

good

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Historic Resources of Woodward

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number The incorporated city limits of Woodward

N/A not for publication

city, town Woodward

N/Avicinity of

state Oklahoma

code 40

county Woodward

code 153

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MULTIPLE RESOURCE	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership

street & number

city, town

N/Avicinity of

state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Treasurer's Office, Woodward County Courthouse

street & number 1600 Main

city, town Woodward

state Oklahoma

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1982 federal state county local

depository for survey records Preservation Office, Oklahoma Historical Society

city, town Oklahoma City

state Oklahoma

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The historic resources of Woodward, Oklahoma comprise some 14 buildings selected because of their historical and/or architectural significance. Each of these buildings is located within two blocks of Main Street, and all are business related historically. Twelve buildings making up the core of Woodward's downtown business district are included in this nomination as a district. The 14 buildings nominated are representative of the economic growth and development of Woodward.

In 1893, the town of Woodward was a hastily constructed frontier cow town with approximately 5,000 inhabitants. Similar in many respects to a scaled down Dodge City, Woodward retained its rough appearance for several years following its founding. It was not until after the turn of the century that the first brick building appeared in Woodward. During the twentieth century, however, brick buildings systematically replaced wooden structures in the town's commercial district. The conversion from wood to brick reflected an increasing sense of permanence and years of economic growth. The largest town in northwestern Oklahoma, Woodward became an important regional marketing center; a distinction that Woodward still enjoys today. In 1980, Woodward had a population of 13,610 people. The city is a prosperous community with many new housing additions and commercial buildings, recently constructed to accommodate an influx of petroleum related businesses and their employees.

The environment has been an important factor in Woodward's history and architecture. Building styles in early Woodward were characterized by their emphasis on function, resulting in rugged, well built structures of relatively simple design. Situated on the southern most flatlands of the Great Plains, Woodward has experienced the extremes of cold winters and hot summers. Moreover, it is a region where air masses collide, causing violent thunderstorms, sometimes containing damaging winds, rain, and hail. The tornado, one of nature's most destructive storms, is a major weather threat. In April 1947, a tornado ripped through Woodward devastating almost two-thirds of the city. The spring storm took the lives of over a hundred Woodward residents and caused enormous property damage. The destruction of older structures brought about by the ravages of time and the elements have resulted in a characteristic mix of many new structures and few older structures. The buildings remaining, such as those nominated, are truly notable for their ability to withstand the rigors of the plains environment.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1902 - 1933 **Builder/Architect** Multiple

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The properties of this nomination are significant because they are the most important remaining structures that reflect the history and economic development of Woodward, Oklahoma. The component buildings of this nomination are inextricably linked with the commerce of Woodward and, in some instances, of the entire northwestern Oklahoma region.

Woodward's early residents were isolated on the border lands of Oklahoma Territory. Their main link with the more developed regions was through the railroads, two of which ran through the small community. However isolated, Woodward residents still desired the material goods that they had become accustomed to having. To meet the needs of these people, stores were established; banks came into being; and entertainment facilities were opened.

The properties of this nomination represent the business heritage of Woodward, springing from those early pioneers who chose to stake out city lots to today's businessmen. Included are the finest existing examples of this heritage. Woodward's first banker L.L. Stein built a large neo-classical mansion, funded by wealth acquired over a quarter century of serving Woodward's banking needs. He was one of the 5,000 pioneers who came to Woodward the day of the Land Run. Another bank, The Gerlach Bank, was operated within the building now occupied by the Goetzinger Abstract Company, located within the downtown historical district. Other banks opened and closed as the local economy expanded or became depressed.

Woodward became an important regional marketing center. Northwestern Oklahoma residents have continued to make Woodward their center of business activities. Early mercantile establishments such as those established by Gerlach-Hopkins and the Boyle Brothers provided the foundation for this tradition. These firms, which initiated operations just after the turn of the century offered the largest and the most complete line of merchandise available in northwest Oklahoma. Augmented by other stores selling various types of goods, these mercantile establishments drew the commerce of northwestern Oklahoma to downtown Woodward.

Other businesses located in downtown Woodward centered to the personal entertainment needs of the area's residents. The first motion picture theater in Woodward was located among the buildings of Woodward's downtown district, as was the region's earliest example of a "talking" motion picture theater. Woodward's first phone service had offices downtown at one time, as well. During World War II, one downtown building served as Woodward's U.S.O. center.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Individual Nominations

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property _____ See Individual Nominations

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References

A

Zone Easting Northing

B

Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Individual Nominations.

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 Danny Steelman Supervised by Mary Ann Anders

organization Oklahoma Historical Preservation Survey date 1982

street & number 502 Math Sciences, Okla. State Univ. telephone 405-624-5678

city or town Stillwater state Oklahoma

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. E. Petraly* date 8/8/83

title _____ date _____

For NPS use only

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

date _____

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration