RESOURCE PROTECTION PLANNING PROJECT

STRUCTURES REPRESENTATIVE OF THE INDUSTRIALIZATION OF THE SEVEN CENTRAL COUNTIES OF OKLAHOMA, 1889-1929

REGION SIX

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STRUCTURES REPRESENTATIVE OF THE INDUSTRIALIZATION OF THE SEVEN CENTRAL COUNTIES OF OKAHOMA, 1889-1929

While the average citizen might accurately think of Oklahoma as a state with its economy based on agriculture and oil, he should not overlook the area of manufacturing: it has always been a part of life in Oklahoma, first in Indian Territory, today's eastern Oklahoma, later in Oklahoma Territory, now western Oklahoma. Industry arrived even before the land runs, survived in a variety of different forms, spread to every part of the state, and underwent numerous transformations. By 1929 industry employed 8.6 percent of the work force, a percentage that has increased steadily ever since. Between 1889 and 1929 the seven counties that comprise the central section of Oklahoma--Payne, Lincoln, Logan, Kingfisher, Oklahoma, Canadian, and Cleveland--shared an industrial history representative of the state as a whole.[1]

The industrialization of Oklahoma might be said to have begun with the settlement of Indian Territory in the 1830s. At that time tribes of Indians forced out of the East by the federal government's removal policy arrived in the Territory and began reestablishing themselves in their new lands. These Cherokees, Choctaws, Chickasaws, Creeks, Seminoles, and other smaller tribes carried on traditional crafts, producing primitive goods such as clothing, pottery, baskets, weapons, and processed foodstuffs. Some, having become acculturated to the white lifestyle through mixed marriages, years of contact, and missionary activity, manufactured items more closely associated with their white neighbors. The average town in Indian Territory usually included such establishments as a blacksmith shop, a gristmill, a sawmill, and a cotton gin. Stone was quarried and brickyards produced building materials for antebellum homes and public buildings such as the famous Cherokee male and female seminaries near Tahlequah. The enterprising citizen of Indian Territory might also extract salt, lead, and a

minimal amount of petroleum from deposits of these substances. Louis Ross, a brother of Cherokee Principal Chief John Ross, accidentally brought in the first oil well in Oklahoma in 1859 while drilling for water at his salt works in Mayes County.[2]

In spite of these early beginnings, industry in Oklahoma remained primitive and undeveloped until after the Civil War when industrialization of the nation as a whole accelerated. Then an influx of white settlers, often intermarried or adopted as citizens of one of the Indian Nations, began increased exploitation of the territory's natural resources. Lumbering and coal-mining transformed areas of southeastern Oklahoma as forests were stripped, mines opened, and skilled workers imported both from the East and Europe. At the same time, railroads were built across Indian Territory to take the lumber, coal, and other produce to distant markets. Still, Indian Territory remained basically agricultural with no large factories and no large urban centers to support them. The governments of the Indian Nations, already fighting a rearguard action against absorption into the federal state system, discouraged development of industry and transportation if it meant an influx of still more non-Indians. In addition, west of the Indian Territory roughly half of what would be Oklahoma remained unsettled and uninhabited except for nomadic Indians.[3]

Real industrialization came after 1889 when western Oklahoma, known as the Unassigned Lands, was opened for white settlement in the first land run. Suddenly there were towns, communities, and farms where there had been only empty prairie the day before. An estimated 50,000 people surged into the Unassigned Lands, creating Oklahoma City, Guthrie, Kingfisher, Stillwater, Norman, and a number of other towns overnight. Canadian, Cleveland, Kingfisher, and parts of Oklahoma, Payne, Lincoln, and Logan counties were settled at that time. Two years later another land run opened the Sac and Fox, Iowa, and

Pottawatomie and Shawnee lands; remaining parts of Payne, Lincoln, Logan, and Oklahoma counties were settled then. Later runs and lotteries opened the remaining parts of Oklahoma. Oklahoma Territory, roughly the western half of the state minus the Panhandle, was organized in 1890 and the state of Oklahoma was created in 1907 from a union of Indian and Oklahoma territories. Oklahoma City, the largest town in the new state, became its capital.[4]

Such instantaneous settlement so late in the nineteenth century meant these lands passed very quickly through the frontier stage. Railroads already tied Oklahoma Territory to the rest of the nation. Within a few months of the openings farms and towns dotted what had been empty prairie; within five or ten years many of the new towns had permanent buildings, telephone service, and electricity. Rich farm land, timber, and minerals provided raw materials while a population drawn from older parts of the United States brought with them the skills and capital needed to begin a variety of manufacturing enterprises. Therefore, the industrialization of Oklahoma Territory suffered few handicaps in reaching the status of the rest of the nation by 1900.[5]

This industrialization might include any number of undertakings. For the purposes of this survey, "industry" and "manufacturing" are used interchangeably to mean taking a raw or partially processed material a further step toward a final product; for example, raw cotton might be cleaned, ginned, and baled in one step of manufacturing; the removed seeds might be pressed for oil in another step; or, the baled cotton might be spun into twine in yet one more step. Each step is treated here as a separate "industry." Even more simply, "manufacturing" might mean the freezing of water into ice, an important manufactured item for much of Oklahoma early in the twentieth century.

These central Oklahoma counties may be said to be representative of the entire state in that they included examples of all the industries that took place in Oklahoma during the entire period under study. Cotton production was especially important in the southeastern counties of the state; no less so was it in Payne, Lincoln, Logan, Cleveland, Oklahoma, and Canadian counties. Wheat production quickly engrossed the western and northern counties; Kingfisher County in the area under study liked to think of itself as the "Wheat Capital of the World." Livestock raising took place all over Oklahoma and Indian Territories; Oklahoma City by the turn of the century was becoming a meat-packing center. Lumber was a leading export of the mountainous southeastern counties; Guthrie and Oklahoma City had their own planing mills and cabinetmakers. The large-scale mining of Coal and Pittsburg counties in the southeast part of Oklahoma and of Ottawa County in the northeast had its counterpart to a lesser extent in the sandstone, dolomite, and gypsum quarrying in all seven counties. Payne County even had some copper mining in the World War I period. Oil exploration, extraction, and refining began in the Indian Territory in the early 1900s, but by the 1920s the Cushing Oil Field, the Oklahoma City Field, and a dozen lesser fields brought the central counties to the forefront of the same oil-related activities. Railroads meant raw materials not found in Oklahoma Territory could be imported easily; thus El Reno and Oklahoma City, far from iron mines, had their foundries and machine shops. Lastly, some small, locally-oriented industries were common to many small towns of the time; so bakeries, creameries, breweries, bottling plants, and cigar factories could be found as easily in Kingfisher, Chandler, Norman, Moore, Stillwater, and Oklahoma City as in any contemporary town.[6]

Manufacturing passed through definite periods of expansion and decline in the central Oklahoma counties. In 1889, when most of the seven-county area was settled, this meant that many early industries were associated with building. Thus

some of the first industries involved sandstone quarrying, such as that carried on by the Hopkins Brothers of Cushing. Though most of the first structures put up in the new towns founded in 1889 and 1891 were wood frame, town builders replaced them as soon as possible with more permanent, more substantial, and less flammable sandstone, usually quarried locally. Many of these early structures still stand: several of the Hopkins Brothers's buildings (not nominated here) give Cushing its historic character. Another popular building material was brick, and many towns—Stillwater, Norman, Cushing, Chandler, and Perkins, for example—had brickyards which used local clay deposits to produce brick for local construction. Once the first building boom passed, however, these initial industries declined as demand for the product decreased. At the same time, clay deposits were worked out early, forcing the brickmakers to move on to another location. Consequently, few traces can be found of early brickyards and quarries.[7]

Another early type of manufacturing involved agricultural products. In fact, agriculture-related industry has always been a leading factor in the Oklahoma economy. In the seven-county area of central Oklahoma, agriculture was concerned chiefly with cotton, wheat, and livestock raising. Cotton was the major cash crop of most of the seven-county area in the first decades after settlement. Almost every rural community seemed to have a cotton gin, and most small towns had two or three, sometimes even more. Gins cleaned, seeded, and baled raw cotton. As most of the cotton raised in central Oklahoma was short-staple, it generally was exported by rail to coastal cities and then was shipped by boat to foreign countries. Textile mills to create finished products from the ginned cotton were rare in Oklahoma; the exception was Pioneer Cotton Mills in Guthrie, one of only two such mills in the state. Cotton seed, the by-product of cotton ginning, could be pressed to produce cotton oil, a substitute for animal fat

in food products. Because many gins were needed to supply a single cotton oil mill, fewer of the latter structures existed. Both began to disappear following World War I when the price of cotton dropped drastically. Some cotton production continued through the 1930s, but it never returned to the pre-war level. Instead farmers turned more toward livestock production, dairying, and wheat production. Thus, structures built for cotton-related industries began to vanish as cotton production declined in central Oklahoma. Gins were usually wooden frames covered with sheet metal, relatively insubstantial structures that did not survive age and weather. The exception is the brick gin at Norman, a remnant of the Norman Cotton Oil Mill Company. Cotton oil mills in general, though fewer in number than gins, were usually more substantially built of brick; consequently, a handful have survived in Prague, Guthrie, and Stroud. Most existing structures have been modified for a new use as feed mills or warehouses.[8]

In the western and northern counties of central Oklahoma wheat (and to a lesser extent, other grain crops) rivaled cotton as the major crop; thus much early industry involved feed grain and flour milling. Stillwater had a flour mill as early as 1891; later Hennessey, Guthrie, El Reno, Norman, and Oklahoma City had theirs, while Kingfisher with twelve (as stated above) thought of itself as the wheat capital. Nearby would usually be a file of grain elevators, storing other grain crops for milling or shipment. Most early flour mills and grain elevators were usually wood frames covered in sheet metal. By World War I these were beginning to be replaced with the cylindrical concrete towers of the present. Because of their insubstantial nature and high inflammability, most of the earliest structures are gone. The exception is Stillwater's pre-1900 flour mill. More common are the mills built in the 1920s when wheat production began to expand and replace cotton production. These later concrete mills and elevators, now usually associated with feed mills, usually serve as landmarks because of their

towering height. Also associated with grain production was the broom factory which used locally-grown broomcorn to create its product. There were broom factories early in the century in Stillwater, Ripley, and Oklahoma City.[9]

Livestock production, involving cattle, hogs, and poultry, began soon after settlement in central Oklahoma. By 1910 Oklahoma City began the first large-scale meat-packing industry in the state. Wilson's in Oklahoma City and Armour's plant in Guthrie became leading state employers. About the same time, a number of new creameries and ice cream companies opened as refrigeration became possible. Norman, Oklahoma City, Guthrie, Orlando, Stroud, Tryon, Stillwater, and Cushing were only some of the towns that had creameries by 1932. What made them possible was improved refrigeration and the construction of ice plants, beginning with the ones in Cushing in 1907 and in Prague in 1910. Ice plants sold blocks of ice for both home and commercial use. Farm products that once were extremely perishable could now be preserved longer and sold in quantity. Milk, butter, cheese, ice cream, eggs, and fresh meat enriched the public diet as well as the farm economy. Though Prague and Cushing claimed the first ice plants in Oklahoma by 1910, towns all over central Oklahoma had ice plants by the 1920s. However, these ice plants began to disappear following World War II, when home refrigeration became common. Commercial ice plants no longer had the wide-spread demand for their product that kept them in business through the 1920s and 1930s. Later, the need for creameries also diminished as eating habits changed. The relatively recent shift in the public appetite toward low-fat milk products and oleomargarine combined with the disappearance of the small diversified farmer who once supplied cream to the creameries caused most creameries to close, the exception being Burkey's Creamery in Cushing. However, the public demand for meat products has grown steadily, keeping the packing plants of Oklahoma City in operation.[10]

Another localized industry which flourished in the early years of the twentieth century was the brewery, in Oklahoma often associated with the large Anheiser-Busch or Pabst companies. There were breweries in Kingfisher and Guthrie, while Stillwater had one of only two distilleries in Oklahoma Territory. These all became illegal in 1907 when Oklahoma attained statehood and prohibition was adopted as a progressive reform.[11]

El Reno and Oklahoma City both had early foundries as a result of accessibility to the railroads. The El Reno Foundry and Machine Company molded cast iron products such as stoves for heating and light cooking, irons, grills, and water main fittings. One can speculate that the foundry closed when the use of lighter-weight metals such as steel and aluminum ended the demand for cast iron products and electricity replaced wood and coal for heating and cooking purposes. The Boardman Company of Oklahoma City, however, though it was founded within a decade of the El Reno Foundry, concentrated on steel fabrication and constantly diversified its products. From livestock tanks and water well equipment it passed on to oil field equipment, power plant equipment, naval equipment, and fire trucks, as well as a variety of other products. It is still in business at the same location in its original buildings.[12]

With the coming of the automobile, industry in Oklahoma was transformed as it was elsewhere. Ease of transportation to all areas meant the demise of many small localized industries such as bakeries, bottling companies, and candy companies. Local merchants found that large wholesalers could supply mass-produced products more cheaply than small, local manufacturers. While a variety of small industries was able to survive in Oklahoma City, most disappeared from smaller towns. More directly, the automobile industry came to Oklahoma City with the Ford Motor Company assembly plant built there in 1916. It employed

hundreds of workers rather than a handful and used mass production to compete successfully with other manufacturers.[13]

At the same time, the oil industry reached central Oklahoma with the discovery of the large oil fields near Cushing and Oklahoma City in the 1910s and 1920s respectively. Real oil exploitation had begun in eastern Oklahoma near the turn of the century with the Red Fork and Glenn Pool discoveries; over the next decade drillers had moved gradually westward. Industries related to this phase of manufacturing (not surveyed here because they have been formally surveyed before) began to overshadow older industries. With agriculture-related industries, oil-related industries have remained leading economic factors in the Oklahoma economy during the last six decades.[14]

The year 1929 brought the end of an era of constant growth in the Oklahoma economy. The stock market crash of that year precipitated the Great Depression of the 1930s. Oklahoma, already suffering from the worst drought on record, was especially hard hit. However, the economic crisis had the beneficial effect of eliminating marginal industries and forcing those that survived to consolidate and find ways of becoming more efficient. Thus 1929 marked the end of one era and the beginning of another.[15]

Any survey of this seven-county area will reveal that a surprisingly large number of structures remain from the 1889-1929 period. While few exist in smaller towns such as Tryon, Marshall, Okarche, Yale, and Moore, several significant structures remain in larger towns such as Stillwater, Cushing, Guthrie, Oklahoma City, El Reno, and even Prague. Still more might be found in an exhaustive survey that would include activities related to industrialization: transportation, wholesale houses, public utilities, and banking institutions. So, in spite of Oklahoma's image as an agricultural and petroleum producer, existing structures demonstrate a small but rich industrial heritage as well.

END NOTES

[1]John J. Klein, Richard H. Leftwich, Richard W. Poole, and Rudolph W. Trenton, The Oklahoma Economy (Stillwater: Department of Economics, College of Business, Oklahoma State University, 1963), p. 39.

[2]Arrell Morgan Gibson, Oklahoma: A History of Five Centuries (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1981), pp. 91, 101, 164.

[3]Ibid., pp. 157-165.

[4]Ibid., pp. 176-202.

[5]The first telephone line in Oklahoma was strung from Ft. Reno (now El Reno) to Darlington Agency northwest of present Oklahoma City in 1884. Guthrie and Oklahoma City had telephone service in 1893 while Stillwater and Cushing had telephone service in 1898. General electricity service came to Stillwater in 1905 and to Cushing in 1909, but many businesses had their own generators much earlier as is demonstrated by Sanborn Maps of Oklahoma towns at the turn of the century. Gibson, p. 160; Laura Lou Wells, Young Cushing in Oklahoma Territory (Cushing, Oklahoma: The Cimarron Valley Historical Society and Cushing Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution, n.d.), pp. 113, 192; Robert E. Cunningham, Stillwater: Where Oklahoma Began (Stillwater, Oklahoma: Arts and Humanities Council of Stillwater, Oklahoma, Inc., 1969), pp. 83, 102-103.

[6]The Co-op Way, a program published for the 50th anniversary of the Kingfisher Cooperative Elevator Association, Kingfisher, Oklahoma, 1984; Howard L. Meredith and Mary Ellen Meredith, "Oklahoma Territorial Building Stone," in Howard L. Meredith and Mary Ellen Meredith, eds., Of the Earth: Oklahoma Architectural History (Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Historical Society, 1980), pp. 61-71.

[7]Meredith and Meredith, "Oklahoma Territorial Building Stone," p. 70.

[8]Wells, Young Cushing, pp. 184-192; Melva Losh Brown, Czech-Town, U.S.A.: "Kolache-Ville" (Norman: Hooper Printing, 1978), pp. 94-101.

[9]The Co-op Way.

[10]Neil J. Dikeman, Jr., "Development of Manufacturing in Oklahoma," in John W. Morris, ed., Geography of Oklahoma (Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Historical Society, 1977), p. 128.

[11]Cunningham, Stillwater, p. 124; Morgan, Oklahoma, p. 204.

[12]Carolyn G. Hanneman, "Economic and Social Factors that Influenced the Growth and Development of El Reno, Oklahoma Territory," a master's report, Department of History, Oklahoma State University, 1982; an unpublished company history supplied by The Boardman Company, 1401 S. Western, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

[13]Welcome to Fred Jones Remanufacturing Company, a brochure provided by Fred Jones Remanufacturing Company, 900 W. Main, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

[14]Dikeman, "Development of Manufacturing in Oklahoma," p. 125.

[15]Ibid., pp. 128-130.

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PROPERTIES RECORDED AT THE NATIONAL REGISTER LEVEL OF DOCUMENTATION

THOMAS PLUMMER PERFECTION MILLS/(STILLWATER A & M MILLING COMPANY)

Location: 521 E. 6th, Stillwater, Oklahoma 040, Payne County 119

Classification: building; private ownership; public acquisition—N/A; occupied; unrestricted access; present use—industrial.

Owner: Stillwater Milling Company, Box 2407, Stillwater, OK 74074

Location of Legal Description: Payne County Courthouse, Stillwater, OK 74074

Description: Condition: good; altered; original site

The original building of the Stillwater Milling Company is a three-story building with a basement; it has an interior wooden frame covered with sheet metal. Photographs of the building from 1900 show a tall, rectangular building, three bays wide, two bays deep, with a low-pitched roof, gabled front and back. It was always covered with sheet metal. At some later date an extension was built onto the east side, making the building four bays wide; but this annex so closely resembles the original building as to be almost indistinguishable from it. There was also a one-story, shed-roofed extension on the northeast corner of the building. It has disappeared, but a shed-roofed loading dock was built onto the north front, extending east. At one time there was a small, one-story room built on the south side of the roof; it is no longer in evidence. Windows on all sides above the first floor have been covered over with sheet metal, but ground floor windows and doors all appear to be original.

Significance: 1890s; builder/architect: unknown

Built before 1900 as a flour mill, this building contained milling machinery belt-driven by an external diesel engine. The original gears are still in place on one of the upper floors. At present the building is still in use as a part of a large feed mill complex. As a flour mill this building was so important to the life of Stillwater and the surrounding farmers that the mill paid most of the cost of bridging the two nearby creeks to assure access to the mill for farmers at harvest time. This is one of the few flour mills left from the territorial period.

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Sanborn Map of Stillwater, Oklahoma. June 1907.

Acreage: less than one acre

Quadrangle: Stillwater South 1:24,000/7.5 minute

UTM: 14 675300 3998350

Verbal Boundary Description: From the northwest corner of the loading dock, go west 11.25 feet; turn left (south) 90 degrees; go south 57.5 feet; turn left (east) 90 degrees; go east 50.5 feet; turn left (north) 90 degrees; go north 57.5 feet; turn left (west) 90 degrees; go west 39.2 feet to the point of beginning.

FRANK P. KIRBY BROOM COMPANY/(TREAT MASONRY AND MATERIALS)

Location: 411 E. 9th, Stillwater, Oklahoma 040, Payne County 119

Classification: building; private ownership; public acquisition--N/A; occupied; unrestricted access; present use--commercial.

Owner: Tom D. Berry and Linford R. Pitts, Box 223, Stillwater, OK 74074

Location of Legal Description: Payne County Courthouse, Stillwater, OK 74074

Description: Condition: good; unaltered; original site

The Frank P. Kirby Broom Company is a two-story, flat-roofed building constructed of concrete blocks cast to resemble rusticated stone. It has three single, double-hung windows on the second floor front (north) and two single, double-hung windows to the right of a garage entrance. There is a wooden single entrance between the ground floor windows. There is also a single wooden entrance on the east side.

Significance: circa 1910; builder/architect: unknown

This small industrial building once housed a broom factory and later housed a furniture wax factory operated by the Berry family of Stillwater. As a broom factory, it produced a locally distributed item from a locally grown crop, broom corn. Broom factories were once common in small Oklahoma towns, but this building is one of the few remaining.

Major Bibliographical References:

Hoffine's Stillwater and Payne County, Oklahoma, Directory for 1910. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma: Hoffine Directory Company, 1910.

Acreage: less than one acre

Quadrangle: Stillwater South 1:24,000/7.5 minute

UTM: 14 675220 3997940

Verbal Boundary Description: Lot 8, Block 3, Lowry's Second Addition, City of Stillwater, Oklahoma.

COMMONWEALTH COTTON OIL COMPANY

Location: the south side of Cherry Street, east of Puckett Avenue, Cushing, Oklahoma 040, Payne County 119

Classification: building; private ownership; public acquisition--N/A; occupied; unrestricted access; present use--commercial.

Owner: Malernee Roofing Company, Box 245, Cushing, OK 74023

Location of Legal Description: Payne County Courthouse, Stillwater, Oklahoma 74074

Description: Condition: fair; altered; original site

The single remaining structure of what was once the Commonwealth Cottonseed Oil Company is a red brick, two-story building. It has a flat roof with a stone belt course above the second floor windows. It is three bays wide and four bays deep. Upper floor windows have flat sills and relieving arches, while lower floor windows have eliptical relieving arches. There are wooden doors on the north front and west side. The second floor wall on the west side is clapboard and is probably not original; neither is the single-story shed-roofed annex on the east side original.

Significance: circa 1906; builder/architect: unknown

From 1900 until after World War I cotton production was one of the main economic supports of this part of Oklahoma and Cushing. The Commonwealth Cottonseed Oil Company was founded in 1906 by John Hamilton Bellis, one of the leading citizens of central Oklahoma. The cottonseed oil complex was built on sixty acres near the Santa Fe tracks and included a number of brick buildings, valued at $150,000. The oil produced here was shipped to several factories over the United States where it was used in the manufacture of food products as a replacement for lard. Bellis used part of his property near the complex as a feed lot for 1,500 to 2,000 cattle. Other areas surrounding the complex were used for worker housing for the several hundred black laborers Bellis imported to work in his cotton mills. Before Bellis began the practice of importing black workers, Cushing was an all-white town. Therefore, this single remaining building is significant not only for its industrial past but also for its association with a locally important person and for its cultural impact on Cushing.

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Sanborn Map of Cushing, Oklahoma. 1913.

Acreage: less than one acre

Quadrangle: Cushing
1:24,000/7.5 minute

UTM: 14 700360 3983690

Verbal Boundary Description: Block 65, South Addition, Cushing, vacated st between Blocks 64-65 less tr 48' by 30', Block 63 and tr Beg NE/c Lot 11, S 50' SWly to pt 48' N of SW/c, N 92' E 25' to point of beginning.

CUSHING ICE COMPANY

Location: the south side of Katy Street, between Harrison and Noble Avenues, Cushing, Oklahoma 040, Payne County 119

Classification: building; private ownership; public acquisition--N/A; occupied; unrestricted access; present use--commercial.

Owner: John Owens, 214 E. Katy, Cushing, OK 74023

Location of Legal Description: Payne County Courthouse, Stillwater, OK 74074

Description: Condition: good; unaltered; original site

The only remaining structure of the Cushing Ice Company is the storage building. Built of native sandstone, it is about three stories high and square in shape. It has doors at ground level on the north and east sides, a boarded up window high on the west side, and a small shed on the southeast corner of the roof. At one time the interior was lined with cork, but this was removed during World War II.

Significance: 1915-1920; builder/architect: unknown

This structure is significant because it is the only remaining part of what was a very important utility in Cushing. The ice produced here was used to refrigerate farm produce, making it possible to ship perishable items to distant markets. The Cushing Ice Company was established in 1907, when an earlier cold storage facility, the Cushing Commission Company, sold the ice plant to W. E. Pulliam. Pulliam's Cushing Ice Company remained in business at least through 1935. A cold storage building was on the site in 1913, but this structure may have been built between 1915 and 1920, replacing the earlier building.

Major Bibliographical References:

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Acreage: less than one acre

Quadrangle: Cushing 1:24,000/7.5 minute

UTM: 14 700960 3984460

Verbal Boundary Description: Lots 21 and 22, Block 3, Original Town of Cushing

BURKEY CREAMERY (AND PULLIAM'S ICE CREAM COMPANY)

Location: 205 W. Cherry and 118 S. Central, Cushing, Oklahoma 040, Payne County 119

Classification: buildings; private ownership; public acquisition--N/A; occupied; unrestricted access; present use--industrial.

Owner: Mrs. Hilda Burkey/Mid America Farmers, P.O. Box 1127, Cushing, OK 74023; T. J. Hughes Lumber Company/Mid America Farmers, Box 2200, Tulsa, OK 74101 Note: The land belongs to Mrs. Burkey and T. J. Hughes Lumber Company; the buildings belong to Mid America Farmers.

Location of Legal Description: Payne County Courthouse, Stillwater, OK 74074

Description: Condition: excellent; altered; original site

The Burkey Creamery consists of two buildings: the creamery proper at 205 W. Cherry and the creamery warehouse, formerly Pulliam's Ice Cream Company, at 118 S. Central. The creamery is a one story, flat-roofed building of native sandstone with several concrete block additions. The oldest part, the northeast corner of the building, is constructed of native sandstone blocks painted white. There is a cutaway corner on the northeast corner. Behind this stone section and to the west of it are concrete block additions. There is a wooden ramp and a recessed loading dock on the north front with single entrances into the creamery and the office. The building has one casement window on the right front (northwest). Several cylindrical metal tanks protrude from the outer walls. Diagonally across the intersection from the creamery building is the warehouse, a one-story, flat-roofed brick building now painted white on the south and west sides. Originally built of red brick, the building was veneered on the west front with another type of red brick probably in the 1920s. There is a stringcourse along the roofline and just below it. The warehouse has a single entrance on the west front and three square windows, one double-hung and two boarded over. There is one boarded over window on the south side and two large entrances, one raised above street level, for loading. The north and east sides of the building are plain and appear unaltered.

Significance: circa 1927; builder/architect: unknown

The Burkey Creamery and Pulliam's Ice Cream Company are significant because they represent a type of small independent milk product manufacturing company that no longer exists. When the Burkey Creamery began in 1927, moving into a much older building formerly belonging to Hughes Lumber Company, most small diversified independent farmers kept dairy cows and sold the milk and separated cream to creameries for butter and cheese production. In the first year the creamery operated it produced 60,000 to 70,000 pounds of butter. As late as 1941 there were 85 creameries like Burkey's in Oklahoma. The disappearance of the small independent diversified farmer and the shift of American eating habits toward low-fat milk and margarine has

caused most of the creameries to go out of business as well. Burkey's is the only such creamery left in Oklahoma and is one of a handful in the Southwest. Similarly, Pulliam's represents another type of localized industry once common in small towns after refrigeration became available. The owner of the ice cream company, E. W. Pulliam, also owned and operated the Cushing Ice Company. Though this nomination includes a structure not originally built for manufacturing (the creamery) as well as modern additions to that structure, the surveyors feel these should all be included in the nomination because of the unique nature and continuing character of the industry.

Major Bibliographical References:

Burkey, A. A. "Sonny." Interview. Cushing, Oklahoma. June 24, 1985.
Wells, Laura Lou. Young Cushing in Oklahoma Territory. Cushing, Oklahoma: Cimarron Valley Historical Society, n.d.
Cushing Daily Citizen. February 28, 1979.
Norman Transcript. April 4, 1978.

Acreage: less than one acre

Quadrangle: Cushing 1:24,000/7.5 minute

UTM: A. 14 700700 3983690
B. 14 700740 3983720

Verbal Boundary Description: Lots 1-4, Block 67; Lots 13-14, Block 55, South Addition

STROUD ICE COMPANY

Location: the south side of Second Street, between Fifth and Fourth Avenues, Stroud, Oklahoma 040, Lincoln County 081

Classification: building; private ownership; public acquisition--N/A; occupied; unrestricted access; present use—private office.

Owner: Richard Evans, 605 N. 5th Avenue, Stroud, OK 74079

Location of Legal Description: Lincoln County Courthouse, Chandler, OK 74834

Description: Condition: fair; unaltered; original site

The Stroud Ice Company is a one-story, white stucco building with a hip roof. It has two bays on the left side of the north front and one on the right side. In the center is an arched, recessed entrance in which the freezing compartment door is located. There is one window on the east side. On the west side is a sheet metal covered warehouse which may once have been a bottling company attached to the ice company. It is not included in this nomination.

Significance: 1922; builder/architect: unknown

This structure is significant because it once provided an invaluable service for area residents by producing ice for refrigeration. The Stroud Ice Company was founded by R. L. Hill, W. L. Bruce, and J. B. Morton; it began operation in this structure June 16, 1922. At a later date the company may also have operated a bottling works on this site. In the later 1920s the first owners sold the company to Southwest Utility Dairy Products of Oklahoma City, which sold the business in 1946. A series of private owners continued to operate it as an ice company until 1968 when state regulations made continued operation impossible without extensive modernization.

Major Bibliographical References:

Evans, Richard. Interview. Stroud, Oklahoma. June 3, 1985.
Stroud Democrat. April 5, 1946; February 1, 1968.
Stroud Messenger. January 27, 1922; June 16, 1922.

Acreage: less than one acre

Quadrangle: Stroud South 1:24,000/7.5 minute

UTM: 14 711760 3958310

Verbal Boundary Description: Lots 13-17, Block 39, North of the railroad, Original Town of Stroud, Oklahoma

UNION COTTON OIL COMPANY (THOMPSON MILL)

Location: the east side of Barta Avenue between 4th and 5th Streets, Prague, Oklahoma 040, Lincoln County 081

Classification: buildings; private ownership; public acquisition--N/A; occupied; unrestricted access; present use--agricultural/industrial.

Owner: Twila Duroy, Thompson Mill Elevator, S. Barta, Prague, OK 74864

Location of Legal Description: Lincoln County Courthouse, Chandler, OK 64834

Description: Condition: good; altered; orginal site

The Union Cotton Oil Company consists of a complex of six brick and frame buildings, four of which date from before 1932. The major buildings are Building A, which may once have housed the cake mill, presses, and linters; Building B of unknown use; the office (Building C); Building D, a wood-frame structure beside Building A; Building E and Building F, metal-covered storage buildings. Building A of red brick is two stories high; it has the multiple gables and extensions common to cotton industry structures. It has several multi-paned windows with flat lintels and eliptical arches. Some are partially covered by a wood frame, shed-roofed annex on the northwest side. A gable-roofed, open-sided extension on the southwest is part of the feed mill operation and is probably not original. Near Building A is Building D, a plain wood-frame structure with a shed-roofed porch on the rear (northeast). Building A and the office appear on a Sanborn map issued in 1908. Building B, also of red brick, appears to be contemporary with these two earliest structures although it was not on the 1908 map. It is two stories high and has several windows with eliptical relieving arches. On the north side is a shed-roofed loading dock. On the interior wall of the loading dock are two arched openings, now boarded over, one of which contains a leg for lifting grain into the milling machinery. The office, Building C, is a two-story, wood-frame structure which originally housed the cotton scales on the upper floor. It has a hip roof, several casement windows, and a modern annex that serves as the mill store. Buildings E and F are modern metal storage buildings.

Significance: 1907-1932; builder/architect: unknown

The Union Cotton Oil Company mill is significant because of its long-term effect on Prague and the surrounding area: for nearly half a century it was one of the largest industries in the Prague area. The Union Cotton Oil Company was established in 1906 and incorporated in 1907 at the time the Prague area turned to large-scale cotton production. C. C. Armbrister and his son, W. E. Armbrister, with others built the cotton oil mill at a cost of more than $60,000. In 1910 George Jepsen, one of the owners, became the manager; by the 1940s he was the major stockholder. With the aid of banker Herman Josey the cotton oil company survived the decline of cotton production and

eventually made the transition to producing livestock feed. In 1955 it became the Thompson Mill. Even though some of the buildings included in this nomination are obviously outside its time frame, they are included because they are an integral part of the milling complex which grew out of the declining cotton processing industry on this site.

Contributing Structures:

Building A
Building B
Building C (Office)
Building D

Non-contributing Structures:

Building E
Building F

Major Bibliographical References:

Brown, Melva Losh. Czech-Town, U.S.A.: "Kolache-Ville." Norman, Oklahoma: Hooper Printing, 1977.
Duroy, Twila. Interview. Prague, Oklahoma. June 5, 1985.
Sanborn Map of Prague, Oklahoma. 1908.

Acreage: approximately one acre

Quadrangle: Prague 1:24,000/7.5 minute

UTM: 14 710230 3928630

Verbal Boundary Description: Lots 1-7, Block 65, Josey's Addition

PRAGUE ICE PLANT (TOWN AND COUNTRY ICE)

Location: 613 Broadway, Prague, Oklahoma 040, Lincoln County 081

Classification: building; private ownership; public acquisition—N/A; occupied; unrestricted access; present use--industrial.

Owner: Joy Eddings (Lokey), 613 Broadway, Prague, OK 74864

Location of Legal Description: Lincoln County Courthouse, Chandler, OK 74834

Description: Condition: excellent; altered; original site

The Prague Ice Plant is a one-story, flat-roofed building with white stucco over red brick; it presently serves as a convenience store, liquor store, and ice plant. It consists of a tall central building facing the street (east), lower annexes on both the south and north sides, and series of extensions toward the rear (west) housing the ice manufacturing machinery. The central part of the building, reputed to have been the oldest brick building in town, was converted into an ice plant in 1927. It was stuccoed about 1946 or 1947. At one time it had a cutaway corner on the southeast corner of the building, but an annex with a lower roofline has partially obscured it. This annex and the annex on the north side are of concrete blocks painted white to match the original structure. Each annex has its own modern entrance and casement window. The recessed entrance to the original building is reached by a pair of carpeted steps. To the left a modern glass door gives access to the store front and south annex. Centered in the recess is a heavy, hinged wooden door opening into the ice plant proper. To the right of the door is a rack and drip pan. The original building has a recessed entrance on the south side toward the rear. To the left of the entrance is a double-hung window with a flattened eliptical arch, an indication of the true age of the original building. Further to the rear are a metal extension, a two-story tower, the compressors, and a concrete tank--all part of the ice-making machinery.

Significance: 1910-1927; builder/architect: unknown

The Prague Ice Company is significant because it is one of the oldest ice companies in Oklahoma, having survived the decline of the ice-making business in the 1930s and 1940s. The First Chance Saloon was built on this site in 1903; it is probably the oldest section of the existing ice plant. Joe Dietrich built the original ice plant, Prague Ice and Storage Manufacturing Company, at the rear of this site in 1910 and expanded his operation to include the saloon. Dietrich's plant produced six to seven tons of ice per day. Though the building has been altered extensively and several modern annexes are included in the nominated property, the surveyors feel the complete complex should be included because all parts are included either in the ice-making process or in the sale of the product and because all are a part of a business that has operated continuously on this site since 1910.

Major Bibliographical References:

Brown, Melva Losh. Czech-Town, U.S.A.: "Kolache-Ville." Norman, Oklahoma: Hooper Printing, 1977.

Acreage: less than one acre

Quadrangle: Prague
1:24,000/7.5 minute

UTM: 14 709940 3928720

Verbal Boundary Description: Lots 19-22, Block 51, Seminole Addition

THE OKLAHOMA MILL COMPANY (KINGFISHER CO-OP ELEVATOR)

Location: the northeast corner of Roberts Avenue and Third Street, adjacent to the C.R.I.P. Railway line, Kingfisher, Oklahoma 040, Kingfisher County 073

Classification: buildings; private ownership; public acquisition--N/A; unoccupied; unrestricted access; present use—industrial.

Owner: Kingfisher Co-op Elevator Association, Box 359, Kingfisher, OK 73750

Location of Legal Description: Kingfisher County Courthouse, Kingfisher, OK 73750

Description: Condition: good; altered; original site

Four structures remain of the Oklahoma Mill Company's flour mill complex in Kingfisher, Oklahoma. These consist of the flour mill, Elevator A, Elevator F, and the engine house. The flour mill is a long, rectangular concrete building seven stories tall. It has evenly spaced multi-paned windows on the east and west side and similar windows on the upper two floors on the south side. The roof is flat. Elevator F is a tall concrete structure topped by a sheet metal extension several stories tall. It has several small windows and a gabled roof. Elevator A consists of three rounded concrete towers about five stories high. It too has a sheet metal extension two stories high on the roof. The engine house is a small, gabled, three-story building to the east of the flour mill. It has three rows of multi-paned windows on the sides, one similar row of windows to the left of a garage entrance on the south, and one small window on the second floor level. All these buildings are typical of the flour/feed mill/elevator structure.

Significance: 1916-1920; builder/architect: unknown

The Kingfisher Co-op flour mill and elevators are significant because they are some of the few remaining such structures in the central Oklahoma counties. In no other location was such a complete grouping of flour mill and elevators found. Elevators A and F were built in 1916, four years before the flour mill and engine house. The milling machinery was all removed in the 1950s and shipped to Cuba where it was to be put into further use. These buildings currently belong to the Kingfisher Co-op which has constructed a larger complex around them. Adjacent to Elevator F and on the same lot is Elevator G, which was built in 1941 and is not included in the nomination.

Major Bibliographical References:

Case, Robert A. Interview. Kingfisher, Oklahoma. June 10, 1985.
Sanborn Map of Kingfisher, Oklahoma. n.d.

Acreage: approximately one acre

Quadrangle: Kingfisher
1:24,000/7.5 minute

UTM: 14 597860 3969310

Verbal Boundary Description: Lots 1-10, Block 4, and vacated street, original town of Kingfisher, Oklahoma

EL RENO FOUNDRY AND MACHINE COMPANY

Location: Foreman Street between Macomb and Hoff Avenues, El Reno, Oklahoma 040, Canadian County 017

Classification: buildings; private ownership; public acquisition--N/A; occupied; unrestricted access; present use--industrial.

Owner: K K Enterprises, Oklahoma City, OK

Location of Legal Description: Canadian County Courthouse, El Reno, OK 73036

Description: Condition: fair; unaltered; original site

The El Reno Foundry consists of a complex of seven buildings, some of brick and some wood-frame. The buildings were constructed over the course of several years, probably from the company's founding in 1901 until World War I. Building A, the foundry and machine shop, is probably the oldest structure as it appears on the Sanborn Map for 1908. This L-shaped building has a red brick east-west extension (the foundry) from a wood-frame main building (the machine shop). The taller wood-frame structure has a sheet metal roof, hipped on the south end and gabled on the north. The foundry has a low hip roof covered in sheet metal. The machine shop also has a wooden sign plate fixed to a section of the roof line. While the foundry has some decorative stepped brickwork and pilaster strips down the side walls, the machine shop is very plain. Likewise the foundry has a series of casement windows trimmed with stepped brickwork, while the machine shop section has only four plain double-hung windows. There are single wooden doors on both the east and west sides of the machine shop. Buildings B and C are small wood-frame outbuildings. Building B has a shed roof while Building C is board and batten with a gabled roof. It also is a story and a half with a double-hung wood-frame window on the north end and a casement window in the north gable end. Buildings D and E are one-story structures with sheet metal walls and roofs. Like Buildings B and C they were outbuildings probably used for storage. (These four outbuildings are overgrown and surrounded with debris so that it is difficult to give more accurate descriptions of them.) Building F, the new foundry and machine shop, and Building G, a warehouse, are probably the newest in the foundry complex. Building F is a red brick building with a raised gabled center section set between symmetrical one-story shed-roofed extensions. The brickwork is similar to that of the original foundry in that it has some stepped brick trim and pilaster strips setting off equally-spaced windows. There are six casement windows set into the clapboarded upper side walls. The original casement windows on the lower level have been covered with fiberglass panels along the west side. There is a double garage-type door on the north gable end and a smaller casement window set into the north upper level. The south end has a single entrance. On the east side of the building is an open wooden elevator which once lifted fuel to the second-story boiler. Building G is a partially board and batten covered one-story wood frame, metal roofed warehouse. It has garage-type entrances on the west and south sides.

Significance: 1901-1920; builder/architect: unknown

The El Reno Foundry and Machine Company structures are significant because they have survived intact and fundamentally unaltered for more than seventy years, one of the few Oklahoma foundries to do so. Both the new and the old foundry/machine shops still contain their original central powershafts, flat-belt-driven machinery, tools, molds, and cast-iron products as well as the outside elevator for delivering fuel to the second-floor coke oven. The railroad spur still runs through the property; sitting near the track is a train-wheeled foundry cart. In effect, these structures make up a museum collection, demonstrating what the turn-of-the-century foundry was, how it operated, and what it produced. Originally the Prague Manufacturing Company, the El Reno Foundry and Machine Company moved to El Reno in 1901. It made cast iron stoves for heating and light cooking, as well as iron gratings, laundry irons, rakes, shovels, wheels, and other cast iron products. It was the only business in either Oklahoma or Indian Territories that produced water main fittings. In 1906 more than half of the 1,700 stoves it produced were sold in New Mexico Territory. Shut down for many years, the foundry is in the process of being cleaned, cleared, and reopened.

Major Bibliographical Reference:

Hanneman, Carolyn. "Economic and Social Factors that Influenced the Growth and Development of El Reno, Oklahoma Territory." Unpublished master's report, Oklahoma State University, 1982.
Garner, James. Interview. El Reno, Oklahoma. June 10, 1985.
Harrell, C. L. Interview. El Reno, Oklahoma. June 10, 1985.
Sanborn Map of El Reno, Oklahoma. 1908.

Acreage: approximately one acre

Quadrangle: El Reno 1:24,000/7.5 minute

UTM: 14 595260 3932840

Verbal Boundary Description: Lots 1-8, 15-22, and part of Lots 9-11, Block 48

HOUGHTON AND DOUGLASS COTTON OIL MILL (GUTHRIE COTTON OIL COMPANY)

Location: 204 W. College, Guthrie, Oklahoma 040, Logan County 083

Classification: building; private ownership; public acquisition—N/A; occupied; unrestricted access; present use—industrial.

Owner: John Pearson, 512 E. Washington, Guthrie, OK 73044

Location of Legal Description: Logan County Courthouse, Guthrie, OK 73044

Description: Condition: fair; altered; original site

The remaining structure of the Houghton and Douglass Cotton Oil Mill is one long red brick building. It has several annexes of varying periods. Toward the rear of the gabled building is a two-story section set crosswise to the rest of the roof line; it probably housed the engine. The building once had a row of flat-silled windows with eliptical relieving arches down each side, but most of these have been bricked in. There is a large double entrance on the south end of the building, and there are several other single entrances on each side. Though the brick walls are intact, they were damaged when the building was used to store wheat; several rods and braces have been installed to strengthen them. There are also several modern circular vents set along the roofline, and a conveyor pipe was installed to deliver wheat for storage.

Significance: circa 1904; builder/architect: unknown

This structure was built soon after the company began business in Guthrie, about 1904. Its several rooms housed (from south to north) the meal mill, mixing machine, presses, 250 horsepower engine, separator and huller, lint machines, and bale press. It was connected to the cotton seed house by a conveyor belt and was surrounded by cotton oil tanks, a hull house, and other structures necessary to the oil extraction process. These as well as the two dozen gins that supplied seed to Houghton and Douglass's extensive business have disappeared. The company is now a feed mill although it goes by the cotton oil name and includes a working 1950s-era cotton gin adjacent to the nominated structure. In spite of some alteration and deterioration, this structure appears to be the best preserved of the handful of cotton oil mills remaining in the seven central Oklahoma counties.

Major Bibliographical References:

McNeely, Tom. Interview. Guthrie, Oklahoma. June 17, 1985.
Sanborn Map of Guthrie, Oklahoma. July 1908.

Acreage: more than one acre

Quadrangle: Guthrie North 1:24,000/7.5 minute

UTM: 14 642070 3972400

Verbal Boundary Description: In tract 28E SW 1/4 of Section 4, T 16N, R 2W: From the southwest corner of the concrete loading dock on the south side of the nominated structure, go 6 feet southwest; turn right (north) 45 degrees, go north 260 feet; turn right (east) 90 degrees, go east 100 feet; turn right (south) 90 degrees, go south 277.5 feet; turn right (west) 90 degrees; go west 87.5 feet to the point of beginning.

GUTHRIE MILLING COMPANY (LOGAN COUNTY FARM ENTERPRISES, INC.)

Location: 500 W. Vilas, Guthrie, Oklahoma 040, Logan County 083

Classification: structures; private ownership; public acquisition—N/A; occupied; unrestricted access; present use—industrial.

Owner: Clyde Cheatham, et al., Crescent, OK 73028

Location of Legal Description: Logan County Courthouse, Guthrie, OK 73044

Description: Condition: good; unaltered; original site

The only remaining structures of the Guthrie Milling Company are eight concrete grain elevators built about 1917-1918. They are about ninety feet tall, cylindrical, and windowless. A small sheet metal structure across the tops houses the conveyor belt. They sit in two rows of four next to a railroad siding.

Significance: circa 1917; builder/architect: unknown

In business in Guthrie before 1908, the Guthrie Milling Company complex consisted of numerous structures, including a flour mill, warehouses, grain elevators, and engine house to operate the machinery. All have vanished except for these eight elevators. Built during World War I, they replaced even older iron-clad storage buildings. A modern milling company carries on similar business on the same location. These are probably some of the oldest elevators in central Oklahoma. Built as concrete began to replace sheet metal and wood-frame construction for this type of structure, they represent the period in which wheat production began to replace cotton production in central Oklahoma.

Major Bibliographical References:

Cheatham, Linn. Interview. Guthrie, Oklahoma. June 17, 1985.
Sanborn Map of Guthrie, Oklahoma. July 1908; 1926.

Acreage: approximately one acre

Quadrangle: Guthrie Northeast 1:24,000/7.5 minute

UTM: 14 641520 3971100

Verbal Boundary Description: Block 77, Original Town: From the northeastern-most point occupied by the elevators go south 80 feet; turn right (west) 90 degrees; go west 52.5 feet; turn right (north) 90 degrees; go north 80 feet; turn right (east) 90 degrees; go east 52.5 feet to the point of beginning.

J. F. BRICKNER PLANING MILLS AND MILL WORK

Location: 324-326 W. Oklahoma, Guthrie, Oklahoma 040, Logan County 083

Classification: building; private ownership; public acquisition--N/A; unoccupied; unrestricted access; present use--vacant.

Owner: Treadwell Development, 1111 Fidelity Plaza, Oklahoma City, OK 73102

Location of Legal Description: Logan County Courthouse, Guthrie, OK 73044

Description: Condition: excellent; unaltered; original site

The J. F. Brickner Planing Mills is a two-story red brick building. It is unusual for an industrial building in that it resembles a storefront. It has a flat roof and a stepped parapet. Below the parapet is a signplate and a row of stepped brickwork. Pilaster strips topped with stone divide the front into four equal panels with paired double-hung windows on the second floor. Upper level windows have eliptical relieving arches and flat stone sills. On the ground level these panels have single doorways in combination with casement or double-hung windows. Each ground floor window and door combination is surmounted by a transom. Woodwork on the lower floor has been painted a dark green with gold trim. At present the building has been gutted while undergoing restoration.

Significance: before 1908; builder/architect: unknown

Constructed prior to 1908, this building is unusual for an industrial structure because it resembles a storefront rather than a factory. The lower floor housed a machine shop. As of this writing, this building is undergoing restoration as a part of Guthrie's continuing restoration process. The interior has been gutted except for the original triple row of wooden roof supports, but the exterior has already been restored and adds visually to the nearby historic district of Guthrie.

Major Bibliographical References:

Sanborn Map of Guthrie, Oklahoma. July 1908.

Acreage: less than one acre

Quadrangle: Guthrie North 1:24,000/7.5 minute

UTM: 14 641920 3971390

Verbal Boundary Description: Lots 21-22, Block 47, Original Town

THE BOARDMAN COMPANY

Location: 1401 S. Western, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 040, Oklahoma County 109

Classification: buildings; private ownership; public acquisition--N/A; occupied; unrestricted access; present use--industrial.

Owner: The Dennek Company, P.O. Box 16180, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Location of Legal Description: Oklahoma County Courthouse, 320 Robert S. Kerr Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73102

Description: Condition: excellent; altered; original site

The three buildings nominated from The Boardman Company's complex are the office building (Building A), the machine and tooling building immediately west of the office building (Building B), and the layout and inspection building behind the office building (Building C). All these buildings were constructed from red brick and have a typical early twentieth-century industrial building design. The office building has a two-story central section situated with the gable end to the front (south). Down each side are single story shed-roofed extensions. This outline is disguised on the front by a stepped and angled parapet. Pilaster strips divide the front and rear facades into numerous panels. There is one small multi-paned window on the left front, and there are two garage doors and a single entrance set off by a translucent glass block transom and sidelights. Along the sides are equally-spaced, double-hung windows. The rear of the building has single windows with eliptical relieving arches and flat concrete sills. There are also two arched entrances, one a drive-through into the work area and the other a double doorway into the offices. Also at the rear is a newer flat-roofed two story single door on the east side of the extension. In the northeast angle of the building is a small one story flat-roofed annex. This building with its annexes and aluminum siding on the front is the only building that has been substantially altered. Building B, the machine and tooling building, is very similar in design to the office building with its raised central section and shed-roofed side extensions. It has large multi-paned windows evenly spaced along the south side of the building and small casement windows along the sides of the raised central section. On the north side are two garage entrances. A newer metal building (not nominated) is situated against the north wall of Building B. Building C is the smallest of the three buildings; it is one story and has a gable roof. Angled sections of the parapet follow the angle of the roof toward a horizontal center section. On the east side is a flat-roofed extension which appears to be contemporary with the rest of the building. As is the case with the other two buildings, pilaster strips and stepped brickwork decorate the walls. On the front (south) is a louvred vent above three multi-paned windows with eliptical relieving arches. Along the east side are three heavy wooden doors and three casement windows, all with eliptical relieving arches. On the north there are three large multi-paned windows.

Significance: 1910-1929; builder/architect: unknown

The three buildings nominated from the Boardman Company complex are significant because they are the oldest structures in a company which has been in business on this site since 1914. The oldest of these buildings, the office building, was built in 1910 as a part of Oklahoma City founder Charles F. Colcord's Imperial Iron and Steel Company. The Boardman Company, founded in 1910 by John R. Boardman, bought the plant in 1914. Boardman manufactured water well casings, well buckets, livestock tanks and feeders, silos, I-beam bridges, and gasoline and oil tank trucks. In the 1920s the company added smoke stacks, storm cellers, road machinery, pneumatic conveying fans, cotton ginning and drying equipment, power plant and dam equipment, and fire trucks. In the 1930s and 1940s the company turned to oil field equipment and naval equipment. Presently the company manufactures a wide range of steel products and is one of the few remaining early fire truck builders. This company and these buildings are significant because they have spanned seventy-five years of the industrial history of Oklahoma, manufacturing items that touch most of the major areas of the state's economy.

Major Bibliographical References:

Lamb, Alan. Interview. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. June 19, 1985.
Company history supplied by The Boardman Company.

Acreage: approximately one acre

Quadrangle: Oklahoma City
1:24,000/7.5 minute

UTM: 14 632760 3924180

Verbal Boundary Description: Lots 11-14, 40-55, Block 3, Delmar Addition

FORD MOTOR COMPANY (FRED JONES REMANUFACTURING COMPANY)

Location: 900 W. Main, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 040, Oklahoma County 109

Classification: building; private ownership; public acquisition--N/A; occupied; unrestricted access; present use--industrial.

Owner: Fred Jones, Inc., Box 25068, Oklahoma City, OK 73125

Location of Legal Description: Oklahoma County Courthouse, 320 Robert S. Kerr Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73102

Description: Condition: excellent; altered; original site

The Ford Motor Company is a four-story, rectangular, red brick building. It is eleven bays long and five bays wide. There is a double entrance flanked by large display windows on the northeast corner of the building and a smaller single entrance on the east end of the building. Both have flat metal awnings. At the southeast corner of the building is a garage entrance. All original windows are multi-paned; four windows on the northeast lower corner of the building appear to have been replaced with casement windows. Above each section of the second and third level of windows on the north and east facades is a decorative panel of pink and green diamond-shaped tiles. There is a decorative white concrete belt course above the first and fourth floor windows. The upper belt course is connected to the narrow white concrete parapet by a series of pilaster strips that stop at the level of the top of the fourth floor windows. The south facade of the building faces an alley way and is undecorated. A two-story annex five bays wide was built onto the west end of the building, but it was constructed so as to retain the style and character of the original structure.

Significance: 1916; builder/architect: unknown

Built in 1916 as a Ford assembly plant, this building was purchased by Fred Jones (a stockboy when the plant opened) in 1968. It is the largest Ford authorized remanufacturing plant in the United States. Even in 1932, the depths of the Great Depression, this plant employed 325 workers, making it one of the largest employers in Oklahoma City and the state.

Major Bibliographical References:

State of Oklahoma, Department of Labor. Industrial Directory. 1932.
Welcome to Fred Jones Remanufacturing Company. Brochure provided by Fred Jones Remanufacturing Company. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Acreage: approximately one acre

Quadrangle: Oklahoma City 1:24,000/7.5 minute

UTM: 14 633660 3925700

Verbal Boundary Description: Lots 11 and 12, Block 14, Original Town

NORMAN COTTON OIL MILL COMPANY

Location: East Tonhawa Street between Front Street and Peters Avenue, Norman, Oklahoma 040, Cleveland County 027

Classification: building; private ownership; public acquisition--N/A; unoccupied; unrestricted access; present-use—vacant.

Owner: Security National Bank and Trust Company, Drawer 16, Norman, OK 73070

Location of Legal Description: Cleveland County Courthouse, Norman, OK 73070

Description: Condition: good; altered; original site

The gin building of the Norman Cotton Oil Mill Company is a tall red brick structure. The Flemish or English bond of the brick indicates it was built at the turn of the century. The building is typical of cotton gin design in that it is tall though single-storied and has several gables. Cruciform in design, it has lower shed-roofed annexes on either side toward the rear. One is an open lumber rack; the other is concrete block. There are only two multi-paned windows and two garage entrances.

Significance: prior to 1914; builder/architect: unknown

Two buildings remain of the Norman Cotton Oil Mill Company, a company in existence as early as 1896. Included in this nomination is the red brick gin building, a tall, single-story building with multiple gables. Not nominated is the seed house to the east of the gin building. It has a concrete floor, wood-frame end walls, and a gabled roof. Recently occupied by a lumber company, the building has had its side walls removed and racks installed for lumber storage. This building has been altered too much to be included in this nomination. The gin building, however, is unique not only in its brick construction, but also in that it is one of few remaining cotton gins from this early industrial period in central Oklahoma.

Major Bibliographical References:

Sanborn Map of Norman, Oklahoma. 1914.
Womack, John. Norman: An Early History, 1820-1900. Norman, Oklahoma: n.p., 1976.

Acreage: less than one acre

Quadrangle: Norman
1:24,000/7.5 minute

UTM: 14 641680 3898680

Verbal Boundary Description: Lots 24-26, Block 4, Original Town