in 1922, has been serving as an office and auditorium for New Cordell continuously since it was built. It is located on the northwest corner of the square at 101-103 E. Main.³⁰ The second building, the New Cordell Fire and Police Station, at 203 E. Clay, was built in 1943. The building was a W.P.A. project, built of a mix of native sandstone and stucco.³¹

Most of the buildings on the square are one- and two-story Commercial Style buildings constructed of brick. Many buildings were constructed before 1910 and appear in a set of photographs taken of the square around 1910. The square served a variety of needs in New Cordell, and attracted people into town from surrounding farms and communities. Other businesses located on the square were the Washburn and Taylor Drug Store, at 100 E. Main, which later became the first Rexall Drug

²⁸ "The Opera House," in weekly column called "A Note from Uncle Dudley, Cordell Beacon, N.D.

²⁹ "The Dixie Store," 17th Anniversary Edition of the Cordell Beacon, 1914.

³⁰ Murrell, C.T. "History of New Cordell and Washita County," Who's Who in Washita County. A. Clarence Smith, ed. New Cordell, OK: A Clarence Smith and Todd Tilton.

³¹ Ibid.

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Store in New Cordell; the Wright Place, owned and operated by C. H. Wright that sold dry goods and shoes; C. E. Thornton, an undertaker; C.T. Atkers Jewelry and Optometry; one of the earliest proprietors in New Cordell, Vawter and Company General Merchandise; the Cordell Beacon newspaper, which moved to New Cordell in 1907 and has been continuously publishing since; the Palace Barber; C.R. Thornton Drugs; the English Kitchen; Bell Grocery Store; several hardware stores, including the still existing Cordell Hardware Store on 220 E. Main. Larger buildings on the periphery of the district are associated with car dealerships as the automobile became an important part of daily life.

From the time that New Cordell had an active business center to World War II, the city also had several hotels for visitors that stayed to do business at the county seat. Two hotels, present before 1910, were large wooden buildings that were eventually replaced by brick buildings.³² The brick building at 205-211 E. Main Street was originally used for business on the first floor and offices on the second floor. This building was converted into the Washita Hotel in the late 1920s and is best remembered by people in New Cordell as the hotel. The owners of the Washita Hotel eventually converted a second building, 103 N. Market, to enlarge the hotel. The main entrance faced Main Street and the secondary entrance faced Market Street on the same block. These buildings were connected by a corridor inside the buildings that still exists, although the buildings are no longer used as a hotel.

The courthouse square is a locally important resource in the understanding of New Cordell's early development. The choice of using a square surrounded with blocks with commercial lots insured that primary downtown development would face the new courthouse, rather than the linear development common in many Oklahoma cities and towns. The overall plan and design of the Washita County Courthouse (NR 1984) is similar to hundreds which were built after the War of Independence in 1776. Generally, all four sides were similar in design with wide, front steps designating the entry. This courthouse square plan was chosen for only a few of Oklahoma's county seats and only a few remain extant and are still used as courthouses.

³² These Hotels appear in the 1910 photographs and on Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps.

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The buildings built after World War II are somewhat different in style to the early commercial buildings on the square. These post World War II buildings are less decorative than earlier buildings and generally have a fairly flat facade. Some of these post World War II downtown buildings were originally designed to have an office directly inside the storefront. This use of a storefront is also different than earlier buildings. However, the height, materials, and overall design patterns of these later buildings are similar to Cordell's earlier buildings and do not affect the overall visual character of the district. The courthouse square is a very vital and important part of the business activity of New Cordell.

Architectural Significance

The New Cordell Courthouse Square Historic District contains all of the early commercial architecture associated with the city's early history. Most of the examples are of a Commercial Style, typically one- or two-story buildings constructed of brick. The buildings typically have storefronts that face the main road, fixed windows and glazed flush doors with flat awnings over the storefront. Most of the roofs are flat, with a brick coping. Most of the buildings represent typical late 19th century and early 20th century architecture. However, the district also has a few buildings that are excellent examples of architectural styles popular during this period. These buildings were also determined individually significant. These are:

116 S. College. (Photo #33) This is an excellent example of a Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival style building. Built circa 1920.

105 E. First, Cordell Carnegie Public Library (NR-1989). (Photo #17) The library, designed by A.A. Crowell and built in 1911, is one of the two Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival style buildings in Cordell.

104-108 S. College. (Photo #5) This building is the best example of the use of masonry to establish a decorative pattern on the face of a Commercial Style building in New Cordell. The brick pattern is created by using yellow brick against light brown brick.

Washita County Courthouse (NR-1984). (Photo #20, #21) This building is architecturally significant as a work of the master architect Solomon Layton, who

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designed many public buildings in the state of Oklahoma in the late 19th century and early 20th century.

Several buildings were constructed in Cordell with Works Progress Administration funds. There are two in the Courthouse Square Historic District, the Washita County Jail and New Cordell Fire and Police Station. The Works Progress Administration also sponsored a mural which was painted inside the lobby of the Cordell Post Office. It remains extant.

121 E. First, Cordell Post Office. (Photo #12) The post office, which was a Treasury Department project, was built in 1936-1937 in an Early Moderne Style. The W.P.A. funded a mural that was painted inside the lobby.

215 E. First, Washita County Jail. (Photo #17) The Washita County Jail was built with W.P.A. funds in 1940 in a modest Moderne Style.

203 E. Clay, New Cordell Fire and Police Station. (Photo #39) This building was built in 1943 in a W.P.A. Standardized Style with Moderne influences. The building is constructed of a mix of native sandstone and stucco.

Community Development/Planning Significance

The New Cordell Courthouse Square is a well planned and significant type of development unique in Washita County. The dominant feature of the square is the Washita County Courthouse, which is the largest building in the district. Designed by Solomon Layton, a prominent Oklahoma City architect, the classical design of the courthouse set the tone for the surrounding commercial buildings. Solomon Layton is considered the "father of Oklahoma courthouse," and designed plans for seventeen courthouses in the state.³³

The square provides easy access to other businesses surrounding the courthouse, and is pedestrian oriented by nature. The center of the square is divided by the section line marked by the presence of Highway 152 approaching New Cordell on the

³³ Grady, Charles. County Courthouses of Oklahoma. Oklahoma Historical Society. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. 1985. Page 16.

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east/west axis. The main roads to the square also line up with the doors to the courthouse, making it visible from a distance, adding to the grand feeling of the building. The dome on the courthouse is visible from the streets on the square and increases the feeling of centrality of the square and provides a reference point to the downtown area.

The selection of the "courthouse square" plan made Cordell unique from other towns in Washita County. And, although other Oklahoma towns also utilized the "courthouse square" plan, not all have remained intact. Oklahoma counties with identified courthouse squares still remaining include Greer County (Mangum), Beckham County (Sayre), Noble County (Perry), Cimarron County (Boise City), Marshall County (Madill) and Ellis County (Arnett). Counties in which the historic courthouse square has been destroyed include Stephens County (Duncan), Lincoln County (Chandler), and Comanche County (Lawton).

Most of the oldest buildings on the square were two stories in height with a substantial amount of decorative brickwork. Due to the topography, the majority of the older residential buildings are located north and south of the courthouse square. The railroad lies directly west of the square.

The "courthouse square" plan clearly defines the downtown and it continues to have a high degree of integrity.

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Primary Location of Additional Data (continued):

An additional location of data for this project was the Fleming Abstract Office,
located in New Cordell.

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Boundary Description

The verbal description of the boundaries for the district is as follows:

Beginning Point: Starting from the corner of Temple and Clay, on the northeast corner. Following along the east curb line of Temple, north to the alleyway entrance on Block 47. East on the alleyway to the junction of the alleys on Block 47, north on the centerline of the alleyway to First Street to the south side curb line. East along the south curb line to College to the southwest corner of First Street and College. North along the east curb line to the alley on Block 39. East through the alleyway to the east curb line of Market. South along North Market until even with the north boundary of the Washita County Jail. East across North Market and then continuing east along the north boundary of the County Jail to the north/south alley of Block 40. Then, continuing north along the center line of the alley to the center line of the east/west alley of Block 40, east along the alley to the property lines of 221 and 223 East First, south along the property lines to East First. East on the north curb line of First to the west curb line of Glenn English. South along the west curb line of Glenn English to the alley of Block 54. West along the centerline of the alley on Block 54 to the junction in the alley of the same block. South from that junction to Clay to the north curb line. West on the north curb line of East Clay to the west curb line of South Market. North on Market along the west curb line to the alley on Block 53. West on the alley to the west curb line of College. South along the west curb line of College to the northwest corner of Clay and College. West on Clay along the north curb line to the beginning point.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries include the majority of the original downtown area of New Cordell which surrounded the Courthouse. It is the area that has sufficient architectural integrity to convey a sense of place, setting and association with the original downtown area. Other important factors in the location of the boundaries was the location of Main Street and its east/west vistas, and approach to the courthouse and the architectural and historical significance of the First Baptist Church, the Carnegie Library, the Cordell Post Office, and the Washita County Jail (all located on the north side of First Street). These were also included in the boundaries, starting at the edge of the original business district to the courthouse square.

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Key to Photographs

Cordell Courthouse Square Historic District
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Meacham & Associates
March 1997
Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office

1 - 47

1. 201-203 E. Main (center)
205-211 E. Main (right)
103 N. Market (left)
Looking NE - Roll 1, F0
2. 105,107,109,111,117 N. Market
Right to left. Looking NE - Roll 1, F1
3. 117-121-123 N. Market
Right to left. Looking NE - Roll 1, F2
4. 123-121 N. Market
Left to right. Looking SE - Roll 1, F3
5. 218 (center) -220 (left) E. First St.
Looking SE - Roll 1, F4
6. 220-116-114 N. Glenn English
Right to left. Looking SW - Roll 1, F5
7. 116-114-108 N. Glenn English
Right to left. Looking SW - Roll 1, F6
8. 202 N. Glenn English (outside district)
223-221-219 E. First St.
Right to left. Looking NW - Roll 1, F7
9. 223-221-219-215 E. First St.
Right to left. Looking NW - Roll 1, F8

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- =====
10. 219-221-223 E. First St.
Left to right. Looking NE - Roll 1, F9
 11. 215 E. First Street
Looking NE - Roll 1, F10
 12. 121 E. First St.
Looking NW - Roll 1, F11
 13. 118-116-112 N. Market
Right to left. Looking SW - Roll 1, F12
 14. 110 N. Market
Looking SW - Roll 1, F13
 15. 110 E. First St.
Looking SE - Roll 1, F14
 16. 116-118 N. College
Looking Northwest - Roll 1, F15
 17. 105 E. First, 101 E. First
Right to left. Looking NW - Roll 1, F16
 18. 101 E. First
Looking NE - Roll 1, F17
 19. 100 E. First
Looking SE - Roll 1, F18
 20. Washita County Courthouse
Looking E - Roll 1, F19
 21. Washita County Courthouse
Looking NE - Roll 1, F23
 22. 127-125-123 E. Main
Looking NW - Roll 2, F1

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- =====
23. 121-117-119, 115,113, 109, 101-103 E. Main.
Right to left. Looking NW - Roll 2, F2
 24. 101-103 E. Main
Looking NE - Roll 2, F3
 25. 118 N. College
Looking SW - Roll 2, F4
 26. 116 N. College
Looking SW - Roll 2, F5
 27. 101 W. Main
Looking NW - Roll 2, F6
 28. 109-111-115-125 W. Main
Rigth to left. Looking NW - Roll 2, F7
 29. 125-115-111-109 E. Main
Left to right. Looking NE - Roll 2, F8
 30. 120 W. Main
Looking SE - Roll 2, F9
 31. 100 S. College
Looking SE - Roll 2, F10
 32. 100-104-108 S. College
Right to left. Looking SW - Roll 2, F11
 33. 120-118-116 S. College
Left to right. Looking NW - Roll 2, F12
 34. 112-110 S. College (center)
108-104 S. College (right)
112-110 S. College (left)
Looking SW. Roll 2, F13

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- =====
- 35. 100-102-104 E. Main
Right to left. Looking SW - Roll 2, F14
 - 36. 104-106-108-110-114-116-118-120 E. Main
Right to left. Looking SW - Roll 2, F15
 - 37. 110-114-116-118-120 E. Main
Right to left. Looking SW - Roll 2, F16
 - 38. Park - SW corner of E. Main and S. Market
Looking SW - Roll 2, F17
 - 39. 203 E. Clay
121 S. Market (left)
Looking NE - Roll 2, F18
 - 40. 121-119-117-113-111 S. Market
Right to left. Looking NE - Roll 2, F19
 - 41. 111-109-107-105-103 S. Market
Right to left. Looking NE - Roll 2, F20
 - 42. 200 E. Main (103-105 S. Market, right)
Looking SE - Roll 2, F21
 - 43. 214-216-218-220 E. Main
Right to left. Looking SE - Roll 2, F22
 - 44. 224-222-220 (right) E. Main
Looking SW - Roll 2, F23
 - 45. 225-221-217-215-213 E. Main
Right to left. Looking NW - Roll 2, F24
 - 46. 215-213-206-211-203-201 E. Main
Right to left. Looking NE - Roll 2, F25

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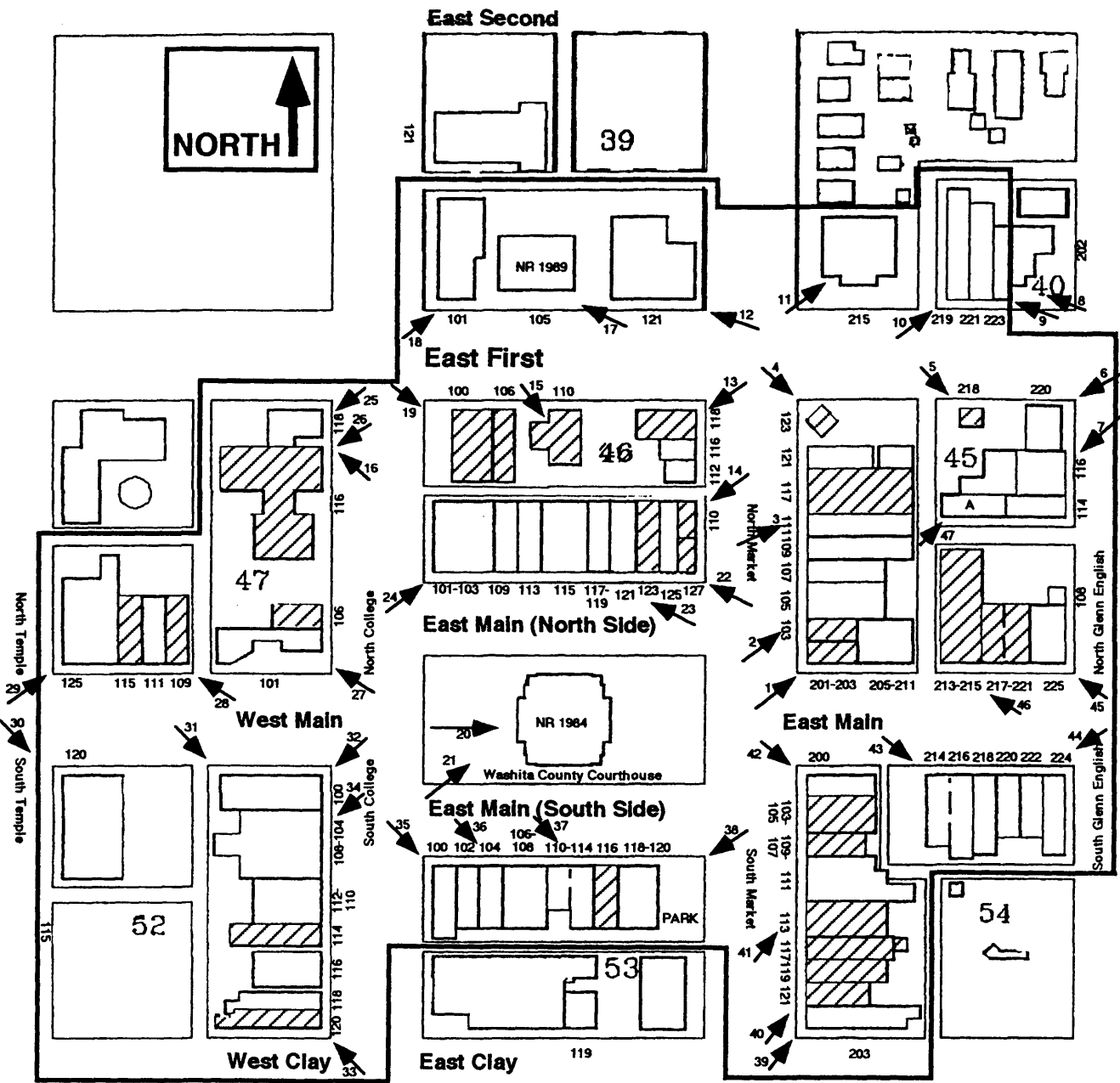
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47. Behind 114 N. Glenn English. Bldg. A
Looking NE - Roll 3, F1

Historic Photographs

- 48. Washita County Courthouse, Circa 1910
- 49. 201-203 E. Main, Circa 1910
- 50. Oklahoma State Bank, Circa 1910
200 E. Main
- 51. 225 E. Main, Circa 1910
- 52. 100 E. Main, Circa 1910
- 53. 102 E. Main, Circa 1910
- 54. 104 E. Main, Circa 1910
- 55. 108 S. College, Circa 1910
- 56. 103 S. College, Circa 1910
- 57. 216 E. Main, Circa 1910
- 58. 214 E. Main, Circa 1910

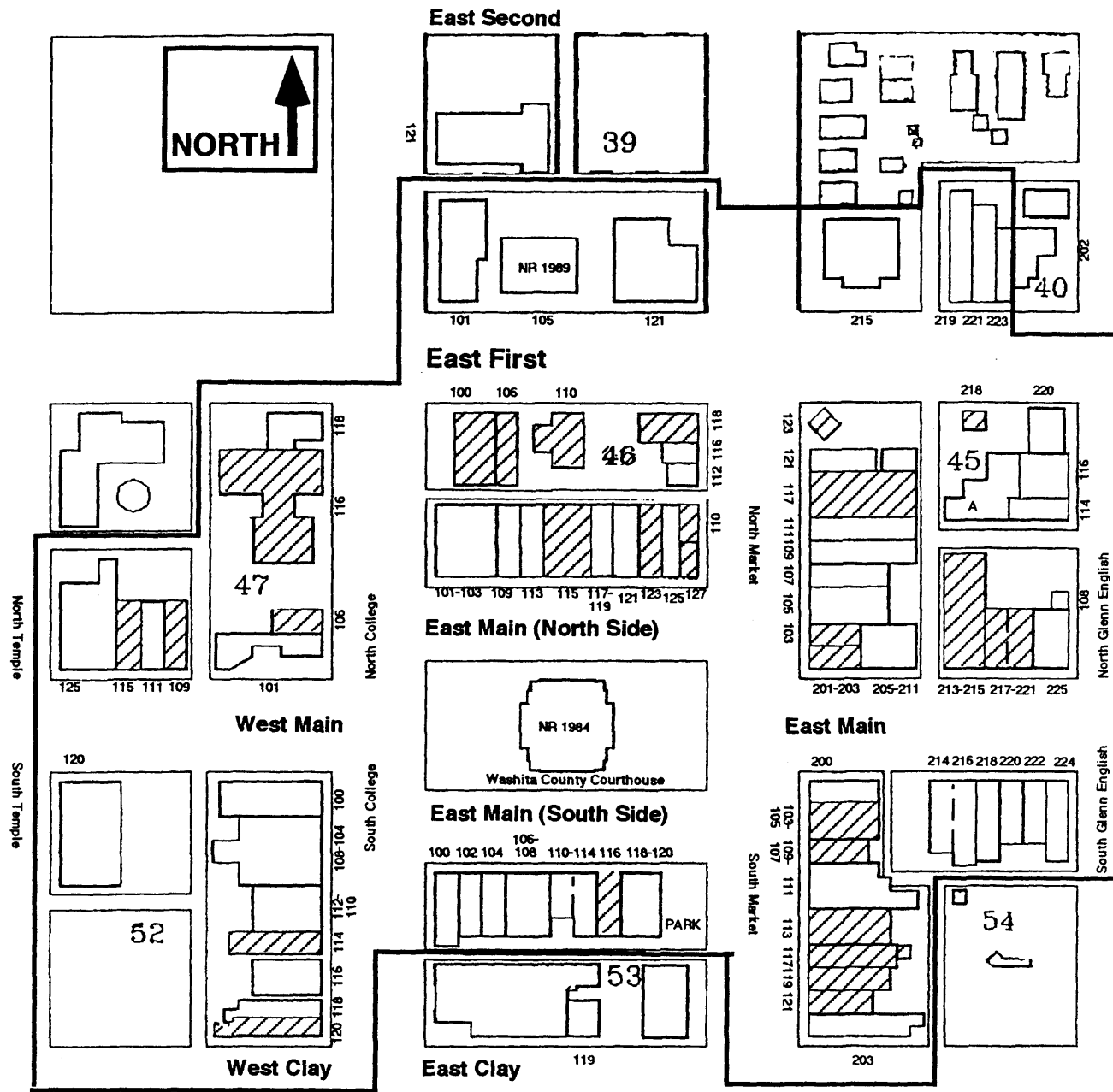


City of New Cordell Courthouse Square Historic District

Prepared for the City of New Cordell
By Meacham & Associates 1997

Key to Photographs

Contributing Buildings (52) 
 Noncontributing Buildings (28) 



**City of New Cordell
Courthouse Square Historic District**

Prepared for the City of New Cordell
By Meacham & Associates 1997

Contributing Buildings (52) 
Noncontributing Buildings (28) 

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places

NR

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business, to New Cordell.⁸

During the late 1890s, the battle between the two cities escalated when the residents in central and western Washita County petitioned the three county commissioners to move the county seat to New Cordell. Cloud Chief residents interested in keeping the county seat responded by securing an injunction prohibiting the commissioners from considering the petition since it was illegal to move the county seat without a change in the federal law that originally gave the designation to Cloud Chief. They also called for and were granted a new election of county commissioners for each of the three districts.⁹

After the new commissioners were in office, the petition for a vote to move the courthouse was submitted again. Legal sparring from Cloud Chief resulted in delays, but the election was called by two commissioners, with one commissioner dissenting. Although the plans for an election seemed to violate the original injunction, the legality of the action was unclear due to the number of legal actions filed by parties on both sides of the controversy. Cloud Chief attorneys decided that an appeal was necessary to block the board's order for an election, at least until after statehood. The appeal papers were given to a Mr. Baker, a young lawyer in Cloud Chief who was the son of the county attorney, for timely delivery in El Reno. The lawyer decided instead of making the long trip to deliver the papers that he would mail them, causing the injunction to die because the papers arrived past the filing date.¹⁰

After the loss of the injunction, the election was held, and the county commissioners declared New Cordell the new county seat by popular vote. Cloud Chief supporters still maintained that the election was held illegally, but the

⁸ "Removal of County Seat of Washita County, Oklahoma." Report No. 1065, House of Representatives, 59th Congress, First Session, February 7, 1906.

⁹ "Cordell-Cloud Chief Courthouse Wrangle Raged for Years," Custer County/Washita County Progress, Clinton, OK: Clinton Daily News, 1937.

¹⁰ Ibid.

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county seat offices moved to New Cordell. The sheriff and county clerk maintained offices in both cities, but the records and courthouse property were moved to New Cordell by the commissioners. To complicate matters, two district judges were appointed by different entities to serve the county, and both of them recognized different county seats. Judge McAtee, appointed by the Chief Justice of the Territorial Supreme Court, recognized Cloud Chief as the county seat. Judge Irwin, elected by vote, recognized New Cordell as the county seat and set up court there. Under territorial law, however, there could be only one district court in a county. This created more legal entanglement for the lawyers and judges, because no one knew which court was legal.¹¹

Early in 1904, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in a similar case that county seats in the territory were located by an act of Congress and could not be changed by any law of the territorial legislature. Cloud Chief attorneys filed suit in the Territorial Supreme Court to force the county officers to return to their offices in Cloud Chief. The Territorial Supreme Court ruled in favor of Cloud Chief, giving the officers thirty days to return. In response to the suit, the county commissioners went to Washington to rush a special bill through Congress legalizing the county seat election.¹²

The bill passed legalizing the county seat election. The permanent location of the county seat in New Cordell was the beginning of the decline of Cloud Chief. The population of Cloud Chief dropped from 700 at its peak in 1900 to 100 in 1937, until the town was no longer inhabited. Several businesses moved to New Cordell after it was organized and gained the county seat, some also relocated to surrounding towns. Eight years after the run in Washita County, Cloud Chief was the largest town in the county. The removal of the county seat in 1904 and the lack of railroads running through the town caused the eventual decline.¹³

11 Ibid.

12 Ibid.

13 "Cloud Chief Held in Washita County Land in Early Days." Cordell Beacon. April 19, 1979, Page 9-B.

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New Cordell's development is directly connected with the county seat status and the railroad. Many businesses moved to New Cordell because of the activity connected with the courthouse. In 1902 the Bes Line Railroad (now known as the Frisco) constructed a line through New Cordell coming from Enid, Oklahoma and going to Vernon, Texas.¹⁴ The railroad was a vital form of transportation at the turn of the century, offering means of shipping agricultural goods from New Cordell to other markets. As the economy of Washita County was heavily connected to agriculture, the presence of a railroad made the city an important shipping point, which attracted new industries such as cotton gins and granaries. These industries were located outside the town square, but the businesses located on the square benefitted from the farmers coming into town to sell agricultural products, do business at the courthouse, or secure farm loans from the many lending agencies in town.

The town grew at a steady and rapid rate during the first ten years. By 1908, the population of New Cordell was 2000. The city petitioned the governor of Oklahoma to become a city with first class designation. This was awarded in 1908, and the town elected J.A. Julian the first mayor of New Cordell. Julian resigned at the end of the month and was replaced by Robert Steele, who served for two years.¹⁵ Initially, the courthouse square consisted of wood buildings that were later replaced by stone or brick buildings. By 1910, there were offices for lawyers, abstracters, physicians, general and dry good stores, hardware stores, and other types of specialty businesses. Many brick buildings facing the courthouse were built between 1900 and 1915. The first block to be entirely built of brick faced the south side of the courthouse on Main Street.¹⁶ The majority of this block (East 100 block of Main Street) was constructed in 1909. The final building was completed in 1913.

¹⁴ Murrell, C.T. "History of New Cordell and Washita County," Who's Who in Washita County. A. Clarence Smith, ed. New Cordell, OK: A Clarence Smith and Todd Tilton.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Comparisons between Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps dated 1904, 1909, and 1915 show the pattern of development around the square. (Sanborn Map Company, New York)

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The most important feature of the square is the Washita County Courthouse (NR-1984). The Courthouse is the third courthouse built on the square. The first courthouse on the site, a wood framed building, was moved to New Cordell in 1900 from Cloud Chief. The second building, also a wood framed building, was built to replace the original courthouse in 1902, but burned in a fire in 1909. The present courthouse was designed by Layton, Weymiss, Smith and Hawk in 1910, a prominent architectural firm in Oklahoma.¹⁷ The courthouse is the largest building in the district and is prominently in the center of the square. It is constructed of brick with a stone foundation and has classical features. The front and rear entries appear identical, and face east and west. The main roads to the square also line up with the doors to the courthouse, making it visible from a distance, adding to the grandeur of the building. The dome on the courthouse has clocks built in which are visible from the streets on the square and most of the secondary streets.

The square features many prominent buildings built between 1897 and 1947, with most buildings constructed before 1920. These include three large bank buildings, a city hall, a hospital, an opera house, and several other buildings used for businesses that are highly decorative. First Street, which was a secondary area to develop in the square's business district, has the Cordell Carnegie Library (NR-1989). The library was built in 1911 and is an excellent example of the Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival style. It is also significant for the role it played in the social and educational development of the city.

Other significant buildings that reflect a major trend in the history of New Cordell include the U.S. Post Office (1937) and the Washita County Jail (1940). The U.S. Post Office was a New Deal-era Treasury Department project and, also, has a Works Progress Administration mural on the interior. The County Jail is one of several Works Progress Administration building projects completed in Cordell.

There were three banks operating by 1910 in New Cordell. The first bank, the Bank of F.C. Finerty, built by F.C. Finerty, also specialized in farm loans. This bank

17 "Washita County Courthouse." National Register of Historic Places Inventory Nomination Form. Prepared August 24, 1984.

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was organized in 1898, shortly after New Cordell was platted for settlement.¹⁸ The bank was operated by Finerty until 1911, when he sold his shares in the bank and it was reorganized as the Farmers National Bank.¹⁹ Finerty remained in New Cordell, opening a smaller farm loan office at 102 E. Main.²⁰ The original bank building, constructed of brick with stone detailing, was demolished in the late 1980s. The location of the bank was the corner lot of block 53 in the Original Townsite of New Cordell, next to 118 E. Main, facing the south elevation of the courthouse.

The second bank to organize in New Cordell was the First National Bank. The first building for the bank was constructed of wood and built in 1900. It was at the present site of 127 E. Main.²¹ In April of 1910, the bank changed its name to Oklahoma State Bank and constructed a brick building at 200 E. Main,²² which is still extant. The bank reorganized as the State National Bank in 1911 (taking on its national charter), then reorganized again in 1920 as Oklahoma State Bank when it gave up its national charter. Before 1939, the charter was reinstated and it

¹⁸ Since this bank was privately owned, it is often not credited as the oldest in New Cordell. Many articles credit the First National Bank as the oldest.

¹⁹ "The Farmers National Bank, Cordell, Oklahoma," 17th Anniversary Edition of the Cordell Beacon, 1914.

²⁰ "F.C. Finerty and Company, First in Farm Loans." 17th Anniversary Edition of the Cordell Beacon, 1914.

²¹ Full Page Advertisement for the First National Bank, The Cordell Beacon. Page 3-B, April 19, 1979.

²² "Opening of Oklahoma State Bank Building," Cordell Beacon. Thursday, April 7, 1910.

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became National State Bank, which has since moved from this building.²³ The original bank building is now occupied by an abstract company and several offices.

The third bank to locate in New Cordell was the City National Bank. The City National Bank Building, known as Cordell National for most of its existence, was constructed in 1903. It is a brick building with stone insets on a corner lot and is located across Main Street from the First National Bank at 201-203 E. Main.²⁴ This building also was the first location of the telephone service, known as Pioneer Telephone Company, that serviced New Cordell.²⁵

New Cordell was also the location of a regionally important private hospital called Florence Hospital. It was located in the upper story of a large commercial building constructed circa 1904 on 100 S. College. The hospital was owned and operated by Doctor A.H. Bungart, who moved to New Cordell after completing his medical degree in Missouri. The hospital, named after his wife, was the first hospital in Washita County, and was still the only hospital in 1914.²⁶ The hospital operated until the early 1940s. The first floor of the building was originally Patton's Mens Clothing and Furnishings. The store was in operation until 1909 when it was purchased by Hunter's Dry Goods.²⁷ Also, the building originally had a side opening which was the location of the Post Office.

²³ "The First National Bank in Cordell," Custer County/Washita County Progress. Clinton, OK: Clinton Daily News, 1937.

²⁴ "Cordell National Bank," Custer County/Washita County Progress. Clinton, OK: Clinton Daily News, 1937.

²⁵ Photographs dated 1910 of the building show the Pioneer Telephone Company signs. Also, 1909 Sanborn Maps show the location inside the building.

²⁶ "A Worthy Institution, The Florence Hospital." 17th Anniversary Edition of the Cordell Beacon, 1914.

²⁷ "Hunters, The Dependon Store." 17th Anniversary Edition of the Cordell Beacon, 1914.

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Other buildings located in the square are present day reminders of the history of New Cordell. For example, the Opera House Building at 225 E. Main, was built in 1907. The building had an auditorium on the second floor, with a general store on the first floor originally called the People's Store. The building was built by the Miller brothers, Johnson and Page, who were local business people in the area.²⁸ Another example is the Dixie Store Building built in 1914 at 118-120 E. Main. It was the second location of the Dixie Store, owned and operated by William Flaxman who started the store in a wood building on the west side of the square in 1911.²⁹

Two buildings associated with the city government and its services are also located on the square. The City Hall Building, built in 1922, has been serving as an office and auditorium for New Cordell continuously since it was built. It is located on the northwest corner of the square at 101-103 E. Main.³⁰ The second building, the New Cordell Fire and Police Station, at 203 E. Clay, was built in 1943. The building was a W.P.A. project, built of a mix of native sandstone and stucco.³¹

Most of the buildings on the square are one- and two-story Commercial Style buildings constructed of brick. Many buildings were constructed before 1910 and appear in a set of photographs taken of the square around 1910. The square served a variety of needs in New Cordell, and attracted people into town from surrounding farms and communities. Other businesses located on the square were the Washburn and Taylor Drug Store, at 100 E. Main, which later became the first Rexall Drug

²⁸ "The Opera House," in weekly column called "A Note from Uncle Dudley, Cordell Beacon, N.D.

²⁹ "The Dixie Store," 17th Anniversary Edition of the Cordell Beacon, 1914.

³⁰ Murrell, C.T. "History of New Cordell and Washita County," Who's Who in Washita County. A. Clarence Smith, ed. New Cordell, OK: A Clarence Smith and Todd Tilton.

³¹ Ibid.

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Store in New Cordell; the Wright Place, owned and operated by C. H. Wright that sold dry goods and shoes; C. E. Thornton, an undertaker; C.T. Atkers Jewelry and Optometry; one of the earliest proprietors in New Cordell, Vawter and Company General Merchandise; the Cordell Beacon newspaper, which moved to New Cordell in 1907 and has been continuously publishing since; the Palace Barber; C.R. Thornton Drugs; the English Kitchen; Bell Grocery Store; several hardware stores, including the still existing Cordell Hardware Store on 220 E. Main. Larger buildings on the periphery of the district are associated with car dealerships as the automobile became an important part of daily life.

From the time that New Cordell had an active business center to World War II, the city also had several hotels for visitors that stayed to do business at the county seat. Two hotels, present before 1910, were large wooden buildings that were eventually replaced by brick buildings.³² The brick building at 205-211 E. Main Street was originally used for business on the first floor and offices on the second floor. This building was converted into the Washita Hotel in the late 1920s and is best remembered by people in New Cordell as the hotel. The owners of the Washita Hotel eventually converted a second building, 103 N. Market, to enlarge the hotel. The main entrance faced Main Street and the secondary entrance faced Market Street on the same block. These buildings were connected by a corridor inside the buildings that still exists, although the buildings are no longer used as a hotel.

The courthouse square is a locally important resource in the understanding of New Cordell's early development. The choice of using a square surrounded with blocks with commercial lots insured that primary downtown development would face the new courthouse, rather than the linear development common in many Oklahoma cities and towns. The overall plan and design of the Washita County Courthouse (NR 1984) is similar to hundreds which were built after the War of Independence in 1776. Generally, all four sides were similar in design with wide, front steps designating the entry. This courthouse square plan was chosen for only a few of Oklahoma's county seats and only a few remain extant and are still used as courthouses.

³² These Hotels appear in the 1910 photographs and on Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps.