

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 AUG 14 1984  
date entered SEP 28 1984

## 1. Name

historic ~~Historic Properties Associated With~~ T. F. Renfrow <sup>Historic Landmark</sup> ~~of P. Renfrow's TR~~

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number (continuation sheet) N/A not for publication

city, town N/A vicinity of

state Oklahoma code 40 county Noble code 103

## 3. Classification

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

## 4. Owner of Property

name (continuation sheet)

street & number

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

## 5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Noble County Courthouse

city, town Perry state Oklahoma 73077

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1983  federal  state  county  local

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

city, town Oklahoma City state Oklahoma 73105

## 7. Description

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

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The two properties nominated in the Historic Properties Associated with T.F. Renfrow thematic group were both built in 1900 and financed by T.F. Renfrow, the first physician in Billings, Oklahoma. Both were constructed one year after the town was founded in 1899. Dr. Renfrow's office was located in the second floor of the Renfrow Building and he lived and, later carried on his practice, in the Renfrow Home.

The dominant architectural style employed in both properties is Richardsonian Romanesque. The locally quarried native sandstone used in both buildings has been given the heavy, massive, straight forward treatment characteristic of the Richardsonian Romanesque style. Other Richardsonian principles include the round arched openings and deeply recessed straight-topped windows.

The historic and architectural integrity of both properties has remained intact for almost 84 years. The commercial building has housed various commercial endeavors throughout its history including the original Renfrow office and drug store as well as a grocery, telephone exchange, and hardware. The dwelling continues as a single-family residence the purpose for which it was constructed.

The two properties are situated on their original lots in the original townsite of Billings and are located within one block of each other (see sketch map). The two buildings included in the Historic Properties Associated with T.F. Renfrow are:

- (1) Renfrow Home (1900)
- (2) Renfrow Building (1900)

No other extant properties associated with T.F. Renfrow remain intact.

# 8. Significance

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

**Specific dates** 1900-1930      **Builder/Architect** Renfrow House; A.B. Romine (Architect)  
W.S. Miller (Builder)

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Renfrow Building; Unknown

The Historic Properties Associated With T.F. Renfrow thematic nomination is significant because: (1) their historic association with T.F. Renfrow, the first and only physician for approximately thirty years in the small agricultural community of Billings, and (2) the Richardsonian Romanesque architecture of the two properties are the best examples of this style still intact in Billings

Billings was founded in 1899 with the arrival of the Rock Island railroad which laid tracks through the northwestern section of Noble County. Billings, located in the rich wheat belt of Oklahoma, was a shipping point and storage center for the surrounding wheat farmers. The town soon emerged as a rural market and service center and the population of the area needed medical services. A young 21 year old physician, who lived in nearby White Rock, was persuaded to move his practice to Billings shortly after the town's establishment. This man was T.F. Renfrow, who became Billings' first and only physician for the next 30 years.

Renfrow, upon his arrival, financed the construction of one of the first two-story commercial buildings in Billings which was completed in 1900, one year after Billings was founded. The Renfrow Building housed a drug store on the first floor and Dr. Renfrow's offices on the second for approximately 30 years.

At the same time, Dr. Renfrow hired an architect, A.B. Romine, and a builder, W.S. Miller, to design and build a two-story residence for he and his family. It was considered by the local residents to be one of the most beautiful and finest dwellings in north central Oklahoma. John Morris, author of Oklahoma Homes: Past and Present, has recently included the Renfrow House as one of the best examples of rock and cobblestone homes in Oklahoma (p. 51). During the latter years of his practice, Dr. Renfrow moved his practice from the downtown office to his home (ca. 1930-1940).

Richardsonian Romanesque vocabulary was applied to both the commercial building and the dwelling. The native sandstone used in both was quarried and shaped from nearby land. The Renfrow Building features the heavy, massive texture of the Richardsonian Romanesque style. The round arched entrance in the cutaway corner and round arched opening in the west wall, the rock-faced pilasters marking corners and framing the cutaway entry, straight-topped deeply recessed window openings, belt course delineating first from second floor, corbeling at cornice level, and crenellated parapet provide additional Richardsonian Romanesque detailing. The Renfrow Home features the uniform rock-faced exterior finish, round arched window openings, smooth porch piers, and overall heavy texture characteristic of the Richardsonian style. Although the Richardsonian Romanesque treatment of the stone is dominant, some eclecticism is noticeable, especially the decorative cornice of bead and reel and dentils, convex mansard roof of metal, and the octagonal appearance of the two bays.

The Renfrow Building, built in 1900, has continuously served the community of Billings for over 80 years by housing commercial enterprises. In addition to the original drug store, the first floor has housed a grocery store and, for the past 30 years, a hardware which currently occupies it. The second floor was used by Dr. Renfrow until ca. 1930. Since then it has been occupied by the telephone exchange offices and a realtor's office. At present, it is used for storage by the hardware store occupying the first floor.

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The Renfrow House, also completed in 1900, has been a single-family dwelling for over 80 years. Following Dr. Renfrow's death in ca. 1940, the Murrays lived in it and then it stood vacant until 1965 when the present owner, Ora Miller, purchased the property. Mrs. Miller is the daughter of W.S. Miller, who was the principal builder of the home.

Both properties have retained their architectural integrity and stand as reminders of the historic significance of Dr. T.F. Renfrow, a driving force in the social and commercial history of Billings from 1900 to 1930.

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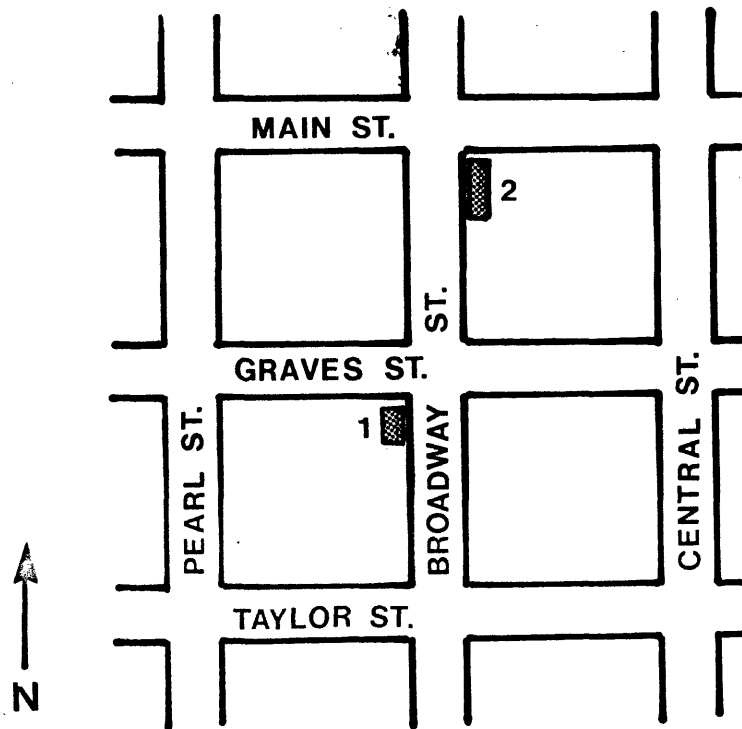
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

**THE RENFROW PROPERTIES**



# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Personal Interview: Ora Miller (Owner and Daughter of Builder), June 16, 1983.  
 Ford, Cheryl; "The Little Town That Moved" Journal of the Cherokee Strip Vol. 7 (1965), p9-10  
 Morris, John W., Oklahoma Homes: Past and Present. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1980.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Each property is less than one acre

Quadrangle name (continuation sheet)

Quadrangle scale (continuation sheet)

UTM References (continuation sheet)

A 

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 Zone Easting Northing

B 

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 Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

(continuation sheet)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Claudia Ahmad Supervised by Dr. George Carney

organization Department of Geography date January, 1984

street & number Oklahoma State University telephone 405-624-6250

city or town Stillwater state Oklahoma 74078

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature C M Metcalf date 7-30-84

title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Beth Garrison

date 9/28/81

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

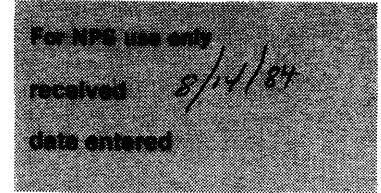
Continuation Sheet for Guston

date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
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Continuation sheet

Item number

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Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Renfrow, T. F., Historic Properties Thematic Resources

State Noble County, OKLAHOMA

*Cover* ——— 9/25/84

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. Renfrow Building

**Substantive Review**

Keeper

*Beth Groover* 9/28/84

Attest

2. Renfrow House

**Substantive Review**

Keeper

*Beth Groover* 9/28/84

Attest

3.

Keeper

Attest

4.

Keeper

Attest

5.

Keeper

Attest

6.

Keeper

Attest

7.

Keeper

Attest

8.

Keeper

Attest

9.

Keeper

Attest

10.

Keeper

Attest