

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received **MAY 24 1984**

date entered **JUN 22 1984**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic The Rock Front

and/or common Vernon Post Office

2. Location

street & number Broadway N/A not for publication

city, town Vernon N/A vicinity of

state Oklahoma code 040 county McIntosh code 091

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Tennie Walker Dozier

street & number P.O. Box 895

city, town Vernon N/A vicinity of state Oklahoma 74877

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of County Clerk

street & number McIntosh County Courthouse

city, town Eufaula state Oklahoma 74432

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1983 federal state county local

depository for survey records Oklahoma Historic Preservation Office

city, town Oklahoma City state Oklahoma 73105

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Vernon Post Office is a single story, detached, commercial building in Vernon, Oklahoma. Constructed of random ashlar, the rectangular building has a gabled roof with horizontal wooden boards on the west and east gables and attenuated rafters on the north and south.

The front or west side of the building has a central wooden framed entrance door. The door has wooden panels and a single window light. Either side of the door is a fixed wooden framed window with three lights. Both the door and windows have plain stone block lintels.

The north and south sides of the building have no windows or doors. The east or rear side of the building has two small 1/1 fixed windows with iron window grilles. The east gable boards continue down in the center to just above the wooden door frame. The door has wooden panels, but is no longer in use.

Although the wood gable ends, door frames, and door need paint, the basic structure retains its integrity. The U.S. Post Office flagpole stands approximately 6' from southwest corner of the building. A large deciduous tree provides shade for the northeast corner. There is a gravel parking lot located in front of building for post office patrons.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) (Ethnic)
<input type="checkbox"/> invention				

Specific dates 1920-1934 **Builder/Architect** Bill Young and C.F. Dozier

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Rock Front is historically significant because it is the only remaining commercial building in the all-black town of Vernon, Oklahoma.

The all-black town of Vernon was founded in 1895 in Indian Territory as a result of the all-black town movement promoted by Edwin P. McCabe, former attorney general of Kansas and black separatist leader. Located in McIntosh County about ten miles southeast of Dustin, an all-white town, Vernon contained several black businesses shortly after statehood in 1907. Vernon served as a rural market center for the surrounding agricultural community and its population became one of the largest of the twenty-nine all-black towns founded between 1850 and 1907. The 1950 United States Census listed Vernon with 600 inhabitants.

Built in 1920, The Rock Front is the only original commercial structure still intact in Vernon. It has served the all-black community for the past 63 years with a variety of commercial enterprises including its original use as a grocery and dry goods store, later as a pool hall and tavern, and its present use as the United States Post Office for Vernon.

By 1960 Vernon's population had decreased to 150 and the 1970 United States Census records indicate that Vernon had ceased to exist. Contrary to government records, Vernon remains on the Oklahoma Highway map and retains its post office.

The Rock Front has been a significant focal point for Vernon and stands as an historic monument to the once-thriving business district in this historic all-black town founded almost 90 years ago.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Personal Interview: Tennie Walker Dozier, June, 1983
Tolson, Arthur L., The Black Oklahomans, A History: 1541-1972. New Orleans: Edwards Printing Co., 1972.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property less than one acre

1:24,000

Quadrangle name Hanna, Oklahoma

Quadrangle scale 7.5 minutes

UTM References

A

1	5	2	3	3	6	3	0	3	9	0	0	5	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 14, Block 14, Town of Vernon, Oklahoma

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Bryan C. Brown Supervised by Dr. George O. Carney

organization Department of Geography date February, 1984

street & number Oklahoma State University telephone 405-624-6250

city or town Stillwater state Oklahoma 74078

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature C E Metcalf date 5-21-84

title _____ date _____

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Beth Grovone
Keeper of the National Register

date 6/22/84

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date _____