

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

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

For NPS use only
received **NOV 27 1983**
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Territorial Buildings in Downtown Alva, ^{TR}Oklahoma

and/or common

2. Location

13

street & number Flynn, College, Barnes, and Fourth N/Anot for publication

city, town Alva _____ vicinity of

state Oklahoma code 40 county Woods code 151

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 type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" 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	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thematic	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 Multiple Ownership (See Continuation Sheet)

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Woods County Courthouse

city, town Alva _____ state Oklahoma

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Oklahoma Comprehensive Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1982 _____ federal state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records Oklahoma Historical Society, Preservation Office

city, town Oklahoma City _____ state OK

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Territorial Buildings of Alva, Oklahoma, comprise thirteen buildings dating from 1901 to 1905. They are located in a three block area facing towards the Woods County Courthouse. (See attached map) Ranging from one to two stories in height, they were erected for retail shops, offices, banks and other commercial establishments.

The architecture is consistently Plains Commercial. All of the buildings are of red brick masonry and have decorative elements in the forms of friezes, pilaster strips, semi-elliptical arched windows, and contrasting window sills and stringcourses.

The most distinctive feature of the buildings is that they form coherent blocks of period buildings. There are harmonies of style and size, similarities of decorative elements, and horizontal alignments through the use of bands of upper story windows, continuous friezes, stringcourses, and awnings. These buildings, once part of a thriving, territorial town square, make a clear statement of the historical context out of which they were born.

For descriptions of individual buildings see continuation sheets.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1901-1905 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The significance of the Territorial Buildings of Alva is that they are an excellent example of the architectural style prevalent in early twentieth-century Oklahoma. Moreover, they bear strong witness to the rapid commercial development of one of the last urban frontiers of the United States.

Established in 1886, when the Sante Fe Railroad was extended through Indian Territory, the town of Alva was a mere whistle stop. Its name derived from the founder, Alva Adams, an attorney for the railroad. With the opening of the Cherokee Outlet in 1893--the last great land rush--the town boomed. Within a year the present layout of streets and lots into a small, tight town square was established. The original buildings were frame. From 1901 to 1905, the territorial years of Oklahoma, however, major reconstruction took place; substantial red brick structures replaced the older buildings.

The construction of the brick buildings was a clear sign of Alva's prosperity in the early twentieth century. Alva was the political center of one of the largest western counties--being the Woods County seat--and the economic center of a more extensive area. The early economy of the town was based upon the railroad, wheat agriculture, and a local college. Farmers from across Woods and the surrounding counties brought their wheat to Alva, the central shipping point. While in town they attended to their financial matters at the banks, made purchases at the various mercantile stores, and frequented the other commercial establishments in the square. The prominence of wheat agriculture also led to the development of a large milling industry that brought additional prosperity to the community. The Alva stores and businesses also served during territorial times a growing community of students and faculty from the Northwestern State Normal School (now called Northwestern Oklahoma State University), which was founded in 1897 just four blocks from the town square.

The architecture of the territorial buildings--thirteen brick structures erected from 1901 to 1905--was of a type that reflected the style and environment of the period. Plains Commercial style was the prevalent architecture in the other urban cities of western Oklahoma. The red earth colors of the construction material and the strong, simple lines--reminscient of the modest frame buildings--fit the roughness of the newly settled area. Yet the decorative features--friezes, arched windows, and stringcourses--demonstrate the aspirations of a modest but growing community.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory--Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received 11/21/83
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

T 13 13
L 7 7
R 6 6

6 NR div

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Territorial Buildings in Downtown Alva Thematic Resources

State Woods County, OKLAHOMA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------|--------|------------------------------|
| 1. Central National Bank | Substantive Review | Keeper | <u>Beth Grosvenor 1/5/84</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 2. Kavanaugh and Shea Building | Substantive Review | Keeper | <u>Beth Grosvenor 1/5/84</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 3. Building at 405 -- 407 College Avenue | Substantive Review | Keeper | <u>Beth Grosvenor 1/5/84</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 4. Building at 409 College Avenue | Substantive Review | Keeper | <u>Beth Grosvenor 1/5/84</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 5. Building at 413 College Avenue | Substantive Review | Keeper | <u>Return</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 6. Building at 415 College Avenue | Substantive Review | Keeper | <u>Return</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 7. Branson Building | Substantive Review | Keeper | <u>Beth Grosvenor 1/5/84</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 8. I.O.O.F. Hall | Substantive Review | Keeper | <u>Beth Grosvenor 1/5/84</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 9. Building at 523 Barnes Street | Substantive Review | Keeper | <u>Return</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 10. Building at 521 Barnes Street | Substantive Review | Keeper | <u>Return</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received 11/21/93
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Territorial Buildings in Downtown Alva Thematic Resources
State Woods County, OKLAHOMA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- | | | | |
|-----|--|--------|------------------------------------|
| 11. | Building at 519 Barnes Street
<i>Substantive Review</i> | Keeper | <u><i>Return</i></u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 12. | Building at 504 Flynn Street
<i>Substantive Review</i> | Keeper | <u><i>Return</i></u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 13. | Building at 500 Flynn Street
<i>Substantive Review</i> | Keeper | <u><i>Beth Groveman 1/5/84</i></u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 14. | | Keeper | _____ |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 15. | | Keeper | _____ |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 16. | | Keeper | _____ |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 17. | | Keeper | _____ |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 18. | | Keeper | _____ |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 19. | | Keeper | _____ |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 20. | | Keeper | _____ |
| | | Attest | _____ |