

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

OCT 11 1989

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Gillespie Building
other names/site number American State Bank Building
Canadian Rivers Historical Museum

2. Location

street & number 102 East Main Street N/A not for publication
city, town Geary N/A vicinity
state Oklahoma code OK county Blaine code 011 zip code 73040

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Darl L. Galay October 2, 1989
Signature of certifying official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. 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:)

Alvin Byers 11/13/89
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Entered in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
COMMERCE, TRADE/finance

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)Romanesque

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls BRICK

roof SYNTHETIC/Fiberglass

other STONE--sills, molding

STEEL--overhead door

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Summary

The Gillespie Building (also known as the American State Bank Building) is located on the southeast corner of the intersection of Main and Broadway. It is a two-story brick building constructed in 1902-1903. This part of downtown Geary has been commonly called "the bank corner" because three of the four buildings constructed here in the 1898-1903 period housed banks. The other two bank buildings were of brick: the Dewaide Block, constructed in two stories in 1902, has been demolished; the First National Bank Building, constructed of wood frame in 1898, was replaced with a two-story brick in 1929 and still stands. The fourth corner held the Hankla Building, a two-story brick store, which has been demolished. The Gillespie Building, with its almost completely intact exterior, is thus the only extant example of the earliest commercial-era financial buildings in Geary, Oklahoma. In appearance and feeling, the building is typical of early commercial architecture in Oklahoma towns of this era. It is an elongated rectangle of masonry construction with flat parapeted roof and large first-floor windows designed to admit maximum light. Decorative brickwork, decorative ashlar stonework, a short tower (removed), and rounded window arches reflect Romanesque Revival influences (1840-1900). Greek/Classical Revival ornamentation, often used in early commercial architecture, is represented in the Gillespie Building by the pedimented and pilastered entry and by the elaborate door surround. Alteration of a window and doorway in the west facade has not resulted in a significant loss of integrity. The building still reflects significant commercial associations.

Description

The Gillespie Building consists of a two-story masonry building over a partial basement. It is L-shaped in plan and horizontal in volume. The roof is flat and parapeted. The building is oriented in a north-south direction, with its long axis (90') paralleling Broadway, and its short axis (50') paralleling Main in an east-west direction. The west elevation thus measures 90' north to south; the north elevation measures 25' east to west; and the south elevation measures 50' east to west, because the east wing projects 25' into the adjoining lot.

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The northwest corner (at Main and Broadway) is the building's focal point. The corner, which is beveled to facilitate access from both east and south, contains the main entrance. The entryway consists in a wooden door with a large single light; side lights flank the door frame. The surround consists in brick pilasters flanking the entry and supporting a metal triangular pediment with entablature. Rising in the wall above the pediment is a quarter-round window bay containing a rounded arch double-hung window. The bay terminates at the stone coping marking the top of the cornice. In the building's original state, a short turret with conical roof capped the corner; this feature was removed after 1918, for safety reasons.

All windows retain the original frames and sashes. In the north elevation, a single semi-circular arched window punctuates the facade. This large window features two large single lights, topped with paired lunettes, the outermost of which contains wood-on-wood ornamentation rather than glass. This type of fenestration is repeated in two large elliptical arched windows in the west facade. On the west face, a central bay features three rounded-arch double-hung windows. An entryway separates the central bay from the third bay. The third bay consists in a recessed original doorway and display window which have been removed and widened to accommodate an overhead door, for a vehicular entry into the east-west wing. The building's second-floor windows are all of the double-hung variety and sit under round arches of rough brick set in rowlock. All second-floor windows are protected by removable metal sheathing.

The east elevation (70') and extension (20') have been obscured on the first floor by a one-story structure built at a later date on the adjoining lot. On the north side of this adjoining building, a narrow doorway gives access to an iron stairway leading up to the Gillespie Building's second-floor offices. This stairway, added in 1918, sits on the adjoining lot and is not included in the 25' measurement of the north facade. Visible in the east wall on the second floor of the extension are three windows. On the first floor of the extension, the east facade was once opened for a vehicle entrance, but the doorway has since been sealed with cement blocks and bricks. The south elevation is completely obscured by a building built c. 1915 on the back portion of Lot 16.

Decorative brickwork and stonework include round, semicircular, and elliptical arches of three rowlock courses of rusticated brick above all windows and above the west entrance; rusticated brick pilasters with rusticated ashlar capitals and pediments, ashlar quoins, and brick quoins on the podium. On the north and west elevations there is a dentiled cornice of 5 courses of corbeled brick, topped by 3 courses in common bond, capped with an ashlar coping. The coping extends around the entire cornice line. The second-story windows have ashlar sills; and an ashlar band forms the sills of first floor windows and also forms the plinth below the pilasters. Three bands of brick project below the

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ashlar band. A metal cartouche on the northwest corner beneath the cornice notes "Ed Gillespie 1903."

A third entry once existed on Broadway, where a cement stairwell led downward into the building's basement. The door opening has been cemented. The roof of the building, originally composition, was replaced in 1918 and again in 1983, when it was covered with fiberglass "mop."

The first floor interior remains essentially as it was in 1903. In the bank lobby portion (60' north to south), in 1918 the bank's new owners replaced the wooden floor and foundation with concrete, and the portion of the floor in the public area was covered with ceramic hex tile. The concrete foundation is visible on the exterior at the foot of the north facade. The vault, the pressed metal ceiling, and the marble window sills, wainscoting, and baseboards are still in place. Steam heat registers installed in 1918 have since been removed. The window moldings and elaborate crown molding are original. A 6' frame wall formerly separated the bank lobby from the bank offices, but the wall was removed in 1935. Entry to this area is still through a door in the west facade. Of the two first-floor offices, one remains an office and one became a bathroom in 1918. A staircase leads from the foyer to a small mezzanine which was added in 1918. Originally a staircase led to the second-floor offices from this foyer, but it has been removed. From the foyer, French doors lead into the east-west extension (25' x 20'), which was originally a saloon. The original wooden flooring remains, as does the original pressed metal ceiling and crown molding. This area is presently used for museum storage; the bank lobby serves as the museum exhibition area.

Access to the second story offices is now restricted to the exterior stairway on the east side of the building. The north-south wing (above the bank lobby) was originally one large meeting room. In 1918 this area was divided into two offices, two bathrooms, and a small meeting room. From the entry, a hallway leads past the offices and bathrooms to the east-west extension, which has a central waiting room area flanked by two pairs of office rooms. The floor is wood planking throughout. All bathroom fixtures and plumbing have been removed, and the drywall has been removed from the walls in two of the 1918 offices.

The exterior alterations of the Gillespie Building have not detracted from the structure's ability to convey the significance and feeling of its past identity and environment. The tower and conical roof which graced the northwest corner were removed at an unknown date; the roof has been replaced twice. The entry on the west was widened in 1935 to admit vehicles. This entrance is now covered with a single-width overhead door. In 1918, an entrance was opened on the second floor of the east elevation and provided with an iron stairway leading up from the street. The stairway was boxed in at an unknown date. The Gillespie Building has been fairly well maintained on the exterior, and it still retains its integrity of feeling, design, setting, and association.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE

Period of Significance

1903-1931

Significant Dates

1903
1918
1931

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Jones & Coffman, builders

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Summary

The Gillespie Building is significant within the historic context of Geary, Oklahoma, because it reflects the town's early development and commercial growth during the 1903-1931 period. During these years the building was continuously occupied by banking concerns. In the circumstances of its construction and subsequent function, it typifies Geary's business buildings of the era. It reflects the historical associations of "the bank corner," which was the financial heart of Geary in its early years.

Historic Context

In 1890 the future site of Geary, Oklahoma Territory, lay within a huge expanse of land recently ceded to the United States by the Cheyenne and Apapaho tribes. Oklahoma Territory was created by Congress in 1890, and on April 19, 1892, settlers were admitted by "land run" into the "C and A" region, of which Blaine County (County "C") was a part.¹ The site of Geary was originally homesteaded by S. E. and Will D. Huff, who later sold part of their land to the Choctaw Railway Company's townsite corporation. This corporation surveyed and laid out a town, selling lots to several hundred persons. The town of Geary was established on May 3, 1898. The Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific Railroad built its Choctaw line through the county in 1898. On July 4, 1898, when the first train arrived in Geary, the town boasted an estimated population of 700.² By 1907, the year of Oklahoma statehood, the town had grown to 1,438, more than doubling³ in size; Blaine County, similarly, had grown by sixty-six percent.³

Blaine County's primary economic base in the 1903-1931 period was agriculture-related. By 1910, over seventy-seven percent of the county's land was in farms.⁴ In the fertile region of the North and South Canadian Rivers, farmers raised bumper crops of corn and cotton; crops of wheat, broom corn, alfalfa, and vegetables also contributed to the region's

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Geary Bulletin, 25 September 1902, 13 November 1902, 29 January 1903, 11 May 1911.
Geary Journal, 20 July 1905, 4 April 1918.
Geary Star, 16 October 1931, 14 February 1935.
Ogan, Edith. Interview by Dianna Everett, 26 April 1989. Notes in State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City.
Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Geary, Oklahoma, 1902, 1904, 1909, 1915, 1930. Microfilm. Roll 7. Western History Collection, University of Oklahoma, Norman.
Their Story: A Pioneer Days Album of the Blaine County Area. Oklahoma City, OK: Heritage Book Committee, 1977.

N/A See continuation sheet

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

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property Less than one (1) acre

UTM References

A

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5	6	1	8	6	0
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3	9	4	3	0	1	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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Zone Easting Northing

D

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N/A See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The North 90 feet less 6 inches off the East side of the North 70 feet of Lot Sixteen (16), and the South 20 feet of the North 90 feet of Lot Fifteen (15), and less 6 inches off the North and East sides of said South 20 feet of Lot Fifteen (15) in Block Thirty-three (33) in the City of Geary, Blaine County, Oklahoma.

N/A See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

These are the property's boundary lines as legally recorded in the County Clerk's office, Blaine County Court House, Watonga, Oklahoma.

N/A See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dianna Everett, Researcher
organization S.H.P.O., Oklahoma Historical Society date May 4, 1989
street & number 2100 North Lincoln telephone (405) 521-2491
city or town Oklahoma City state OK zip code 73105

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productivity.⁵ Geary was the regional trade center and primary shipping point for livestock and commodities produced in southern Blaine County. Within a year of its founding, the town had become the hub of commercial activity in the region's agriculture-oriented economy.

Agri-business was the mainstay of the town's economy in the early commercial period, and agriculture-related industries proliferated. In the first three decades of the 1900s Geary was home to four grain elevator-flour milling operations, two cotton gins, the Geary Cigar Factory, the Geary Bottling Works, the Geary Creamery, and the Geary Pressed Brick Company. Other agricultural support services found in town included a feed-and-seed store, two implement dealers, three lumber yards, four blacksmiths, two construction contractors, and several livery stables, drayage companies, and automobile dealers.⁶

Commercial Context

The Gillespie Building is significant within the commercial context of Geary, Oklahoma, because of the role played in local business affairs by the banks which occupied the building almost continuously from its completion in January of 1903 through 1931. In 1902, Ed Gillespie, saloon owner, real estate dealer, and city councilman, answered a local call for more brick business buildings. In October, November, and December of that year, he built a new building on a corner lot formerly occupied by a wood frame building which had housed his saloon. The frame building was demolished; construction of the "brick" began shortly thereafter; and in January of 1903 the new building was completed.⁷ The Gillespie Building joined thirteen other "bricks" constructed in the 1898-1903 period along Main and Broadway streets in the center of downtown Geary.⁸

The Gillespie Building reflects the historical associations of early banking in Geary. After the founding of the town, a number of financial institutions had arisen to serve the needs of local commerce. The oldest bank, the First National, had been established in 1898; it had been joined by the Farmers' State Bank in 1901; and in February of 1903 the new Citizens' State Bank opened on the first floor of the north-south wing of the new Gillespie Building.⁹ The Citizens' Bank was purchased by the Bank of Commerce in 1905; the operations of the two were consolidated in the Gillespie Building. At the end of the Territorial period (1907), Geary had two banks: the First National, in its own building on the northwest corner of Main and Broadway, and the Bank of Commerce, on the southeast corner of the same intersection. In 1911 the Bank of Commerce was absorbed by a new corporation, the American State Bank, which had offices elsewhere. The bank portion of the Gillespie Building sat vacant for several years until the American State Bank purchased and occupied it in 1918; this bank closed its doors in 1931 and vacated the building.¹⁰ The intersection of Main and Broadway, commonly called "the

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bank corner," was the financial heart of the town.

The financial services provided by these institutions fueled the town's early commercial growth, and the number of banks, three in 1903 and two from 1905 through 1931, reflected the healthy economy of a newly-opened region and town. The town's banks provided deposit and loan services to a growing population. Businesses abounded downtown; by 1910, the two blocks of Main that intersected with the two blocks of Broadway formed a large retail center. Along these two streets were six dry goods stores, six hardware, grocery, and furniture stores, several saloons and pool halls, a meat market, a bakery, a barber shop, several restaurants, a tailor shop, and a millinery, most of which were housed in frame buildings. Doctor, dentist, real estate, and law offices were generally housed on the second floors of the Gillespie, First National, Dewaide, and Hankla buildings at the Main-Broadway junction.¹¹ The Gillespie Building specifically housed four doctors, one dentist, two lawyers, a barber shop, a saloon, a lunch room, and the Masonic Lodge between 1903 and 1931.¹² The Gillespie's north-south wing, or bank lobby, housed various businesses between 1931 and 1935, when Bill Moore Motor Company purchased and remodeled the building. Subsequent occupants included a lunch counter and the Davidson-England Motor Company.¹³ The building was purchased by the Canadian Rivers Historical Society in 1984 and now serves as the Canadian Rivers Historical Museum.¹⁴

The construction of brick commercial structures along the Main-Broadway axis within the first decade of the town's existence illustrates that the community's commercial core grew apace with the population. As noted by editors of the town's two newspapers, new "bricks" indicated permanency and economic stability.¹⁵ The Gillespie Building was among the first brick buildings to be constructed in the center of downtown, and it is the oldest extant financial building. The commercial significance of the Gillespie Building lies in the fact that it was continuously occupied by banking concerns from 1903 through 1931.

NOTES

¹"Organic Act," Oklahoma Red Book, 1912, comp. by Seth K. Cordon, 2 vols. (Oklahoma City & Tulsa: Democrat Printing Co., 1912), 2: 526-544; Edward Everett Dale and Gene Aldrich, History of Oklahoma (Edmond, OK: Thompson Book Co., 1969), 260-261.

²Geary Journal, 10 December 1903; Their Story: A Pioneer Days Album of the Blaine County Area (Oklahoma City, OK: Heritage Book Committee, 1977), 31-

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³U. S., Bureau of the Census, Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1910 (Washington, D. C.: G. P. O., 1911), 574-575; Oklahoma Red Book, 1912, 2: 463-464.

⁴Ibid., 635-636.

⁵Hunter James, "Geary, in the Heart of the Corn Belt," Sturm's Oklahoma Magazine 7 (January 1909): 60-61.

⁶Ibid.; Geary Journal, 10 December 1903; Geary Times-Journal, 19 August 1937.

⁷Geary Bulletin, 18 September 1902; ibid., 25 September 1902; ibid., 2 October 1902; ibid., 13 November 1902; ibid., 20 January 1903.

⁸Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Geary, Oklahoma, 1902, 1904, 1909, 1915, 1930.

⁹Geary Bulletin, 29 January 1903; Geary Star, Pioneer Edition, 1 July 1948; Geary Star, 31 May 1973.

¹⁰Geary Journal, 20 July 1905; Geary Bulletin, 11 May 1911; Geary Journal, 4 April 1918; Geary Star, 6 October 1931; ibid., Pioneer Edition, 1 July 1948.

¹¹Geary Journal, 10 December 1903; Geary Times-Journal, 19 August 1937; see also the display advertisements in the Geary Bulletin and Geary Journal for 1901-1931 for professional offices and businesses located over various buildings.

¹²Geary Bulletin, 15 June 1905, ad., p. 4; ibid., 13 October 1904, ad. p. 5; Geary Journal, 10 September 1903, ad. p. 14; ibid., 27 April 1905, ad. p. 14; Sanborn Maps, 1902, 1904, 1909, 1915, 1930.

¹³Geary Star, 14 February 1935; interview with Mrs. Edith Ogan, Geary, Oklahoma, 26 April 1989 (notes on file in State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City).

¹⁴Geary Star, 3 November 1983; ibid., 25 April 1985.

¹⁵Geary Bulletin, 5 September 1901; ibid., 24 October 1901; ibid., 2 October 1902; see also John W. Morris, "The Smaller Cities," Cities of Oklahoma, ed. John W. Morris (Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Historical Society, 1979), 10-16.