Form 10-300 (July 1969)

I. NAME COMMON:

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City Hall AND/OR HISTORIC:

CITY OR TOWN: Pawhuska STATE

District

Agricultural

Commercial

Educational Entertainment

CITY OR TOWN:

<u>Pawhuska</u>

STREET AND NUMBER:

Pawhuska

DATE OF SURVEY:

Pawhuska

OWNER OF PROPERTY OWNER'S NAME:

City of Pawhuska

Main and Grandview

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Osage County Courthouse

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Historical Museum

Office of the County Clerk

1974

Osage County Historical Society

Special City Hall/Council House Survey

☐ Site

Oklahoma 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

(Check One)

Object

X Building

Structure

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Osage Council House
2. LOCATION STREET AND NUMBER:

Main and Grandview

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

#### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

🔀 Public

Private

☐ Both

X Government

Industrial

☐ Military

Museum

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Oklahoma

Public Acquisition:

Private Residence

Federal

OWNERSHIP

Park

☐ Religious

Scientific

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7. DESCRIPTION						
				(Check One)		
CONDITION	🗓 Excellent	Good	☐ Fair	<ul><li>Deteriorated</li></ul>	Ruins	Unexposed
		(Check Or	e) Basica	.11v	(Ch	eck One)
	☐ Alter		X Unaltered		Moved	Coriginal Site
DESCRIBE THE PE	RESENT AND OR	GINAL (if kno	wn) PHYSIC	L APPEARANCE		

Replacing the original Council House, which burned, this 38 x 52-foot, two-story-with-basement building was erected in 1894 of hand-cut

foot, two-story-with-basement building was erected in 1894 of hand-cut stone. From ground level to the top of its bell tower it is 60 feet tall.

When statehood did away with the Osage Nation, the tribe sold the Council House to Pawhuska for a City Hall, which function in continues to perform today. Although the exterior remains virtually unchanged — even to the bell tower and bell — the interior has been renovated and redecorated with paneling and carpets. The Police Department now uses the basement. City offices occupy the first floor. The second floor serves as a comfortable chamber room for the City Council ... and other civic groups. It has a raised area where council members sit behind a half-circle table and there are seats for 100 people.

Outside several old buildings have recently been removed to provide addition automobile parking. Otherwise the Council House/City Hall looks much as it did when completed in 1894.



GNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	☐ 18th Century	20th Century
☐ 15th Century	17th Century	19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applica	ble and Known)	1894 to present	
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (CI			
Abor iginal	Education	→ Political	Urban Planning
☐ Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
X Historic	Industry	losophy	
▼ Agriculture	Invention	Science	
Architecture	Landscape	Sculpture	
☐ Art	Architecture	Social/Human-	
Commerce	Literature	itarian	
Communications	Military	Theater	
Conservation	Music	☐ Transportation	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

For just over a century now the town of Pawhuska and the Osage Indian tribe have enjoyed something of a Damon and Pythias relationship. For just over a century, too, a single site in Pawhuska, at the junction of Main Street and Grandview Avenue, has been intimately associated with the affairs of both - first the tribe, then the town. And for the past 80 years that dual role of service has been played out in the still handsome stone building for which National Register status is being sought with this nomination.

\* \* \*

When the Osages moved from Kansas to present Oklahoma in 1872 an agency building was erected just to the east, at Main and Osage. In 1873-1874 the first building was erected on this site. Of cut sandstone (as were the permanent buildings of the agency and school on Agency Hill to the north), it served first as a commissary and then as the Osage Council House.

This building burned and in 1894 it was replaced with the structure that still stands. The Council House was patterned after that of the Cherokees. In the rebuilding a full basement was added to give the tribe more room. But in 1906, with statehood imminent, steps were initiated to sell the site and building to Pawhuska. The sale was completed in 1907, at a price of \$12,005.00. It has remained the Pawhuska City Hall since that time.

In the early 1900s the basement area was used as a cafe. It now houses the Pawhuska Police Department. The first floor contains offices for the city manager, city clerk, and light and water departments. The second floor contains the City Council chamber, which is also used by various civic and governmental groups.

The old stone building still serves the community well. One perceptive oldtimer puts it this way: "You may hear the hard click of a cowboy boot instead of the soft pad of a mocassin. The bell in the tower is silent; a siren now gives warning of a tornado or fire. And police cars are parked in front rather than horses and wagons. But the city's business is still conducted here. Yes, the old Council House still serves."

#### 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Finney, Frank F., "The Osages and Their Agency During the Term of Isaac T. Gibson, Quaker Agent," The Chronicles of Oklahoma, Vol. XXXVI (1958), pp. 416-428

Wright, Muriel H., A Guide to the Indian Tribes of Oklahoma, University of Oklahoma Press, 1951, pp. 189-198

-- Miscellaneous Materials on file at the Osage County Historical Society Museum in Pawhuska

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Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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**CONTINUATION SHEET** 

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 1

City Hall

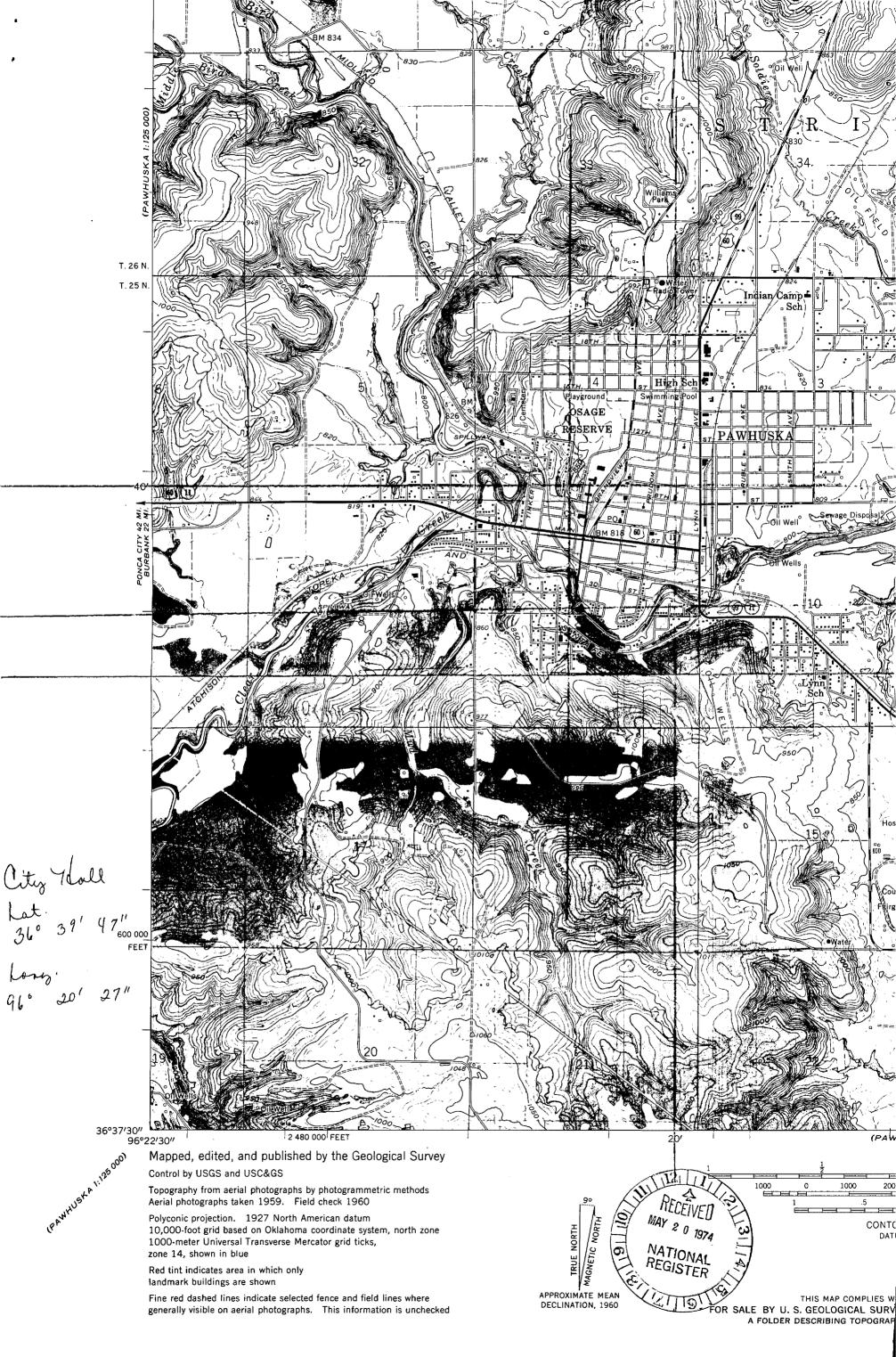
Some additional details:

The hand-cut sandstone walls of the building are 24 inches thick. Windows are eight feet high with 12-inch sills. The first floor is eight feet above ground level. At the entrance the original stones are on the sides and form the 12-inch curved rail. Concrete has been put over the steps.

The main entrance has a circular fan light above the doorway, with etched and colored sectional glass. City Hall 1894 is painted in the center. The door inside has the original facing. It is hand-grooved.

The stairwell window (over the main entrance) is 12 feet tall and double-hung. It, too, is rounded at the top to blend with the fan light below. Each window is bordered with  $4 \times 4$  squares of colored glass with the circular top similarly bordered.

The entire building has now been renovated, with the top story only recently completed. In addition to the large city council room, four more rooms have had the ceilings lowered, air conditioning, paneling and carpeting added. These latter rooms are being used by the Urban Renewal authority.



Form	10-30
(July	1969)

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

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COUNTY	
Osage	
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