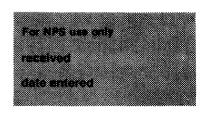
United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



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Knowles Grain Elevator.

Location: Knowles, Okla., Beaver County. U.S. 64

Owner of Property: Perryton Equity.

Location of Legal Description: Beaver County Courthouse, Box 56, Beaver, Oklahoma.

Description: condition-fair; unaltered; original site.

The Knowles Elevator is a wooden frame structure covered with corrugated sheet metal. It has an extended stepped gabled roof. The north elevation of the loft has an open loading bay window. Rising from ground level on the north elevation are the following features: a single door entrance; a metal loading spout; and a single set window at the base of the loft. The east, west and south elevations of the loft have single set windows. The south elevation has a lean-to shed used for unloading grain. The elevator also has an open, double door entrance on the east and west elevations. Located on the east elevation is a single story lean-to shed used for storage of the elevators' machinery. The exterior walls have horizontal planks of wood bolted to the wall for additional support.

Significance: 1913. Builder/Architect: Unknown.

The Knowles Elevator is significant because it is the only remaining structure associated with the grain industry and the Wichita Falls and Northwestern Railroad, which was taken over by the Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railraod (KATY) in the 1920s. It was an integral part of the agriculture, commerce, and economy of Knowles. The Knowles Elevator is the sole survivor of the three elevators built in 1913 by the Sappington Grain Company. With the arrival of the Wichita Falls and Northwestern Railroad on July 4, 1912, Knowles rapidly bacame an important trading, marketing and shipping point for eastern Beaver County. The principal crop was wheat, however, kaffir corn, hogs and cattle were also shipped from Knowles to the gulf ports of Houston and Galveston and east to Kansas City via connections with the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad in Woodward, Oklahoma. The Knowles Elevator was abandoned during the Great Depression of the 1930s.

Acreage: Less than 1 acre. Quadrangle Name: Knowles. 7.5.

Verbal Boundary Description: Block 1, Lots 1-6.

UTM: 14 393800 4081410.

United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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Hofsommer, Donovan L. <u>Railroads in Oklahoma</u>. Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Historical Society, 1977.

Ketchum, Milo S. <u>The Design of Walls, Bins and Grain Elevators</u>. 3rd ed. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc. 1919.

Peterson, R.F. Wheat: Botany, Civilization, and Utilization. New York: Interscience Publishers.

Interviews:

Jessee Riffe, Texhoma, Oklahoma, May 1982.
Paul Wright, Baker, Oklahoma, May 1982.
Al Jackson, Guymon, Oklahoma, July 1982.
George Barns, Mouser, Oklahoma, May 1982.
Warren Taylor, Stillwater, Oklahoma, July 1982.
Dr. Blum, Oklahoma State University, July 1982.
Dr. Gus Page, Oklahoma State University, July 1982.