

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 Pre-Statehood Commercial District of Muskogee

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Main and Broadway, MUSKOGEE, SECOND STS. N/A not for publication

city, town Muskogee N/A vicinity of

state Oklahoma code 40 county Muskogee code 101

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" 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	N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	N/A 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 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 Multiple Ownership (see continuation sheet)

street & number

city, town N/A vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Muskogee County Courthouse

city, town Muskogee state Oklahoma 74401

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 Oklahoma Historical Society - State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Oklahoma City state Oklahoma 73105

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Continuation sheet Owner of Property

Item number 4

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Abstract and Insurance Offices (No. 6 on sketch map) - Lot 6, Block 3, Original
Townsite of Muskogee.

No. 6 - Indian Capital Agency
% Julian K. Fite
530 Court
Muskogee, OK 74401

Jewelry Store (No. 7 on sketch map) - Lot 5, Block 3, Original Townsite of Muskogee.

No. 7 - Helen K. Fite
4110 Rectar
Muskogee, Oklahoma 74401

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 Pre-Statehood Commercial District of Muskogee consists of seven historically significant buildings constructed between 1901 and 1903 following a fire ca. 1900 which destroyed the original commercial district. All seven buildings housed a variety of commercial enterprises (retail, wholesale, and professional services) and continues that function today even though the nature of the businesses has changed. They are all located within Block 3 of the original townsite of Muskogee and the district is bounded on the east by Main Street, on the north by Broadway Street, on the west by Second Street, and on the south by Okmulgee Street. The buildings are all two-story red brick structures with flat roofs and retain much of the same scale, proportion, and environmental context as they had when they were constructed. Although some of the brick exteriors have been painted and various metal and wood awnings have been attached to store fronts, the basic integrity of the buildings has remained unaltered during their 80 year history.

Buildings contributing to the character of the district:

1. Alley Brothers and Company (1901-1903): 2 stories, brick and masonry construction on first floor, roughly cut native sandstone on second floor, cutaway entry on corner, pilasters extending above roof line separate second story windows and accentuate corners, segmental arches over window openings on second floor facade and south side, brickwork frieze, some crenellation at upper termination of facade (Photo Nos. 1 and 9; and Nos. 1 and 1-A on sketch map).
2. General Merchandise Store (1901-1903): 2 stories, brickwork frieze, segmental arches over second floor windows (Photo Nos. 1 and 10; and No. 2 on sketch map).
3. New York Store (1901-1903): 2 stories, masonry frieze, dentil-type ornamentation on cornice, band of seven windows on second floor (Photo Nos. 2 and 9; and No. 3 on sketch map).
4. Oxford Hotel and Bakery (1901-1903): 2 stories, pedimented cornice with finial on hotel, round arches over window openings on second floor of hotel, dentil-type brickwork on cornice of bakery, continuous masonry lintel above second story windows on bakery, pilaster-like mullions separate windows on second floor windows of bakery (Photo Nos. 3 and 9; and No. 4 on sketch map).
5. Severs Block (1901-1903): 2 stories, bold cornice with scrolled brackets and dentil-type ornamentation, semielliptical and round arches over window and door openings (Photo Nos. 4-7; and No. 5 on sketch map).
6. Insurance Office and Abstract Company (1901-1903): 2 stories, band of four rectangular-shaped windows on second floor, brickwork frieze of small round arches and dentil-type ornamentation, crenellation at upper facade (Photo Nos. 6 and 8; and No. 6 on sketch map).
7. Jewelry Store (1901-1903): 2 stories, four single window openings separated by pilaster-like mullions on second floor, second floor windows have glazed tile panes (Photo Nos. 6 and 8; and No. 7 on sketch map).

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/ 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 1901-1907

Builder/Architect Severs Block-McKibban and McKibban

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Others-Unknown

The Pre-Statehood Commercial District of Muskogee is historically significant because it is the oldest commercial district in Muskogee and one of the oldest in northeastern Oklahoma having been constructed between 1901 and 1903 when Muskogee was the largest city in Indian Territory.

Muskogee was established in 1872 as a result of the first railroad to enter Indian Territory, the Missouri, Kansas, and Texas. By 1900 Muskogee has become the major rail center in Indian Territory with six railroads running through the city. There were fourteen passenger trains daily and Muskogee had become division headquarters for the Katy, Missouri Southern, Muskogee Union, and the Pullman Company. In addition to its transportation function, Muskogee soon developed as a primary node for the processing, storage, trading, and exportation of cotton because the surrounding area was suitable for cotton production.

Several other factors contributed to the growth and development of Muskogee as the principal urban center in Indian Territory. In 1874, all individual agencies for the Five Civilized Tribes of Indian Territory were combined into the Union Agency established in Muskogee. In 1889, the first United States District Court and Federal prison for Indian Territory were established in Muskogee. Federal legislation in 1893 formulated the Dawes Commission which maintained its offices in Muskogee for a twelve year period when all Native American lands in Indian Territory were surveyed and individual allotments were made by the United States government. It was the largest land transfer conducted within the United States in American history. In 1904 Muskogee's preeminence as the leading city of Indian Territory was assured when oil and gas fields were opened in the area and one of the first refineries in Indian Territory was constructed in the city.

All of these events, institutions, and transportation facilities brought increased population growth to Muskogee. Its population boomed from an estimated 1,200 in 1890 to 25,275 in 1910; and three years after statehood in 1907, Muskogee was the second largest city in the new state, exceeded only by Oklahoma City. With this tremendous growth, Muskogee's need for a variety of goods and services also grew. The original business district which developed along Main and Broadway Streets was destroyed by fire ca. 1900. The merchants quickly replaced the earlier wood frame buildings with a new, more permanent commercial district completed between 1901 and 1903.

The Pre-Statehood Commercial District includes seven buildings which were all built during this era and represent the oldest remaining commercial structures dating from this era. All other commercial buildings completed prior to statehood have been razed.

Alley Brothers and Company (Nos. 1 and 1-A on sketch map) was one of the largest suppliers of fresh meat in Indian Territory. The buildings located at 103-105 North Main Street housed the Alley Brothers Meat Market which supplied the city and surrounding community with fresh meat. Their slaughter pens near the city kept at one time 200 steers, 100 head of spring lambs, and 200 head of hogs. The market featured the latest in cold storage and refrigeration and sales included choice beef and pork cuts, poultry, fish, wild game, sausage, fresh lard, and oysters. The market operators supervised a large fleet of delivery wagons, which one source stated, "could be seen at any time of the day all over the city".

9. Major Bibliographical Reference

Muskogee, Indian Territory Resources and Industries, pp. 63, 122, 129, and 150,
West, C.W., Muskogee: From Statehood to Pearl Harbor. Muskogee: Muskogee Publishing
Co., 1976.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Southeast Muskogee, OK

Quadrangle scale 7.5"

UTM References

A

1	5	2	8	5	7	6	0	3	9	5	8	6	5	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification Lots 5-17, Block 3, Original Townsite of Muskogee. Beginning at a point on the NE corner of Lot 9, Block 3 (Main & Broadway St) proceed 258' South, Southwest to the southeast corner of Lot 17, Block 3 (Main and Okmulgee St.), then proceed west northwest 65' to southwest corner

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

(See Continuation Sheet)

state	code	county	code
N/A			
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Claudia Craig Supervised by Dr. George Carney

organization Northeast Oklahoma Counties Survey date February, 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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature C E Metcalf 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:

Chief of Registration _____ date _____

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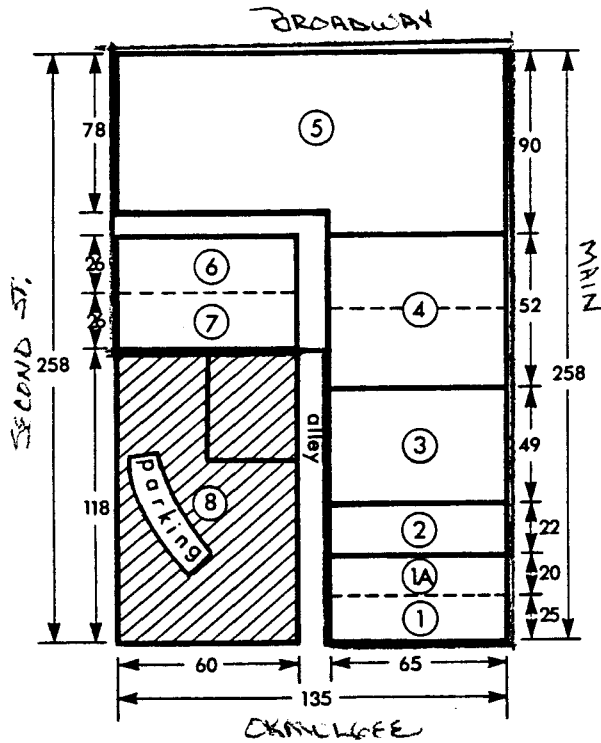
date entered

Continuation sheet Description

Item number 7

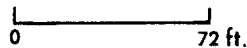
Page 1

PRE-STATEHOOD
COMMERCIAL DISTRICT
OF MUSKOGEE



LEGEND

- 1-1A - Alley Brothers Slaughter House and Meat Market
- 2 - General Merchandise Store
- 3 - The New York Store
- 4 - Oxford Hotel and Bakery
- 5 - Severs Block
- 6 - Abstract and Insurance Office
- 7 - Jewelry Store



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The New York Store (No. 3 on sketch map) was managed by F.S. Hinsey and W.C. Meinhardt, two of Muskogee's leading merchants. The two-story brick building housed the finest in ladies' and men's apparel, shoes, jewelry, artware, and china.

The Oxford Hotel and Bakery (No. 4 on sketch map) featured sixteen elegant rooms on the second floor. It was considered the most modern hotel in Muskogee because all rooms had electricity and baths. The dining room, located on the first floor, had seating for 100 people and was, according to one source, "widely known for the superior quality of its cuisine". There was also a lunch counter on the first floor which had a capacity for 50 patrons. The Oxford Hotel Bakery featured fresh pastries (bread, cake, and pies) and was considered to be the most modern of its kind in Indian Territory. Judson C. Fast and Frank H. Walkup were proprietors for both the hotel and bakery.

The Severs Block (No. 5 on the sketch map) was the largest commercial building in Indian Territory. It was financed and built by Captain F.B. Severs, large landholder and developer in Muskogee and Okmulgee, who also financed construction of the Severs Hotel in Muskogee (Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, September 13, 1982). This large rectangular two story building provided much needed office space and retail outlets. The first floor housed a drug store, photography studio, cafe, and offices for the cotton exchange company. The second floor was occupied by professionals including physicians, attorneys, and stenographers.

The other buildings in the district housed a variety of commercial enterprises including a general merchandise store (No. 2 on sketch map), an insurance and abstract office (No. 6 on sketch map), and a jewelry store (No. 7 on sketch map).

All of the buildings in the district are currently occupied by a variety of businesses including a saddle shop, barber shop, pawn shop, two furniture stores, a loan office, shoe repair shop, and recreation center. Although the nature of the businesses has changed, the Pre-Statehood Commercial District of Muskogee still provides a variety of goods and services retaining the same function as when it was constructed approximately 80 years ago.

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Continuation sheet

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Lot 17, Block 3, then north along rear property line (alley) of Lots 17-12, Block 3, 118' then west crossing the alley 10' along south property line of lot 5, Block 3 to southwest corner of said property then north, northeast to northwest corner of lot 8, block 3, then east southeast to point of beginning.



Pre-Statehood Commercial District

6985 N SW
(NORTHWEST
MUSKOGEE)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

PRE-STATEHOOD
COMMERCIAL DISTRICT
OF MUSKOGEE

