

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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Item number 7

Page 2

Richardson Romanesque Banks of Osage County

- ✓ 1. Osage Bank of Fairfax (~~No. 1 on Sketch Map~~ and Photo Nos. 1-6)

Location: 250 ~~North~~ Main Street
Fairfax, Oklahoma 74637

Owner of Property: Robert Berry
6112 East 58th Street
Tulsa, OK

Description:

The Osage Bank is a two-story, native sandstone, commercial building with coursed ashlar finish. The building is approximately 35' X 55" and has flat roof with 3' parapet. The building is adjoined by a one-story building on the east and a two-story building on the south.

The facade (west side) first floor has one large fixed pane display window near the cutaway entry and four smaller fixed pane display windows on south half. There is one wood panel door with large pane on first floor of the facade. Above the first floor door are eight fixed pane windows flanked by wood paneling painted white. The second floor facade has a set of three, deeply recessed, 1/1 double-hung wood windows near the cutaway entry and a band of four smaller 1/1 double-hung wood windows each of which is topped with louvered vents. The north side has one square-shaped, fixed pane display window near the cutaway entry, two fixed pane display windows near east end, and one rectangular-shaped fixed pane window in the center. North side entrance is provided by two doors. One is located near the center and is a wood panel type with transom and has a stooped entrance of ten steps. The other is located in the store front and is wood paneled with light. The second floor of north side has six deeply-recessed 1/1 double-hung wood windows. The south side above the adjacent two-story building is random ashlar finish with no openings. The rear (east side) above adjoining one-story building has six 1/1 double-hung wood windows. The cutaway entry has one metal door with rectangular light in first floor and one 1/1 double-hung wood window in second story. Decorative elements include several Richardsonian Romanesque features such as the uniform rock-faced exterior finish, deeply-set, straight-topped windows, and overall heavy, massive composition. The two-story cutaway entry is highlighted with a round arched opening. The opening is framed with short smooth-faced columns rising upon rusticated pedestals. Columns are topped with stepped, hipped stone. Stone brackets mark corners. Smaller masonry brackets support projected horizontal stone belt coursing. The date "1904" is inscribed in the round arched entryway and the word "BANK" is located at cornice level above second floor of the cutaway entry. Alterations include enclosure of three windows on north side, replacement of stone with wood paneling on west and south sides, and the sandstone finish has been painted a cream color.

Statement of Significance: The Osage Bank of Fairfax, built in 1904, is both historically and architecturally significant because: (1) it is the oldest bank in Osage County having been constructed in 1904, the same year that petroleum was

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Page 3

discovered in the area, and (2) it is the best example of Richardsonian Romanesque architecture in Fairfax and one of the best and oldest examples of this style in Osage County.

The building housed the only bank in town until the 1930s when the depression forced its closure. It later housed the United States Post Office for Fairfax and several commercial enterprises including Jewel's Bargains, its current occupant.

Its Richardsonian Romanesque vocabulary includes the overall heavy, massive composition, uniform rock-faced exterior finish, and deeply-set, straight-topped windows. The characteristic Richardsonian round arched entryway is topped with a stepped triangular-shaped pediment of stone. Additional decorative features include stone bracketing which mark building corners, pierced crenellation at the roofline, and dentils at cornice level. Both the historic and architectural integrity of the building has been retained for almost 80 years.

Quadrangle Name: Fairfax, Oklahoma

Scale: 7.5 minutes

UTM: 14/705500/4049470

Verbal Boundary Description: Lots 26-27, Block 15, Original Townsite of Fairfax, OK.