

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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

For NPS use only
received JAN 25 1985
date entered 3-6-85

1. Name

historic: Historic (Commercial Buildings of) Custer City, R

and/or common

2. Location

street & number: See Continuation Sheets - off OK 33 not for publication

city, town: vicinity of

state code county code

3. Classification

| | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|--|
| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational | <input type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property

name: See Continuation Sheets

street & number

city, town: vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. See Continuation Sheets

street & number

city, town: state

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date: February 1984 federal state county local

depository for survey records: Oklahoma Historic Preservation Office - Historical Society

city, town: Oklahoma City state: Oklahoma

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Historic Commercial development is the unifying theme for the Broadway Hotel, Pyeatt's General Store, and the First National Bank of Custer City. These edifices represent the most significant commercial buildings constructed during the years of rapid growth from 1903 to 1920. All three structures are rectangular, two-story, brick construction. They are the best extant examples of Plains Commercial architecture in Custer City. In addition, they are all attached row buildings. They are located in a small, two-block commercial district of predominately one-story brick buildings. These buildings were constructed during the late 1920s. From a peak population of approximately 2000; Custer City has declined to about 900 inhabitants. Presently, the downtown consists of the Broadway Hotel, a second-hand clothing store, and a postoffice.

The survey was conducted by faculty and graduate students in the Department of History at Oklahoma State University as part of the Oklahoma Comprehensive Survey.

8. Significance

| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> social/ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Historic Commercial Resources of Custer City, Oklahoma, are significant because they are the only extant buildings associated with the original commercial development of the town. Custer City is located in an area that was part of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Indian Reservation until 1892. In that year, the Federal Government opened the land to white settlement and established the townsite of Independence, Oklahoma Territory.

With the coming of the Frisco Railroad in 1902, most of the population of Independence moved six miles to the southeast in order to have the new railroad line pass through their town. The transplanted community of about 700 changed its name to Custer City, in honor of the famed general. In addition, the Kansas City, Mexico, and Orient Railroad built a line through Custer City less than a year after the Frisco Railroad had completed its line. Due to the railroads, the town developed as a distribution point for agricultural products from an extensive area to the north and west.

Between 1902 and 1905, the Frisco depot handled more freight than any other depot on the line between Enid and Hobart, Oklahoma Territory. Moreover, at least ten outlying towns shipped their agricultural products from Custer City. By 1920, the town of Clinton and Weatherford began to supplant Custer City in importance due to Clinton and Weatherford location on the major highways.

The newly formed community was situated near the geographical center of a rich agricultural region in southwestern Oklahoma. Area farmers cultivated wheat and cotton as their primary crops. As of 1905, Custer City supported four grain elevators and a cotton gin which processed fifty bales per day. Ranchers also shipped some cattle to the markets in Kansas City.

The First National Bank provided much of the needed capital for farmers and the businesses that served the husbandmen. The bank, built in 1903, furnished loans that helped establish hotels, feed stores, dry goods, blacksmith, and other commercial enterprises. Finally, the First National Bank's sturdy brick building contributed a sense of permanence that persuaded other businesses to locate in Custer City.

An agricultural community could not prosper without a place to purchase some finished goods. J. H. Pyeatt's General Store fulfilled that need in the early days of Custer City. Constructed in 1905, Pyeatt's provided families with such items as coffee, sugar, and flour and a few luxuries that softened the harshness of frontier life. In addition, the store served a social function in that it afforded a meeting place for the farmers from the surrounding area.

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Continuation sheet

Item number

8

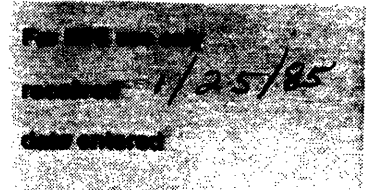
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The Broadway Hotel accommodated traveling salesmen, single school teachers, and migrant farm workers from its construction in 1908 until the end of the boom years around 1920. The salesmen who served the various local businesses depended upon the Broadway Hotel during their trips to Custer City. Single school teachers, whose salaries were usually low, made the Broadway their home during the school term. The meals that the hotel provided also attracted non-guests, especially local civic groups. The Hotel has seen a decline in business since the 1920s, but it has operated continuously until the present. In these ways, the Broadway Hotel contributed to the commercial growth of Custer City.

The First National Bank, Pyeatt's General Store, and the Broadway Hotel all contributed to the commercial development of Custer City. These three buildings gave a sense of permanence of the town in its formative stages. Moreover, the success of these businesses encouraged the growth of others.

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Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Custer/Commercial Buildings ^{city} ~~MBA~~ ^{TR}
State Oklahoma

Cover accept 3/6/85

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. Broadway Hotel Substantive Review Keeper

Reth Grovemo, 3/6/85

Attest

2. First National Bank of Custer Substantive Review Keeper
^{city}

William B. Burby 10/31/85

Attest

3. Pyeatt's, J.H., General Store Substantive Review Keeper

Reth Grovemo, 3/6/85

Attest

4. Keeper

Attest

5. Keeper

Attest

6. Keeper

Attest

7. Keeper

Attest

8. Keeper

Attest

9. Keeper

Attest

10. Keeper

Attest