

HENRYETTA

Founding and Naming

Hugh Henry, a Creek citizen, had worked on cattle ranches in Texas before settling in the Creek Nation in the late 1800s. By about 1875 Henry had claimed land in the valley of Coal Creek. Surveyors seeking a route for the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad subsequently sought to acquire Henry's land for use as a townsite. As a restricted Creek, however, Henry lacked authority to transfer title to the land. He then relinquished his original claim and selected another site, enabling the formal transfer of title to townsite developers.⁷ This information, however, is gleaned from secondary sources and seems anecdotal at best. In fact, it is reported that Henry, after abandoning his original claim, then selected a site to the *north* of the Henryetta townsite.⁸ Records at the Okmulgee County Courthouse do not support this but show instead that Henry deeded twelve blocks to the town of Henryetta in 1910, carefully reserving the rights to any coal and asphalt beneath those blocks. This addition was originally platted in 1904 and is known as the "Hugh Henry Addition" or "Henry's Addition." Significantly, it is located to the *south* of the original townsite and included the blocks between Fifth and Seventh streets on the east and west, and Broadway and Meacham streets on the north and south (figure 7).

While the precise details of the townsite selection process remain in doubt, it is certain that in 1900 W. E. Winn surveyed the townsite and the Henryetta post office was

⁷ Jerry Furrh, "How Henryetta Received Her Name." *Daily Times Okmulgee*, 21 July 1982, and "100 Sweet Years: Images and Events of the Past." *Henryetta Daily Free-Lance*, 10 December, 2000.

⁸ Baird Martin, *Historical, Industrial and Civic Survey of Okmulgee and Okmulgee County*. (Prepared for American Guide, W.P.A. Writer's Project, 1936), 10.

This is to certify that I Hugh Henry of Henryetta Okla.
on this the 12th day of May 1910 do hereby dedicate and donate
to the incorporated Town Of Henryetta Okla., all streets and alley
ways set out and designated in a platte of ^{Hugh} Henry's Addition filed
for record in the office of the recorder of deeds on the 26th
day of April 1904.

Hereby and hereafter excepting
and reserving all coal and asphalt under said streets and alley
ways.

Hugh Henry

State of Oklahoma)
Okmulgee County,) ss.

Before me, John D. Strain, a Notary Public
in and for said County and State, on this 12th day of May
1910, personally appeared Hugh Henry to me known to be the identical
~~person~~ who executed the within and foregoing instrument, and
acknowledged to me that he executed the same as his free and
voluntary act and deed for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

John D. Strain
Notary Public.

My commission expires Sept. 14th 1910

Figure 7. Record of the official plat of Hugh Henry's Addition. Courtesy Okmulgee County Courthouse.

established.⁹ However, there is no clear consensus on how the name “Henryetta” was selected or even if the “Henry” in the name refers to Hugh Henry.¹⁰ Nevertheless, on December 16, 1901 the Department of the Interior approved the survey of Henryetta.

Henryetta possesses an unusual morphology which might best be described as modified orthogonal. In an orthogonal plat the streets are shifted east or west of north in order that they run parallel and perpendicular to the railroad. In Henryetta, however, the streets were surveyed in alignment with the cardinal directions, and therefore are orthogonal in relation to the railroad. This configuration resulted in the placement of the railroad depot away from the main business blocks making it a less prominent focal point of the town (figure 8).

The original townsite of Henryetta covered just over 157 acres and was subdivided into 57 blocks, thirteen of which were business blocks. The business blocks stretched along Main Street west from the railroad tracks, with business lots extending to the south side of Trudgeon Street and the north side of Broadway. In railroad towns a customary practice was to create 300-foot square blocks. If residential, these blocks would be subdivided into six lots, each 50 feet wide and 140 feet deep. If the blocks were commercial they would contain twice as many lots.¹¹ These surveying methods were applied in Henryetta except on those blocks through which the railroad passed. Another customary practice was to make the primary business street 100 feet wide, while other

⁹ Original Townsite Survey of Henryetta, Okmulgee County Courthouse, and Furrh, “How Henryetta Received Her Name.”

¹⁰ Furrh, “How Henryetta Received Her Name.” See also Shirk, George H. *Oklahoma Place Names*. (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1966), 101.

¹¹ John H. Hudson, *Plains Country Towns* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1985), 87.

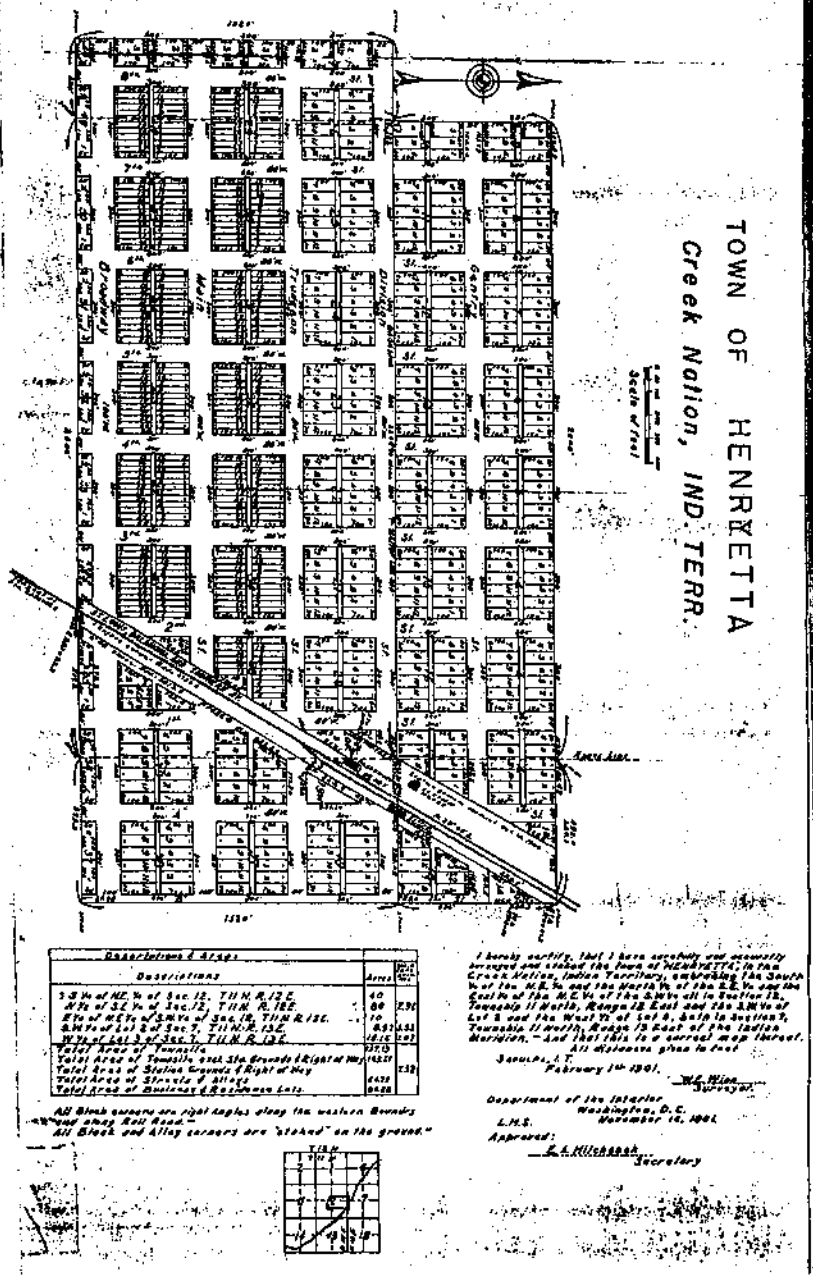


Figure 8. The original townsite survey of Henryetta. Courtesy Okmulgee County Courthouse.

streets were typically 80 feet wide. Both Main Street and Broadway in Henryetta are 100 feet wide.

Natural Resources/Industry

One of the advantages of Henryetta's location is that it is situated in a region that became one of the most important coal mining areas in Oklahoma.¹² The Henryetta Mining District is a region in Okmulgee County that stretches in a southwesterly direction from the vicinity of Morris to the southwestern side of Henryetta. In places the coal was visible in outcrops along the banks of streams. The relative proximity of the coal to the surface meant that it could be strip mined fairly quickly and easily, without generating huge amounts of overburden. However, most of the coal produced in the Henryetta Mining District came from underground mines, many of which extended under the town itself (figure 9).¹³ One of the factors raising the value of this coal is that it was recognized as a clean coal with low sulfur content, thus it served as an important fuel not only for industrial purposes, but also for heating homes.¹⁴

The Henryetta Mining District has a long history and coal was first extracted from the area for commercial purposes in 1902.¹⁵ By 1904 at least four different coal companies were working in the area and many more would come and go over the next

¹² Dunham, R. J. and J. V. A. Trumbull. *Geology and Coal Resources of the Henryetta Mining District, Okmulgee County, Oklahoma*. Geological Survey Bulletin No. 1015-F. (Washington, D.C.: United States Government Printing Office, 1955), 183.

¹³ *Ibid.*, 203.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, 202.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, 203.

Generalized Depiction of Areas Once Worked as Underground Coal Mines, Henryetta, Oklahoma

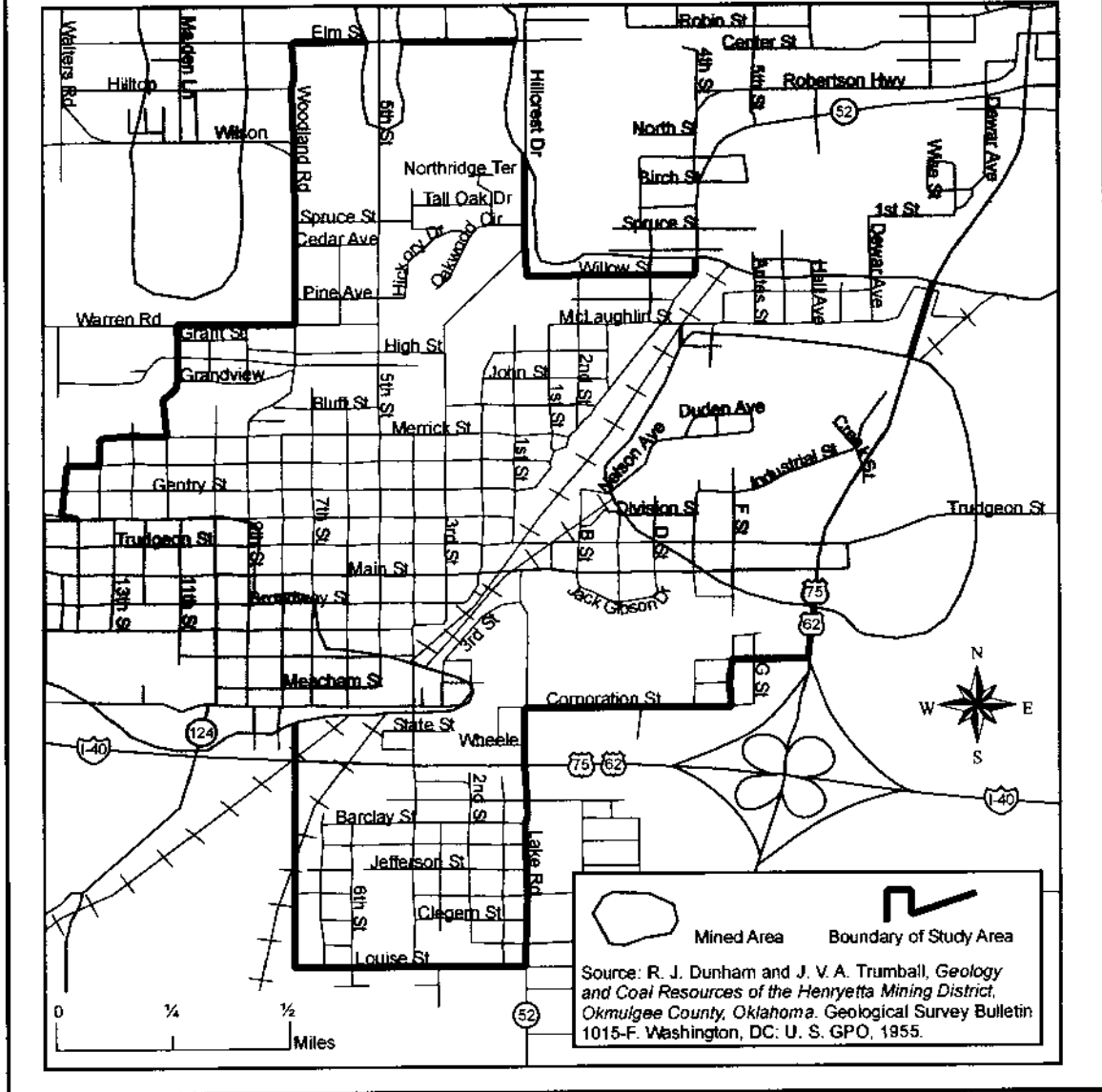


Figure 9

several decades.¹⁶ One estimate suggests that perhaps as many as 25 different mines were being worked in 1915.¹⁷ The 1928 city directory listed eleven coal companies with offices in Henryetta.¹⁸ One estimate of the productivity of this area suggests that between 1902 and 1955 some 25 million tons of coal were produced in this mineral district alone.¹⁹ In addition, over one million tons were extracted annually in 1918 and again in 1948, making these the most productive years on record.²⁰ By the early 1950s, however, most of the high-quality coal had been mined and Henryetta's heyday as a coal mining town had passed. Today, the mines have been sealed off and the mine tipples removed or destroyed, leaving very little surviving material culture that reflects Henryetta's past as a coal mining center. In fact, no mining-related properties or structures were documented during this project. The most powerful visual evidence that Henryetta was a coal mining town lies in the scarred and clumpy landscapes that reveal where earth was removed and where overburden was deposited.

Another major industry that developed in the Henryetta vicinity was zinc smelting. By the end of 1916 five different zinc companies were operating in the area. Most of the zinc smelters were located either to the east of Henryetta near Kusa or to the northeast of Henryetta. The Eagle-Picher Lead Company's zinc smelter was the only one to be located on land that became part of the town of Henryetta. The smelter site was located at the northeastern reaches of Henryetta in the platted addition known as the

¹⁶ Sanborn Map Company. "Henrietta [sic], Indian Territory 1904." *Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Oklahoma* (Teaneck, NJ: Chadwyck-Healey, 1983), microfilm.

¹⁷ Okmulgee Historical Society and the Heritage Society of America, comp. and ed. *History of Okmulgee County, Oklahoma*. (Tulsa: Historical Enterprises, Inc., 1985), 190.

¹⁸ *City Directory of Henryetta, Okla.*, 1928.

¹⁹ Dunham and Trumbull, *Geology and Coal Resources of the Henryetta Mining District*, 203.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, 203.

“Henryetta Townsite Company.” Henryetta formally annexed this addition in 1916.

“Spelter City” is the name that is commonly used to refer to the “city within a city” that emerged here. Eagle-Picher built a massive smelting facility and, because of its distance from Henryetta’s business district, Spelter City came to have its own hotels and union hall. As recorded on the 1920 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Henryetta, Eagle-Picher was operating five zinc distillation furnaces as well as numerous kilns and pottery buildings in Spelter City. The processing of metal ores in Spelter City in northeastern Henryetta continued through the 1960s. As has been the case with coal mining, the material culture of the zinc smelting industry has been destroyed but the slag piles and ore pits often still disclose the locations of this bygone industry.

In the 1920s Henryetta acquired a glassworks industry. Ample supplies of coal in the area ensured a reliable energy supply for the glass-making furnaces used in the manufacture of glass. The Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company purchased approximately 40 acres within Henryetta and built on the north side of the Kansas, Oklahoma & Gulf Railroad adjacent to U.S. Route 62/75. For the past 80 years, this site has been continually used for the manufacture of glass products. Today, the site belongs to the Anchor Glass Company which manufactures glass bottles and is the leading employer in Henryetta. Additional historical research on this plant and its buildings is urgently needed as it is possible that this facility, or one or more of its buildings, is eligible for listing in the National Register.

In addition to coal mining, zinc smelting, and the manufacture of glass, some petroleum was produced in the area and some sandstone and shale were locally quarried. Oil had in fact been discovered in the south part of Henryetta as early as 1906, but more

viable wells were drilled in the 1920s.²¹ Brick plants, welding companies, and lumber yards are some of the other industries that were established in the area. A combination of primary, extractive industry and manufacturing has historically formed the basis of Henryetta's economy.

Agriculture

The processing of agricultural commodities provides another dimension to Henryetta's industrial sector. Grain mills and elevators as well as cotton gins were once taken-for-granted components of the Henryetta townscape up to the 1930s. As late as 1928 Henryetta still possessed three cotton gins and one cottonseed and peanut oil processing plant.²² However, the demise of cotton agriculture in late 1920s, a process set in motion by a combination of overproduction and soil exhaustion, ushered in a parallel decline in the processing of cotton and cotton-derivatives. In the countryside surrounding Henryetta, lands that once grew cotton and corn are now planted to pasture grasses and are stocked with cattle. One extant property in Henryetta is about all that remains to recall the importance of cotton in Henryetta's past. It is the Cotton Hotel at 114 West Main Street.

Commercial/Professional Establishments

Hotels, along with banks and coal companies, were some of the earliest commercial establishments in Henryetta and provided essential boarding facilities in the

²¹ Baird Martin, *Historical, Industrial and Civic Survey*, 12.

²² Sanborn Map Company. "Henryetta, Oklahoma 1928." *Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Oklahoma* (Teaneck, NJ: Chadwyck-Healey, 1983), microfilm.

early period of municipal growth. One of the oldest extant hotels in Henryetta is the Francis Hotel which dates to 1907 and still occupies the northeast corner of Third and Main Streets. Also, Saul's Cut Rate Store/Star Rooms (214 West Main Street) was built in 1918 and is a good example of the dual functions many buildings in the business district served. This building offered a store on the first floor and rooms for rent on the second. The H. M. Beasley Building/Ruby Hotel (200 West Broadway Street) is another hotel. It was built in 1923 and is National Register eligible. Significantly, the Harr Apartments (406-414 North Fourth Street) appear to have been continually used as apartments since about 1915.

One of the first banks built in Henryetta still stands. The Citizen's Bank Building was constructed in 1904 and is located at 412-414 West Main Street. In addition to banks and hotels, commercial development in Henryetta included general merchandise stores, grocery stores, bottling works, hardware stores, drug stores, jewelry stores, law offices, and eventually, a telephone exchange. Several of the buildings which housed these early businesses still exist. For example, in terms of grocery stores, the Boerstler Brothers Wholesale Grocery Building (ca. 1916) stands adjacent to the railroad tracks at First and Trudgeon Streets, the Purity Bakery Building (ca. 1925) stands at 117-119 South Fifth Street, and the Piggly Wiggly/Grand Leader Building (ca. 1907) can be found at 403-405 West Main Street. Two buildings once functioning as hardware stores include the Burnett and Moore Hardware Building (ca. 1909) at 420 West Main Street, and the Clark-Darland Hardware Building (ca. 1921) at 421-423 West Main Street. Additionally, the Central Drug Store (ca. 1908) can be found at 410(?) West Main Street. Office buildings such as the Garner Block (ca. 1917) at 115-117 North Fourth Street and the J. R.

Reynolds Building (1916) at 505 West Main Street undoubtedly housed the business offices of coal companies and lawyers. As this selection of commercial properties reveals, a good portion of the Henryetta's historic business district is still intact.

Transportation

Construction of the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad through the Creek Nation prompted the establishment of the Henryetta townsite in 1900, and the first train arrived in Henryetta in the fall of that same year. A few years later the Missouri, Oklahoma and Gulf Railroad extended its track from Muskogee through Henryetta and south to Durant. For a time the Okmulgee Northern Railroad also served the town. Therefore, at one time Henryetta was served by as many as three railroads. Of greatest importance, however, are the St. Louis and San Francisco and the Missouri, Oklahoma and Gulf railroads. These railroads did not intersect but rather paralleled one another through Henryetta. Furthermore, the Missouri, Oklahoma and Gulf Railroad, which eventually became the Kansas, Oklahoma and Gulf Railroad, was a freight line that specialized in hauling commodities such as coal, sand, and grain. While Henryetta in fact possessed two railroad depots for a number of years, only the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad had a passenger depot. For many years Henryetta also possessed a coal hopper for loading coal in the hopper cars. The decline in the coal industry coupled with the decline in rail transportation hastened the obsolescence of these transportation-related facilities. Neither the depots nor the coal hopper has survived.

Churches and Schools

One of the more interesting developments pertaining to both churches and schools in Henryetta involves the establishment of St. Michael's Catholic Parish in 1912. The expansion of coal mining and of the railroads in eastern Oklahoma resulted in the diversification of the populace. Immigrants from the United Kingdom as well as from Italy, Germany, and Poland worked in the Henryetta mines and on the local railroads. In many ways the establishment of the Catholic Parish in Henryetta was a response to the greater presence of Catholics in the region. By 1920 both a church and a parochial school had been built on West Gentry Street between Tenth and Eleventh Streets. The school operated into the 1960s but was demolished in 1968. That same year the church was torn down so that construction could begin on a new building.²³

Not all of Henryetta's churches have suffered this same fate. Indeed, the First Presbyterian Church at West Division and Fifth Streets dates to about 1917. The church, which reflects the Late Gothic Revival style, is both historically and architecturally significant and is likely eligible for listing in the National Register. Other notable churches in Henryetta include the Grace Episcopal Church at 510(?) West Cummings Street, the First Christian Church at Fifth and Cummings Streets, and the First Church of God at 307 West Barclay Street.

The first public school in Henryetta appears to have been built in 1905 and was located at 511 West Trudgeon Street. Over the years the building has served numerous functions and has even been moved several times. By 1982 some local citizens had formed a historical society and were working to restore the structure. The Old Henryetta

²³ "100 Sweet Years: Images and Events of the Past." *Henryetta Daily Free-Lance*, 10 December, 2000.

School has since been moved to the 400 block of West Moore Street where it now houses a small museum. One of the other renowned school buildings in Henryetta was the Lyceum Public School which served as the high school until another one was built in 1919. The Lyceum School was a large two and one-half story brick clad building with a hipped roof and prominent gabled dormer above the entrance. It has not survived.

Henryetta's libraries have also enjoyed a rather different history. As noted above, the first school built in Henryetta also served as the town's first library. It was not until 1924 that a new library building was constructed. When the building was constructed at 301 North Sixth Street it had an unusual layout, sometimes describe as "a butterfly plan."²⁴ This building served as the Henryetta Public Library from 1924 to 1966, when it became a private residence (figure 10).²⁵ In 1966 the library moved to its present site at 518 West Main Street (figure 11).

Cultural and Social

For most of its history Henryetta has enjoyed a variety of social clubs and organizations. Two buildings which once served as meeting halls or lodges still exist. The older of the buildings is the I.O.O.F. Building at 116 North Fourth Street which dates to about 1918. Just a few blocks away at 115 South Fifth Street stands the building that has served as the Masonic Hall. Henryetta provided numerous other options for entertainment as well. As early as 1910 the town could boast having an opera house and air dome

²⁴ Wesson, Ruby. "History of the Henryetta Public Library." Written 3 March 1999. Retrieved 25 August 2001 from the Henryetta Public Library website <http://www.ocevnet.org/henlib/about.html>.

²⁵ Ibid.



Figure 10. The old public library in Henryetta was built in the 1920s. It now serves as a private residence. Photo by author.

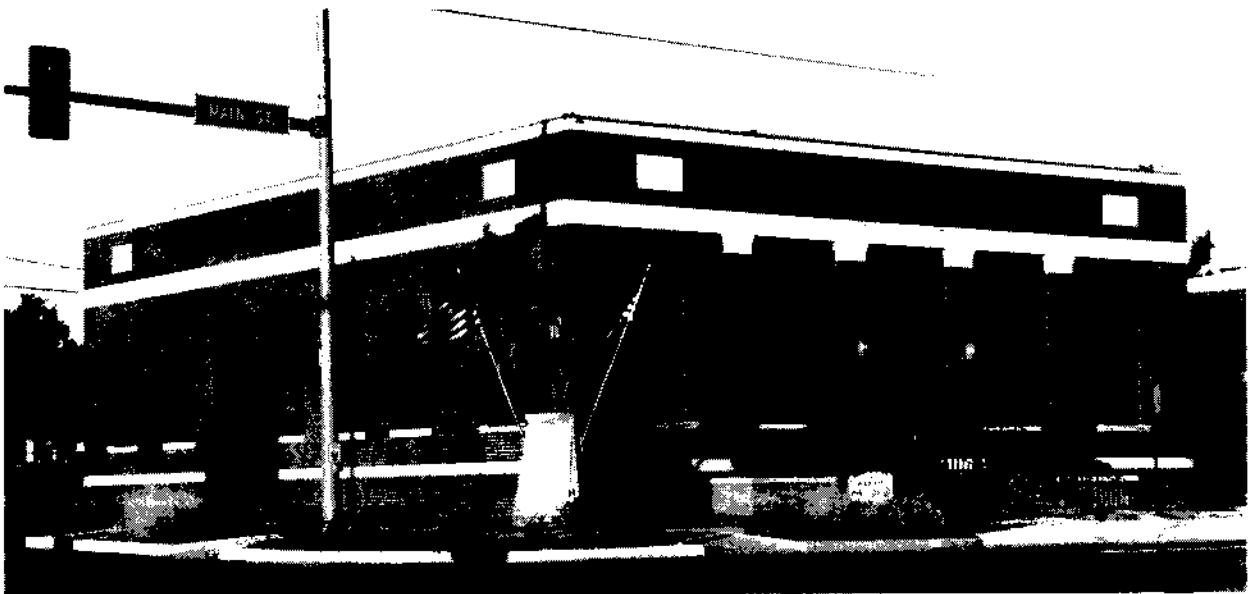


Figure 11. The “new” public library dates to 1935 and functioned as Henryetta’s post office until 1966. The doughboy statue once stood in the middle of the intersection at Third and Main; see figure 12 below. Photo by author.

theater (figures 12 and 13). Through the 1930s the Morgan Theater near Fourth and Main Streets remained a popular place for movie-goers. It was one of two theaters in the town at the time. Citizens of Henryetta could also enjoy a park which had been created near Cameron Field, where the high school football team played.

Politics and Government

Because Henryetta is not a county seat the impress of politics and government on the built environment has been less noticeable. However, in the 1920s Henryetta built a very elegant city hall that is no longer extant. One other government property that deserves mention is the building that presently houses the Henryetta Public Library. Although the library has only occupied the building since 1966, the building itself dates to 1935 when it was constructed as the Henryetta Post Office.²⁶

Unlike many other Oklahoma towns, Henryetta appears to have weathered the Depression reasonably well, in part because of the lingering importance of coal. As a result, Henryetta possesses fewer buildings constructed as Depression-era relief projects. One facility which did result from a 1938 WPA project is Cameron Field, located at South C Street at Jack Gibson Drive.

²⁶ Ibid.



Figure 12. The Henryetta Opera House as it appeared in the late 1930s. Photo courtesy *Daily Times Okmulgee* July 12, 1982.

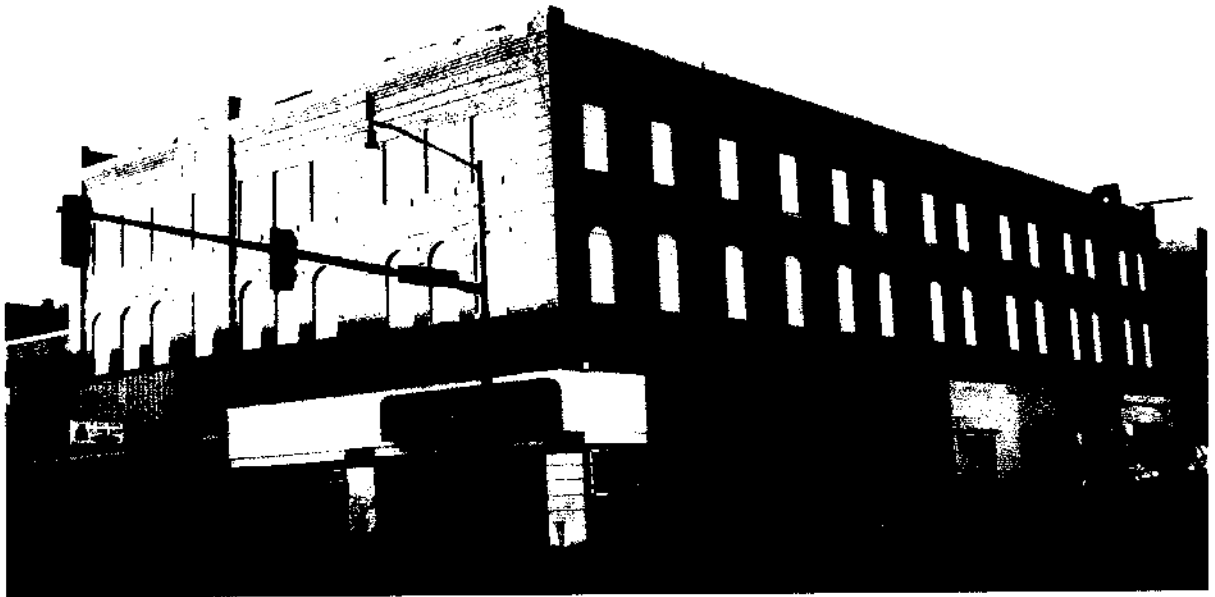


Figure 13. The Henryetta Opera House as it appears today. Photo by author.

HOLDENVILLE

Founding and Naming

Holdenville's origins are intimately associated with railroad construction in the Creek Nation. In 1893-1894 construction resumed on the Choctaw, Oklahoma and Gulf Railroad which was to connect Wister and El Reno. By September of 1895 the railroad townsite crew had arrived in the area and began surveying a townsite a few miles to the north of Fentress, then the nearest settlement.²⁷ As the surveying proceeded, the townsite of Holdenville was carved out of land that had previously been allotted to John Jacobs and Charles Grayson.²⁸ Within a month the first train arrived in Holdenville, which was then called "Acho," a Creek work for deer.²⁹ Meanwhile, efforts were underway to move the post office from Fentress to this new town. In honor of J. F. Holden, the manager of the Choctaw, Oklahoma and Gulf Railroad, the name "Holden" was requested for the post office, but had to be changed to "Holdenville" before the Postal Service would approve it.³⁰ Formal approval of this new name was granted in November, 1895.³¹

The surveying of this townsite and the arrival of the railroad stimulated a flurry of activity in this new place and led to the gradual abandonment of Fentress. John Jacobs and his father Frank began issuing quit-claim deeds to lots in the Holdenville townsite.³² George Roderick and John Marks were traders in the Creek Nation and they are among

²⁷ Cook, Fran. *"Acho" Flower of the Prairie: A History of Holdenville, Oklahoma and Hughes County.* (N.p., 1998), 106.

²⁸ *Ibid.*, 117.

²⁹ *Ibid.*, 109.

³⁰ *Ibid.*, 109-110.

³¹ Shirk, *Oklahoma Place Names*, 104.

³² Thomas, Mrs. Lloyd. "Holdenville is Proud of Its History." *The Daily Oklahoman*, 23 April, 1939.

the first people to have established businesses in Holdenville.³³ By 1898, when Holdenville incorporated, it already possessed numerous stores as well as two cotton gins.³⁴

In spite of this development, Holdenville did not have status as a government townsite. By 1901, however, it had been converted to one and its plat was approved.³⁵ As platted, the original townsite of Holdenville included some 138 blocks, most of which were 300 feet square. Holdenville's business district was also sizable, including portions of 12 blocks stretching from Echo Street to Gulf Street and from Fifth Street to Eighth Street. The railroad divided the business district, leaving the greater portion of business blocks on the north and east sides of the tracks. Holdenville possesses an orthogonal morphology with the bulk of its streets running either parallel or perpendicular to the Choctaw, Oklahoma and Gulf Railroad. The subsequent construction of the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad through Holdenville did not significantly alter this pattern.

Natural Resources/Industry

Holdenville is situated in the topographic region known as the Sandstone Hills.³⁶ Geologically, the area is underlain by limestone and sandstone, and quarries to extract these resources developed around Holdenville. The manufacture of lime, brick, tile, cement, and marble also contributed to Holdenville's early industrial development.

³³ Cook, Fran. *"Acho" Flower of the Prairie: A History of Holdenville, Oklahoma and Hughes County.* (N.p., 1998), 108.

³⁴ Sanborn Map Company. "Holdenville, Indian Territory 1898." *Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Oklahoma* (Teaneck, NJ: Chadwyck-Healey, 1983), microfilm.

³⁵ Thomas, "Holdenville is Proud of Its History."

³⁶ John W. Morris, Charles R. Goins, and Edwin C. McReynolds, *Historical Atlas of Oklahoma*, 3d ed. (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1986), 3.

Lumber production, based on wood derived from the surrounding cross timbers, added another facet to local industry. G. W. McShan, one of the early businessmen in Holdenville, built a lumber company on the southeast corner of Cedar (now Broadway) and Third Street. His company would stay in business some fifteen years, until about 1915.³⁷ Chesnutt Lumber is another long-established Holdenville industry although it is now doing business as a hardware store under the commercial name of Chesnutt True-Value.

A number of other light industries developed in Holdenville over the years including an ice cream factory, bottling works, carpenter shop, tool company, and planing mill. More significantly, because of its location on the eastern edge of the Seminole Oil Field, Holdenville also profited from the petroleum industry. The Holdenville Pool was first tapped in 1916, and by 1920 several oil dealers and oil corporations had established business offices in Holdenville. Within another six years the town also boasted a gasoline plant as well as a rig and reel manufacturing plant.³⁸ Peak production from the Holdenville pool would occur about 1930, after which oil production settled into a slow but steady decline.³⁹ Nevertheless, one estimate indicates that ten oil refineries and storage tanks still operated in Holdenville by the late 1930s.⁴⁰ One important figure in the oil leasing industry in Holdenville was Harry H. Diamond. He built a beautiful Renaissance Revival style house in Holdenville (figure 14). When it was built in 1926 it was one of the first houses in the Country Club Heights Addition. Although oil dealers,

³⁷ Sanborn Map Company. "Holdenville, Indian Territory 1901," "Holdenville, Indian Territory 1903," "Holdenville, Oklahoma 1908," and "Holdenville, Oklahoma 1913."

³⁸ Sanborn Map Company. "Holdenville, Oklahoma 1926."

³⁹ Carney, George O. "Energy: South Central Oklahoma, 1900-1930." (Oklahoma City: State Historic Preservation Office, 1985), 66.

⁴⁰ Shumaka, Thelma. "Hughes County." (Ms. prepared February 11, 1937), 2.



Figure 14. The Harry H. Diamond House in 2002. Photo by author.

producers, contractors, and wholesalers endured as a prominent part of Holdenville's enterprise into the 1950s, few remained after that.

Agriculture

Holdenville's position in the savanna and woodlands region of Oklahoma, an area characterized by gentle hills and broad valleys, was conducive to the development of commercial agriculture. Cotton, corn, and peanuts constituted the triadic base of the town's agricultural economy, and Holdenville developed as a regionally significant agro-processing center. Feed mills, grain elevators, corn husking and peanut shelling plants, cotton gins, and cotton oil companies dominated the agro-industrial landscape of Holdenville through the 1920s.

For some 40 years following the establishment of Holdenville, cotton truly was king, so to speak. As early as 1898, just three years following the initial platting of the

townsite, two cotton gins had been built and were operating. By 1907 a large cotton platform had been added just east of the railroad depot near the southwest corner of the intersection of Broadway and Oklahoma Streets, and a cotton warehouse occupied the southwest corner of Choctaw and Creek Streets.⁴¹ By 1920, as many as seven different cotton processors—including gins, cotton oil companies, and cotton compresses—were operating in Holdenville.⁴²

Local farmers shifted away from cotton cultivation about the time of the Depression, and peanuts became a leading crop followed by grains, especially corn. Another change in the agricultural sector has been the conversion of farms to pastures and the increasing importance of livestock, especially Hereford and Angus breeds. More recently, the construction of a poultry processing plant has helped create jobs in the area. Without knowing these aspects of Holdenville's agricultural past, a glance at the town's landscape today would not prove particularly revealing because so few buildings or structures associated with milling or ginning have survived.

Commercial/Professional Establishments

One of the first people to establish a store in Holdenville was Thomas H. Scales, who operated a general merchandise store on Main Street before the turn of the twentieth century. Although other enterprises have taken the place of the Scales' business, his house still stands. It is among the oldest of the residential dwellings in Holdenville (figures 15 and 16). Commercial growth in Holdenville predates statehood by more than

⁴¹ Sanborn Map Company. "Holdenville, Oklahoma 1908."

⁴² Sanborn Map Company. "Holdenville, Oklahoma 1920."



Figure 15. The Thomas H. Scales residence, as it appeared in the early 1900s. The house dates to 1896 and is possibly the oldest residential dwelling in Holdenville. Photo courtesy The Planter's Trust Company, *Glimpses Through Holdenville and Vicinity*, 1904, page 21.



Figure 16. The Scales' house in 2002. This house is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

a decade and the town still possesses a number of commercial structures that were built before 1907. The oldest and most attractive building in downtown Holdenville is the First National Bank Building (101 West Main Street). After 1912, the building housed the Amos Drug Store; nevertheless, the distinguishing feature of this building is its second story tower which provides an elegant architectural flourish to its Romanesque Revival style (figures 17 and 18). The First National Bank Building was built by C. M. Hamilton, and two years later he built another sandstone building adjacent to it at 102 North Broadway. That same year, another bank, housed in the H. Johnson Building (1903), was erected at 103 West Main Street.

In addition to banks, hotels constituted important downtown landmarks. However, few historic hotels are to be found in Holdenville today. The C. W. Miller Building at 117-125 South Creek Street originally served as a hotel and was built in 1922. Around the corner from this is the Cope Hotel at 207-209 West Oklahoma Avenue. It dates to 1925 and may have been owned by C. W. Miller at one time because it also bears his name.

The R. D. Howell Building is also one of the older buildings in Holdenville. It was built in 1902, but it has been altered over the years. The building is located at 104-106 North Creek Street where it houses a local museum. When the building was first constructed, however, it functioned as a livery (figures 19 and 20). The building remained a livery until about 1913, by which time it had been converted for use as the Empress Theater. It continued to function as a movie theater, called the Grand Theater, from 1920 through the 1940s.



Figure 17. The First National Bank Building as it appeared in the early 1900s. Photo courtesy The Planter's Trust Company, *Glimpses Through Holdenville and Vicinity*, 1904, page 22.



Figure 18. The First National Bank Building in 2002. Photo by author.

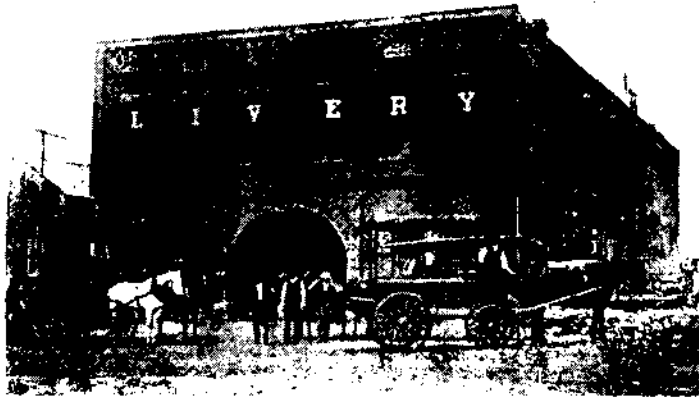


Figure 19. The Dixon Livery Barn in the early 1900s. Photo courtesy The Planter's Trust Company, *Glimpses Through Holdenville and Vicinity*, 1904, page 11.

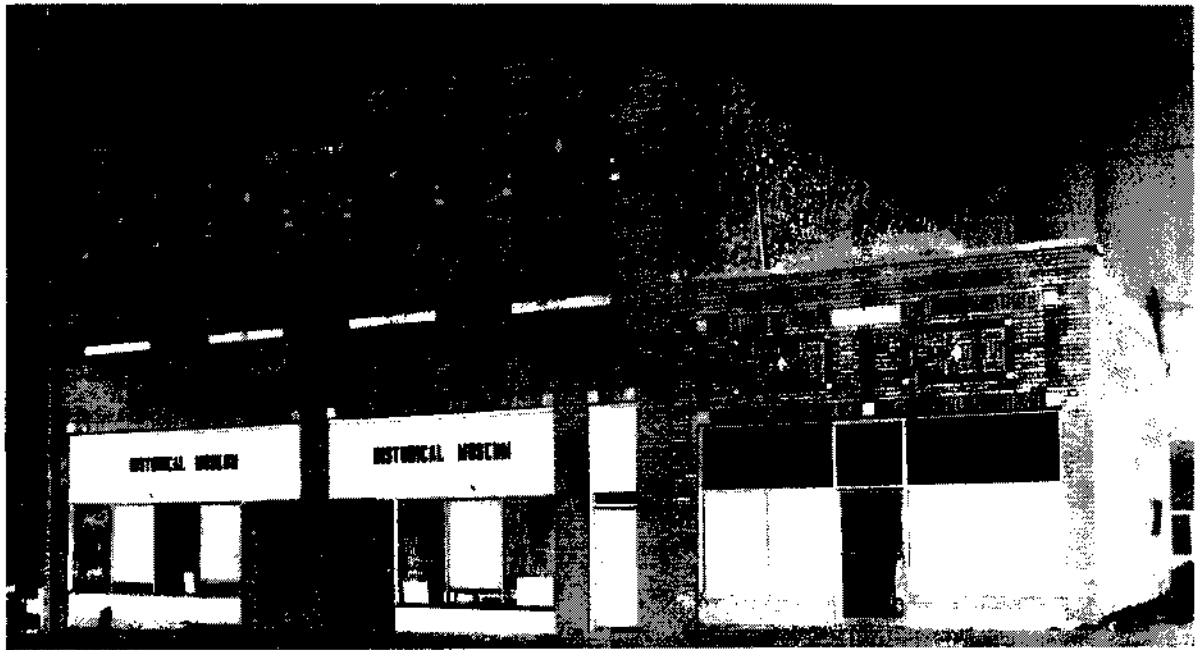


Figure 20. The R. D. Howell Building—formerly the Dixon Livery Barn—still stands on North Creek Street. Photo by author.

Another notable commercial building in Holdenville is the Southwestern Bell Telephone Company Building at 201 North Gulf Street. The architectural detailing on this building is exquisite and it is an excellent example of the Art Deco style on a building that is now more than 70 years old (figure 21). By contrast, the Main Service Station at 223 West Main Street is a much more modest example of the Art Deco style applied to a gas station. It is also about the same age as the Southwestern Bell Telephone Company Building.



Figure 21. The Art Deco style Southwestern Bell Telephone Company Building in 2002. Photo by author.

Transportation

The town of Holdenville materialized because of the construction of the Choctaw, Oklahoma and Gulf Railroad (later the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific) in 1895. The following year a depot had been constructed adjacent to the railroad tracks at foot of Creek Street.⁴³ By the turn of the century the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad had also laid its tracks through Holdenville.⁴⁴ Within a few years it had erected both freight and passenger depots in Holdenville. The passenger depot was located on the east side of the tracks just south of Oklahoma Avenue. By 1920 the two depots had been consolidated and one building served as the depot for both railroads. This building stood at the intersection of the two lines of track such that it was bounded on one side by the Frisco, on another by the Rock Island, on a third side by Echo Street, and on the fourth side by Main Street. This building no longer exists and its loss serves as a testimony to the declining importance of rail transportation and the rise in automobile ownership.

Schools and Churches

The first school in Holdenville was a subscription school which started in 1896.⁴⁵ Taxes to support education, and specifically the construction of public schools, were implemented in 1900.⁴⁶ Shortly thereafter, Holdenville's first public school building was erected. By 1903 a new and larger school was constructed at Bullitt and Sixth streets, and within another decade a school for Holdenville's black population had also been built. In addition, by 1920 Holdenville had two high schools, one for blacks and the other for

⁴³ Cook, Fran. *"Acho" Flower of the Prairie*, after 116.

⁴⁴ *Ibid.*, 125.

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*, 116.

⁴⁶ *Ibid.*, 145.

whites. Later that decade a new high school was built. It has since become the junior high school, and still occupies the block on Ninth Street between Oak and Cedar.

Church communities were among the first organizations to form in towns across Oklahoma. The Methodist Episcopal Church, initially located on the southeast corner of Echo and Third Streets, may have been the first church building erected in Holdenville in 1896.⁴⁷ If so, it was quickly followed by the construction of a Baptist church. As early as 1908 the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints was holding worship services in a building on the southeast corner of Fourth and Broadway.⁴⁸

Over the years many churches would be built in Holdenville and several would concentrate in the area just to the north and east of the business district. Three of Holdenville's more architecturally significant churches date to the 1920s. These include the First Christian Church (1925) at 200 East Ninth Street, the Barnard United Methodist Church (1925) at 300 East Eight Street, and the First Baptist Church (1927) at 306 North Broadway. This last church provides a fine example of the Late Gothic Revival style.

Cultural and Social

Information concerning the dates of establishment of the different social organizations such as the Masons and Elks has not been forthcoming, but it is likely that several such organizations had formed shortly after Holdenville was established. Many of these groups did not always construct meeting halls but met instead in office buildings or other properties. Nevertheless, a meeting hall for the black member of the Knights of

⁴⁷ Cook, Fran. *"Acho" Flower of the Prairie*, 117.

⁴⁸ Sanborn Map Company. "Holdenville, Oklahoma 1908."

Pythias stood on the northeast corner of Pine and Fifth Streets.⁴⁹ About 1955 the Elks Lodge was constructed at 114 South Echo Street. For some time prior to this they held their meetings beside the Barnard Furniture Store on North Creek Street.⁵⁰

As early as 1901 Holdenville boasted an opera house.⁵¹ Moving pictures arrived in Holdenville by 1908, and they provided another type of entertainment. By about 1948 the armory which had been built at 124 North Creek Street in the 1920s was converted to a civic center. This building still exists and presently functions as the senior citizen's center. Holdenville's library dates to about 1901, however it did not have its own building until the 1930s. In 1934 the library in Holdenville was constructed as part of a WPA project. Over the years it has been enlarged and upgraded. Financial support from T. Boone Pickens has helped fund the library, which is now named in honor of his mother, Grace.⁵²

Politics and Government

Holdenville's city hall is a very attractive Greek Revival style building that dates to 1910 and has been listed in the National Register since 1981 (figure 22). The building is still in use today. The first courthouse, with a jail on the fourth floor, was erected in Holdenville in 1920. It was used for several decades before being razed so that a more modern facility could be built. The Holdenville Post Office (123 West Seventh Street) dates to 1935 and is another Art Deco-styled property that is National Register eligible.

⁴⁹ Sanborn Map Company. "Holdenville, Oklahoma 1920."

⁵⁰ *Moorehead Directory Company's Holdenville City Directory*, 1953.

⁵¹ Sanborn Map Company. "Holdenville, Indian Territory 1901."

⁵² *Holdenville Daily News*. "Holdenville: 100 Years and Counting," 29.

The post office has not always been in this location. Before moving to this site, the post office was located on South Creek Street, and prior to that it was located on Sixth Street.



Figure 22. Holdenville's City Hall is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Photo by author.

During the Depression, the WPA functioned as a work relief program. It contributed significantly to the architectural resources of Oklahoma, and Holdenville possesses several remarkable facilities that were built as a result of WPA projects in the late 1930s and early 1940s. For example, the Holdenville Armory was built as a WPA project in 1935-1936, and it has been listed in the National Register since 1988. Another notable structure is the Stroup Park Pool and Bath House which is located at Twelfth and Broadway and was built in 1936. An additional major facility is the Holdenville Athletic Park/Football Stadium which is located just north of the pool and bath house. The athletic park dates to 1941. Yet another structure is the stone-lined drainage channel that winds through Stroup Park. At the Holdenville Cemetery, the old gates marking the former entrance to the cemetery and the caretaker's building also resulted from improvements made to the cemetery by WPA workers (figure 23). The fact that many of these structures were created using local sandstone that is often untooled and uncoursed provides a testimony to the amount of thought and labor that went into their design and construction. On a final note, Holdenville also possessed at one time a workshop that was built as part of a National Youth Administration (NYA) project. The workshop was erected in 1940 adjacent to the junior high school building where Broadway meets Tenth Street. The building no longer exists.



Figure 23. The old entrance gates to the Holdenville Cemetery and a view toward the cemetery pavilion. Photo by author.

WETUMKA

Founding and Naming

The name “Wetumka” means tumbling or falling water and derives from a Creek settlement in Alabama.⁵³ In 1835 some Creeks who had survived the Trail of Tears settled in the area. By 1858 Timothy Barnett had established a nearby trading post at a place that would be called Barnettsville, but another 23 years elapsed before a post office bearing the name Wetumka was established.⁵⁴ Then, in 1900, the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad built through the area. Because the route of the railroad did not pass through Wetumka, the town was moved to the railroad and incorporated that same year. The distance between the two places was about one mile as the crow flies. “Old Wetumka” was located to the southeast of the new town, and nothing remains of the settlement today.

The Department of the Interior approved the townsite survey and plat of Wetumka on November 13, 1901. The sale of lots in Wetumka took place on July 22, 1902. The original townsite of Wetumka covered 56 blocks, most of which are 300 feet square and separated by streets 80 feet wide. A few blocks in Wetumka are 400 feet square. Portions of ten blocks on Main Street and four blocks on Broadway were platted as business blocks. Broadway is the only street in Wetumka that is 100 feet wide, and in places it still contains a grassy median. That median does not necessarily reflect a desire of town planners to create a distinguished thoroughfare connecting an upscale residential area to

⁵³ Shirk, *Oklahoma Place Names*, 220.

⁵⁴ *Ibid.*; Thetford, Francis. “This is Oklahoma: Hughes County.” *The Sunday Oklahoman* (30 April, 1961), 9; Gibson, Armand E. “Indian Territory Towns: Hughes County and Vicinity.”

the downtown. Rather, because the width of this street raised the cost of paving it, the median became a pragmatic compromise to reduce those costs.⁵⁵

Natural Resources/Industry

Lumber constituted a foundational industry for Wetumka. In 1902, for example, three lumber companies were operational. The extension of the railroad stimulated a need for railroad ties, and the subsequent arrival of businesses and residents in need of stores and dwellings sustained the demand for lumber. The construction of oil drilling rigs during the 1920s also prolonged the local demand for lumber. Although it is practically in ruins today, one of buildings associated with the E. S. Billington Lumber Company still stands at 112 East Frisco Avenue. This lumber company operated in Wetumka during the 1930s, after which time it became part of the Barnes Lumber Company, and subsequently the Wetumka Lumber Company.

October 12, 1922 marks the start of Wetumka's oil boom. On that day oil was discovered on a nearby farm. According to one source, fifteen drilling rigs had been planned or already built in the Wetumka vicinity by the end of the year, and hundreds of boxcars delivered much-needed oil field supplies to the depot in Wetumka.⁵⁶ Local industry expanded to include pipeline construction and gasoline production. The Phillips Gasoline Plant was built near Wetumka in the 1920s and pipelines carried the gas to the depot in Wetumka where it was shipped by rail to other parts of the country.⁵⁷

Comparatively speaking, however, Wetumka's oil boom occurred later, did not last as

⁵⁵ Osborn, B. J. *Wetumka: A Centennial History*. (San Jose, CA: Writer's Club Press, 2002), 70.

⁵⁶ *Ibid.*, 61; 66-67.

⁵⁷ *Ibid.*, 67-68.

long, and transpired on a much smaller scale than the oil booms associated with Holdenville and Wewoka. Indeed, Wetumka's geography places it on the periphery of the Greater Seminole District. By the close of the 1920s the oil boom had passed.

A cheese factory opened in Wetumka in 1930 but soon went out of business.⁵⁸ One of the more unusual industries to locate in Wetumka was that of casket-making. The manufacturer was affiliated with the Stout-Walker Funeral Home and operated out of Wetumka for a few years in the 1930s.⁵⁹ Perhaps because of the Depression this business was also short-lived.

Agriculture

Subsistence cultivation of corn and a mixture of fruits, vegetables, and nuts helped feed most families but cotton quickly became a major regional cash crop for most farmers in the Wetumka area. By 1911 four cotton gins operated in Wetumka and the town had developed into a small cotton-processing center.

All of the cotton gins clustered around the railroad. The Ada Cotton Oil Mill Cotton Gin was located on the east side of Washita at Clare Avenue. Across the railroad tracks to the south of this stood the Farmer's Merchants Gin. The Shephard Brothers Cotton Gin and Grist Mill was located to the southwest side of the original townsite on Wewoka Street just south of Broadway. The Odell Gin Company occupied the southwest corner formed by the intersection of Benson and Wewoka Streets.⁶⁰ Nothing remains of these gins today; however, there are some old grain storage tanks still standing on North

⁵⁸ Ibid., 125.

⁵⁹ Ibid., 133.

⁶⁰ Sanborn Map Company, "Wetumka, Oklahoma 1911."

Okmulgee Street at Frances Avenue. In the 1920s this site was part of the Wetumka Grist Mill and it is possible that the grain tanks are a remnant of this facility or a later one that operated on this site.⁶¹

Wetumka, like other southern and eastern Oklahoma towns, suffered from cotton's demise in the 1920s. The problem of overproduction was compounded by the excessively high tenancy rates and poor soil management practices. The search to find a crop as valuable as cotton stimulated peanut cultivation, and peanuts soon became the leading crop by value in Hughes County. By 1961 Hughes County ranked third among Oklahoma counties in terms of peanut production.⁶² Livestock have long contributed to the agricultural economy in the Wetumka area. Cattle and quarterhorses have become a more significant component of local agriculture since the shift away from cotton began.

Commercial/Professional Establishments

As a small town, Wetumka's commercial development has been rather limited. However, Wetumka's slow growth has also worked to save several historic properties from the wrecking ball of progress and improvement. In fact, a number of commercial buildings in Wetumka's downtown date to the first decade of the nineteenth century. For example, the two-story building that occupies the northwest corner of St. Louis and Main was one of Wetumka's first banks, the Bank of Commerce (figure 24). Built about 1900, the property appears to have served as a bank and office building through the 1930s.⁶³ By

⁶¹ Sanborn Map Company. "Wetumka, Oklahoma 1925."

⁶² "This is Oklahoma: Hughes County." *The Sunday Oklahoman*, 30 April, 1961.

⁶³ Sanborn Map Company. "Wetumka, Indian Territory, 1902;" "Wetumka, Oklahoma, 1911;" "Wetumka, Oklahoma, 1932."

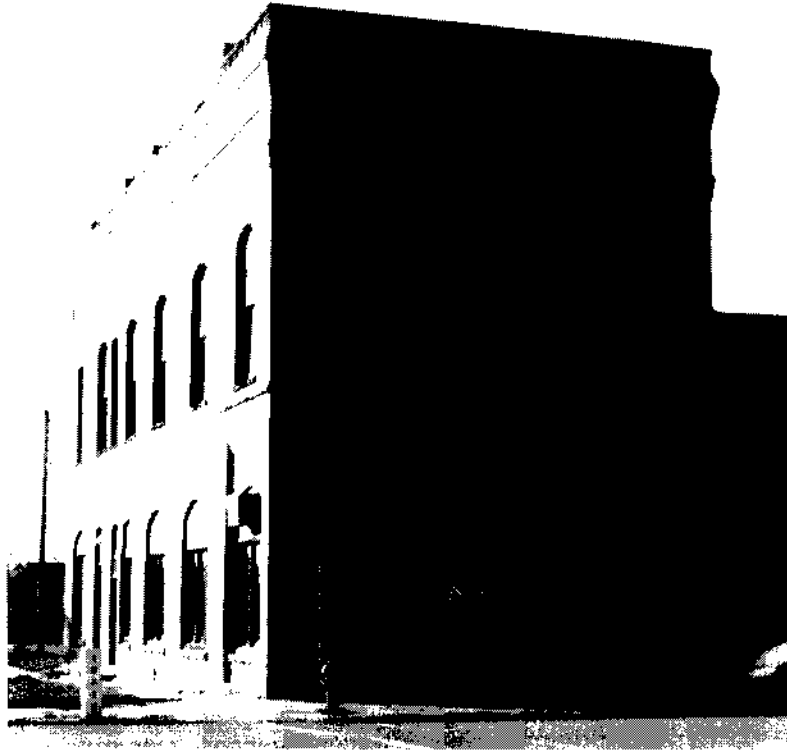


Figure 24. The Bank of Commerce Building in Wetumka. Photo by author.

about 1943, however, it housed a printing facility.⁶⁴ The one-story building beside this on the north (120 South Main Street) also dates to about 1900 and operated as a general store for the next four decades, after which it housed a machine shop and then a printing facility.⁶⁵ Across the street at 119 South Main Street stands another two-story building that also dates to about 1900. Over the years this building has housed a number of businesses including a hardware/furniture store, a clothes cleaning and pressing business, and, most recently, a bar.⁶⁶

⁶⁴ Sanborn Map Company. "Wetumka, Oklahoma 1943."

⁶⁵ Sanborn Map Company. "Wetumka, Indian Territory, 1902;" "Wetumka, Oklahoma, 1932;" "Wetumka, Oklahoma, 1943;" "Wetumka, Oklahoma, 1959."

⁶⁶ Sanborn Map Company. "Wetumka, Indian Territory, 1903;" "Wetumka, Oklahoma, 1932."

Two important bank buildings in Wetumka, in addition to the one mentioned above, include the Buck Building at 101 North Main Street and the American National Bank Building at 101 South Main Street. The Buck Building was built in 1916 and has been fairly substantially altered although it still houses a bank today. The American National Bank Building dates to 1906 and remains Wetumka's most attractive Romanesque Revival style building (figures 25 and 26).

Other buildings that date to the first decade of Wetumka's existence include the building at 110 South Main Street, the Farmer's Exchange Building at 115-117 West Broadway, and the building at 121 North Main Street. From 1903 to sometime in the 1960s or 1970s the Brick Hotel was one of Wetumka's main landmarks. It occupied the northwest corner of Broadway and Canadian and in the 1930s was converted to the Neely-Penn Hospital.⁶⁷ In 1925 Turner Meadors built an impressive three-story hotel on the southeast corner of Broadway and Main (figure 27). The hotel was a product of and reflection of the success of Wetumka's oil boom. By the 1970s it had become a reflection of Wetumka's economic stagnation and stood vacant. Tragically, on August 24, 2002 the Meadors Hotel burned, completely destroying the building and leaving a substantial void in the heart of Wetumka's business district.

⁶⁷ Osborn, B. J. *Wetumka: A Centennial History*, 80.



Figure 25. The American National Bank Building in Wetumka. Photo by author.

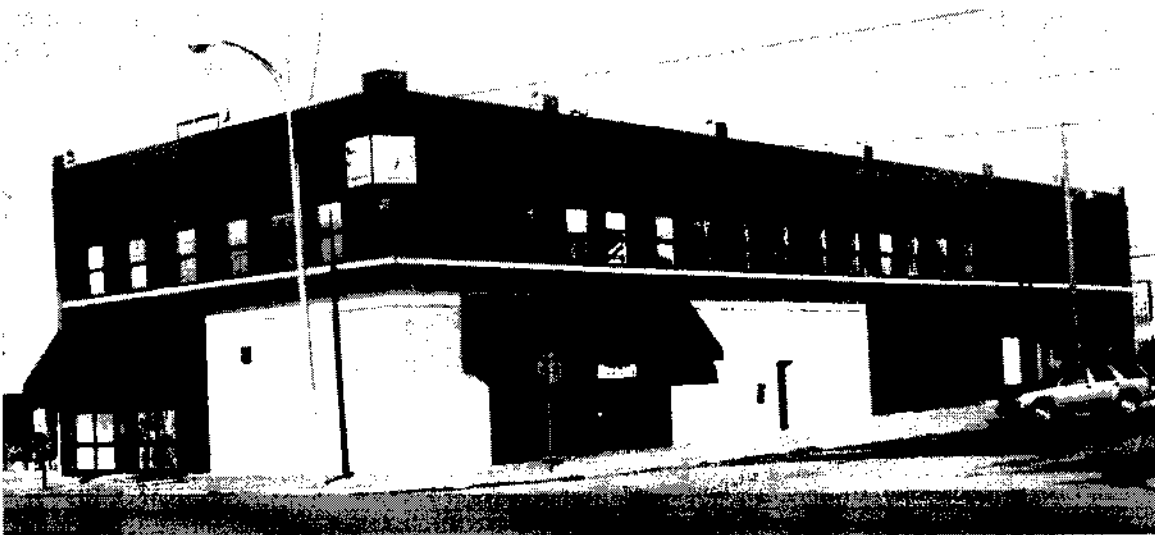


Figure 26. The Buck Building, another of Wetumka's early banks, has been significantly altered. Photo by author.

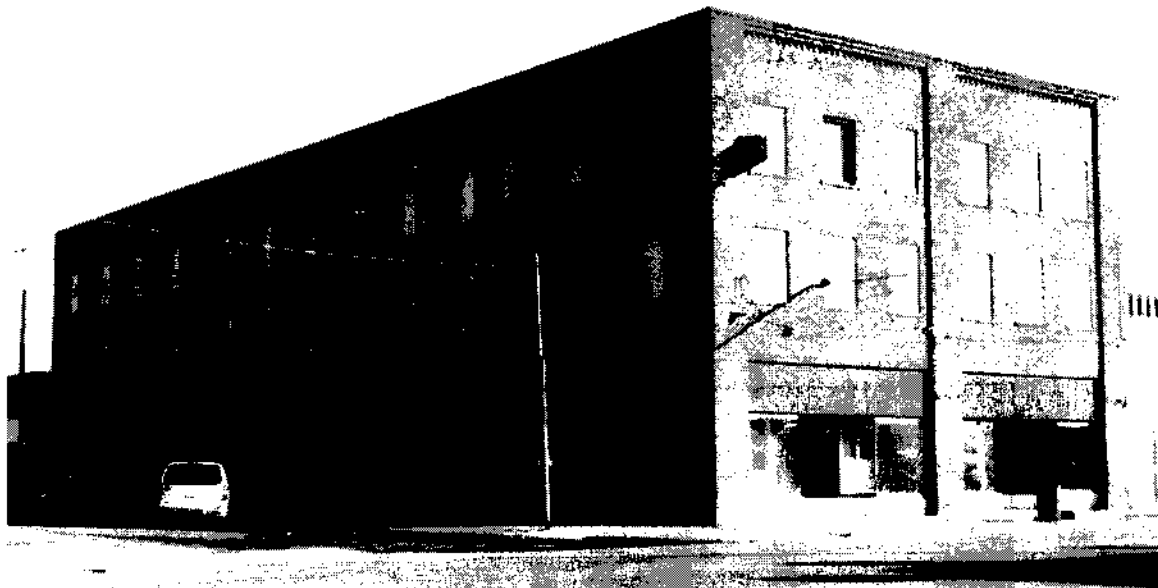


Figure 27. The Meadors Hotel in Wetumka. This picture was taken eight months before the hotel was gutted by fire. Photo by author.

Transportation

The arrival of the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad spurred Wetumka's municipal growth. Even Wetumka's street names such as Frisco Avenue and St. Louis Avenue pay homage to the railroad. The Frisco depot stood on the north side of the tracks about where Grand Avenue intersects Canadian Street, but has long since vanished.

Schools and Churches

Wetumka's first school was the two-story Central Ward School built in 1906 on South Canadian Street at St. Louis Avenue. That school burned in 1933 and the Central Public School was subsequently built on the same site as a WPA project.⁶⁸ About 1921

⁶⁸ Ibid., 81.

construction on Wetumka's high school was completed. It was located on the southeast side of town, and burned in 1938. Like Central Public School the high school was also rebuilt with WPA labor.⁶⁹ Prior to integration, Douglass Schools provided education for the black citizens of Wetumka. In 1946 a new school building for blacks was constructed near the southwest corner of the intersection of Wewoka and Mingo Streets. After integration occurred, this school building was converted for use as a factory and housed a local branch of the Masterbilt Motors Company. The building is no longer in use.

Wetumka's "church district" lies one block from Main Street on East Broadway. Two of Wetumka's prominent downtown churches were creations of the oil boom period and occupy corner lots here. In 1927 the First Baptist Church erected a very large Neoclassical building on the southeast corner of Broadway and Alabama. The following year the Tudor Revival style First Christian Church was built on the opposite corner. In 1951 the Methodists built a new church on the northeast corner of Broadway and Alabama.

Cultural and Social

Early types of cultural and social activities in Wetumka included Chautauqua speakers and numerous kinds of festivals and fairs that showcased agricultural and vocational activities. Of course, motion pictures were also popular and had reached Wetumka by about 1908. The first theater in Wetumka was the Lyric Theater. Among the other theaters that operated in Wetumka were the Electric Theater, the Princess Theater,

⁶⁹ Ibid., 83.

and the Redskin Theater.⁷⁰ The Balcony Movie Theater at 112-114 South Main Street operated into the 1950s and offered both meals and movies. Today, this building stands vacant.

Various fraternal and civic organizations formed in Wetumka. One of the oldest fraternal lodges in Wetumka with an extant and historic meeting hall is the International Order of Odd Fellows which formally organized on February 3, 1902. Their two-story sandstone-clad meeting hall dates to 1921. During the 1930s the first floor of this building provided space for the Wetumka Armory and since the 1940s it has been used primarily for storage.⁷¹

Politics and Government

Before statehood Wetumka housed one of the district courthouses of the Creek Nation, giving the town significance in the context of the legal history of Indian Territory. Since statehood and the establishment of the county seat in Holdenville government functions moved out of Wetumka. However, various types of government-funded construction projects have contributed to Wetumka's cultural resources. Most of these projects resulted from relief projects that put Wetumka's citizens to work during the Depression. For example, NYA activities were organized in Wetumka as well WPA projects. WPA workers built the Wetumka Armory in 1936. In fact, this is the only property in Wetumka that is listed in the National Register. The Central Public School,

⁷⁰ Ibid., 85; 198.

⁷¹ Sanborn Map Company. "Wetumka, Oklahoma, 1925;" "Wetumka, Oklahoma, 1932;" "Wetumka, Oklahoma, 1943;" "Wetumka, Oklahoma, 1959."

the old high school, and the football field were also WPA projects.⁷² One of the buildings that was part of the old high school complex on East Porter Avenue, the Home Economics Building, still stands. WPA workers are also responsible for paving many of Wetumka's streets, while numerous farm-to-market roads into Wetumka were built by WPA laborers.⁷³ Finally, it is important to point out that relief projects benefited whites, black, and Indians alike. One road construction project carried out solely with Indian WPA workers was that which connected Wetumka to Thlopthlocco.⁷⁴ Wetumka also has the distinction of having been the location of one of only three segregated CCC camps in the state.⁷⁵

⁷² Osborn, B. J. *Wetumka: A Centennial History*, 67.

⁷³ *Ibid.*, 113-114.

⁷⁴ *Ibid.*, 153.

⁷⁵ *Ibid.*, 139.

WEWOKA

Founding and Naming

The origins of Wewoka are associated with the removal of the Seminole Indians from Florida to Fort Gibson in Indian Territory. Following removal to Fort Gibson disputes developed over which land the Seminoles should occupy. To complicate matters, the Seminoles were steadfast in their opposition to being ruled by the Creeks. Resolution of these disputes finally came in 1856 when the United States negotiated a treaty with the Creeks by which in excess of two million acres of land were ceded to the Seminoles.⁷⁶ Following the Civil War, the Seminoles would be forced to cede the bulk of this land to the federal government, leaving the Seminoles with control over the land that has become Seminole County.

An important component of these developments involved Seminole slaves. A customary practice among the Seminoles was for their slaves live in towns separate from but adjacent to Seminole towns or settlements. In 1849 the first group to arrive in the area consisted of nearly 300 Seminole slaves.⁷⁷ They settled a short distance to the south of a government-operated remount station, and called the place "Wewoka," for roaring water, probably a reference to some falls on nearby Wewoka Creek.⁷⁸ Following this, the movement of Seminoles to the area proceeded very slowly, was interrupted by the Civil

⁷⁶ Wright, Muriel H. *A Guide to the Indian Tribes of Oklahoma*, 233.

⁷⁷ *Barking Water: The History of Wewoka*. (Wewoka: Wewoka Chapter of the American Association of University Women, 1960), 1.

⁷⁸ *Ibid.*

War, and was not effectively completed until 1868.⁷⁹ One year prior to this the first post office opened in Wewoka.⁸⁰

In 1895 surveyors for the Choctaw, Oklahoma and Gulf Railroad (later the Rock Island) delimited the route of the railroad through Wewoka and surveyed the townsite. The Seminoles agreed to the allotment of their lands in severalty in 1897. As with Holdenville, the implementation of the allotment process would require government approval of the townsite plat, followed by lot purchase through a lottery or auction. Wewoka remained off-limits to white settlement until 1902, when the lots were made available for sale.

Wewoka's morphology might best be described as a modified "T-town." That is, several of the north-south streets end at the railroad tracks, though they are not perpendicular to them. Of the 150 platted blocks, most were 300 feet square, and were separated by streets 80 feet wide. As a glance at any map of Wewoka will reveal, however, the blocks between Wewoka and Seminole Avenues are noticeably larger. Thirty-seven blocks in this area were surveyed as business blocks that consisted of business frontage on each of the four streets bounding the block. In addition, Okfuskee, Mekusukey, and Seminole Avenues are 90 feet wide. Since the 1920s, several additions to the east, south, and west of Wewoka have also altered the town's basic morphology.

One of the early and more substantial residences built in Wewoka was the Jackson Brown house. Jackson Brown was the brother of Seminole principal chief or "governor" John Brown. Jackson Brown's house dates to 1896 and has been listed on the

⁷⁹ Wright, *A Guide to the Indian Tribes of Oklahoma*, 235.

⁸⁰ Shirk, *Oklahoma Place Names*, 221.

National Register since 1980. It has since fallen into disrepair and was slated for demolition in 1998. The property still stands in its original location and should be considered an endangered historic property. Significantly, it is the only extant property from the Seminole Republic. Moreover, the house constitutes an uncommon Oklahoma example of a nineteenth century log dwelling. What is fascinating about the house is that it was constructed of hewn, square-notched logs. In folk architecture, square notching occurs with less frequency than other notching techniques such as “v” or saddle notching. One reason for this may be because it was not really a notching technique. That is, the ends of the logs are not notched together. In a square notch, the ends of the logs rest on top of one another, requiring wooden pegs or nails to hold the ends of the logs together (figures 28 and 29). The Jackson Brown house is significant not only because it provides a window on the vernacular craftsmanship at the time, but also because of its age and association with the Seminole Republic.

Natural Resources/Industry

The vegetation around Wewoka consists of a mixture of grasslands interspersed with blackjack and post oak trees associated with the cross timbers. In fact, the oldest continuously operating industry in Wewoka is the lumber industry. More specifically, the T. H. Rogers Lumber Company has been a part of Wewoka’s industry since 1899.⁸¹ For many years it was located at 114 West First Street. It is presently located south of Wewoka on Seran Drive.

⁸¹ “Bi-Centennial Celebration, Wewoka, 1976,” 29; *Barking Water: The History of Wewoka.*, 6.



Figure 28. The Jackson Brown House at 201 East Eleventh Street in Wewoka. This historic structure is in need of rehabilitation. Photo by author.



Figure 29. Close-up showing the square notching on exposed timbers near the base of the chimney on the Jackson Brown House. Photo by author.

A partial listing of other industries that developed in Wewoka includes a brick plant, ice plant, meat-packing plant, and bottling works. However, when judged in terms their production value these industries pale in comparison to the petroleum industry. Indeed, Wewoka's growth and development was dominated by oil.

Like the other towns discussed in this report, Wewoka is situated in the Sandstone Hills physiographic province. In a number of places in Seminole County the underlying rock strata, or sands, are saturated with petroleum. Furthermore, oil prospecting and drilling had been undertaken in Wewoka as early as 1901.⁸² One of the businesses leading this endeavor was the Wewoka Trading Company. As early as 1907, drillers had reached the Wewoka Sand.⁸³ However, another sixteen years would elapse before it would become a major oil producing formation. In fact, Wewoka's oil boom dates to 1923, and the discovery in that year of the Betsy Foster No. 1 well.⁸⁴ The Wewoka Pool covered an area of nearly 2,000 acres and produced oil from multiple different horizons. Between the discovery of the Betsy Foster in 1923 and 1940, the Wewoka Pool had produced over 48 million barrels of oil, making it the seventh leading producing pool in the Greater Seminole District.⁸⁵

Although census figures disguise the rapidity of Wewoka's growth because they provide data every ten years, the increase in Wewoka's population triggered by the oil boom was explosive. According to the decennial censuses for Oklahoma, Wewoka's population grew from a meager 1,520 in 1920 to 10,401 in 1930. Oil drilling companies

⁸² *Barking Water: The History of Wewoka.*, 7.

⁸³ Carney, "Energy: South Central Oklahoma, 1900-1930," 57.

⁸⁴ *Ibid.*

⁸⁵ *Ibid.*, 56.

and oil field supply companies moved into Wewoka by the dozen.⁸⁶ By 1936, however, oil production started to decline and by the 1950s the oil industry had played out, prompting city leaders to seek to attract other industries to Wewoka. Moreover, while many of the architecturally and historically significant properties in Wewoka were built at the time of or as a result of Wewoka's oil boom, they are not industrial properties. Consequently, they are discussed in several of the following sections.

Agriculture

Agriculture, especially the cultivation of cotton as a cash crop, constituted the mainstay of Wewoka's economy prior to the oil boom. In addition to cotton, corn was grown as one of the staple subsistence crops. By 1904 the Wewoka Trading Company's Cotton and Grist Mill had been built and was operational. In addition, a cotton platform stood adjacent to the railroad tracks along Park Street. To a certain extent, Wewoka was in Holdenville's shadow and could never really sustain more than two cotton gins and one cottonseed oil mill at one time. Along with cotton and corn, pecans were locally grown and harvested. Some sorghum was also milled to produce syrup and each year the City of Wewoka hosts a sorghum festival.

Commercial/Professional Establishments

For many decades the corner lots at the intersection of First and Wewoka constituted the commercial and financial hub of the town. Elijah J. Brown, a licensed

⁸⁶ *Barking Water: The History of Wewoka.*, 11.

trader in Indian Territory, created the Wewoka Trading Company in the late 1860s. This was Wewoka's first business. John Brown, no relation to Elijah, eventually purchased the company and it became very successful. In the words of one scholar, the Wewoka Trading Company was "...one of the largest commercial firms in the Southwest, once rated by Dunn & Bradstreet in the million-dollar class."⁸⁷ This success established Wewoka as an important mercantile center and likely enhanced Brown's recognition, for he would go on to serve the Seminoles as their principal chief for thirty years. The Wewoka Trading Company occupied the northwest corner of the intersection of First and Wewoka until it was consumed by fire in 1925.

The First National Bank, established in 1902, was the first bank in Wewoka and it occupied the southeast corner of First and Wewoka.⁸⁸ Across the street to the north, the Deibler Building also served as a bank. The building was erected in 1906 but appears to have been modified a few years later and given a canted corner, which the building no longer possesses today.⁸⁹ This building is significant because it is one of only a handful of buildings in Wewoka's downtown that was built prior to statehood and prior to the oil boom. Across Wewoka Avenue from the Deibler Building, stands the C. Guy Cutlip/Security State Bank Building which housed another of Wewoka's banks and was built in 1926.

Two other buildings in the downtown area that were built before the oil boom deserve mention. One is the J. Coody Johnson Building (1916) that has been listed in the National Register since 1985. Located at 122 North Wewoka Avenue, this building

⁸⁷ Wright, *A Guide to the Indian Tribes of Oklahoma*, 235.

⁸⁸ *Ibid.*, 25.

⁸⁹ Sanborn Map Company. "Wewoka, Oklahoma 1913."

housed the law offices of Mr. Johnson, whose ancestors had been former slaves. The second building stands across the street from the Johnson Building at 121-123 North Wewoka Avenue and was built even earlier, about 1905. Initially this building contained offices and a drug store. Between 1908 and 1913 it functioned as a hardware/furniture store and drug store.⁹⁰ Sometime after that it became the Jones Department Store.

Before the oil boom Wewoka possessed several hotels, but during the oil boom numerous hotels and boarding houses were built in an attempt to meet the demands of the flood of people into town. The 1913 Sanborn map of Wewoka recorded three hotels in existence and one "to be built." The next Sanborn map which was completed in 1925 at the peak of the oil boom recorded ten hotels in Wewoka, and this is likely an undercount. Similarly, the 1938 city directory of Wewoka listed eleven hotels.⁹¹ It seems that few of these hotels have survived. In this regard, the Reed Hotel at 106 North Wewoka Avenue is significant. It was built about 1920 and is one of the few surviving three-story buildings in Wewoka. Of course, the most renowned hotel in Wewoka is the four-story Aldridge Hotel on the northeast corner of Third and Wewoka. The hotel is not lavish but achieves its simple elegance through the thoughtful use of polychromatic brick. In 1958 the building was converted to a retirement center and in 1986 it was listed in the National Register. At the time of this survey, the building was vacant (figure 30).

One of the business spin-offs associated with the oil boom involved the proliferation of lawyers necessary to handle the legal details associated with oil royalties and the sale of oil leases. A tally of attorneys listed in the 1938 city directory revealed

⁹⁰ Sanborn Map Company. "Wewoka, Oklahoma 1908" and Sanborn Map Company. "Wewoka, Oklahoma 1913."

⁹¹ *The Mullin-Kille and Times-Democrat Wewoka, Oklahoma Con-Survey*, vol. 1, 1938-39.

that a total of 46 had offices in Wewoka.⁹² As a result, Wewoka had several office buildings to accommodate them. Extant examples of these include the W. S. Key Building at 111-113 North Wewoka Avenue, the Aldridge Building at 100-102 South Wewoka Avenue, the Hill and Banta Building at 210 South Wewoka Avenue, and the Dodd and Smith Building at 301-305 South Wewoka Avenue (figure 31).

A few other buildings deserve mention as important commercial or professional buildings. One of Wewoka's early hospitals still exists and has been converted to apartments. The Knight Hospital was built in 1927 for a cost of \$50,000.⁹³ It is located at 213 West Second Street (figure 32). Also, the OTASCO (Oklahoma Tire & Supply Company) Building at 215 South Wewoka Avenue dates to about 1928 (figure 33). Though now altered it was once a filling station and garage. OTASCO did not occupy this building until 1968.⁹⁴

⁹² Ibid.

⁹³ *Wewoka, Oklahoma: Heart of the Greatest Oil Field in the World—Its Homes—Its Citizens—Its Enterprises.* (N.p.: n.d.), 11.

⁹⁴ "Bi-Centennial Celebration, Wewoka, 1976," 22.

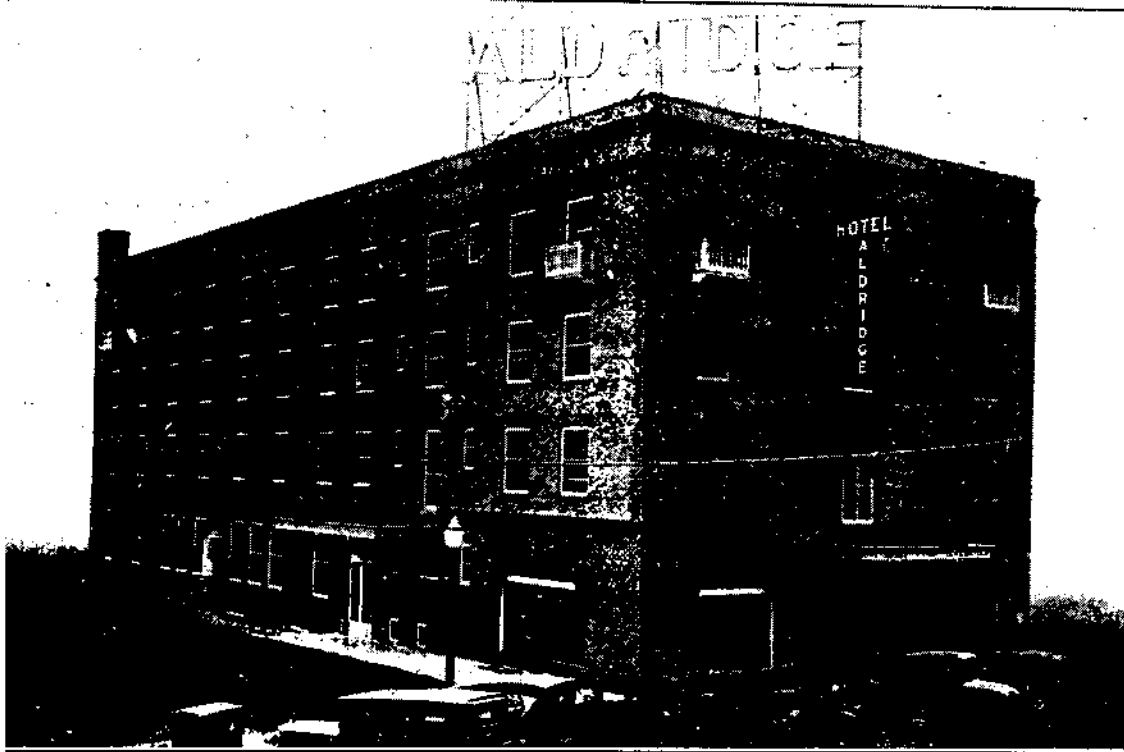


Figure 30. The Aldridge Hotel circa 1927 (top) and in 2002. Top photo courtesy *Wewoka, Oklahoma: Heart of the Greatest Oil Field in the World—Its Homes—Its Citizens—Its Enterprises*. N.p.: n.d., p.1.

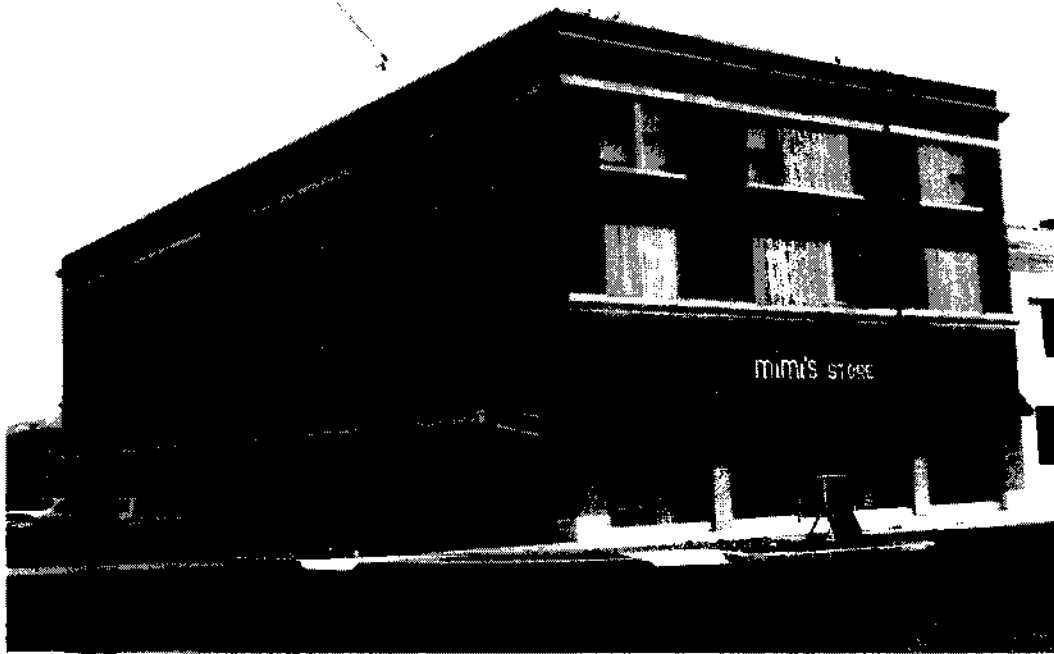


Figure 31. The Aldridge Building, home of Kirschner's Store, circa 1927 (top) and in 2002. Top photo courtesy Top photo courtesy *Wewoka, Oklahoma: Heart of the Greatest Oil Field in the World—Its Homes—Its Citizens—Its Enterprises*. N.p.: n.d., p.22.

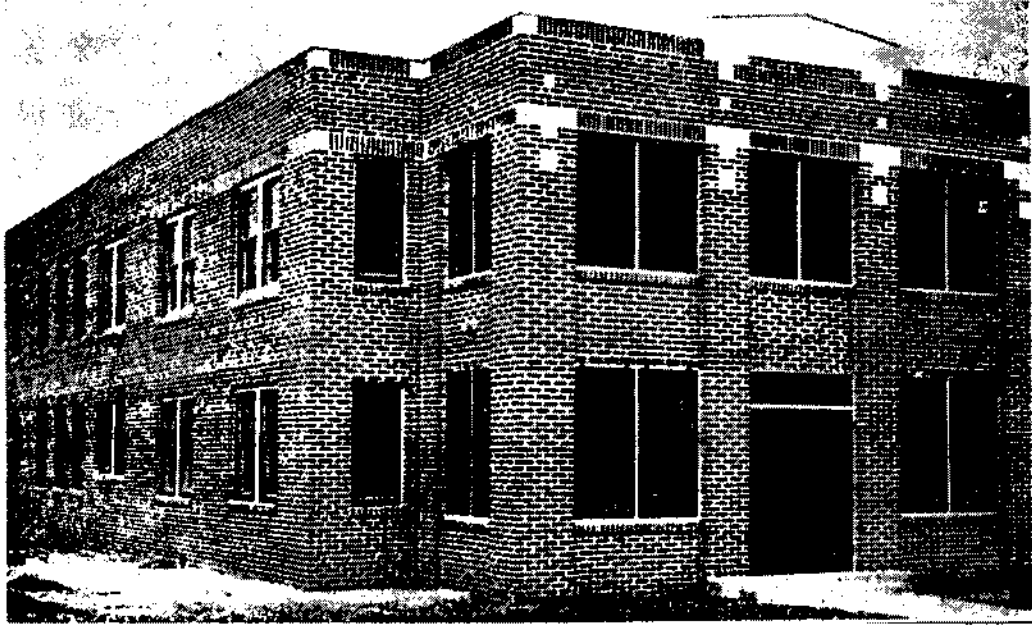


Figure 32. The Knight Hospital circa 1927 and in 2002. Top photo courtesy *Wewoka, Oklahoma: Heart of the Greatest Oil Field in the World—Its Homes—Its Citizens—Its Enterprises*. N.p.: n.d., p. 51.

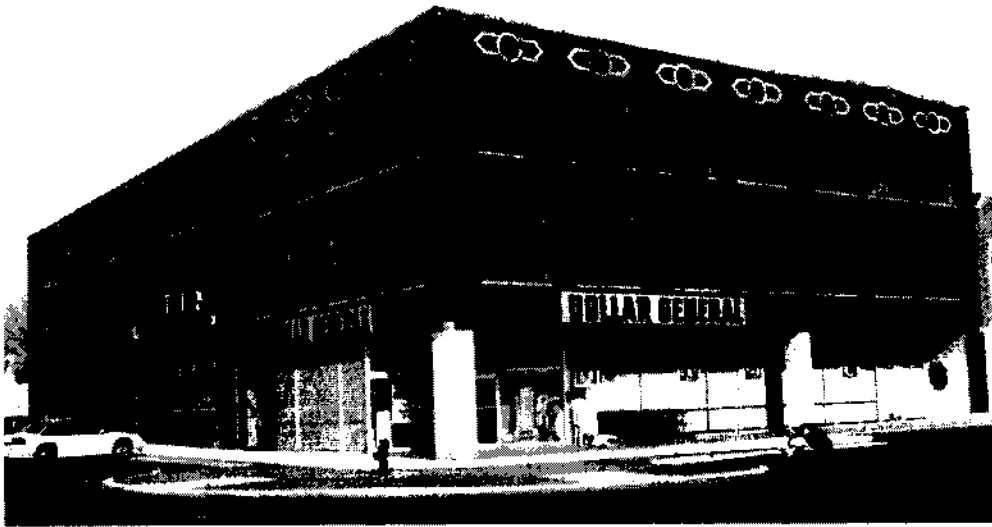
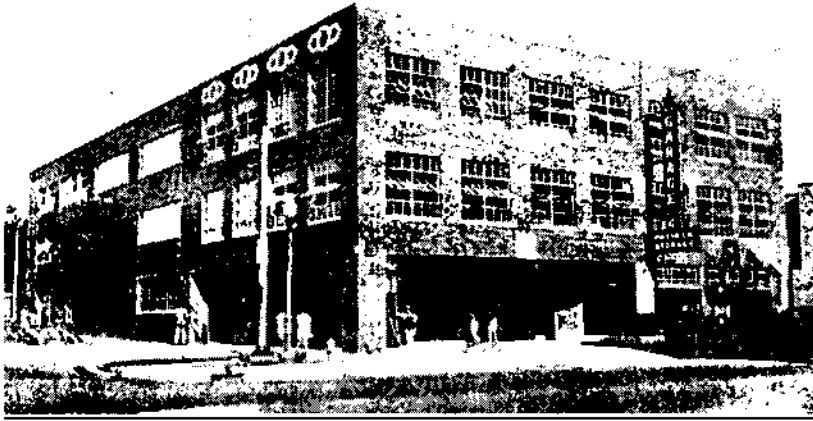


Figure 33. The Oklahoma Tire and Supply Company Building (OTASCO) circa 1927 and in 2002. Top photo courtesy *Wewoka, Oklahoma: Heart of the Greatest Oil Field in the World—Its Homes—Its Citizens—Its Enterprises*. N.p.: n.d., p.42.

Transportation

Although settlement in the area predated the arrival of the railroad, it is clear that Wewoka's rail connection played a major part in the town's growth. When the tracks for the Choctaw, Oklahoma and Gulf were laid in Wewoka, four different side tracks were also built making Wewoka an important switching point in the long-distance movement of freight. In fact, for many years it was the only switching point between Oklahoma City and Ft. Smith.⁹⁵ As early as 1900 Wewoka was handling more than six million pounds of freight per year.⁹⁶ The town's ability to handle such freight attracted traders and merchants from a wide area who came to Wewoka to receive or ship their products. A good part of Wewoka's lore is associated with its freight handling. The phrase "lost in the Wewoka Switch" became a euphemism for being stuck in a difficult situation. The saying grew out of the fact that so many items that had been lost in transit were recovered in Wewoka.

In the 1940s, after the Second World War, the Rock Island depot in Wewoka closed. Within another decade rail service to Wewoka had completely ended. Seeing no need for the depot, the city sold it. The depot was sold again in the 1970s, and moved to Bowlegs.⁹⁷ In 2001 a number of events coalesced to make bringing the depot back to Wewoka a possibility. First, Wewoka has a long-term lease to the land where the depot had been built. When the owner of the depot passed away, a relative inquired about donating the structure to the city. Finally, this opportunity meshed with the goals of city and business leaders to enhance the business district and attract more people and

⁹⁵ *Barking Water: The History of Wewoka.*, 43.

⁹⁶ *Ibid.*, 23.

⁹⁷ Owen, Penny. "Depot Finds New Home in Wewoka." *The Daily Oklahoman*, 29 October, 2001.

enterprise to the downtown. A restored depot that was made into a museum, perhaps even with a surrounding park, could serve as the focal point for the downtown in the same way that it had originally.⁹⁸ By the spring of 2002 the depot had in fact been returned to Wewoka and restoration was underway (figure 34).

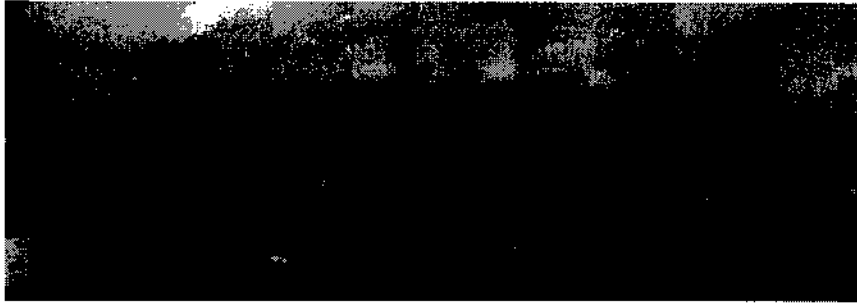


Figure 34. Restoration of the Rock Island Depot in Wewoka in March 2002. Photo by author.

Schools and Churches

The first school building was constructed in Wewoka in 1901. It was improved and upgraded several times over the years, and the current elementary school dates to 1967. Formal education for the blacks in Wewoka is believed to have started sometime before 1907.⁹⁹ In 1919 the Douglass School was built. For several years it was the only school that served the black population of Wewoka and it occupied the northwest corner of First and Ocheese Streets.¹⁰⁰ By about 1930 a separate high school for blacks was

⁹⁸ Ibid.

⁹⁹ *Barking Water: The History of Wewoka.*, 22.

¹⁰⁰ Sanborn Map Company. "Wewoka, Oklahoma 1925."

built. It stood on the north side of Eufala at Fourth Street.¹⁰¹ Integration removed the need for these schools and neither of them exists.

In contrast, however, the Wewoka High School still meets in the original structure built in 1926. Architecturally this is a most impressive building that was designed in the Late Gothic Revival style. In 1939 WPA workers added a gymnasium to the north end of the high school, but were careful to stylistically match it to the rest of the building. The high school occupies most of the 1100 block of South Okfuskee Avenue and is eligible for listing in the National Register. Wewoka is also fortunate to possess a beautiful library built in the Classical Revival style. Like the high school, the library is also eligible for listing in the National Register. It was built in 1929 and is a testimony to the wealth that had accrued in Wewoka as a result of the oil boom.

The first church community to organize in Wewoka was that of the Methodist Episcopal Church South in 1897. They were followed in 1900 by the Baptist Church. After this no other churches appear to have been established in Wewoka until about 1909 when the First Christian Church and Church of Christ formed.¹⁰² All of the extant churches in Wewoka date to the oil boom period or were more recently constructed. Although the First Baptist Church is one of the older churches in Wewoka, the building has been significantly altered over the years. The Liberty Missionary Baptist Church at 400-402 South Wewoka Avenue is about the same age as the First Baptist Church and is a rare example of a church that reveals Art Deco detailing. The First Presbyterian Church at 700-702 South Mekusukey Avenue dates to 1929, and the Jones Temple C. M. E.

¹⁰¹ Sanborn Map Company. "Wewoka, Oklahoma 1930."

¹⁰² *Barking Water: The History of Wewoka*, 22.

Church, one of Wewoka's historically black churches, dates to 1930. Because of their small numbers—too small to constitute a parish—Catholics in Wewoka have had to attend church in Holdenville.

Cultural and Social

Picture shows arrived in Wewoka in 1906. From nickelodeons to air-dome theaters to private theaters and drive-ins, Wewoka provided its citizens with many kinds of movie-viewing experiences over the years.¹⁰³ Of the many theaters that once operated in Wewoka, the Key Theater at 111-113 North Wewoka Avenue still exists.

Numerous fraternal and social organizations have long existed in Wewoka as well. The Masons formed in 1898. In 1928 they built a new meeting hall at 211 South Wewoka Avenue; it is still extant. Evidently the Hill and Banta Building, across the street from the Masonic Lodge, was also used as a meeting hall though it is not clear which specific organizations used it.

In the eyes of some, the prosperity resulting from the oil boom transformed Wewoka into one of the cultural centers of the state.¹⁰⁴ It is certainly true that the oil boom raised the standard of living in Wewoka and increased people's disposable income. This enabled people with similar interests to become members of garden clubs, boat clubs, and country clubs, among others. Indeed, many such clubs were formally organized in the 1920s. It is also evident that a substantial portion of the wealth that was generated during the oil boom was spent in Wewoka and represents an investment in the

¹⁰³ Ibid., 26.

¹⁰⁴ Ibid., 30.

cultural resources of the town. Buildings such as the Aldridge Hotel, the library, and the high school are legacies of this investment.

Politics and Government

Prior to allotment, Wewoka was the capital of the Seminole Nation and the Seminole Council House was built here in 1868. A federal courthouse was also located here and in 1906 Wewoka became one of the many recording centers established in Indian Territory for the purpose of documenting Indians and the land they owned. With the creation of Oklahoma in 1907 the council house was removed and Wewoka became the county seat. The present courthouse, a Greek Revival style building, was constructed in 1923. This building has been listed in the National Register since 1984. In 1924 the Wewoka City Hall and Armory, also in the Greek Revival style, was built just to the north of the courthouse. A new city hall has since been constructed, and this building appears to serve as the county jail.

On the grounds of the Seminole County Courthouse stands a pecan tree that is now approximately 137 years old. From 1899 to 1907 this tree was the Seminole whipping tree. Public whippings were held here for all but the most egregious offenses, such as murder and larceny.¹⁰⁵ The Seminole Whipping Tree has been listed in the National Register since 1981.

Seminole County in general and Wewoka in particular benefited from several relief projects completed here during the Depression. As of 1936, nearly one-half million

¹⁰⁵ Wright, *A Guide to the Indian Tribes of Oklahoma*, 235.

dollars had been spent on WPA projects in Seminole County alone.¹⁰⁶ The armory, the high school gym, the Wewoka Community Building, the Wewoka Fairgrounds, and T. B. Mutt Miller Park are some of the WPA projects completed in Wewoka. Of these, the last two are perhaps the most significant because of their size and their assemblages of buildings. The fairgrounds include several livestock barns and agricultural buildings while the park includes arched and railed footbridges, an amphitheater, and pool/bath house (figure 35). Both the park and fairgrounds were constructed between 1936 and 1939, and most of the structures within them make use of local sandstone that is untooled and uncoursed.

¹⁰⁶ Killian, Marsha. "Seminole County." Ms. Prepared August 1, 1936.

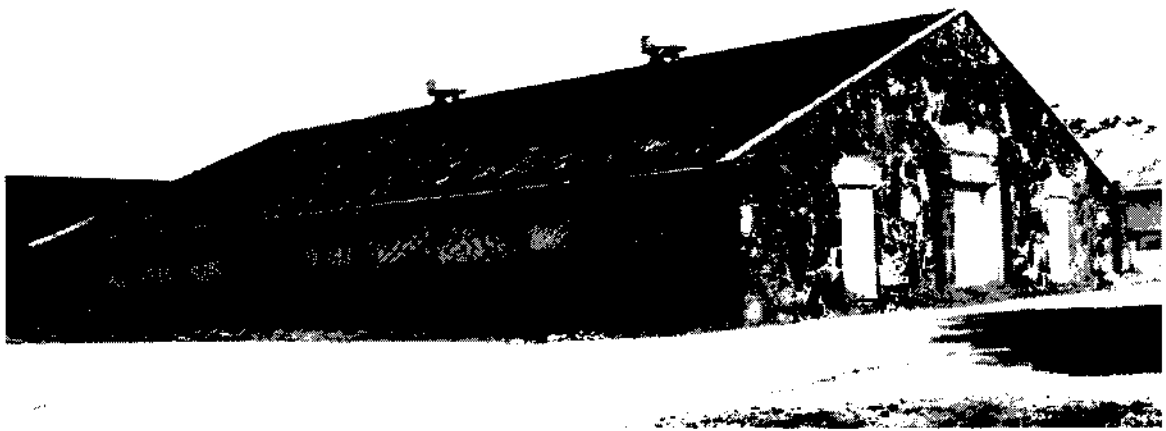


Figure 35. WPA-built footbridge and livestock barn in T.B. Mutt Miller Park (top) and at the Wewoka Fairgrounds, as they appeared in 2002. Photo by author.

In conclusion, the growth and development of Henryetta, Holdenville, Wetumka, and Wewoka needs to be considered in light of the relevant agricultural, economic, industrial, social, and political forces. Familiarity with the contextual development of these places over time plays an important part in helping identify potentially significant historic resources.

XVI. ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Maps

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps.

Microfilmed versions of Sanborn maps of the four towns exist for each of the study towns. The Sanborn coverage of Holdenville is more complete than that of any of the other study towns.

The list below provides a chronology of the Sanborn maps, and subsequent updates, for each of the four towns. These microfilms are available at the map library in the Edmon Low Library at Oklahoma State University and at Bizzell Library on the University of Oklahoma campus.

Henryetta, Oklahoma:

Reel 8: 1904, 1909, 1914, 1920, 1928, and 1935

Reel 22: 1963

Holdenville, Oklahoma:

Reel 8: 1898, 1901, 1903, 1908, 1913, 1920, 1926, and 1949

Reel 22: 1959

Wetumka, Oklahoma

Reel 19: 1902, 1903, 1907, 1911, 1925, and 1932

Reel 25: 1959

Wewoka, Oklahoma

Reel 19: 1904, 1908, 1913, 1925, 1930, and 1946

Reel 25: 1961

Plat Maps.

Plat maps or plat books are available in the county clerk's office at the courthouses in Okmulgee, Hughes, and Seminole counties. Most of the courthouses also have large wall maps of the county seat, and these also often show platted areas.

City Directories

Henryetta:

The following city directories are held at the Okmulgee Public Library. The library also maintains a sizable collection of telephone directories for several towns in Okmulgee County.

City Directory of Henryetta, Okla., 1928.

Moorehead Directory Company's Henryetta, Oklahoma City Directory, 1953.

Moorehead Directory Company's Henryetta, Oklahoma City Directory, 1949 and 1950.

Okmulgee and Henryetta, Okla. City Directory, 1956.

Holdenville:

The city directories listed below are held at the Holdenville Public Library.

Moorehead Directory Company's Holdenville City Directory, 1953.

Holdenville City Directory, 1969.

Wewoka:

The Wewoka Public Library holds one city directory; it is listed below.

The Mullin-Kille and Times-Democrat Wewoka, Oklahoma Con-Survey, vol. 1, 1938-39.

Secondary Sources

Planning/Preservation Documents

Baxter, Karen Bode. "Region 4: Ranching in the Eleven Counties of Southeast Oklahoma: 1830s to 1930s." Oklahoma City: State Historic Preservation Office, 1986.

Baxter, Scott. "Region 4: The European Ethnic Experience in Oklahoma: 1870-1920." Oklahoma City: State Historic Preservation Office, 1986.

_____. "Region 4: Transportation in Oklahoma to 1920." Oklahoma City: State Historic Preservation Office, 1986.

_____. "Regions 4 and 5: Historic Context for the Native American Theme: 1830-1939." Oklahoma City: State Historic Preservation Office, 1987.

Carney, George O. "Energy: South Central Oklahoma, 1900-1930." Oklahoma City: State Historic Preservation Office, 1985.

_____. "Development of a Historic Context for the Agriculture Theme in Management Region #3: 1830-1930." Oklahoma City: State Historic Preservation Office, 1990.

Scarpino, Philip V. "Region 4: Industrial Development in the Eleven Counties of Southeastern Oklahoma to 1930." Oklahoma City: State Historic Preservation Office, 1986.

Smith, Michael W. "Region 4: Patterns of White Settlement in Oklahoma, 1889-1907." Oklahoma City: State Historic Preservation Office, 1986.

All of the reports listed above are on file at the State Historic Preservation Office in Oklahoma City. The documents provide thematic studies about management regions that include the towns of Henryetta, Holdenville, Wetumka, and Wewoka.

Vertical File Information: Wewoka, Seminole County, Holdenville and Wetumka, Hughes County, and Henryetta and Okmulgee County.

The relevant materials in these vertical files include the items listed below. The manuscripts appear to have been prepared as part of the Federal Writer's Project of the WPA. These documents provide brief, if sometimes repetitive, historical sketches of the counties and towns in the study area. Their usefulness stems from the contemporaneousness of their observations.

Wewoka Vertical File, Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

- 1) Kindel, Hinton. "Wewoka." Ms. Prepared May 1, 1936.
A thematic overview of the settlement history of Wewoka that is divided into sections covering the important resources, schools, lakes, parks, and people.
- 2) Jeffrey, Ida. "Seminole Has Old Splendors in Memories." Ms. Prepared April 17, 1936.
A concise review of early commerce in Seminole County and Wewoka, and the roles of Seminole merchants John and Jackson Brown.
- 3) "Bi-Centennial Celebration, Wewoka, 1976."
This is by far the most useful item in the Wewoka vertical file. It is a pamphlet with about 70 pages of information about the history and development of Wewoka. It includes historical sketches of the town and various organizations, as well as numerous photographs. Several ads also provide useful information about the evolution of Wewoka's business community.

Seminole County Vertical File, Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

- 1) Killian, Marsha. "Seminole County." Ms. Prepared August 1, 1936.
In spite of its title, this manuscript provides more information on Wewoka than on Seminole County. It mentions that Wewoka was the site of a local CCC camp, and provides a table showing the "most important WPA projects" in the county with drainage of swamps topping the list.

Holdenville Vertical File, Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

- 1) The Planter's Trust Company. "Glimpses Through Holdenville and Vicinity." Holdenville, Indian Territory: The Planter's Trust Company, 1904.
This brochure is a very revealing piece of promotional literature produced by developers in order to stimulate settlement and land sales following allotment. It is especially useful because of the historic photographs it includes of the commercial and early residential districts in Holdenville.
- 2) Anonymous. "Holdenville, Indian Territory." Oklahoma Review, 15 January, 1902.
Another relevant source for its discussion of Holdenville's establishment and its historic photographs of selected homes of prominent Holdenville citizens and local businesses.
- 3) Gleason, Lay. "Holdenville." Ms. Prepared April 13, 1936.
Includes a tally of the retail businesses in Holdenville at the time the manuscript was prepared.

Wetumka Vertical File, Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

- 1) Melton, W. N. "Wetumka." Ms. prepared April 7, 1936.
A brief overview of the establishment of the town of Wetumka.

Hughes County Vertical File, Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

- 1) Gresham, E. "Hughes County." Ms. prepared September 11, 1936.
Summarizes the history of Holdenville with an emphasis on the importance of the railroad.
- 2) Shumaka, Thelma. "Hughes County." Ms. prepared February 11, 1937.
Briefly discusses the impact of oil on the development of the towns of Holdenville and Wetumka. This manuscript also mentions the contributions of the WPA to the local economy and notes that a CCC camp for blacks was situated in Wetumka.

- 3) Gibson, Armand E. "Indian Territory Towns: Hughes County and Vicinity." Discusses the early establishment and naming of Wetumka, Wewoka, and Holdenville.

Local Studies/County Histories

American Association of University Women-Wewoka and the Rotary Club. *Bi-Centennial Celebration Wewoka, 110th Anniversary, 1866-1976*. N.p.: 1976.

The combination of ads from local businesses often noting the longevity of their service in Wewoka, photographs, and historical narratives makes this another important source of information about the evolution of Wewoka.

Barking Water: The History of Wewoka. Wewoka: Wewoka Chapter of the American Association of University Women, 1960.

Compiled by the journalism classes of Wewoka High School, this work constitutes the most comprehensive survey of the history of Wewoka, including some very good historic photographs of the town and its evolution.

Cook, Fran. *"Acho" Flower of the Prairie: A History of Holdenville, Oklahoma and Hughes County*. N.p., 1998.

This is one of the few local histories of Holdenville and Hughes County. It consists of a mixture of news clippings, photographs, and excerpts from archaeological and burial reports woven together with text that highlights the main people and events in Holdenville's history.

Gould, C. W. "Holdenville—County Seat of Hughes." *Sturm's Oklahoma Magazine* 8(1909): 70-71.

This short article briefly introduces the reader to the town of Holdenville, its businesses, agriculture, and industry.

Holdenville Daily News. "Holdenville: 100 Years and Counting." Holdenville, OK: Holdenville Daily News, 1998.

After this book was published it quickly went out of print. It remains a valuable source for information about the city, particularly because of its collection of historic photographs.

Martin, Baird. *Historical, Industrial and Civic Survey of Okmulgee and Okmulgee County*. Prepared for American Guide, W.P.A. Writer's Project, 1936.

Wetumka is covered only briefly in this work, while Henryetta is given more extensive treatment. This paper discusses the origins and development of Henryetta and is organized topically. In places it simply lists information, such as churches or hotels, but the discussion of agriculture and mining is useful. This paper also captures and reflects the status quo of Henryetta in 1936.

Miller, Tuskahoma Brown (Mutt). *Este-Cate* (red man). Wewoka, OK: Seminole Nation Historical Society, 1982.

The author of this pamphlet on Seminole history founded the Seminole Nation Museum in Wewoka in 1974. The city park in Wewoka also bears his name.

Okmulgee Historical Society and the Heritage Society of America, comp. and ed. *History of Okmulgee County, Oklahoma*. Tulsa: Historical Enterprises, Inc., 1985.

Though the organization of this work is sometimes difficult to follow, this sizable volume includes several references to significant events and episodes in the history of Henryetta. Of particular importance is the discussion of the Eagle-Picher Smelter on page 191. A number of historic photographs of Henryetta are scattered throughout the book.

Osborn, B. J. *Wetumka: A Centennial History*. San Jose, CA: Writer's Club Press, 2002.

At the time of this writing, this was the only book-length treatment of Wetumka's history. It was written by a native Wetumkan and covers the history of the town from its establishment to 1955. The book is based extensively on material derived from primary sources making it an exceptionally valuable reference work not only on Wetumka but also on Hughes County.

The Seminole Producer. *The Pictures of Seminole County*. N. P.: Stu Phillips, 1997.

A good pictorial history of Seminole County, although it contains only a few photographs of Wewoka.

Wesson, Ruby. "History of the Henryetta Public Library." Written 3 March 1999. Retrieved 25 August 2001 from the Henryetta Public Library website <http://www.ocevnet.org/henlib/about.html>.

A concise summary of the history of the library in Henryetta from its inception in 1904 to the present.

Wewoka High School Yearbook, 1926.

Although often overlooked, yearbooks can provide useful information about the local schools, as well as advertisements for and photographs of local businesses. This particular yearbook includes pictures of the Wewoka High School and Junior High in 1926.

Wewoka, Oklahoma: Heart of the Greatest Oil Field in the World—Its Homes—Its Citizens—Its Enterprises. N.p.: n.d.

An extremely valuable source of information concerning Wewoka's citizens and the homes they built and occupied. The book dates to about 1927 and captures a slice of Wewoka at a most opportune time in the city's history. The photographic coverage of single family residences and businesses is excellent.

Newspaper Articles

"100 Sweet Years: Images and Events of the Past." *Henryetta Daily Free-Lance*, 10 December, 2000.

This eight-page newspaper insert provides an overview of the highlights in Henryetta's history. The establishment of the town, mining, race relations, education, and industry are discussed and are accompanied by numerous historical photographs.

Baird, Mike. "Lost in the Wewoka Switch." *Seminole Producer*, 11 March, 2001.

This short article traces the history of Wewoka's railroad depot, the origins of the phrase "lost in the Wewoka Switch," and the city's procurement of a lease from the railroad for use of the land where the depot once stood.

———. "...Hidden in the Sticks." *Wewoka Times*, 7 March, 2001.

This article reports on the recent "discovery" of the old Wewoka depot on a property in nearby Bowlegs, Oklahoma, and briefly documents some of the alterations to the structure.

Furrh, Jerry. "How Henryetta Received Her Name." *Daily Times Okmulgee*, 21 July 1982.

Furrh, Jerry. "Looking Back at Henryetta." *Daily Times Okmulgee*, 21 July 1982.

These two articles recount the establishment and naming of Henryetta. The second article emphasizes business development in the town and lists some of the early hotels, coal companies, and local merchants.

Gibson, Armand. "Indian Territory Towns: Hughes County and Vicinity." *Hughes County Times*, 8 June 1972.

This article provides a useful discussion of the origins of town names in Hughes County.

"Group Wants to Preserve Old City Building." *Henryetta Daily Free-Lance*, 4 November 1982.

A brief history of the wood frame building at 515 W. Trudgeon Street, which was donated to the historical society. The building dates to 1905 and over the years has served as the high school, a library, and church.

Owen, Penny. "Depot Finds New Home in Wewoka." *The Daily Oklahoman*, 29 October, 2001.

A brief discussion of the history of the depot, including its sale to a local resident, its subsequent relocation to her property, and plans to restore the depot to its original location in Wewoka for use as a museum or small office complex.

_____. "Officials Suspect Arson in Fire that Destroyed Historic Meadors Hotel." *The Daily Oklahoman*, 27 August, 2002.

Chronicles the creation and destruction of the Meadors Hotel in Wetumka.

Rutherford, Dan. "Anchor Glass Plant Marks 20th Year." *Tulsa World*, 25 September 1996.

This short article provides a brief history of the glass plant in Henryetta.

Thetford, Francis. "Wewoka to Celebrate 100th Year in June." *The Daily Oklahoman*, 14 May, 1966.

This article points out that Wewoka is more than 100 years old, but that its centennial of establishment dates to the time of the first application submitted for a post office.

_____. "Wewoka Has Justice at Finest." *The Sunday Oklahoman*, 10 October, 1965.

The author identifies Muskogee Street in Wewoka as the former boundary between the Creek and Seminole Nations.

- . “This is Oklahoma: Seminole County.” *The Sunday Oklahoman*, 7 August, 1960.
- . “This is Oklahoma: Hughes County.” *The Sunday Oklahoman*, 30 April, 1961.

The *Orbit* was the magazine insert included with the newspaper for a number of years, and several issues of the magazine featured various Oklahoma counties. These are useful “snapshots” that provide a balance of historical and economic information about the county and the major towns as well.

Thomas, Mrs. Lloyd. “Holdenville is Proud of Its History.” *The Daily Oklahoman*, 23 April, 1939.

A brief but informative review of the establishment of Holdenville.

General/Regional Studies

Baird, W. David and Danney Goble. *The Story of Oklahoma*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1994.

This is a valuable resource for anyone interested in Oklahoma history. The book progresses chronologically through a discussion of the peopling of Oklahoma, and the interplay of politics and economics that has shaped the state. Wewoka is mentioned briefly as an example of an oil boom town.

Dunham, R. J. and J. V. A. Trumbull. *Geology and Coal Resources of the Henryetta Mining District, Okmulgee County, Oklahoma*. Geological Survey Bulletin No. 1015-F. Washington, D.C.: United States Government Printing Office, 1955.

A very informative bulletin that assesses the economic geology of coal and other resources in and around Henryetta. Readers should consult the three excellent maps that accompanying this study.

Ellsworth, J. O. and F. F. Elliott. "Types of Farming in Oklahoma." *Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin*, no. 181 (June 1929): 1-84.

This monograph examines the agricultural patterns across the state during the early to mid 1920s. Crop production, size of holdings, and patterns of land tenure are some of the topics presented. Several useful maps depict the distribution of crops across the state.

Foreman, Grant. *Indian Removal: The Emigration of the Five Civilized Tribes of Indians*. Foreword by Angie Debo. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1972.

This factual account is an essential resource for anyone interested in the removal of the Five Civilized Tribes and their establishment in Indian Territory. Grant Foreman was a lawyer who worked for the Dawes Commission before becoming a well-known chronicler of Oklahoma history.

_____. *A History of Oklahoma*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1942.

A standard chronological account of Oklahoma's history. Although it contains little in the way of county-specific information it provides broad coverage of the events culminating in statehood.

Gibson, Arrell M. *Oklahoma: A History of Five Centuries*. 2nd Ed. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1981.

A concise and readable history of the state. One of the most valuable features of this book is its extensive, 16-page bibliographical essay.

Hudson, John C. *Plains Country Towns*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1985.

This book focuses on the forces shaping town development in the Great Plains. Nevertheless, its examination of the role railroads played in creating and changing regional urban patterns is essential reading for anyone interested in Oklahoma's urban geography.

Morris, John W., ed. *Geography of Oklahoma*. Volume 6: The Oklahoma Series. Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Historical Society, 1977.

This is the best general survey of Oklahoma geography, although many of the maps are reprints from the *Historical Atlas of Oklahoma*.

_____. *Cities of Oklahoma*. Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Historical Society, 1979.

A collection of essays written by diverse scholars. It includes brief discussions of the changing economic bases of Henryetta and Holdenville, while Wewoka is discussed in the context of the oil boom. As a whole, the book is valuable for its coverage of trends affecting urban development in Oklahoma.

Morris, John W., Charles R. Goins, and Edwin C. McReynolds. *Historical Atlas of Oklahoma*. 3rd Ed. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1986.

This atlas uses data from the 1980 census, so many of the maps in it are in need of updating with more recent census information. However, this remains a highly valuable source of historical and geographical information about Oklahoma.

Nall, Garry L. "King Cotton in Oklahoma, 1825-1939." In Donald E. Green, ed. *Rural Oklahoma*. Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Historical Society, 1977, pp. 37-55.

A good, brief overview of the rise of cotton cultivation in Oklahoma, the relationship between tenancy and overproduction, and the impact of the Agricultural Adjustment Act.

Oklahoma Almanac. 2 vols. Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Publishing Company, 1930-31.

Contains a wide range of information about the state including brief entries for the cities and towns in Oklahoma. Town-specific statistics include the tax rate, number of railroad cars filled with goods, and the number of school buildings and churches.

Ruth, Kent. *Oklahoma Travel Handbook*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1977.

An alphabetical listing of places in Oklahoma with brief entries that cover their history, economy, and other items of special interest.

Sewell, Steven L. "The Coal Strike of 1919." *Chronicles of Oklahoma* 75 (1997): 160-181.

This narrative recounts events affecting this important development in the labor history of the state. Emphasis is placed on the perceptions of radicalism and the use of troops to protect scabs. Henryetta, which was affected by the strike, is mentioned only briefly.

Shirk, George H. *Oklahoma Place Names*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1966.

Written by the former president of the Oklahoma Historical Society this is one of the best sources for information on Oklahoma's toponyms.

Wright, Muriel H. *A Guide to the Indian Tribes of Oklahoma*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1951.

A dated but still very useful discussion of the various tribes in Oklahoma. Entries are arranged alphabetically and systematically discuss the location, population, history, government, and culture of the different Indian tribes.

Writer's Program of the Work Projects Administration, comp. *The WPA Guide to 1930s Oklahoma*. Lawrence, KS: University Press of Kansas, 1986.

This paperback edition, based on a version first published in 1941, provides a new introduction and a restored essay on the history of Oklahoma by Angie Debo since her contribution was mysteriously omitted from the original. The first part of the book includes thematic coverage of topics such as agriculture, transportation, literature, and architecture. The second part discusses the major cities, and the third part includes 16 different tours that explore all regions of the state. The book is illustrated with several nice sets of black-and-white photos.

XVII. SUMMARY

This Reconnaissance Level Survey of Four East Central Oklahoma Towns identified and evaluated a total of 279 properties in the study area. All properties were surveyed with minimum-level documentation including completion of the OK/SHPO Historic Preservation Resource Inventory Form and submission of at least two 5x7 black and white prints.

- (1) Thirty-four (34) individual properties were recommended for National Register consideration.
- (2) One hundred eleven (111) individual properties were identified as warranting further study. This total only represents individual properties that are outside districts. An additional 76 properties were surveyed as contributing resources to the six proposed districts.
- (3) Ten (10) individual properties listed on the National Register were surveyed and updated with forms and photographs. These properties include: Hugh Henry House (NR listed 8/18/83), John E. Turner House (NR listed 1/27/83), the Holdenville City Hall (NR listed 9/11/81), the Holdenville Armory (NR listed 9/8/88), Wetumka Armory (NR listed 9/8/88), the Jackson Brown House (NR listed 6/27/80), Aldridge Hotel (NR listed 5/14/86), the J. Coody Johnson Building (NR listed 8/5/85), Seminole County Courthouse (NR listed 8/24/84), and the Seminole Whipping Tree (NR listed 5/22/81).

- (4) One National Register listed property was found to have been demolished. This is the Silas L. Brown House in Wewoka which was originally listed 8/5/85.
- (5) Six thumbnail sketches for proposed districts were written. Proposed districts include: Henryetta Commercial District; the Central Residential District and Downtown Commercial District in Holdenville, and the Holdenville Recreation District; the Wetumka Commercial District; and the Wewoka Commercial District. All of these districts were assigned tentative boundaries and depicted on maps along with contributing resources, and any National Register eligible or listed properties. The thumbnail sketches provide a rationale for conducting intensive level surveys.
- (6) Forty-eight (48) individual properties were surveyed and identified as not warranting further study.
- (7) Thumbnail sketches were prepared for nine (9) areas that did not meet qualifications for intensive level surveys.
- (8) One hundred fifty-six (156), or approximately 56% of the individual properties surveyed, were residential (single or multiple) dwellings.
- (9) Seventy-six (76) of the individual properties surveyed were commercial and this represents the second leading type of property.
- (10) Sixteen (16) religious structures were surveyed.
- (11) Additional property types documented in this survey include educational (8), governmental (5), and recreational (7).

- (12) This survey also documented three (3) structures. These include the truss bridge on South Second Street at Corporation in Henryetta, the drainage channel at East Twelfth Street and Broadway in Holdenville, and the grain storage tanks on North Okmulgee Street at Francis Avenue in Wetumka.
- (13) Residential areas in the four study towns include the following architectural styles: Queen Anne, Tudor Revival, Neoclassical, Colonial Revival, Prairie School, Italianate, Renaissance Revival, Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival, Bungalow/Craftsman, National Folk (Shotgun, Pyramidal, Cumberland Plan Massed Plan, Hall & Parlor subtypes), Folk Victorian, and Modern Movement (Minimal Traditional, Contemporary, and Ranch subtypes). As this list reveals, the Eclectic Period (1880-1940) is the prevalent architectural period represented.
- (14) The commercial areas in each of the four study towns are largely composed of shops that have either one or two stories. Uncommon examples of three-story buildings include the Henryetta Opera House (400 West Main Street). In addition, the Aldridge Building (100-102 South Wewoka Avenue), the OTASCO Building (215 South Wewoka Avenue) and the Reed Hotel (106 North Wewoka Avenue) in Wewoka are three story buildings. The Aldridge Hotel (218-220 South Wewoka Avenue) in Wewoka is actually a very rare four story building. In general, however, the commercial architecture in the four study towns is largely conservative in that it tends to lack decorative detailing. Moreover, brick constitutes the most common type of cladding.

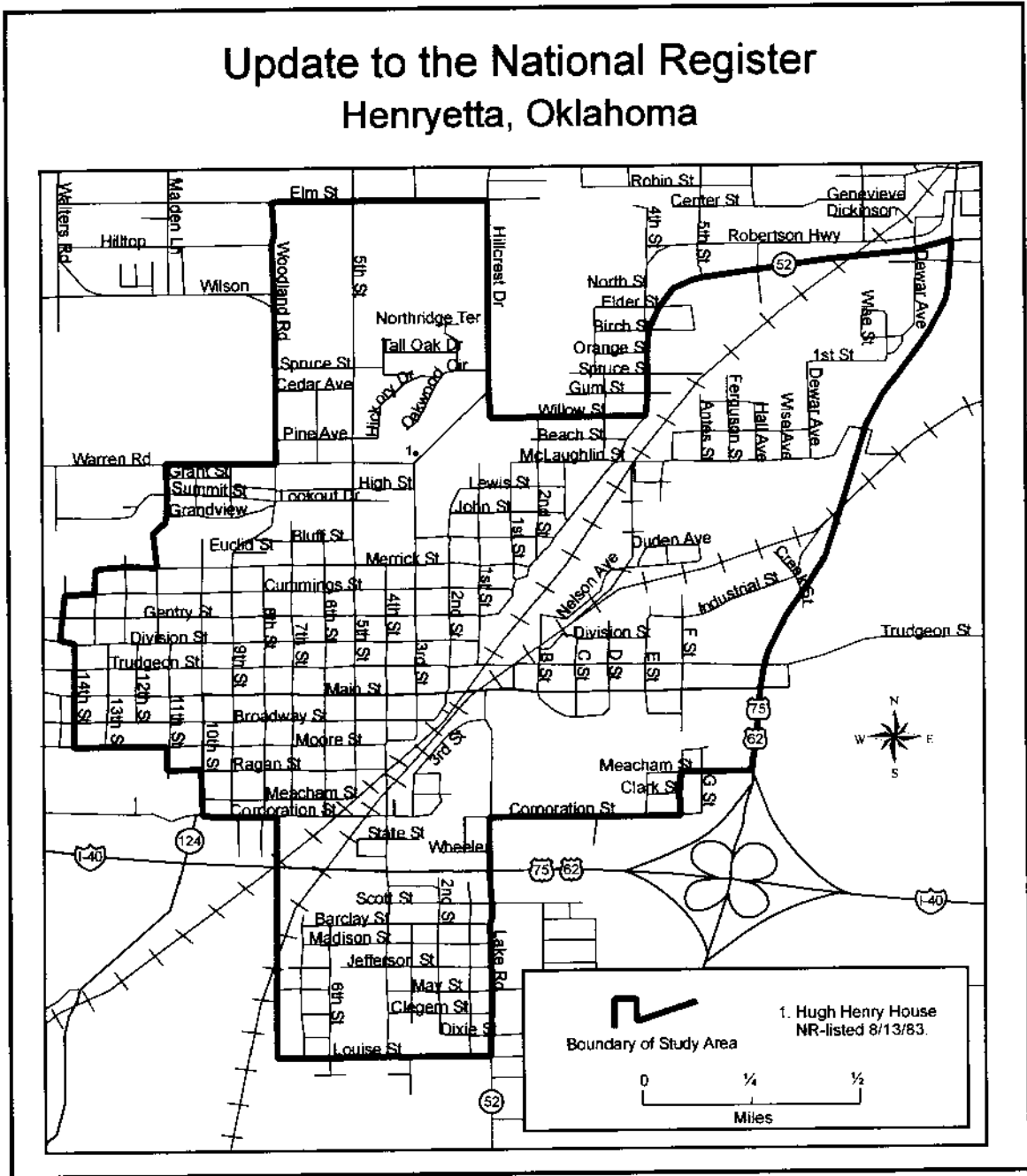
In closing, the built environments of Henryetta, Holdenville, Wetumka, and Wewoka contain a variety of cultural resources that testify to the diverse social and historical forces that have influenced these places. A fair amount of research remains to be conducted on the ages and names of many of the properties surveyed as a part of this project. In addition, each study town has at least one district that warrants an intensive level survey in the near future. Each study town also includes some excellent examples of properties that were created as a result of public work initiatives during the Depression.

Although architecturally ostentatious properties are uncommon in these towns, there are numerous individual examples of well-designed and maintained properties that warrant the attention of preservationists. Several of these warrant immediate attention for their National Register potential. Holdenville properties meeting this description include the First National Bank Building/Amos Drug Store, the Athletic Park/Football Stadium, the cemetery, and the Stroup Park Pool and Bath House. In Wewoka this includes the Wewoka Public Library, the Wewoka High School, and the T. B. Mutt Miller Park. In Wetumka, this includes the American National Bank Building. Of note, the Jackson Brown House in Wewoka, a property listed in the National Register, should be classified as an endangered historic resource.

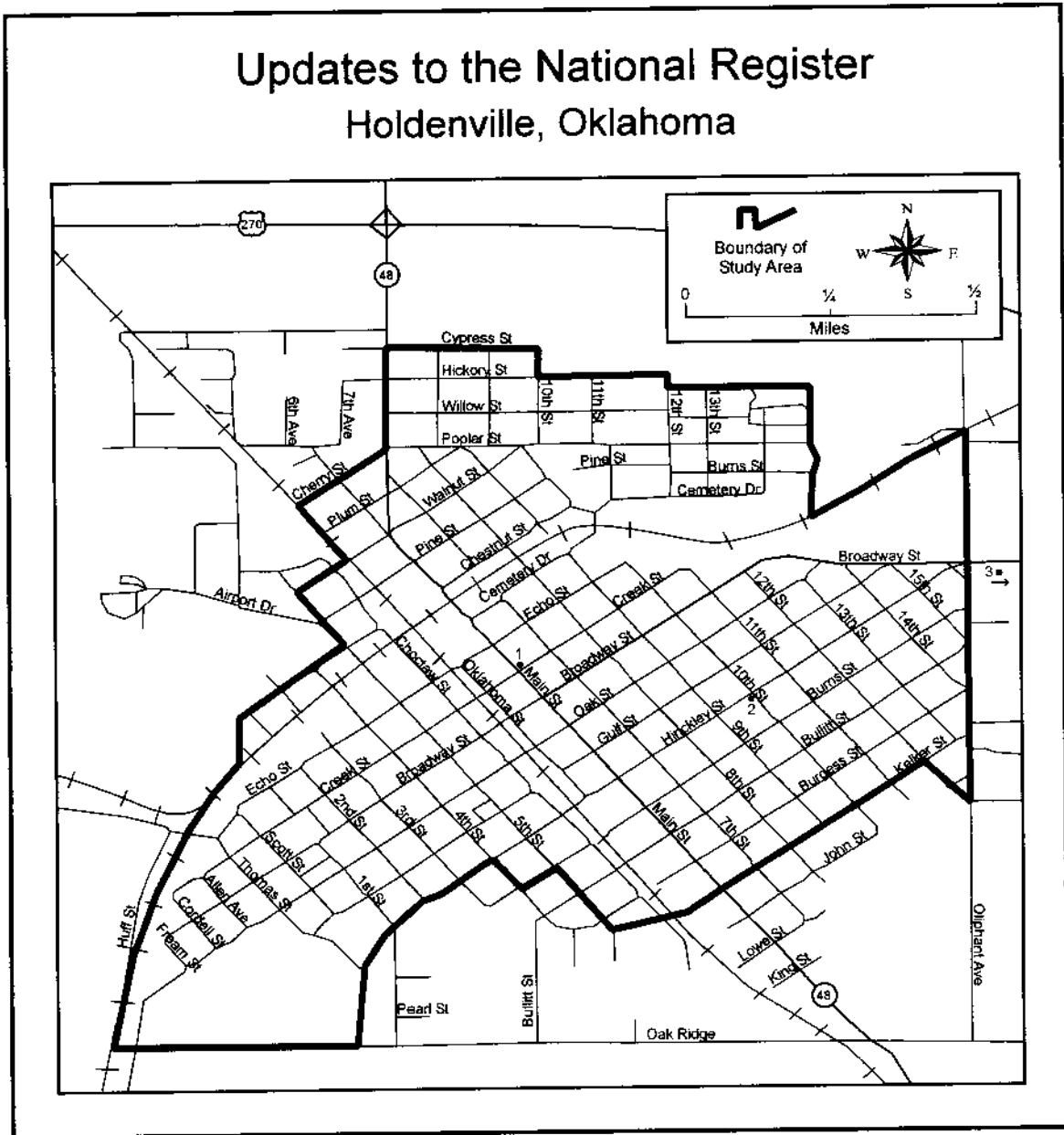
This project is not a comprehensive survey, but represents an important first step in the attempt to inventory Oklahoma's historic properties. There are still more properties, sites, and structures that need attention. Encouraging citizens to form a preservation society or build alliances between local and county historical and genealogical societies, municipal governments, and chambers of commerce can significantly improve the preservation effort, especially when supplemented with

assistance from the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office and the Oklahoma Historical Society.

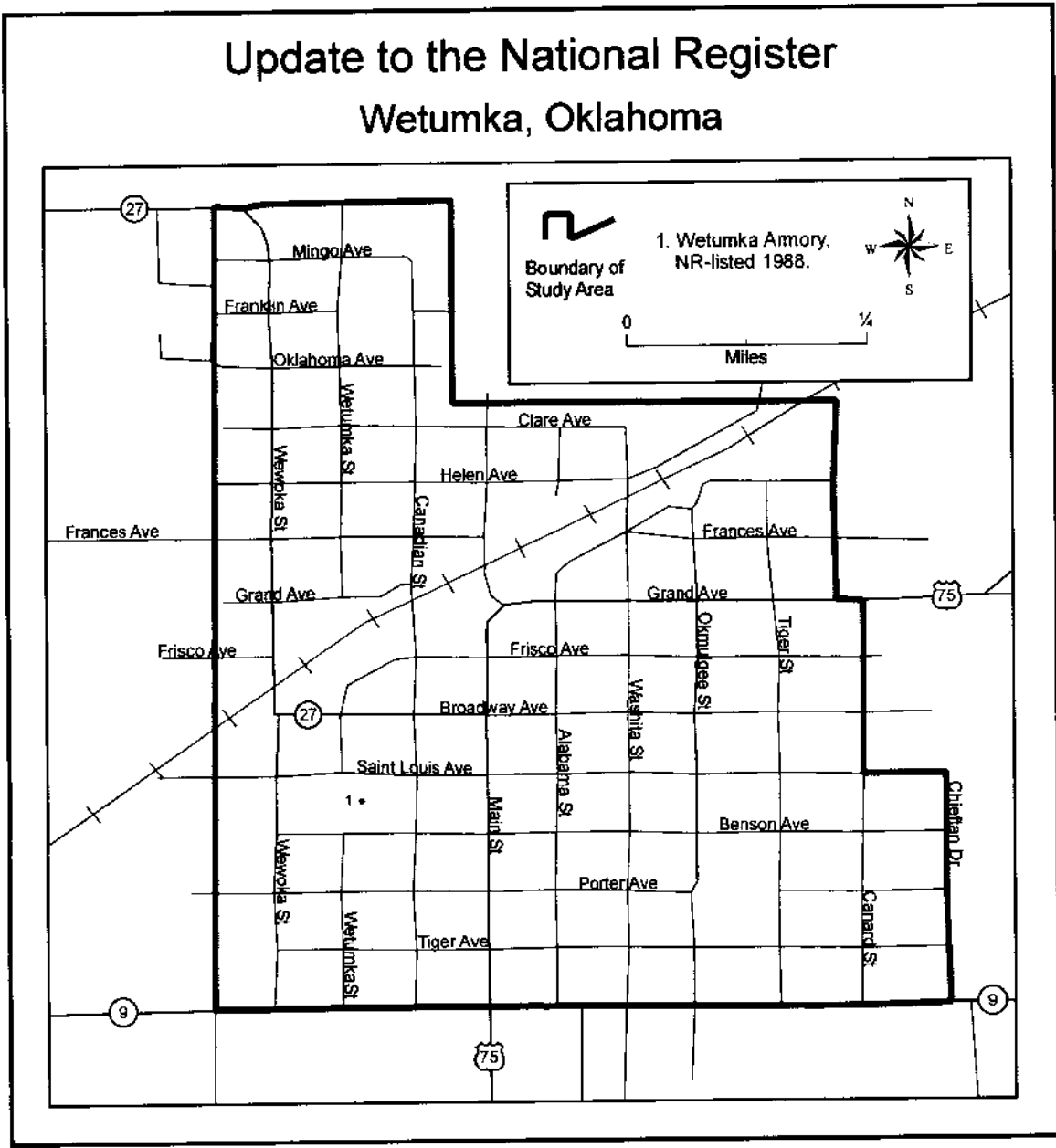
Update to the National Register Henryetta, Oklahoma



Updates to the National Register Holdenville, Oklahoma

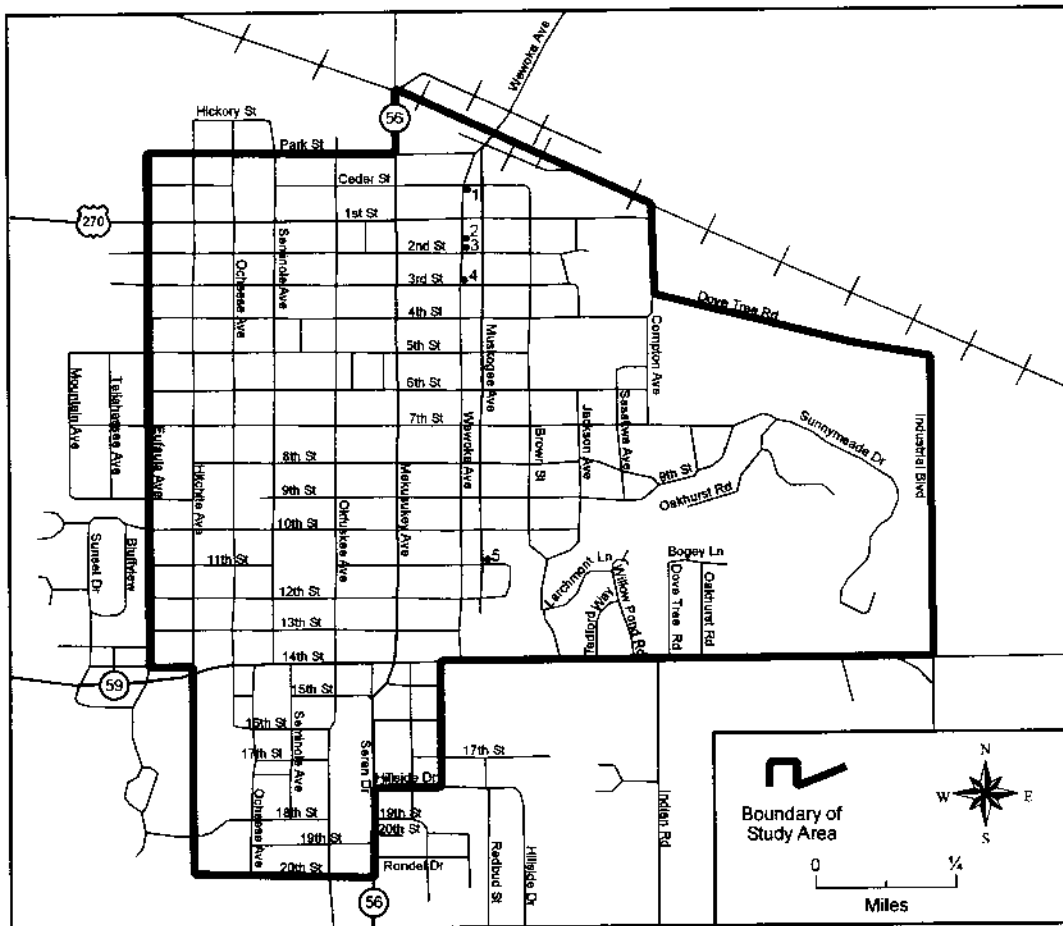


Update to the National Register Wetumka, Oklahoma



Updates to the National Register

Wewoka, Oklahoma



XVIII. ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW

The following architectural reviews are divided into four separate commentaries as per the four Oklahoma communities represented in this survey report. The first of these reviews will concern the community of Henryetta, the second will be Holdenville, the third will focus upon Wetumka, and the final commentary will be on the community of Wewoka.

Henryetta

Four properties have been listed in the survey as potentially eligible for the National Register.

The **L. D. Matter House**, located at 311 South Fifth Street, is a simple, straightforward Prairie Style building that dates to approximately 1925. It is significant that the upper window sashes of the double-hung units throughout the house still retain their four-paneled vertical subdivisions. The house appears to be in very good condition. The garage is an unfortunate addition and negates the original design. Before achieving National Register status, it is my opinion that this garage should be removed.

The **H. M. Beasley Building/Ruby Hotel**, located at 200 West Broadway Street, is considered to be of little architectural value. Although the stone construction speaks of quality and durability the corner entrance is awkward and ungainly.

The **First Presbyterian Church**, located at West Division Street and Fifth Street, is a strong testament to the convictions of its congregation and the community. The building's stone masonry is carefully detailed and crafted and the

manner in which the stone changes to brick masonry exhibits the frugality of the original church members. This building should be proposed for National Register status.

Although the **house at 611 West Moore Street** appears to be sound and in good condition it is the opinion of this reviewer that the house is not of any major architectural consequence. Its date of construction (circa 1915) and subsequent history may be important contributors to possible National Register status but not its architecture.

There were ten properties within the study that are significant architecturally to this reviewer.

The **Boerstler Brothers Wholesale Grocery** at North First Street at Trudgeon is an example of outstanding stone masonry and building-to-site relationship. Fenestrations are still intact. This structure is worth further review and consideration.

The **Truss Bridge** at South Second Street at Corporation is significant both historically and architecturally. Dating from 1911 the bridge speaks clearly of form, function, and durability. It appears the bridge could be repaired to become a pedestrian bridge with little additional effort.

The **Harr Apartments** at 406-414 North Fourth Street have a pleasant human scale and a comfortable structural rhythm to the street front. Dating to approximately 1915 the apartments, although showing signs of age, still maintain a

dignified appearance. The appearance of the complex is reminiscent of New Mexico's Territorial style.

The **First Christian Church** located at North Fifth Street and Cummings, is a strong example of Neo-Greek Revival Temple style. The building's strong massing has unfortunately been altered by subsequent additions (the entrance elevator lift and classrooms) but the structure remains nevertheless a prominent community feature. For the building to reclaim its former "glory" the entrance lift should be removed and located in a less prominent location.

Henryetta's original Public Library, located at 301 North Sixth Street, has a profoundly beautiful entry portico. The building is wonderfully simple yet dignified and "classy." Libraries, old and new, are important cultural icons to communities and every effort should be made to retain their presence within the community. Although this structure is now utilized as a residence the community should seek to place this on the National Register and attempt to keep it within the community's record.

The **Hammon and Powell House** at 311 South Sixth Street is a most intriguing residence built in the Bungalow Style. The manner in which the roof pitches parallel each other is delightful and the horizontal wrap-around "flow" of the main level fenestrations is artfully handled. The large wrap around porch with its asymmetrical column placement is exceedingly well considered.

The **Grace Episcopal Church** at 510 (?) West Cummings Street is another example of a simple form of quiet dignity with wonderfully crafted stone masonry.

The stone masonry on this church is an art form in and of itself and is very rarely found in today's construction.

The **George McClearg House**, located at 112 East Gentry Street, is a simple, yet interesting example of the Bungalow Style. Of particular interest is the three-panel entry door set asymmetrically to one side. The structure appears to be very well constructed and has held up well through the years.

Walt's DX Service Station, located at 802 West Main Street, is an outstanding example of the Mission/Spanish Revival style service stations that were once a common sight in the early half of the twentieth century. This reviewer was pleasantly surprised to find such a station in such an unaltered state. This is a genuine historical artifact and every effort should be made to restore and maintain this structure. It is the opinion of this reviewer that this building should definitely be nominated for the National Register.

The **S. F. Francis House**, located at 1005 West Moore Street, is a most intriguing example of a modified Queen Anne style residence. It is unclear whether or not the portion of the house opposite the entry is an addition or was part of the original construction. Currently under restoration it is hoped the current owners are sensitive to the design parameters implied by this historic home.

Of the many properties that were deemed not worthy of further study three of these were viewed as worthy of additional study:

The **E. O. Shaw House** at 512 North Fourth Street is a fascinating occurrence in this Oklahoma town. Its Ionic columned portico presents an immediate visual

statement of grandeur and a sense of the classical antebellum South. Although alterations have been performed on the structure it is the opinion of this researcher that the house is still most worthy of further study and possible National Register status.¹

The **M. K. McElhannon House** at 618 West Trudgeon Street is another structure where the wood siding has been covered with another material –in this case aluminum. Nevertheless the house is an extremely interesting variation on the craftsman bungalow style and illustrates a design exuberance and expanse rarely seen in this style of house from this time period. This house is most worthy of additional consideration and study.

The **old Henryetta school house** located at the 400 Block of West Moore Street is another structure that is of significant value to the cultural and architectural heritage of the community and is worthy of National Trust status. Although the structure has been moved from its original location change in context is not in this case sufficient cause to exclude this structure from possible National Register status.²

¹Alterations that involve either the covering or changing of original wood sidings to either vinyl, metal, or cement fiber materials is an issue that has not been satisfactorily resolved within the preservation community. At issue is the extent to which such alterations deplete the historic architectural significance of the original structure. It is certainly true that alterations of any kind to a structure negate its original condition however preservation efforts must endeavor to determine in a rational manner how such changes affect the overall historical and cultural value of the structure. For example, many nineteenth century (and earlier) structures constructed originally of logs were covered in subsequent years with sawn wood siding as their owners' economic means afforded such change. These alterations not only increased the weather tightness of the log structure, but also added "respectability" to the appearance, and invariably helped to save the original structure from additional decay and decline. Such alterations did not diminish the integrity of the structure's history but became in fact part of the structure's history. Rigid standards of preservational prudence do not always insure the preservation of our architectural heritage. Care must be taken not to exclude any significant example of our architectural heritage based upon a "technicality." Also, as mankind enters into the twenty-first century there is a profound need in both historical preservation and new construction to apply and implement methods and materials that are determined to be "sustainable." In increasing instances the future of historical preservation will depend more and more on the use of alternative materials to repair and restore significant structures that are ever deteriorating.

²Although context is of immense value in understanding and appreciating a structure's form, fenestration, orientation, etc. it cannot always be a deciding factor as to whether the building retains any historical value

There are several properties of significance in the proposed Henryetta Commercial District.

The **Williford Auto Parts Building** located at 300 West Main Street offers two prominent brick façades to its street corner location. Although currently in an altered state the building could be returned to its more original state with little effort. It is important to the city's streetscape for this building to remain as a container element on the street corner.

The **Francis Hotel** (1907) at 324 (?) West Main Street is another structure that occupies a prominent street corner. Its stone and brick masonry construction is carefully detailed and crafted. Again it appears that with minimal effort the street facades of this building could be returned to their original character.

The **Henryetta Opera House/Morgan Building** (1910) located at 400 West Main Street is again significant in that it occupies a street corner. Its three story frame makes the building the most prominent mass along the street. Although of not profound architectural significance it is very important to maintaining the fabric of the street.

The **Central Drug Store** (1919) at 410 (?) West Main Street is an intriguing structure in the Prairie School style genre. The building has handsome proportions and exceedingly fine detailing.

once that structure has been moved. A case in point is the Pope-Leighey House in Falls Church, Virginia. Designed by Frank Lloyd Wright in 1939 the house became threatened with destruction in the early 1960s by the building of a new interstate highway. To save the house the National Trust acquired it in 1964 and relocated the house to a site on the grounds of Mount Vernon, Virginia—some 16 miles from its original site. Since this first relocation the house has been moved *twice* again to its present location where it remains today a gemstone example of the concerted efforts of the National Trust for Historic Preservation to save America's architectural and cultural heritage.

The **Citizens Bank Building** (1904) at 412-414 West Main Street is a marvelous brick masonry structure that has suffered the abuses of modernization. The removal of such metal overlays will greatly enhance the integrity of the building (and street). Of major importance is the fact that the original window subdivisions in the upper floor arches are still intact and functioning with glass insets. This is a rarity in downtown commercial structures from this time period as such arched openings are typically boarded up and closed to light or ventilation (as in the Francis Hotel down the street).

The **Burnett and Moore Hardware Building** (1909) at 420 West Main Street is another fine example of brick masonry detailing and construction. Modernization has again altered the original façade but fortunately most of these “cover ups” can be removed. It is interesting to note, following the previous comments above, how the second-floor arched windows here still retain part of their mullioned subdivision though filled in with plywood panels.

The **Clark-Darland Hardware Building** (1921) at 421-423 West Main Street displays a wonderful use of contrasting colors within its masonry façade. The detailing of the building adheres to many tenants of Prairie Style design. Yet another building that commands a prominent corner within the commercial district the building reinforces again the tragedy of modernization that ran so rampant during the “urban renewal” days of the 1960s and 70s.

The Henryetta Commercial District which includes several buildings of architectural significance and are contributing resources to the area, should be included as an historical district.

Holdenville

Holdenville has a number of significant architectural properties. Of those properties surveyed sixteen were deemed National Register eligible. Of these sixteen this reviewer concurs with eleven of these properties as significant architecturally. These eleven properties are discussed immediately below.

Holdenville Post Office (1935) at 123 West Seventh Street is a simple dignified brick masonry building with Art Deco overtones. The building is well crafted and is in excellent physical condition today.

The **John Gaberino House** (c. 1935) at 420 East Tenth Street. This building exhibits fine proportions and is well constructed and detailed.

The **Stroup Park Pool and Bath House** (1936) located at East Twelfth Street and Broadway is a WPA project that exhibits outstanding stonework. The existing retrofitted roof should be removed and brought back to its original appearance before achieving National Register status.

The **Holdenville Athletic Park/Football Stadium** (1941) at East Fifteenth Street and Broadway is a rare stone structure for this type of function. The press box is currently a visual distraction that could be improved greatly with proper design considerations.

The **First Baptist Church** (1927) at 306 North Broadway Street is a gothic revival style church with an interesting decorative pattern developed through the use of limestone quoins in contrast with the red brick masonry. The handicap access ramp could be improved visually by the use of a brick masonry wall. There are other cosmetic needs also around the structure.

The **Chadwick House** (c. 1910) located at 224 North Creek Street is a stunning composition in the prairie style. Of particular note is the extremely wide roof overhangs of the upper story.

The **Clyde W. Chesnutt House** (c. 1925) at 221 North Hinckley Street is a simple yet noble brick structure with prairie style overtones. The ionic columned portico is noteworthy in both its detail and proportions.

The **G. M. Buchner House** (c. 1923) at 400 North Hinckley Street is a most intriguing structure of Mission and Spanish revival styles with slight undertones of the Storybook style. The house is well detailed and well constructed.

The **First National Bank Building/Amos Drug Store** (1901) at 101 West Main Street is a magnificent stone structure with many fine details. The building's prominent street corner location is also important. The corner "turret entry" element is most interesting in both form and the manner in which its supporting column reinforces the sense of entry. Also of note is the horizontal spandrel "cove" that runs above the storefront windows and below the upper transom lights and intersects the corner turret column.

The **Thomas H. Scales House** (1896) at 224 North Oak Street is an elegant building. Although in a sad state of repair currently the house exhibits outstanding carpentry and wonderfully crafted details. This house appears on the brink of destruction and efforts should be made quickly to preserve this simple elegant house.

The **Harry H. Diamond House** (1926) located at 300 Country Club Drive is a refined design in the Italian Renaissance style. In very good condition this building

has been carefully sited to accommodate a circular drive and an impressive entryway.

Below are listed other properties in Holdenville that are viewed as having significant architectural value and are worthy of further study. Commentaries accompany those properties that are deemed especially significant and worthy of further study.

The Children's Hospital/Boyce Convalescent Home at 210 East Eighth Street.

The J. O. Elliston House at 421 East Eighth Street.

The Barnard United Methodist Church at 300 Eighth Street.

The Holdenville Junior High School at 300 East Eighth Street.

The First Christian Church at 200 East Ninth Street. The entry façade is very carefully proportioned and has many beautiful details. Of particular interest are the two ionic columns at the entry that carry a simple horizontal stone spandrel that merges with decorative cartouches at each forming a double-stem "T".

The F. R. Howell House at 401 East Ninth Street.

The C. M. Hamilton Building (1903) at 102 North Broadway Street. A very good example of stone masonry Victorian Commercial.

The Hamilton Building at 104 North Broadway Street. This brick masonry structure from 1903 is adjacent to the C.M. Hamilton Building. Both of these two buildings should be returned to their original facades by removing the transom light infill material.

The B. Rixleben House at 209 North Bullitt Street

The Elks Lodge Building at 114 South Echo Street

The **Southwestern Bell Telephone Company Building (1931)** located at 201 North Gulf Street is a beautiful example of Art Deco design and the use of terra cotta. The addition is unfortunate but still allows the original building to maintain its original appearance.

The **G.L. Benson Building (1923)** at 200-212 East Main Street is a carefully ordered, conceived, and well executed building. The building's horizontal emphasis is a direct influence of the Prairie School style. This is truly a beautiful building and most definitely worth saving.

The **H. Johnson Building (1903)** at 103 West Main Street. Undoubtedly designed or built by the originators of the C. M. Hamilton Building, the Johnson Building is a quality building in its own right and essential to the downtown urban fabric –most notably the First National Bank Building which it adjoins.

The **Eubank Building (1903)** at 108-110 West Main Street is a beautifully detailed and constructed masonry structure. The structure gives every indication that the overhead transom lights could be returned to their original state with minimal effort.

The Downtown Commercial District and Central Residential District are certainly suitable for status as historical districts. The Holdenville Recreational District is full of potential and is very suitable as an historical district.

Wetumka

Of those buildings surveyed in Wetumka, Oklahoma and listed as National Register eligible one structure was found to have potential architectural value as noted below.

The **First Christian Church** (1928) located at 123 East Broadway Avenue is significant in the manner of its brick masonry detailing and leaded glass panels. Of great detriment to the design is the retrofitted roof which has replaced the original at some point in time. If the roof could be restored (through the use of photographic record, etc.) to its original appearance the building could be eligible for the National Register, but unfortunately, not before.

The **First Baptist Church** (1927) located at 202 East Broadway Avenue is a most intriguing design. Its entry façade is interesting in its degree of austerity but the façade has been unfortunately been carelessly and insensitively altered with wooden infill. If this façade could be returned to its original state the church would have many possibilities towards National Register status.

Other structures of note are as follows.

Gas/Service Station (c. 1925) at East Grand Avenue and Highway 75. This little service station is an architectural and historical gem. Very rarely do such stations exist without major alterations. Somehow this station has remained “untouched” and is today a wonderful example of such early highway service stations. This could be easily lost if action is not quickly taken to preserve it.

The **American National Bank Building** (1906), located at 100 South Main Street is a most interesting structure and though suffering from subsequent

alterations down through time it still is significant in its form and masonry work. Of special interest is the pointed voussoirs in the stone arches and the variations in arch span widths along the façade. The wood infill in the arches is an unfortunate distraction.

The **Bank of Commerce Building** at 122 South Main Street is a brick masonry commercial building of dignity with a pronounced visual strength. It has an odd placement of doors and windows on its Main Street façade.

Other properties that warrant further study are:

I.O.O.F. (Odd Fellows) Lodge Hall at 207-209 South Main Street;

House at 510 South Main Street;

Wetumka Light and Water Plant at 500 Block North Washita Street.

The Wetumka Commercial District has a large collection of historically and architecturally significant buildings and is most suitable for historical district status.

Wewoka

Wewoka has a remarkable number of significant architectural structures. Of the twelve properties listed in the survey as eligible for National Register status this reviewer concurs with nine of these properties. Architectural comments for these nine structures follow below.

Wewoka Public Library (1929) located at 118 West Fifth Street is an outstanding classic revival structure. The building is well-built and has a comfortable human scale.

T. B. Mutt Miller Park (1939) at East Tenth Street and Jackson Avenue is a testament to the WPA's skill with stone masonry and the development of an overall cohesive site plan. Much of this cohesion has diminished with time through the lack of upkeep and continued landscaping. It would be a most worthy task to refurbish this park and landscape so as to tie the various buildings and structures together. The bridges are quite beautiful.

Wewoka Fairgrounds (1936-39) located at East Tenth Street and Sasakwa Avenue are not outstanding architectural structures but their history warrants serious consideration for National Register status.

Wewoka Fire Station (1948) at 625? South Mekusukey Avenue is a fine example of the modern fire station. The upper living quarters should be refurbished and returned to a more original appearance (HVAC equipment should be redesigned and installed in a less obtrusive manner).

The **McDonald House** (c. 1910) located at 703 South Okfuskee Avenue is a most interesting eclectic design with many beautiful details. The decorative details of the wood shingle siding is exceptional. The house is in very good condition.

Wewoka High School (1926) at 1121 South Okfuskee Avenue is a fascinating structure with many outstanding cut-stone details inset into the brick masonry. The structure is a true relic of Wewoka's more prosperous times and illustrates the amount of care and concern the citizens of Wewoka placed upon the

educational environment. Such buildings remain as poignant examples of who we were, who we are, and what we are becoming.

The **B. F. Davis House** (1930) located at 102 Westwood Avenue is a most beautiful and impressive example of Colonial Revival. The large surrounding yardscape is extremely important to the building design.

The **T. J. Horsley House** (c.1930) at 104 Westwood Avenue shares much in common with its neighbor the Davis House (discussed above) in the manner of its construction and similar details. The house also offers an impressive front to the street and also a deep front yard with stately trees. The columns appear slightly undersized in diameter in proportion to their height.

Wewoka City Hall and Armory (1924) at 104 South Wewoka Avenue is a building worthy of refurbishing and restoration. The plaster stucco should be removed with the underlying brick restored and the windows should be removed and replaced with an historically correct wood sash infill. The metal panel should also be replaced with an appropriate infill.

As mentioned at the opening to this section, Wewoka has a surprising amount of significant architecture. In addition to the previously highlighted nine properties that are eligible for National Register status there are a number of other significant properties that deserve further mention. These are noted below.

The **Deibler Building** (1906) at 100-104 North Wewoka Avenue is an outstanding brick masonry structure that has undergone some unfortunate and insensitive alterations to the storefronts. These alterations appear to be removable

with little damage to the under layers. The building's corner location is significant visually and the presence of the building is a contributing resource to the commercial district.

The **C. Guy Cutlip Building/Security State Bank** (1926) located at 101-103 North Wewoka Avenue is a street corner structure with many beautiful brick masonry details and Prairie Style overtones. Again the storefronts have been altered but appear to be removable allowing a complete restoration of the storefront façade.

The **J. C. Jones Company Department Store** (1905) located at 121-123 North Wewoka Avenue is one of the town's oldest commercial structures. The degree to which the Wewoka Avenue façade has been covered up is amazing and appalling leaving one to wonder what is behind the "mask." The pressed tin coping and cornice detail is also curious—a history book of alterations.

The **Aldridge Building** (1925) at 100-102 South Wewoka Avenue is a straight ahead commercial building from the 1920's that has several surviving details of great interest. Of special interest are the remaining transom windows complete with their original prism glass. This offers many historical details that could be of assistance in understanding the original storefronts in other such buildings in the commercial district.

The **Masonic Lodge Hall** (1928) located at 211 South Wewoka Avenue is a beautiful example of Prairie Style design in a commercial front. The Masonic emblem inset in the brick masonry has a direct visual tie to the work of architect Louis Sullivan (the "grandfather" of the Prairie Style). The lower floor alterations

appear significant and may require additional structural work to bring the façade back to its original appearance.

The building at **213 South Wewoka Avenue** is another interesting commercial structure that dates to 1927. The entry alcove bordered by “barber” poles is a curious feature and apparently original (the soldier coursing above the storefront continues uninterrupted to the opposite end of the façade). This façade has also been altered in a similar fashion to the neighboring Masonic Lodge.

The old auto dealership at **300-302 South Wewoka Avenue** (1928) provides an interesting look into the early days of automobile sales and service. The carved stone sconces are interesting details in that they depict an early spoke auto wheel.³ This building still retains much of its original window details and entry doors. The metal awning is an unfortunate alteration but could be removed.

The house at **501 South Wewoka Avenue** (c. 1928) is a marvelous design with Prairie School overtones. The building is a wonderful asymmetrical composition in planning and detail. The broad horizontal band below the first floor soffit is a carefully conceived and well executed detail. The attached metal car shelters should be removed.

The **Wewoka Community Building** (1937) located at 524 South Wewoka Avenue is an interesting WPA project. The design is unique regarding WPA structures. The stonework also appears unique to this building compared to similar WPA projects of the time. There is a relaxed, casual appearance to the building

³A building (located on Route 66) in Bristol, Oklahoma, that dates to 1923, still functions today as an auto dealership. This building has similar carved stone auto wheels sconces set into the brick façade.

appearing more like a golf clubhouse than a municipal building—but works well visually as a community center that says “welcome.”

The Wewoka Commercial District is most suitable for historical district status.