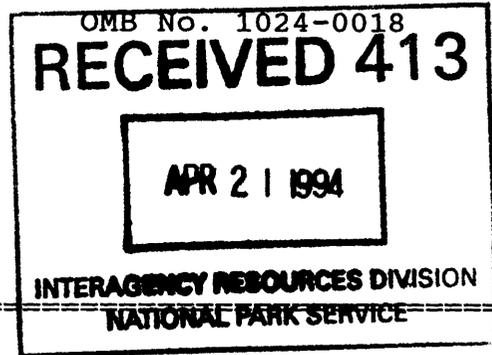


NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Eufaula Armory

other names/site number Eufaula National Guard Armory

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number 48 Memorial Drive not for publication N/A
city or town Eufaula vicinity N/A
state Oklahoma code OK county McIntosh code 091
zip code 74432

=====
3. State/Federal Agency Certification
=====

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (N/A See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

B. Wade April 4, 1994
Signature of certifying official Date

Oklahoma Historical Society, SHPO
State or Federal agency and bureau

=====
In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

=====
4. 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): _____

Edson H. Beall 5.20.94
Signature of Keeper Date
of Action

=====
5. Classification
=====

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u> 1 </u>	<u> 0 </u> buildings
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u> sites
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u> structures
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u> objects
<u> 1 </u>	<u> 0 </u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DEFENSE Sub: arms storage

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DEFENSE Sub: arms storage

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Works Progress Administration

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

roof ASPHALT

walls STONE/sandstone

CONCRETE

other N/A

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====
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 a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ECONOMICS
MILITARY
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance 1935-1937

Significant Dates 1937

=====
10. Geographical Data
=====

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>15</u>	<u>265220</u>	<u>3907980</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

N/A See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Dr. Mary Jane Warde

organization Oklahoma SHPO date March 20, 1993

street & number 2806 W. 18th telephone (405) 377-0412

city or town Stillwater state OK zip code 74074

=====
Additional Documentation
=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage
or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====
Property Owner
=====

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name State of Oklahoma/Oklahoma Military Department
street & number 3501 Military Circle NE telephone (405) 425-8000
city or town Oklahoma City state OK zip code 73111

RECEIVED 413

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

APR 21 1994

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Section 7 Page 9

Eufaula Armory
name of property
McIntosh County, Oklahoma
county and State

SUMMARY:

The Eufaula Armory (Eufaula National Guard Armory) is a single-story roughly rectangular building (120' x 140'). It was built by the Works Progress Administration between 1935 and 1937. It is located at the north end of Eufaula's central business district adjacent on the west to the City Hall. The Eufaula Armory consists of two main sections: a barrel-roofed drill hall and a flat-roofed administrative section. The roofs are asphalt; the walls are randomly-laid, rusticated sandstone blocks. The use of tall, narrow windows, pilasters, triangular parapets and vertical embrasures suggests an Art Deco influence. The fortress-like appearance and use of native sandstone make it an excellent example of a one-unit armory built by the WPA in Oklahoma.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION:

The Eufaula Armory is a relatively small, one-unit armory occupying a compact space at the north end of Eufaula's central business district. To the north across an alley is a restaurant. To the east across Front Street is a railway line and feed store. To the south across Memorial Avenue is a service station and vacant lot. Adjacent on the west, sharing a block bounded on the west by Main Street, is the City Hall. Extending south along Main Street between Pine and Grand streets is Eufaula's Historic Business District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1988.

The Eufaula Armory consists of two main sections. The axis of the barrel-roofed drill hall parallels Memorial Avenue. Extending south from the drill hall and centered on it is the narrower, flat-roofed administrative section facing Memorial Avenue. The roofs of both sections are rolled asphalt. Heavy metal gutters drain water from the roofs. The walls are of randomly-laid, rusticated sandstone blocks of varied size and shape. A concrete coping tops the walls. The building features elongated, multi-paned hopper windows with center pivot sections. The frames are steel and set over cut-stone sills. Some of the windows are covered with non-original corrugated fiberglass panels. The doors are wooden.

The south elevation of the administrative section features a complex, centered projecting portal. The portal is flat-topped with shorter flat-topped piers at the extreme ends, creating a stepped appearance. Shorter pediment-shaped pilasters flank the centered double entrance, which is set under a flat lintel. Above the double wood doors is a very fine carving of an American eagle. Above the eagle is a diamond-shaped wooden plaque with the yellow-on-red "Thunderbird" emblem of the 45th Infantry Division. High on each pilaster are three short vertical indentations, creating the triple-line motif frequently used in armory design by architect Major Bryan W. Nolen. These vertical embrasures provide an Art Deco influence in an otherwise fortress-like building. On

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National Park Service

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Eufaula Armory
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EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION (continued)

either side of the entrance, approached by concrete steps, are low, rectangular piers with flat concrete tops. Flanking the portal are groupings of four windows. The second and third in each grouping are paired and are three-over-five. The first and fourth are single and are two-over-five. All eight windows on the south elevation have been covered with corrugated fiberglass sheets. At the extreme ends of this elevation are broad pilasters. The tops of these pilasters are pediment-shaped with recessed flat-topped extensions creating a parapet well above the roofline. At each corner of this elevation is a plaque commemorating the dedication of the building.

The west elevation of the Eufaula Armory reveals the two-part nature of the building. The right portion is composed of the flat-roofed administrative section; the left portion is composed of the protruding end of the barrel-roofed drill hall. It overlooks a small parking area and alley between the armory and City Hall. In the angle between the two sections of the armory is the low, flat concrete-topped extension that serves as the roof of the basement rifle range. The west elevation of the administrative section includes two three-over-five windows. Each corner of the drill hall is defined by pediment-shaped piers with recessed flat-topped extensions above the roofline. On the southwest corner of the drill hall, the south-facing pier is broadened to cover the complete extension of the drill hall wall beyond the administrative section. On the west elevation of the drill hall, the coping follows the curve of the barrel roof between the piers. This wall is broken only by a three-over-six window on the extreme right and a small, centrally-placed rectangular vent near ground level.

The north elevation of the Eufaula Armory is the length of the drill hall. It parallels an alley. Centered between the pilaster on the northeast corner and the pier of the northwest corner are former door openings that have been infilled with brick and three-over-four windows. Flanking these openings are pairs of windows, two pairs on the right and two on the left. In addition, there is a single window on the extreme right of this elevation. The paired windows are three-over-six and extend to the same height. The single window is three-over-five.

The east elevation of the Eufaula Armory includes the east end of the drill hall and the recessed east elevation of the administrative section. The coping follows the curving line of the barrel roof between the pilasters at each corner of the drill hall. Centered between the pilasters is a wooden overhead door. To the left of the overhead door is a single wooden door with a vertical transom and two windows. To the right of the overhead door are three windows. All windows are three-over-six and extend to the same height. The transom is three-over-four. The south-facing pilaster on the southeast corner of the

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Eufaula Armory
name of property
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EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION (continued)

drill hall matches that on the southwest corner in that it is broadened to cover the complete extension of the drill hall wall beyond the administrative section. The east elevation of the administrative section provides access to the garage from Front Street. To the left on this elevation are two wooden overhead doors. To the right of the doors are two three-over-five windows. The right window in this pair contains an air conditioner unit. At the extreme left on this elevation is a pediment-shaped pilaster with a recessed extension creating a parapet above the roofline.

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION:

The interior walls of the Eufaula Armory are stone and brick. The floors are concrete. Wooden interior doors of narrow diagonal strips set in broad plank frames are original. The administrative section is bisected by a north-south central corridor approximately 55' long. On either side of the corridor are offices, classrooms, restrooms, storage rooms, and garages. The drill hall, approximately 110' x 86', includes a stage at the west end. Vertical incisions in the wing walls repeat the decorative triple-line motif seen on the exterior portal. Beneath the stage is a basement rifle range reached by an open concrete stairway. The framework and underlying corrugated steel plating of the drill hall's barrel roof as well as the supporting steel framework are exposed.

ALTERATIONS:

Most alterations to the Eufaula Armory are internal. In the administrative section dropped acoustical tile ceilings and fluorescent lighting have been added to all rooms except the garage and restrooms. Panelling covers the walls. In the drill hall the stage has been enclosed and partitioned into classroom space, as has the southeast corner of the drill hall proper. The stone walls of the drill hall have been plastered to reduce dust. The original wood-block floor has been removed and replaced with concrete.

Exterior alterations include converting the north doors to the drill hall to windows and covering the south windows with corrugated fiberglass inserts. Some window panes have been painted. None of the external alterations impeach the historic and architectural integrity of the building.

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Eufaula Armory
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SUMMARY:

The Eufaula Armory (Eufaula National Guard Armory) is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A because of its association with the Works Progress Administration and the Oklahoma National Guard. The aim of the WPA was to combat the effects of the Great Depression by employing jobless people on the relief rolls in public works projects. These projects stimulated the local economy by providing wages for previously destitute people. The use of native stone or other locally-produced materials also increased local finances, as well as reduced project costs and created buildings distinctive in appearance. The Eufaula Armory exemplified this program in McIntosh County. On completion it became the headquarters of the local National Guard unit, which has now occupied the building for more than fifty-five years. The Eufaula Armory is also eligible for the National Register under Criterion C. The castellated style, showing an Art Deco influence, and use of native stone adapted for unskilled labor make it an excellent example of WPA architecture in Oklahoma.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

The Eufaula Armory, constructed between 1935 and 1937, was a product of the Works Progress Administration, created under the New Deal programs of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. The WPA sought to combat the effects of the Great Depression by subsidizing public works projects. These projects drew labor from the relief rolls to reduce record levels of unemployment. Materials produced locally would be used in order to stimulate the economy and reduce costs. The WPA program, created in June 1935, ended in June 1943 with the return of full employment during World War II. The program spent a total of \$10.75 billion, with \$185 million allocated to Oklahoma projects. Typical WPA projects in Oklahoma at the county and town level included roadwork, bridges, dams, malaria control, public utilities improvements, schools, post offices, and public buildings. The WPA stipulated that to be chosen projects had to meet three basic criteria: the project had to have local sponsorship; draw labor from local relief rolls; and, the outcome had to be a permanent, useful addition to the community. The Eufaula Armory fulfilled all these requirements.¹

Armory projects in Oklahoma easily met the requirement of usefulness and permanency. Oklahoma National Guard units never had permanent headquarters. Most rented make-shift facilities at a cost to the state of about \$50,000 annually. Additionally, security at these facilities was often a problem, leaving arms and equipment liable to theft. Eufaula's Company H, 2nd Battalion, 180th Infantry, was usually quartered in an armory on Foley Avenue but, at various times in its twelve-year history, had been located in the high school gymnasium, the McIntosh County Courthouse, and rented spaces in commer-

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Eufaula Armory
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HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (continued):

cial buildings. At one point, the unit conducted drills in the street for lack of proper facilities.

Construction of a new armory provided a major economic and social benefit for Eufaula. Founded as a railroad market town in 1874, Eufaula replaced the much older Creek Indian community of North Fork Town. North Fork Town, located one mile east, was one of the most prominent places in nineteenth-century Indian Territory. Oklahoma statehood in 1907, however, transformed the predominantly Native American town of Eufaula into a bustling, Euro-American county seat serving an agricultural hinterland.² A decline in commodity prices in the 1920s hurt local cotton and corn farmers. The 1930s added the ills of a national economic depression and severe drought. Although in 1935, corn crops improved from 10 percent to 62 percent of normal and cotton production rose from 42 percent to 64 percent, many McIntosh County residents were in distress. In June 1935, 2,306 heads of families or single people, representing 39 percent of the county population, were on relief rolls, compared to the state average of 33 percent. Construction of an armory would ease hardship by providing employment as well as provide Eufaula with a substantial public building. Civic leaders in the Lion's and Commercial clubs quickly chose the Crabtree property east of the City Hall as their armory site, sent Guard Captains Charles R. Aingell and Harry B. Parris to the State Capitol to coordinate construction efforts, and raised \$2,190 for the project through city funds and public subscriptions, thus meeting the WPA requirement of local sponsorship.³

Quarrying of stone for the Eufaula Armory and other local WPA projects--a swimming pool, two tennis courts, and cemetery improvements--began in the fall of 1935. Twelve men were requisitioned for the armory project on October 30 and actual construction began November 4. Cancellation of the project a few days later because of federal-state administrative friction over funding caused shock and outrage. Indignant protests by Congressman Jack Nichols and State Legislator (and Guard Lieutenant) Joe Whitaker, both Eufaula residents, helped win reinstatement of the state-wide armory-building project. By November 21 construction on the Eufaula Armory resumed with an average of 58 men employed through the first half of 1936.⁴ Unskilled laborers from the relief rolls were limited to 130 hours' work per month but were guaranteed a wage of \$23 a month, a boost both to their spending power and their self-respect as bread-winners. In the summer of 1936, with the stonework finished and only about a month's work remaining to erect the steel roof framing and pour the concrete floors, construction halted again. This second work stoppage is probably due to a lack of skilled labor for specialized tasks, a reoccurring problem.⁵ Unprecedented devastation of the state's corn, cotton, and feed crops by drought and grasshoppers presumably caused resumption of construction in September as a relief effort. The skilled labor shortage having been overcome by October, two shifts

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HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (continued):

of 24 men worked to complete the building as the projected cost of \$33,000 rose to approximately \$50,000. Work was still underway in January 1937 when the accumulated weight of snow and ice caused the collapse of a nearby building used to store concrete for the armory project. One worker was killed in the accident and another injured. Despite these incidents the work was complete by early spring. This includes cutting, sanding, varnishing, and laying hundreds of thousands of four-inch wood blocks in the drill hall floor and placing over the entrance a particularly fine bas-relief carving of an American eagle, produced by Eufaula resident Jim Price.⁶

An estimated seven thousand people attended the dedication of the Eufaula Armory on April 7, 1937 by State Director General W. S. Key. The largest celebration in Eufaula since World War I, it was an affirmation of community support for the WPA and the local Oklahoma National Guard unit. Presented to the Guard was a substantial building approximately 120' by 140'. Special features were the administrative offices, classrooms, a "bomb-proof" arms vault, four-truck garage, storage room, locker room, and showers. The 110' by 86' drill hall with its 13' by 130' below ground rifle range guaranteed the unit adequate space in which to train. The stage and dressing rooms at the west end of the drill hall as well as the juxtaposition of the building to the City Hall and central business district demonstrated the dual role of the armory as a community center.⁷

The Oklahoma National Guard unit that received the Eufaula Armory as its headquarters was an integral part of the Eufaula community. Founded with 77 members in January 1924 as Company H, 2nd Battalion, 180th Infantry, by Captain Charles R. Aingell, the unit dated from shortly after the reorganization of the Oklahoma National Guard into the 45th Infantry Division. It was estimated by 1937 that about five hundred local men, of Euro-American and Creek Indian ancestry, served in the unit. Additionally, presence of the unit in Eufaula contributed \$243,000 to the city economy. Since 1925 the award-winning unit maintained peace during miners' strikes, hunted bank robbers, and aided tornado victims. Having benefited generally from the WPA-armory-building program, a better-trained Oklahoma National Guard mobilized in 1940 as the United States prepared enter World War II. The 45th ("Thunderbird") Infantry Division served with distinction in the European Theater from the invasion of Sicily and Italy through the surrender of Germany in 1945, a total of 511 actual combat days. Although the Eufaula Armory functioned as a basketball gymnasium, community center, and public library, its primary association during its 55 year history has been with the Oklahoma National Guard. Presently it is headquarters for Detachment 1, HSC, 120th Engineer Battalion, Combat Heavy.⁸

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Eufaula Armory
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ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Eufaula Armory is typical of the one-unit armory designed by WPA architect and Oklahoma National Guardsman Major Bryan W. Nolen. Nolen's standardized plans for one-unit, two-unit, and four-unit armories were flexible enough for construction by unskilled labor and for variable local conditions. Use of native stone, as was the case for thirty-three of Oklahoma's fifty-one WPA armories built prior to mid-1937, kept down construction costs while labor-intensive features employed as many men as possible. Thus, the Eufaula Armory met the practical goals of the WPA. At the same time, adding a feature such as Jim Price's bas-relief American eagle individualized the building and served another WPA aim, encouraging local craftsmen and artists. While the castellated facade and fortress-like appearance are appropriate to the military function of the building, the verticality of the piers, portals, and windows suggest an Art Deco influence. Together these characteristics mark the Eufaula Armory structurally and stylistically as a prime example of the WPA armory in Oklahoma.

The period of significance for the Eufaula Armory is 1935 to 1937. Construction began in 1935 and ended with its dedication in 1937. The building immediately became an integral part of the Eufaula community.

Alterations to the Eufaula Armory during its fifty-five years of service to the Oklahoma National Guard have been minimal and do not impeach the historical or architectural integrity of the building. Inclusion of the building on the National Register would underscore the unique character and historical consciousness of Eufaula, exemplified presently by its nearby Historic Business District.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Eufaula Armory
name of property
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ENDNOTES

¹U. S. Works Progress Administration, Oklahoma, Final Report of Activities and Accomplishments, (n.p., 1943), 1-5; The Wagoner (Oklahoma) Tribune, 19 November 1935.

²Accomplishments: Works Progress Administration for Oklahoma, July 1, 1935-March 1, 1937 (Oklahoma City: Works Progress Administration, 1937), 38, 40; The Indian Journal, Eufaula, Oklahoma, 1 April 1937; Mary Jane Warde, "George Washington Grayson and the Creek Nation, 1843-1920" (an unpublished dissertation, Oklahoma State University, 1991), 127-132, 291-292.

³The Indian Journal, Eufaula, Oklahoma, 20 June, 25 July, 8 August, 21 November 1935.

⁴Ibid., 15 August, 14 November, 21 November, 1935, 18 June 1936.

⁵The Konawa (Oklahoma) Leader, 27 February 1936; The Sulphur (Oklahoma) Times-Democrat, 11 July 1935; The Indian Journal, Eufaula, Oklahoma, 25 June, 8 October 1936.

⁶The Indian Journal, Eufaula, Oklahoma, 13 August, 17 September, 24 December, 1936, 14 January, 1 April 1937.

⁷Ibid., 24 December 1936, 1 April, 8 April 1937.

⁸Ibid., 1 April 1935; Kenny A. Franks, Citizen Soldiers: Oklahoma's National Guard (Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 1984), 40, 48, 49, 51, 62-114; interview with Sergeant Allen D. Mahar and Mayor Joe Johnson, Eufaula, Oklahoma, March 16, 1993.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9, 10 Page 17

Eufaula Armory
name of property
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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Accomplishments: Works Progress Administration for Oklahoma, July 1, 1935-
March 1, 1937. Oklahoma City: Works Progress Administration, 1937.

Franks, Kenny A. Citizen Soldiers: Oklahoma's National Guard. Norman,
Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 1984.

The Indian Journal (Eufaula, Oklahoma). June 1935 through April 1937.

Johnson, Joe, Mayor. Interview. Eufaula, Oklahoma, March 16, 1993.

The Konawa (Oklahoma) Leader. February 1936.

Mahar, Allen D., Sergeant. Interview. Eufaula, Oklahoma, March 16, 1993.

The Sulphur (Oklahoma) Times-Democrat. July 1935.

U. S. Works Progress Administration, Oklahoma. Final Report of Activities and
Accomplishments. N.p., 1943.

The Wagoner (Oklahoma) Tribune. November 1935.

Warde, Mary Jane. "George Washington Grayson and the Creek Nation, 1843-1920."
Unpublished dissertation. Oklahoma State University, 1991.

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 5 and 6, Block 81, Eufaula Original Town.

Boundary Justification

These are the property's boundary lines as legally recorded in the County
Clerk's Office, McIntosh County Courthouse, Eufaula, Oklahoma. The boundaries
described above have been historically associated with the nominated property.