NPS Form 10-900-a (Rev. 8/2002)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number _____

Page _

Supplementary Listing Record

NRIS Reference Number: SG100004174

Date Listed: 07/15/2019

Property Name: Ponca City Power Plant

County: Kay

State: OK

This Property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation

Signature of the Keeper

Amended Items in Nomination:

Geographical Data: As the boundary includes more than 10 acres, the Latitude and Longitude Coordinates are revised to read: A 36.720043 -97.085270 B 36.718980 -97.085270 C 36.718982 -97.085970 D 36.720078 -97.087395 See attached revised map, which becomes the effective coordinate map.

The OKLAHOMA SHPO was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)



NPS Form 10-900

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Ponca City Power Plant

Other names/site number: Municipal Light and Power Plant

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

2. Location

 Street & number: <u>1420 North Union Street</u>

 City or town: <u>Ponca City</u> State: <u>Oklahoma</u> County: <u>Kay</u>

 Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

I hereby certify that this \underline{X} nomination _____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property \underline{X} meets $\underline{}$ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

D

C

XA

B

Date

Signature of certifying official/Title:

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

 Signature of commenting official:
 Date

 Title :
 State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- _____ determined eligible for the National Register
- _____ determined not eligible for the National Register

Χ

- ____ removed from the National Register
- ____ other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

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Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many	boxes	as	app	ly.)
Private:		[
		- 1		

Pul	bl	ic	-	Lo	ca
1	-	10		10	eu

Public - Sta

Public - Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

Building(s)	Х
District	
Site	
Structure	
Object	

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Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count) Contributing Noncontributing buildings 1 0 0 1 sites 0 1 structures 0 0 objects 2 1 Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register _____0

6. Function or Use
Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
INDUSTRY/ energy facility, powerplant

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.) VACANT/ not in use_

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.) LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Classical Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.) Principal exterior materials of the property: <u>BRICK</u>_____

Narrative Description

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

Summary Paragraph

Situated approximately one mile north of the Downtown Ponca City Historic District (NRIS #10001010) and just west of railroad tracks, the Ponca City Power Plant (also known as the Municipal Light and Power Plant) is a tall, imposing red brick building with a non-combustible roof supported by steel trusses and iron. The property is located in an otherwise light industrial area, surrounded by non-descript metal and concrete block buildings. Built in 1927 and located at 1420 North Union Street, the main building is rectangular in shape. A series of additions were added to the original building between 1947 and 1964. The site also includes a small associated water treatment structure, an exterior smokestack supported by a one-story, concrete addition, and an electric transformer yard. The plant provided electricity to residents of Ponca City for several decades, and this steady supply of power fostered community development. Once located on the outskirts of town, Ponca City has since grown up around the power plant, and the main building retains a high degree of historic integrity.

Narrative Description

Site and Setting

The site of the Ponca City Power Plant is at a level grade. It parallels Union Street, which runs north to south. A residential area is located east of Union Street. To the south of the site is a

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bottling company warehouse. North of the historic property is a separate, steam-generating power plant constructed in 1964 to provide additional electricity. An asphalt parking lot divides the historic property from the current power plant.

General Power Plant Building Description

The Ponca City Power Plant is a notable example of Classical Revival style architecture. Doors and windows on all elevations, with the exception of some stylistic variations, are in formal and symmetrical arrangement. The building has a flat, non-combustible roof with modest parapet caps and a flat entablature further down the walls. Rectangular cold-rolled, steel-framed multilight windows are consistent with the industrial purpose of the building.¹

The building is brick-clad. The walls are set in a common bond with a Flemish header row every sixth course. From the exterior, the main building appears to be three stories tall. This is consistent with descriptions from the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, which document the building as three stories tall, plus a basement. The interior of the main building is a large open expanse with balconies on the north and south sides.

Façade

The Ponca City Power Plant has an east-facing façade (Photo #0002). The north and south ends of the façade are slightly recessed from a wider, central section. A few feet below the parapet caps is a flat stone entablature that wraps onto the recessed north and south sides of the façade and beyond to the greater north and south side elevations.

The third-story windows are centered on the width of the façade's protruding central section. There are three equidistant window bays; each of which accommodates a pair of windows separated by a column of brick. The windows are steel-framed, nine-light (three panes wide by three panes tall) units. Set as a continuous window sill is a taller flat stone entablature which also wraps onto the recessed north and south sides of the façade and beyond to the greater north and south side elevations. Above the entablature is another flat stone course that is interrupted by the lower part of the windows. This stone course accompanies the entablature as it wraps around the building and is consistently broken by the window placement.

The lower and taller cast stone entablature has two corbeled steps atop a taller flat band. Centered on the façade and carved within the taller, flat, stone band is "MUNICIPAL LIGHT AND POWER PLANT." The larger flat stone entablature serves as the lintel for three window openings, equally spaced and centered on the second-story, which is the height of two stories. The second-story windows are two-stories tall, steel-framed, multilight, industrial units with pivoting sections. Each large window is nine panes wide and eleven panes tall. There is a substantial horizontal mullion dividing the height into six rows below and five above. The windows are divided by brick pilasters with cast stone capitals and bases. The pilaster capitals

¹ Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, "Pennsylvania Architectural Field Guide: Classical Revival Style 1895-1950" <u>http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/portal/communities/architecture/styles/classical-revival.html</u> (accessed June 8, 2018).

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support the tall entablature above. The pilaster bases are positioned atop a continuous stone belt course, which also serves as a sill shared by all three double height windows.

To the south of the central section, the façade is recessed. On that recessed southern section are two, vertically aligned, second-story, steel-framed, multilight, industrial windows with pivoting sections. The upper window is four lights wide by five lights tall. About three feet below, the lower window is five lights wide and five lights tall. The lower window shares the continuous stone sill/belt course with the windows from the central section. The stone sill/belt course wraps around the building and has a protruding rope course near the bottom. It also has a flat stone course that is interrupted by the lower part of the windows.

There are no openings on the north, recessed section of the façade. A ten-foot-tall concrete block enclosure extends east, forward of the original building façade by about seven feet and overlapping the north end by about three feet. It extends north by about 20 feet and is part of a cast concrete addition that supports a metal smokestack that is nearly the same height as the original building.

The first story of the central section includes three window openings, with each one centered below a window from the second story. These windows are narrower than the two-story windows above and are five lights wide by five lights tall. They are also steel-framed, industrial units with pivoting sections. The bottom of the windows coincides with the top of the stone watertable, which also serves as a sill for these units.

Below each first-story window of the central section is a pair of windows vertically centered on the first-story window above. These basement windows are inset in the concrete block watertable base and are partially below grade. Each unit is three lights wide with a section of stone watertable between them.

The building's primary entrance is positioned at the first story of the south, recessed section of the façade. Below the rope course of the stone belt, between the first story and the second story, is a stone lintel atop the primary entrance. The entrance has a stone casing. The entrance is comprised of a wood-framed, single-light, glass door with sidelights and a transom that spans across the door and both sidelights. The entrance opening is girded in iron bars. The entrance interrupts a stone block, watertable base that wraps around the façade. The main entrance has a concrete porch with three stone steps down to a sidewalk. The porch and steps are flanked by two stone balustrades and caps.

South Elevation

The south elevation of the Ponca City Power Plant includes the south-facing walls of the original building as well as the south-facing walls of an addition to the original building that was constructed after 1947 (Photo #0004). The same stone parapet caps, flat stone entablatures, and stone belt courses of the façade are in place on the south elevation for two-thirds of the length of the original building. The west end of the south elevation is comprised of the post-1947 addition.

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Except for the stone parapet cap, the addition does not have any stone entablatures or stone belt courses.

The third-story windows on the original section of the building are set in eight window bays, each with a pair of windows. The steel-framed, multilight windows match the third-story windows of the façade, including the interaction with the flat entablature below.

The second-story windows on the original section of the building mimic the windows of the façade (Photo #0003). The easternmost bay of the elevation duplicates the appearance of the southern, inset section of the façade, except that it is in alignment with the rest of the south elevation. The westernmost bay of the original elevation is also a match to the easternmost bay. Between these two bays are eight, two-story tall, steel-framed windows that duplicate the twostory tall windows of the façade. These two-story tall windows are divided from one another by seven brick pilasters with stone capitals and bases, which also duplicates the appearance, size, and detail of the pilasters on the façade. Aligned under these eight two-story factory windows are eight multilight (five panes wide by five panes tall) steel-framed, first-story windows. To the easternmost bay is a smaller three-by-three steel-framed window. The five-by-five steel-framed windows are set into a brick wall instead of the stone watertable base present for the façade. The watertable stone of the façade only wraps onto the south elevation for the width of the easternmost bay. There are also multilight, steel-framed windows at the basement level that are generally aligned with the first-story windows above. Some are paired and some are singles. Many are obscured or altered to accommodate ducts, vents, piping and other concrete pads for equipment that was added over the years and outside of the building envelope.

The tallest part of the south elevation of the post-1947 addition aligns with the south elevation of the original building and comprises the west end of the south elevation (Photo #0003). It is also as tall as the original building. All the windows have cast stone sills. There are six equidistant, multilight (three panes wide by three panes tall) steel-framed windows on the third story. Aligned below these windows are six equidistant, multilight (five panes wide by three tall) steel-framed windows. Below, the lower, approximately one-story, flat-roofed addition that extends toward the south connects to this taller addition. To the east of the addition extension there are two more windows, similar to those above, that are horizontally aligned with the lower window of the west end of the original south elevation.

The south elevation of the two-story, flat-roofed extension of the post-1947 addition has three equidistant windows, steel-framed with multiple lights (three panes wide by six panes tall) (Photo #0005). Below the westernmost window is a garage door set at loading dock height, with the bottom at the top of a concrete watertable base. East of the garage door are two windows, vertically aligned with the two upper, easternmost windows. Both windows match the size and configuration of the windows above. There are four partially below grade basement windows. The windows are equidistant but not in vertical alignment with the windows above. Protruding from the western edge of this addition is a flat-roofed concrete storage area with one south-facing, metal-covered opening.

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West Elevation

On the west (back) elevation of the Ponca City Power Plant, the post-1947 addition has completely covered the original back exterior of the original building (Photo #0005). This elevation, the height of which aligns with the height of the original building, has a mixture of one-, two-, and three-story rooflines. The roofline of the primary building is three-stories tall with stone parapet caps. Below the parapet caps are four pairs of windows. The windows are each multilight, steel-framed windows. All windows have cast stone sills. Below and vertically aligned with the third-story windows are four, two-story tall, steel-framed windows that resemble the size and configuration of the two-story tall windows of the façade. Three of the windows are nine panes wide and eleven panes tall. The second window from the south is nine panes wide and nine panes tall. This shorter window is positioned over a tall loading dock door on the first story.

On the first story of the primary building, four bays are situated below the second-story windows. The two northern bays each have a pair of steel-framed, multilight windows. The next bay accommodates the tall loading dock door. The southernmost bay has two steel-framed, multilight windows. The concrete watertable base continues on this part of the building. To the west of the main building addition, on the north end, is an independent brick structure with a steel-framed, multilight window on the south elevation. This building's location is in the approximate position as the water treatment building shown on the Sanborn maps.

The one-story extension between the primary building and the two-story addition features a single, tall loading dock door on the west elevation.

On the south end of the west elevation, the second story of the two-story, post-1947 addition is void of any openings. A flat-roofed, concrete storage area protrudes from the first story of this addition and features three west-facing, metal-covered openings.

North Elevation

The north side elevation is nearly a mirror image of the south side elevation (Photo #0006). Deviations from the south side elevation include loading dock doors at the first story of the post-1947 addition to the primary building. The third-, second-, and first-story windows on the original section of the building continue in vertical alignment with the windows above. Basement windows have the same general character as the façade and north elevation. At the grade level of the west addition, three separate poured-in-place cast concrete enclosures have been added and obscure any earlier openings at this level. The first-story window openings near these enclosures have been filled with metal sheets. East of these concrete enclosures is a poured-in-place concrete loading dock. Another poured-in-place concrete enclosure is positioned a short distance east of the loading dock; the first story window opening near this protrusion is covered with metal. Below the second, third, and fourth two-story tall window bays from the east, the most intact basement windows remain in place. They are centered under the first and second story windows. Each bay has two, six light (two panes tall and three panes wide) steel-framed units separated by a short section of brick wall. The first-story window opening under the third, two-

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story window bay has also been covered with metal sheeting. To the east end of the north elevation a cast-in-place enclosure protrudes to the north and covers the east end of the elevation including the first window bay from the east. See Boiler and Concrete Support Structure below.

Water Treatment Structure (contributing)

The water treatment facility is located just west of the main power plant building (Photo #0005). About 12 feet by 20 feet, the building is red brick with a flat roof and terra cotta parapet caps. There is a steel-framed, multilight window centered on each of the south and west elevations and a door on the north elevation. There is a continuous brick soldier, belt course which is positioned above the top of the windows and doors.

Smokestack and Concrete Block Support Structure (contributing)

North of the east-facing façade is a single-story, concrete structure with a flat roof. (Photos #0001, #0002, and #0006). This appurtenance is a cast concrete extension of the north elevation of the primary building. The north elevation of the extension features a tall, steel-framed window five lights wide by five lights tall and resembles the other windows on the first story of the main power plant. Below and slightly to the north of the first-story window is a single, steel-framed basement window four lights wide. Atop this extension is a large smokestack that is taller than the power plant. This structure is not separate from the power plant but is described separately because of its size and visibility.

Electrical Substation Yard (non-contributing)

An active electrical substation is located immediately south of the Ponca City Power Plant (Photos #0003, #0004, and #0005). The equipment layout in the substation yard is spread out over approximately 15,000 square feet. Beginning at the southeast corner of the east-facing façade, the east boundary of the substation extends 160 feet south. This portion of the boundary is enclosed by a metal, chain-linked, barbed-wire topped fence. The boundary of the substation then extends approximately 165 feet west, then north for approximately 75 feet, when it meets the south elevation of the two-story, post-1947 addition. The one-story and two-story additions form the north boundary of the substation. The south elevation of the primary building makes up the north boundary of the substation. The substation is non-contributing due to the age of the equipment. The yard retains active equipment.

Alterations

The Ponca City Power Plant remains in its original location and the site retains its character as an industrial area. The building continues to convey a clear feeling and association with the production of electricity even though it no longer functions as such. Workmanship and materials are intact with few changes. Additions were made to the main building as needed to keep up with changing technologies and growing demand for electricity. Despite such additions and alterations; the site, the original building, and the post-1947-addition retain a high degree of historic integrity.

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

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.) COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Period of Significance 1927-1964

Significant Dates

1927 1951 1964

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.) <u>N/A</u>_____

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder William R. Brown, Architect Del Wright, General Contractor

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

The Ponca City Power Plant (also known as the Municipal Light and Power Plant) in Ponca City, Oklahoma is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A at the local level of significance for its role in community planning and development. For more than sixty years, the Municipal Light and Power Plant provided a reliable source of electrical power to Ponca City and the surrounding area. By making possible all aspects of daily home, work, and school life, the power plant was integral to the development of Ponca City.

Historic Context

Ponca City is located in southeastern Kay County, just south of the Kansas state line in northcentral Oklahoma. Ponca City and Kay County were once part of the "Cherokee Outlet," an area of land guaranteed to the Cherokee Nation by the federal government. In 1893, lands within the Outlet were opened to homesteading and Ponca City was officially incorporated in December of that year.²

The new town grew quickly as settlers built wood-frame businesses and residences. The town's economic future was secured further in the fall of 1894, when city leaders secured regular railroad access for the town and the first trains started to arrive.³ Ponca City quickly became a commercial center as well as the principle city of Kay County and north-central Oklahoma. By the end of 1894, the town had its first flour mill and electric lights. Telephones arrived in 1896. In 1900, the first phase of the City Hall was complete. In that same year, a massive fire on Grand Avenue destroyed many of the original wood-frame and stone-clad businesses. As citizens rebuilt, business owners chose to construct more permanent and fire-resistant brick structures. In 1901, the city laid its first brick sidewalks. By 1910, Ponca City's population had reached approximately 4,000 and the city boasted a waterworks, public sewers, an iron works, ice cream factory, and three grain elevators.⁴

Such community developments required a steady supply of electricity. A local history of Ponca City suggests that the first electric lights in town were turned on in 1894.⁵ According to available Sanborn maps, Ponca City's electrical service came from the Ponca City Milling Co. and City Electric Light Station at First Street and Central Avenue. Reference to the City Electric Light Station disappeared from the 1895 edition and later editions until 1901 when it was documented

³ Paula Carmack Denson, "Ponca City," *Oklahoma Encyclopedia of History and Culture*" <u>http://digital.library.okstate.edu/encyclopedia</u>, (accessed June 24, 2013)

² Alvin O. Turner, "Cherokee Outlet Opening," *Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, http://digital.library.okstate.edu/encyclopedia (accessed June 24, 2013); Louis Seymour Barnes, "The Founding of Ponca City," *Chronicles of Oklahoma* 35 (Summer 1957): 154-162.

⁴ Barnes; *Ponca City News*, "History of Ponca City," http://poncacity.com/centennial/index.htm (accessed June 2013).

⁵ "Ponca City History, 1894," <u>http://www.poncacity.com/history/pages/1800/1894.htm</u>, accessed September 20, 2018.

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at Third and Cleveland, described as "from plans." By 1903, an ice plant was integrated into the electric plant.⁶

The discovery of oil and natural gas in the early twentieth century shifted the town's economic fortunes. In 1905, natural gas was discovered in the area surrounding Kay County. In 1908, Ernest Whitworth (E. W.) Marland arrived in Ponca City from Pennsylvania, ready to explore the ground. His first wells were largely unsuccessful, but his ninth well struck oil on ground owned by the 101 Ranch (NRIS #75001560). The discovery of oil attracted more newcomers to Ponca City and sparked an economic shift from agriculture to oil. In 1915, with the oil gushing and the town booming, Marland established a refinery and research center in Ponca City. In 1921, he formally consolidated his various enterprises into Marland Oil Company and, by 1922, the company controlled one-tenth of the world's oil supply and employed one-third of Ponca City's residents.⁷

The growth of the oil industry in north-central Oklahoma, combined with a steadily increasing population, stimulated the demand for electricity in Ponca City. By 1920, the city population stood at just over 7,000. By 1930, however, the number of people living in Ponca City had more than doubled to over 16,000.⁸ In the face of such remarkable growth, this period also marked a steady expansion in Ponca City's electric grid. Moreover, such expansion reflected a growing willingness among city residents to help pay for the city's expansion of a power infrastructure. In 1907, the electrical plant remained at Third and Cleveland.⁹ In 1913, the city built a new, larger power plant at Union and Cleveland. This new plant was paid for with funds from a \$30,000 bond issue approved by city residents and contained two small steam boilers and engines.¹⁰ Continued population growth and increased demands of electricity for private and commercial use prompted Ponca City to expand the existing power plant in 1919 and again in 1925.¹¹

Community Planning and Development Significance

In 1927, Ponca City finally abandoned the plant at Union and Cleveland and built the Municipal Light and Power Plant approximately one mile north of downtown at 1420 North Union.¹² The

⁶ 1903 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map.

⁷ John Joseph Matthews, *Life and Death of an Oilman: The Career of E.W. Marland* (Norman: University of Oklahoman, 1951); Bobby D. Weaver, "Marland Oil Company," *The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, www.okhistory.org (accessed September 11, 2018); and idem., "Marland, Ernest Whitworth," *The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, www.okhistory.org (accessed September 13, 2018).

⁸ Ponca City Historic Preservation Advisory Panel, *Ponca City Historic Context*, n.d., 12, accessed September 17, 2018, <u>http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/contexts/Region2PoncaCity.pdf</u>.

⁹ 1907 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map.

¹⁰ 1913 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map; "History," City of Ponca City, http://www.poncacityok.gov/186/History, accessed April 2018.

¹¹ See the 1919 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map and 1925 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map.

¹²There is no Sanborn map for the period between 1925 (when the plant was located at Cleveland and Union) and 1931 (when the plant at Cleveland and Union has been abandoned). However, a municipal report entitled "Report of the Ponca City Municipal Water and Light Department" from June 1928 includes photographs of the new plant at 1420 North Union, comparing the output of the new plant to that of the old plant; 1925 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map; 1931 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map; "Report of the Ponca City Municipal Water and Light Department: A

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city acquired land for the new plant from Johnnie Riggs who had platted the Riggs Addition north of town. The plant covers all of Blocks 4 and 5 of the addition. The construction project was financed through a \$300,000 bond issue. The bond issue received overwhelming support from Ponca City voters.¹³

As part of this modernization and expansion project, the city sold its steam-power producing equipment from its original plant and purchased Nordberg diesel engines to power the new plant. The foundations for each engine was set in the basement in the center of the immense building, away from the exterior walls, so the plant could withstand the constant vibrations generated by the equipment. Large chambers were built within each engine's foundations and filters were situated outside of the plant in order to limit the noise associated with engine air intake. The switchboard was located on the south side of the building.¹⁴

Upon its completion, the city framed the Municipal Light and Power Plant as the centerpiece of a modern, bustling, and growing metropolis on the southern Great Plains. According to a 1928 report of the city's water and electric department, Ponca City was "A City That Has 'IT" and went on to emphasize the benefits of public power by noting that the power plant was paying for itself and more. "Ponca City has the enviable reputation of having no general municipal tax, because of the city electric plant, operated on a business basis, [makes] sufficient profits to run the city without tax," the department claimed. It went on to emphasize, "[E]lectric rates are no higher [in Ponca City] than elsewhere."¹⁵ Throughout the 1930s, the Municipal Light and Power Plant in Ponca City continued to receive acclaim for its efficiency. For example, in 1938, the Municipal Light and Power Plant was found to have the third lowest operating cost in proportion to its output out of 200 diesel engine power plants surveyed by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.¹⁶

As old and new demands for electricity increased and the physical territory of the power grid expanded, the Municipal Light and Power Plant continued to grow by undergoing a significant expansion project by the late 1940s. By this time, for example, the city power plant was expected to provide reliable electricity to rural areas located beyond the city limits. By 1947, to provide electrical service to 100 miles of power lines to surrounding areas in Kay County, the city had purchased a 70-ton, two-story tall Nordberg diesel engine at the cost of \$188,000. The engine was later converted to natural gas. The addition of this engine increased the plant's output

Comparative Statement -- June 30, 1928 – June 30, 1924," Ponca City Municipal Water and Light Department, Ponca City, OK.

¹³"Municipal Light and Power Plant Has Returned Dividend to City in 5 Years Operation," undated article from the *Ponca City News* in a vertical file from the Ponca City Public Library; "History," City of Ponca City, http://www.poncacityok.gov/186/History, accessed April 2018.

¹⁴ Ponca City A "Public Power Community, *Ponca City News*, October 2, 1997, 3-A, in a vertical file from the Ponca City Public Library.

¹⁵ "Report of the Ponca City Municipal Water and Light Department," 4.

¹⁶ "Ponca City Plant Earns High Rating," *Oklahoman*. February 20, 1938. Pg 58.

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capacity from 4700 kilowatts to 6390 kilowatts.¹⁷ A plaque on the exterior of the building indicates that the city made additional modifications to the plant in 1951, but the exact extent of those modifications is unknown.

According to a 1997 history celebrating Ponca City's association with public power in the *Ponca City News*, the Municipal Light and Power Plant ultimately contained ten Nordberg diesel engines. The Nordberg Manufacturing Company stopped producing these engines by the mid-1960s, making the collection that was in place at the Municipal Light and Power Plant "the largest group of Nordberg diesel engines in the world."¹⁸ This statistic represented a remarkable community advancement from the mere two steam engines that comprised Ponca City's power plant at the beginning of the twentieth century.

Construction of a new, separate, steam generating electrical plant adjacent to the Municipal Light and Power Plant commenced in 1964. Upon its completion in 1966, the new plant featured two General Electric steam generators with production capacities of 16,500 kilowatts and 40,000 kilowatts, respectively.¹⁹ For a time, the new plant was used in conjunction with the diesel engines of the Municipal Light and Power Plant, but the sheer electrical capacity of the General Electric steam generators made the old diesel engines obsolete. In 1976, the completion of Kaw Lake and Dam by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers made hydroelectric power a possibility for Ponca City and the surrounding area, further reducing the need for electricity produced by old diesel engines residing in an old building.²⁰

In 1984, the Municipal Light and Power Plant was leased to the Ponca City Utility Authority (PCUA), which was a member of the Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority (OMPA).²¹ Despite the lease and affiliation with OMPA, the plant is still owned by Ponca City's citizens and directors remain accountable to the local people they represent. Moreover, although the Municipal Light and Power Plant is no longer the focal point of Ponca City's electrical grid, portions of it remained in use by the end of the twentieth century. In July 1994, the *Ponca City News* reported a \$42 million renovation project at the plant.²² Some of its older equipment was removed, but part of the plant was "repowered" thanks to the construction of a new gas turbine. According to the OMPA's website, "The repowered unit is capable of producing a combined output of approximately 62 megawatts." OMPA installed another turbine at the plant in 2003 that

¹⁷"New City Power Plant Generator Runs Smoothly in It's First Test," *Ponca City News*, 5 January 1947; At its peak, the Ponca City Municipal Light and Power Plant contained ten Nordberg generating engines. Nordberg stopped producing such engines in the mid-1960s, making the collection that was in place in the Municipal Light and Power Plant the largest group of such engines in the world.

¹⁸ "Ponca City A 'Public Power' Community, *Ponca City News*, October 2, 1997, 3-A, in a vertical file from the Ponca City Public Library.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹"Ponca City Electric Utility Began Serving in 1914", *Ponca City News*, 1 October 1997. According to the article, the OMPA is a state agency "created to provide a means for municipal electric systems . . . to jointly plan, finance, acquire, and operate electrical power supply facilities necessary to meet the electrical energy requirements of their consumers."

²²"Repowering Project Means Major Changes," Ponca City News, July 1994.

Ponca City Power Plant Name of Property OMB No. 1024-0018

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is rated at more than 42-megawatts net output."²³ All other power generating equipment from the original Municipal Light and Power Plant has been removed.

In addition to its central role in the development of Ponca City, the Municipal Light and Power Plant is a rare property type in Oklahoma.²⁴ All too often, power plants are demolished once they become functionally obsolete. Although the original diesel engines have been removed from the building's interior, the Municipal Light and Power Plant retains a high degree of historic integrity, it remains in its original location, and much of the original craftsmanship on the building's exterior remains. What has changed is the setting. Once at the edge of the community when it was constructed in 1927, the Municipal Light and Power Plant is now near the center. Such change is emblematic of broader transformations in the history of Ponca City; transformations driven in part by the constant, steady rumblings of diesel engines in the heart of the Municipal Light and Power Plant.

²³"Power Supply," Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority, http://ompa.com/about/power-supply/, accessed April 2018.

²⁴ A review of the Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory (OLI) resulted in only six documented power plants. Only one, located in Sand Springs, has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRIS #98001148).

OMB No. 1024-0018

Kay County, Oklahoma County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Barnes, Alvin. "The Founding of Ponca City, "Chronicles of Oklahoma 35 (Summer 1957): 154-162.

City of Ponca City. "History," http://www.poncacityok.gov/186/History, accessed April 2018.

Denson, Paula Carmack. "Ponca City," Oklahoma Encyclopedia of History and Culture" <u>http://digital.library.okstate.edu/encyclopedia</u>, (accessed June 24, 2013).

Denson, Paula Carmack. "Ponca City," *Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture,* www.okhistory.org, (accessed April 2018).

"Electric Utility Competition Preparation Made by City," Ponca City News, 5 January 1997.

- Franks, Kenny A. "Petroleum Industry," *Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture,* www.okhistory.org, accessed April 2018.
- Mathews, John Joseph. *Life and Death of an Oilman: The Career of E.W. Marland*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1951.
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- "Ponca City A 'Public Power' Community." Ponca City News. October 2, 1997. 3-A.
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- Ponca City Municipal Water and Light Department "Report of the Ponca City Municipal Water and Light Department: A Comparative Statement -- June 30, 1928 – June 30, 1924," Ponca City, OK.
- "Ponca City History, 1894." <u>http://www.poncacity.com/history/pages/1800/1894.htm</u>. Accessed September 20, 2018.

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Ponca City Power Plant Name of Property Kay County, Oklahoma County and State

Ponca City Historic Preservation Advisory Panel. *Ponca City Historic Context*. n.d. <u>http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/contexts/Region2PoncaCity.pdf</u>. Accessed September 17, 2018.

"Ponca City Plant Earns High Rating," Oklahoman. February 20, 1938. Pg 58.

"Repowering Project Means Major Changes," Ponca City News, July 1994.

- Turner, Alvin. "Cherokee Outlet Opening," *Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture,* <u>http://digital.library.okstate.edu/encyclopedia</u> (accessed June 24, 2013).
- Weaver, Bobby D. "Marland Oil Company," *Oklahoma Encyclopedia of History and Culture*, http://digital.library.okstate.edu/encyclopedia (accessed June 2013).

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- _____ previously listed in the National Register
- _____previously determined eligible by the National Register
- _____designated a National Historic Landmark
- _____ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
- ____recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #_____
- _____ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #_____

Primary location of additional data:

- X____ State Historic Preservation Office
- ____ Other State agency
- _____ Federal agency
- _____ Local government
- _____ University
- ____ Other

Name of repository:

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): ______

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property ______11.19 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Ponca City Power Plant Name of Property OMB No. 1024-0018

Kay County, Oklahoma County and State

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84:

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)	
1. Latitude:	Longitude:
36.719878	-97.085621

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.) The Ponca City Power Plant is positioned on the south side of the Riggs Addition. The Kay County Assessor describes the property thus: P C-RIGGS ADD TRACT ALL BLK 4 & 5, OUTLOT A & VACATED ALLEY BETWEEN W LINE OF UNION ST & W LINE OF OUTLOT A & ALL VACATED DETROIT AVE ADJ L 23-42 BLK 4

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

For the purposes of the National Register listing and to acknowledge the fact that the historic power plant remains within the area still operating as the Ponca City Power Plant, the boundaries of the Ponca City Power Plant are limited to the area directly related to the power plant and the property of the currently operating power plant are excluded. The Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps record the lots used by the historic power plant. The property is distinct from the functioning power plant for the Ponca City area, which is of a much later construction date.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: <u>Ms. Catherine Montgomery AIA, President; Ms. Kelli Gaston, Architectural</u>
Historian; Ms. Kayla Molina, Environmental Historian
organization: Preservation and Design Studio, PLLC
street & number: 616 NW 21 st Street,
city or town: Oklahoma City state: Oklahoma zip code: 73103
e-mailcm@PandDStudio.com
telephone: <u>405-501-6814</u>
date:August 30, 2018

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

Ponca City Power Plant Name of Property OMB No. 1024-0018

Kay County, Oklahoma County and State

Photographs

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

Photo Log

Name of Property:	Ponca City Municipal Light and Power Plant
City or Vicinity:	Ponca City
County:	Kay County State: Oklahoma
Photographer:	Preservation and Design Studio, S. Werneke
Date Photographed:	January 2018

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

Number	Subject	Direction
0001	North side elevation and east-facing façade (left)	Southwest
0002	East-facing façade	West
0003	South side elevation and east-facing façade (right)	Northwest
0004	South side elevation	North
0005	West (back) elevation and south side elevation	Northeast
0006	North side elevation	South
0007	Close-up of entrance on east-facing façade	West

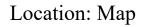
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain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

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

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Ponca City Power Plant Name of Property Kay County, Oklahoma County and State n/a Name of multiple listing (if applicable)





NPS Form 10-900-a 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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The Big Picture: Ponca City Aerial Credit: Google Earth 2018

Current aerial imagery indicates that the Ponca City Power Plant (Municipal Light and Power Company) is located along North Union Street between West Emporia Avenue and West Liberty Avenue with the closest intersection at North Union Street and West Comanche Avenue.

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Ponca City Power Plant Name of Property Kay County, Oklahoma County and State n/a Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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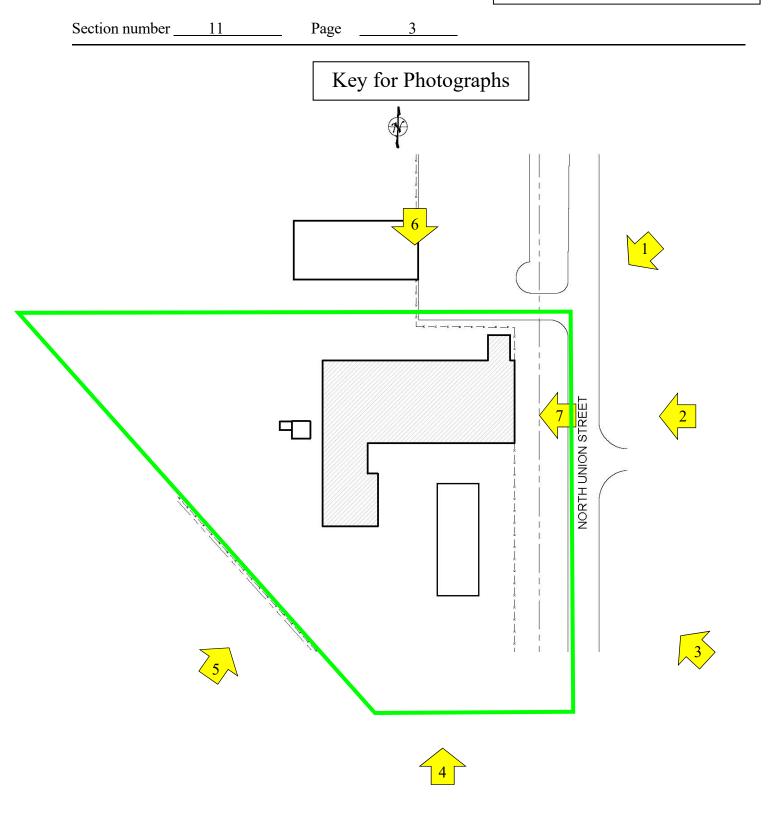


Close-Up: Ponca City Aerial Credit: Google Earth 2018

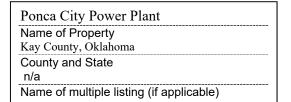
The current configuration of the building has a large central block with an east-facing façade. South of the central block is a two-story addition connected by a smaller one-story addition. A fence surrounds the property on its south and west sides.

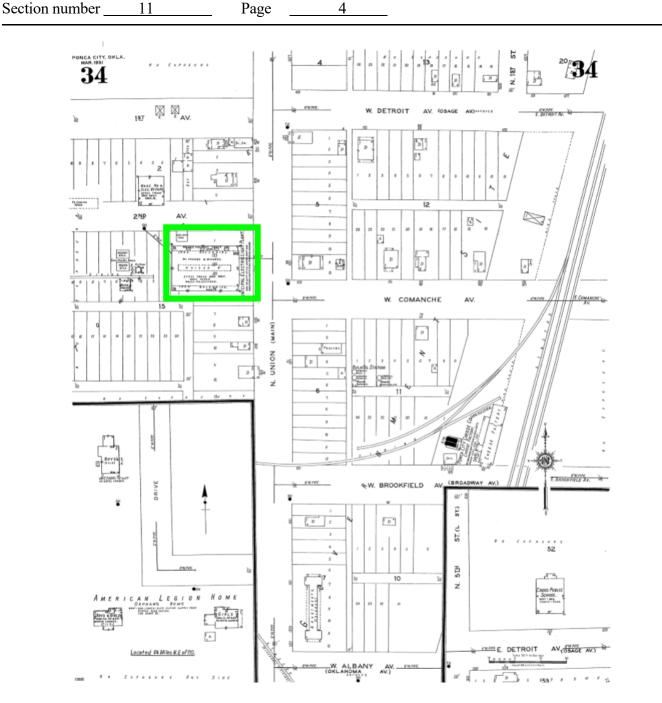
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Ponca City Power Plant Name of Property Kay County, Oklahoma County and State n/a Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet





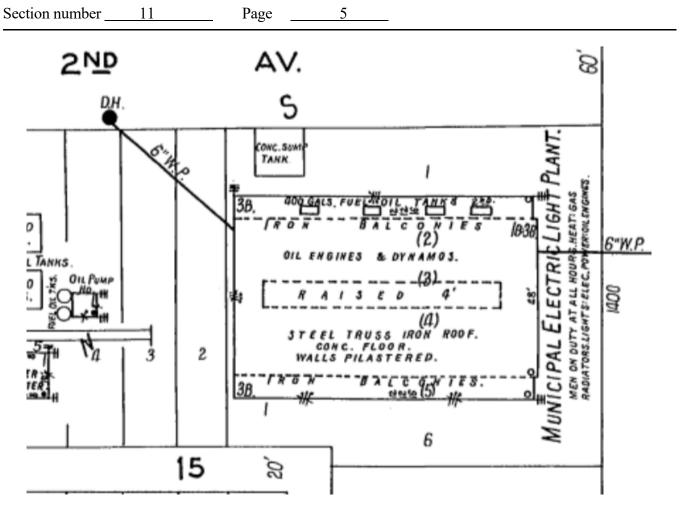
The Big Picture: 1931 (Sheet #34)

Credit: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map Co.

This is the first available Sanborn Map for the Ponca City Power Plant. It shows that the area was slow to develop north of downtown. There is sporadic residential development surrounding the plant.

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Ponca City Power Plant Name of Property Kay County, Oklahoma County and State n/a Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

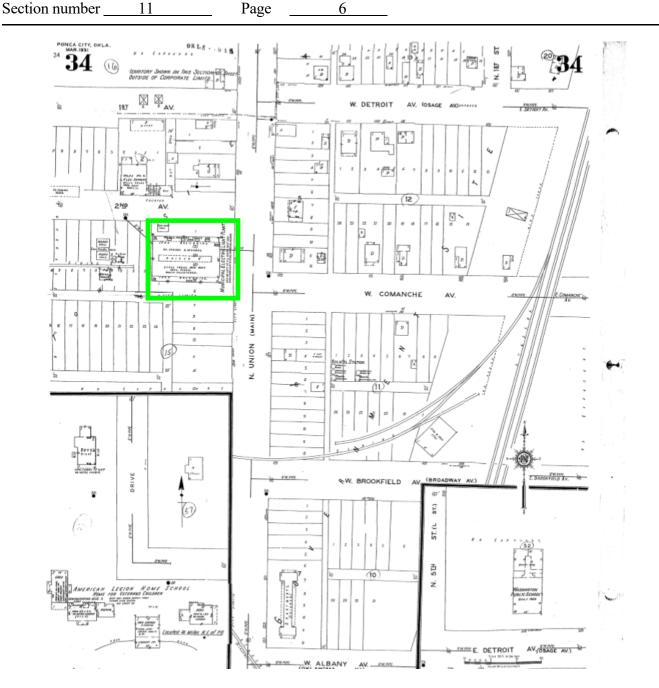


Close Up: 1931 (Sheet #34) All Available Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps

A closer view of the 1931 Sanborn map reveals that the building is positioned in block 15 on lots 1 through 6. It was considered three stories tall with a basement and indicated to be 48 feet tall. The building is constructed of brick with a non-combustible roof. The roof is steel trusses and iron. There is a concrete floor and walls with pilasters. The balconies are made of iron. There is a four-foot-tall platform in the middle of the plant that extends from east to west. The plant used oil engines and dynamos (a machine that converts mechanical energy to electrical energy). Notes below the name of the building, "Municipal Electric Light Plant," indicate that there were "men on duty at all hours." The plant itself used gas heat and radiators. There were electric lights. Power was provided by oil engines. The second-floor balcony on the north side has four 400-gallon fuel oil tanks.

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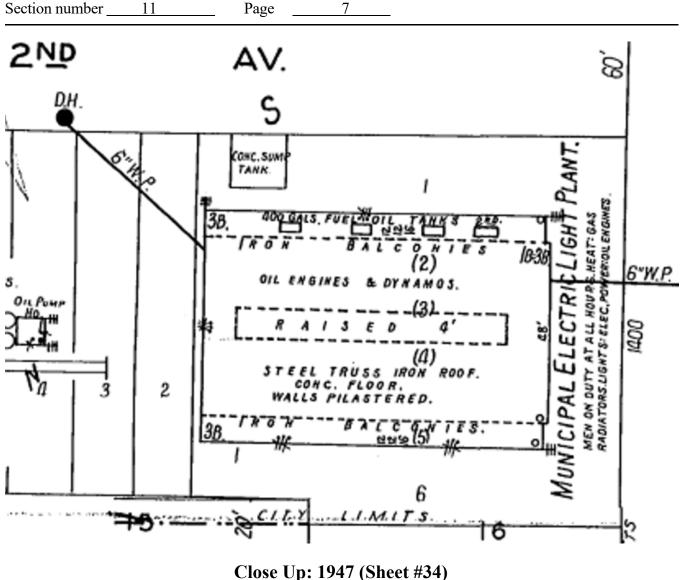


The Big Picture: 1947 (Sheet #34) Credit: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map Co.

The Power Plant appears unchanged. There is more development to the north of the plant.

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Ponca City Power Plant Name of Property Kay County, Oklahoma County and State n/a Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



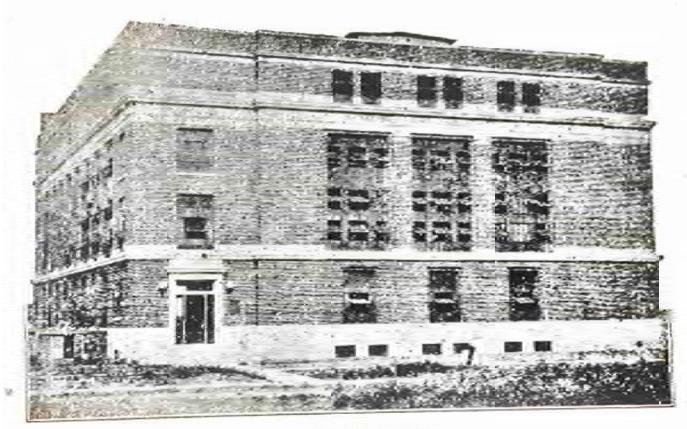


This 1947 Sanborn Map shows that the Power Plant remained unchanged from 1931. The current power plant complex includes an addition to the west (back) of the building and then a second addition extending from the first toward the south.

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NEW POWER PLANT Ponca City Water and Light Department

Historic Image #1: 1928

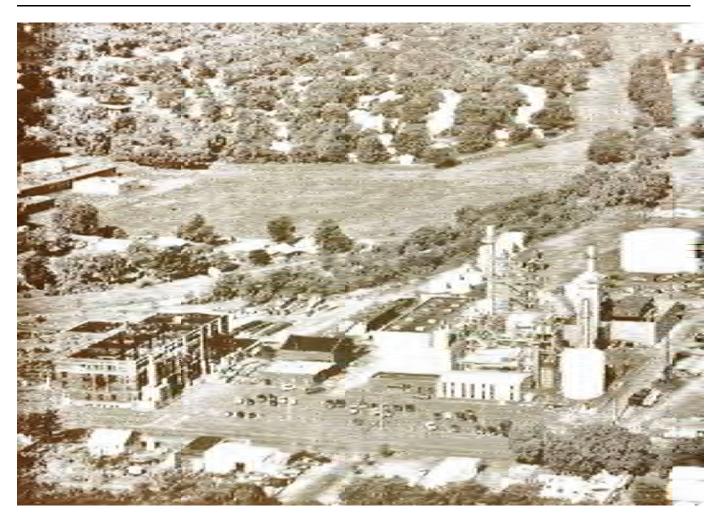
Credit: Ponca City Municipal Water and Light Report

Published in 1928 in the utility's annual report, this image documents the building's appearance shortly after construction. When compared to recent images, it is clear that the building retains a high degree of historic integrity. This image predates the additions to the back of the building.

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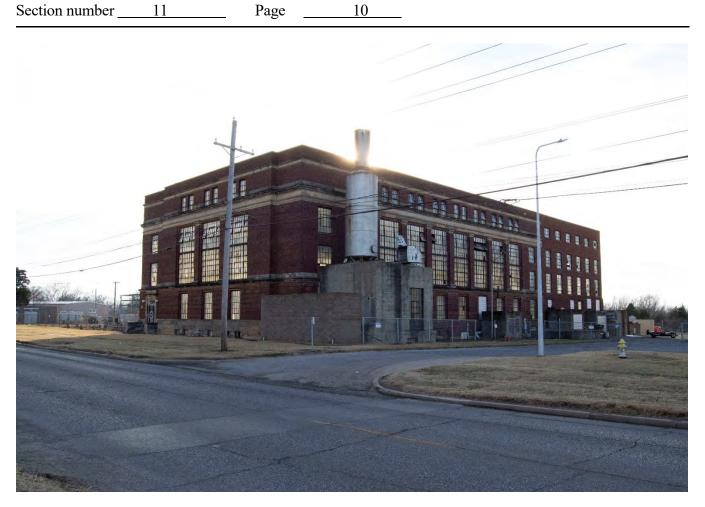


Historic Image #2: 1997 Credit: Ponca City News

By 1997 a significantly larger power facility had been built to the north (1964) and was providing more electricity to the larger population. However, the original building has remained largely untouched since the additions of 1947-1951.

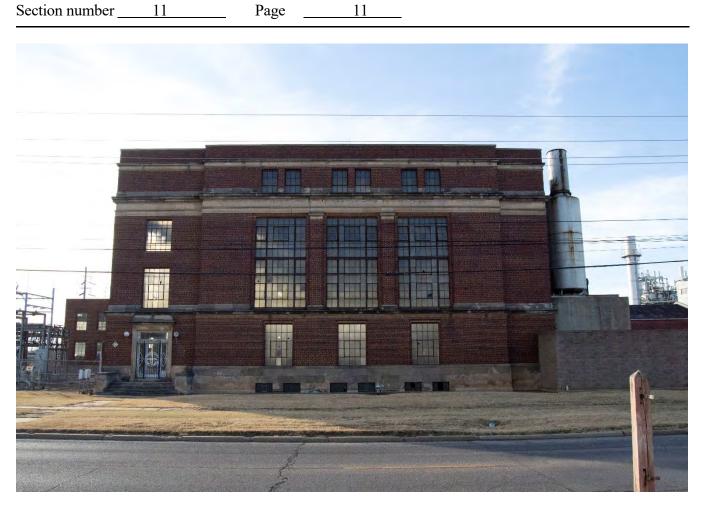
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

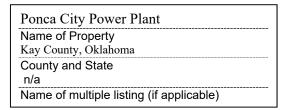
Ponca City Power Plant Name of Property Kay County, Oklahoma County and State n/a Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



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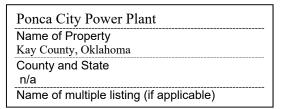




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OK_KayCounty_PoncaCityPowerPlant_0005

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OK_KayCounty_PoncaCityPowerPlant_0006

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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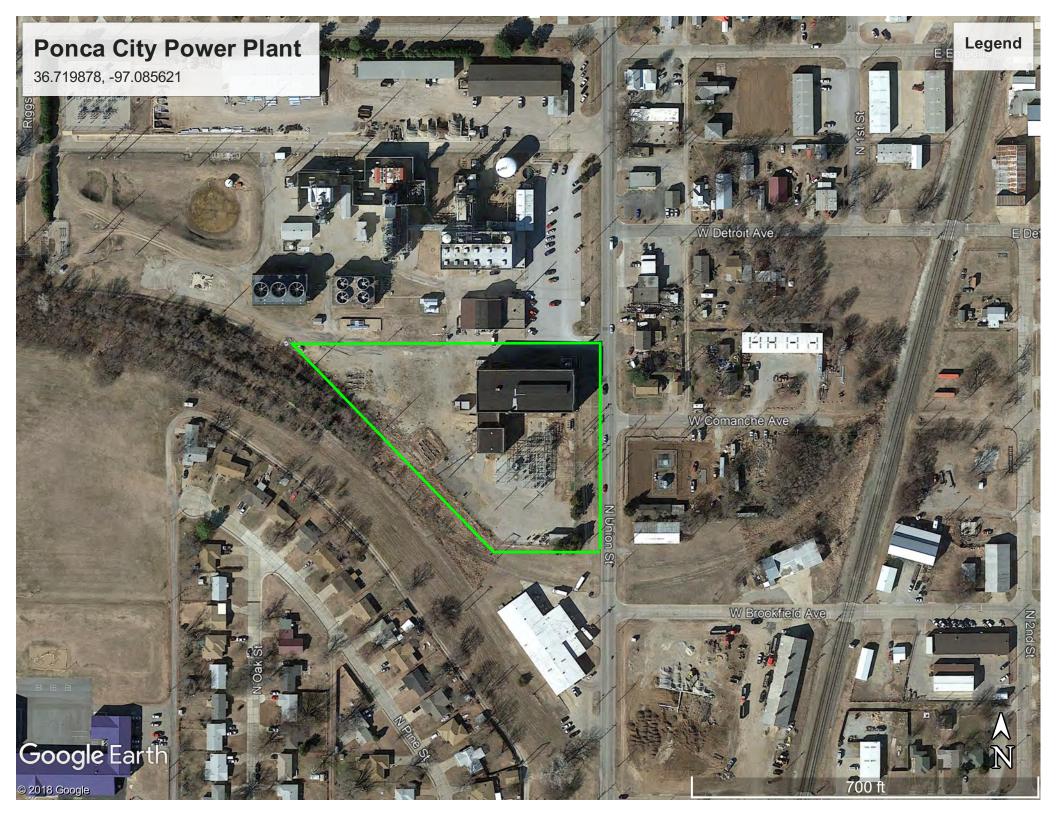
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OK_KayCounty_PoncaCityPowerPlant_0007

Ponca City Power Plant
Name of Property
Kay County, Oklahoma
County and State
n/a
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

















UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:	Nomination				
Property Name:	Ponca City Power Plant				
Multiple Name:		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
State & County:	OKLAHOMA, Kay	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		ja na kananan kanan Kananan kanan kanan kanan kanan	
Date Rece 5/30/201		List: Date of 16th Day: I 7/5/2019	Date of 45th Day: Date of Week 7/15/2019	dy List:	
Reference number:	SG100004174				
Nominator:	SHPO				
Reason For Review:		aan al ah			
Appeal	1	PDIL	Text/Data Issue		
SHPO	Request	Landscape	X Photo		
Waiver	• • •	National	X Map/Boundary		
Resub	mission	Mobile Resource	Period		
Other		TCP	Less than 50 years		
		CLG			
X Accept	Return	Reject7/15.	2019 Date		
Abstract/Summary Comments: The Ponca City Power Plant is locally significant under National Register Criterion A in the area of Community Planning and Development. Completed in 1927 from plans by architect William Brown, the substantial three-story, brick and limestone building is a significant representation of Ponca City's 1920s era infrastructure expansion program designed to provide reliable electrical service throughout the city. Serving the rapidly expanding industrial, commercial and residential needs of the city, the station was carefully designed in the Classical Revival style to project the city's modern image. With the centralization of power generation this site became essential to the city's electrical service grid and greatly supported community expansion and development during the early oil boom years.					
Recommendation/ Criteria	Accept NR Criterion A				
Reviewer Paul Lu	usignan	Discipline	Historian		
Telephone (202)3	54-2229	Date	07/15/2019		
DOCUMENTATION	: see attached commer	nts : No see attached SL	R : Yes		

EXHIBIT "A"

PROPERTY OWNER FORM

Name of Property: Ponca City Power Plant

Location of Property (Street/City/County): Ponca City, Kay County

I, Catherine Montgomery, AIA , hereby certify that the following constitutes the complete list of owners of record for the property named above. This information was obtained from the Kay County Assessor's Office

Name: City of Ponca City

Address: 516 East Grand Avenue

City: Ponca City

State: OK

Zip Code: 74604

(Signature of Nomination Preparer)

Typed Name and Title: Catherine Montgomery, AIA President

Date: May 9, 2018

Note: If nomination affects multiple property owners, please contact the SHPO's Architectural Historian at 405/522-4478 for details on how to document all property owners.

EXHIBIT "B"

ELECTED OFFICIALS FORM

Name of Property:

Location of Property (Street/City/County):

1. For the above referenced property, provide both:

Mayor's Name (if within a city or town):

Address:

City/State/Zip Code:

AND

Name of Chairman, Board of County Commissioners:

Address:

City/State/Zip Code:

2. The above named property is located in Oklahoma Senate District(s):

The State Senator(s)' name(s) and address(es) is (are):

3. The above named property is located within Oklahoma State House of Representatives District(s):

The State Representative(s)' name(s) and address(es) is (are):

Note: The above information is used for satisfying federal requirements for notification that properties are being considered for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places and for courtesy notices of listing in the National Register.



Oklahoma Historical Society

State Historic Preservation Office

Founded May 27, 1893

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

May 28, 2019

Joy Beasley Keeper and Chief National Register and National Historic Landmark Programs National Park Service 1849 C Street NW, Mail Stop 7228 Washington D.C. 20240

Dear Ms. Beasley:

We are pleased to transmit thirteen National Register of Historic Places nominations for Oklahoma properties. The nominations are for the following properties:

Enid Downtown Historic District (Update and Boundary Increase), Enid, Garfield County Charlotte Marland House, 919 East Grand Avenue, Ponca City, Kay County First Presbyterian Church, 1505 East Grand Avenue, Ponca City, Kay County Jack and Helen Cleary House, 13 Hillcrest Drive, Ponca City, Kay County Marland Estate, Inc. Gatehouse, 747 North 14th Street, Ponca City, Kay County Ponca City Milling Company Elevator, 114 West Central Avenue, Ponca City, Kay County Ponca City Municipal Airport Hanger, 2231 Waverly Street, Ponca City, Kay County Ponca City Power Plant, 1420 North Union Street, Ponca City, Kay County Temple Emanuel, 1201 East Highland Avenue, Ponca City, Kay County First Church of Christ, Scientist, 302 North 7th Street, Muskogee, Muskogee County Hotel Muskogee, 26 West Broadway Street, Muskogee, Muskogee County Capitol Hill Commercial Historic District, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County Stonegate Elementary School, 2525 Northwest 112th Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County

All members of the Historic Preservation Review Committee (state review board) were present for the public meeting at which each of these nominations was considered and the recommendation to the State Historic Preservation Officer was formulated. Therefore, the member possessing the requisite professional qualifications for evaluation of each nominated property participated in the recommendation's formulation.

We look forward to the results of your review. If there any further questions regarding the nominations, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Lynda Ozan Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

*Enclosures