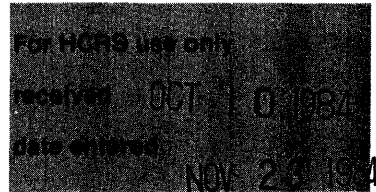


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

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



1. Name

historic Richardsonian Romanesque Banks of Osage County TR

and/or common

2. Location

street & number (see continuation sheet) N/A not for publication

city, town N/A vicinity of

state Oklahoma code 40 county Osage code 113

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

4. Owner of Property

name (see continuation sheet)

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state _____

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Osage County Courthouse

city, town Pawhuska state OK 74056

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 OK 73105

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

The four properties nominated in the Richardsonian Romanesque Banks of Osage County thematic group were built between 1904 and 1911. Richardsonian Romanesque vocabulary has been applied to the four commercial structures. Dominant Richardsonian features included in all four are the round arched entry, horizontal and rough texture of the coursed ashlar finish, straight-topped recessed windows arranged in a ribbon-like fashion, and the overall massiveness of the native sandstone construction.

The four banks are all located in small towns (less than 2,500 population) in Osage County which was formed from the Osage Indian lands assigned to the tribe in 1872 (see sketch map). They were all constructed during the peak of the oil boom in the Osage/Burbank Field which began in 1904, and reflect the immediate need for financial services in an era when banks were needed as a safe depository for the wealth being rapidly accumulated. All are constructed of native sandstone and possess the cutaway entry which was popular in Oklahoma small town commercial buildings around the turn of the century.

Although there have been some alterations to the buildings, they retain their original character and architectural integrity. The integrity has been preserved because all four buildings have continued to serve their respective communities since the banks were closed in the 1930s and 1940s. They have housed a variety of commercial activities including professional office space; two have been United States Post Offices; and other business functions. None of the four properties has ever been vacant.

The four buildings included in the Richardsonian Romanesque Banks of Osage County are:

- (1) Osage Bank (Fairfax) - 1904
- (2) Bank of Hominy - 1906
- (3) Bank of Burbank - 1910
- (4) Bank of Bigheart (Barnsdall) - 1911

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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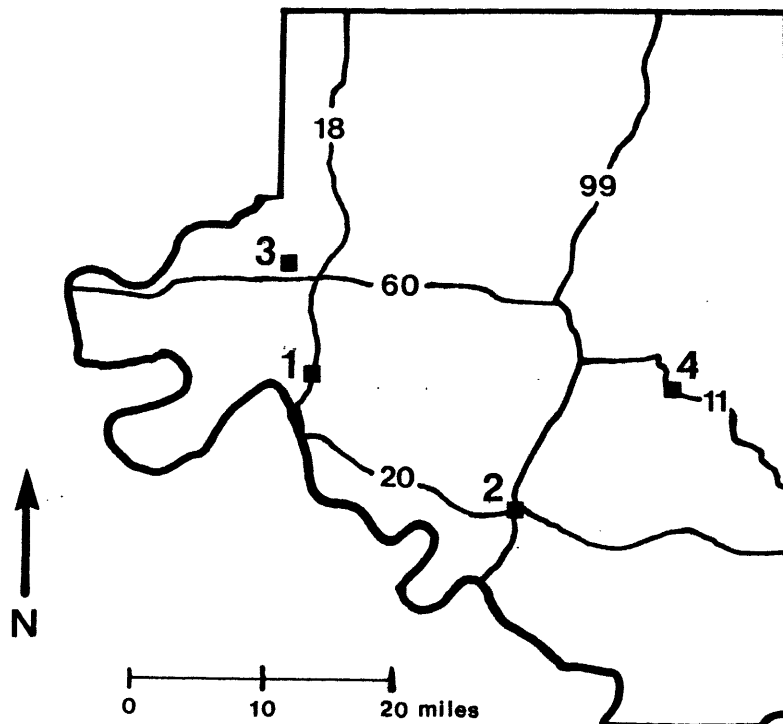
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Continuation sheet

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Richardsonian Romanesque Banks of Osage County



8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1904–1948 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Richardsonian Romanesque Banks of Osage County thematic nomination is significant because: (1) the four properties are the oldest remaining bank buildings in Osage County because they were all constructed either shortly before or after Oklahoma statehood in 1907 and (2) they represent the best existing examples of Richardsonian Romanesque architecture as applied to commercial structures in Osage County.

By an act of Congress on June 5, 1872, a part of the Cherokee Outlet in what was to become Oklahoma was assigned to the Osage Indians. The Osage lands comprised 1,466,167 acres which after statehood became Osage County, Oklahoma's largest. Bluestem grass on many thousands of the Osage acreage provided excellent pasturage for cattle and since each member of the Osage tribe received an equal share of the total acreage, the Osages were relatively prosperous ranchers. This is reflected in the fact that the Osage trust fund held by the United States government had grown to \$8,189,807 by 1891.

The discovery of oil and gas on the Osage land in 1904–05 created further wealth in the region. By 1906 approximately 5,000,000 barrels of petroleum had been produced. The Osage tribal government retained for its people the entire income derived from the oil and gas production. During a 40 year period following the petroleum discovery, the Osage citizens received an estimated \$300,000,000 in royalties making Osage County one of the areas of the United States with a high per capita income. Because of the prosperity derived from ranching and petroleum, there was an increased demand for services such as banks.

Constructed during the peak of the oil boom in Osage County (1904–1911), the four banks became significant financial institutions in their respective oil boom communities of Barnsdall, Fairfax, Burbank, and Hominy. Prior to the oil boom, the four towns were small rural market centers which acted as nodes for the surrounding ranching region. But with the discovery of petroleum, the four communities needed extensive banking services such as provision of cash for daily transactions, capital for investment, and a safe depository for the increased wealth of the area.

The four bank buildings depict Richardsonian Romanesque styling as applied to commercial structures. They are characterized by the straightforward treatment of native sandstone with their uniform rock-faced exterior finishes, the overall sense of heaviness and mass of their stone construction, simplicity of form, and the most distinguishable element of the Richardsonian Romanesque vocabulary, the large arched entryways. The second story walls are punctuated with deeply set straight-topped windows arranged in ribbon-like fashion also characteristic of the Richardsonian Romanesque styling. Although none of the four properties have towers, the crenellation and corbelling at roofline and cornice level give a sense of Romanesque detail.

The Osage Bank of Fairfax, built in 1904 when the first oil was discovered in the area, is the oldest bank building in Osage County still intact. It served as the only bank in the town until the 1930s when the depression forced closing. It later housed the United States Post Office for Fairfax and several commercial enterprises. It is currently occupied by Jewel's Bargains, a clothing shop.

The Bank of Hominy, completed in 1906 shortly after the oil boom began in 1904, is the second oldest bank building in Osage County. It, too, was severely hit by the

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National Park Service**

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depression and closed in 1938. It was purchased at that time by Clyde M. Fazier for an auto parts store and has housed Frazier's Auto Parts on first floor for almost 46 years. The second floor has always been used as office space for professionals such as attorneys and physicians. Attorney offices presently occupy the second floor.

Bank of Burbank, constructed in 1910, survived the depression and provided banking services to the residents of Burbank until 1948 when it became the United States Post Office. It has been recently renovated to be used as a private residence by current owner, Cotton Patterson.

The Bank of Bigheart, erected in 1911, is the oldest commercial structure in the town of Barnsdall. Bigheart's name was changed to Barnsdall in 1921 in honor of the Barnsdall Oil Company, one of the major petroleum companies in Osage County. It also closed in the 1930s and since that time has housed a variety of businesses including a drug store, the license tag agency and a tavern on the first floor. The second floor has always been used for professional offices for attorneys and physicians and continues that role today.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Ruth, Kent, Oklahoma Travel Handbook. Norman; University of Oklahoma Press, 1977.
 Morris, John, Historical Atlas of Oklahoma. Norman; University of Oklahoma Press, 1976.
 McGuire, Paul, Osage County. Pawhuska: Adrin, 1969.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Each property is less than one acre

Quadrangle name (continuation sheet)

Quadrangle scale (continuation sheet)

UMT References

Osage Bank		
A	114	70551010
	Zone	Eastings
		Northings
C	114	70311210
E		
G		

Bank of Hominy		
B	114	731361715
	Zone	Eastings
		Northings
D	114	75140410
F		
H		

Verbal boundary description and justification
 (continuation sheet)

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

state	N/A	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Claudia Ahmad Supervised by Dr. George Carney

organization Department of Geography date December, 1983

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *C. M. Petcal* date 9/27/84

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u><i>[Signature]</i></u>	date
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Continuation sheet

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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Richardsonian Romanesque Banks of Osage Thematic Resources
State Osage County, OKLAHOMA

Cover _____ 11/23/84

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. Osage Bank of Fairfax

~~Substantive Review~~

Keeper

Beth Grosvenor 11/23/84

Attest

2. Bank of Hominy

~~Substantive Review~~

Keeper

Beth Grosvenor 11/23/84

Attest

3. Bank of Burbank

Substantive Review

Keeper

Beth Grosvenor 11/23/84

Attest

4. Bank of Bigheart

Substantive Review

Keeper

Beth Grosvenor 11/23/84

Attest

5.

Keeper

Attest

6.

Keeper

Attest

7.

Keeper

Attest

8.

Keeper

Attest

9.

Keeper

Attest

10.

Keeper

Attest