

FINAL REPORT

ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORICAL SURVEY OF PORTIONS OF  
THE CITY OF OKMULGEE, OKLAHOMA

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and  
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## I. ABSTRACT

This document serves as the final survey report of the Architectural/Historical Survey of Portions of the City of Okmulgee, Oklahoma. Dr. Mary Jane Warde, an independent contractor, performed the survey between June 1, 1993 and September 30, 1993 under a contract with the City of Okmulgee, Oklahoma, a Certified Local Government. Jeffrey K. Williams was the architectural historian. The investigator conducted a reconnaissance-level survey of four designated tracts of Okmulgee, Oklahoma in order to: (1) minimally identify and document individual properties and districts that might warrant further study for possible inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places; (2) identify portions of the study areas devoid of historic properties; and (3) identify reference material useful for completing National Register nominations of properties deemed worthy of further study. To facilitate this process, the investigator prepared a historic context document from which to evaluate the historic significance of these properties and districts, as well as an annotated bibliography.

The survey covered approximately 204 blocks or 842 acres within the city limits of Okmulgee, Oklahoma. A total of 128 properties were minimally documented, of which 110 (86 percent) warrant further study for possible National Register inclusion. Of these, 69 (54 percent) lie within one of three potential districts. Of properties lying outside a district, 29 (23 percent of the total documented) are located in Tract 3, which contains no potential districts. This survey report, together with the accompanying individual property files, should facilitate city planning and preservation efforts in Okmulgee.

## II. INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes the findings from an "Architectural/Historical Survey of a Portion of the City of Okmulgee, Oklahoma," undertaken in response to a request for a proposal issued January 29, 1993 and awarded April 13, 1993. The principal investigator, Dr. Mary Jane Warde, a historian, began the field work June 1, 1993. The architectural historian was Jeffrey K. Williams, Assistant Professor, School of Architecture, Oklahoma State University.

This was a reconnaissance-level survey of four residential areas adjacent to the thirty-nine blocks already included in the Okmulgee Downtown Historic District. The Okmulgee Downtown Historic District lies generally along Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh, and Eighth streets between Okmulgee and Creek avenues. (See the map on the following page.)

A study of the history of the city revealed that Okmulgee, although founded in 1867 as capital of the Creek Nation, consisted until late in that century of a few commercial buildings and frame dwellings clustered around the Creek Council House. Three agriculture-related industrial facilities lay northeast of the Council House along Okmulgee Creek. The town experienced little growth before 1900. The arrival of the railroad, an influx of non-Indian settlers, statehood and significant oil extraction activity from 1907 through the 1920s brought vigorous economic expansion with corresponding city growth. This growth lasted until the effects of the Great Depression and World War II brought most construction in the city to a halt. Consequently, significant dates for properties in these tracts are from 1900 to 1935. Properties reflecting the resumption of construction in the post-World War II years are ineligible for consideration for the National Register of Historic Places, which mandates an age of fifty years or more.

Thus, the properties documented in the course of this study that warrant further study and the three potential historic districts

delineated are associated with Okmulgee's period of greatest expansion as a result of the oil boom. They date generally from 1900 to 1935.

### III. AREAS STUDIED

The areas originally designated for this survey, comprising approximately 204 blocks, were divided into four tracts:

Tract 1: a roughly triangular area of approximately 185 acres, or 58 blocks, lying north of the Okmulgee Downtown Historic District. This area is bounded on the south by Fourth Street and on the west by the west line of the St. Louis and San Francisco (Frisco) Railroad, which crosses West Fourth, West Third, and West Second streets at right angles and slants northeast at West First Street to intersect North Alabama, North Okmulgee, North Seminole, North Morton, and North Grand avenues at approximately a forty-five degree angle. The north boundary of Tract 1 runs along the alley paralleling Cherokee Avenue on its south to a point just east of the line of North Delaware Avenue. At East First Street the boundary makes a ninety-degree turn east as far as the right-of-way of the east line of the Frisco Railroad. The east boundary continues southeast along the right-of-way to Fourth Street, or the south boundary of Tract 1.

Tract 2: a roughly L-shaped area of approximately 147 acres, or 42 blocks, lying south of the Okmulgee Downtown Historic District. This area is bounded on the west by South Alabama Avenue and on the north by Seventh Street as far east as the line of Creek Avenue. At the line of Creek Avenue the boundary turns south one block to East Seventh Street. At East Seventh Street it turns west to South Severs Avenue. The boundary follows South Severs Avenue to East Tenth Street, which it follows west to South Morton Avenue. At South Morton Avenue the boundary turns south approximately three blocks to West Thirteenth Avenue. At West Thirteenth Avenue the boundary makes a right angle, going west one block to South Seminole Avenue. After following South Seminole Avenue south to East Fifteenth Street, the boundary turns west two blocks along East Fifteenth Street to South Alabama Avenue, marking the south boundary of Tract 2. Because the original northern boundary overlaps the previously documented Okmulgee Downtown Historic District, a revised northern boundary was set along Eight Street.

Tract 3: a roughly L-shaped area of approximately 150 acres, or 39 blocks, lying east of the Frisco Railroad and northeast of the Okmulgee Downtown Historic District. This area is bounded on the south by East Fourth Street, on the west by Wood Drive, and on the north by Chicago Street as far east as North Wilson Avenue. At North Wilson Avenue the boundary turns south approximately seven blocks to the alley south of Randolph Street. At that point it turns west to North Miami Avenue, then south approximately four blocks to East Fourth Street, the south boundary of Tract 3.

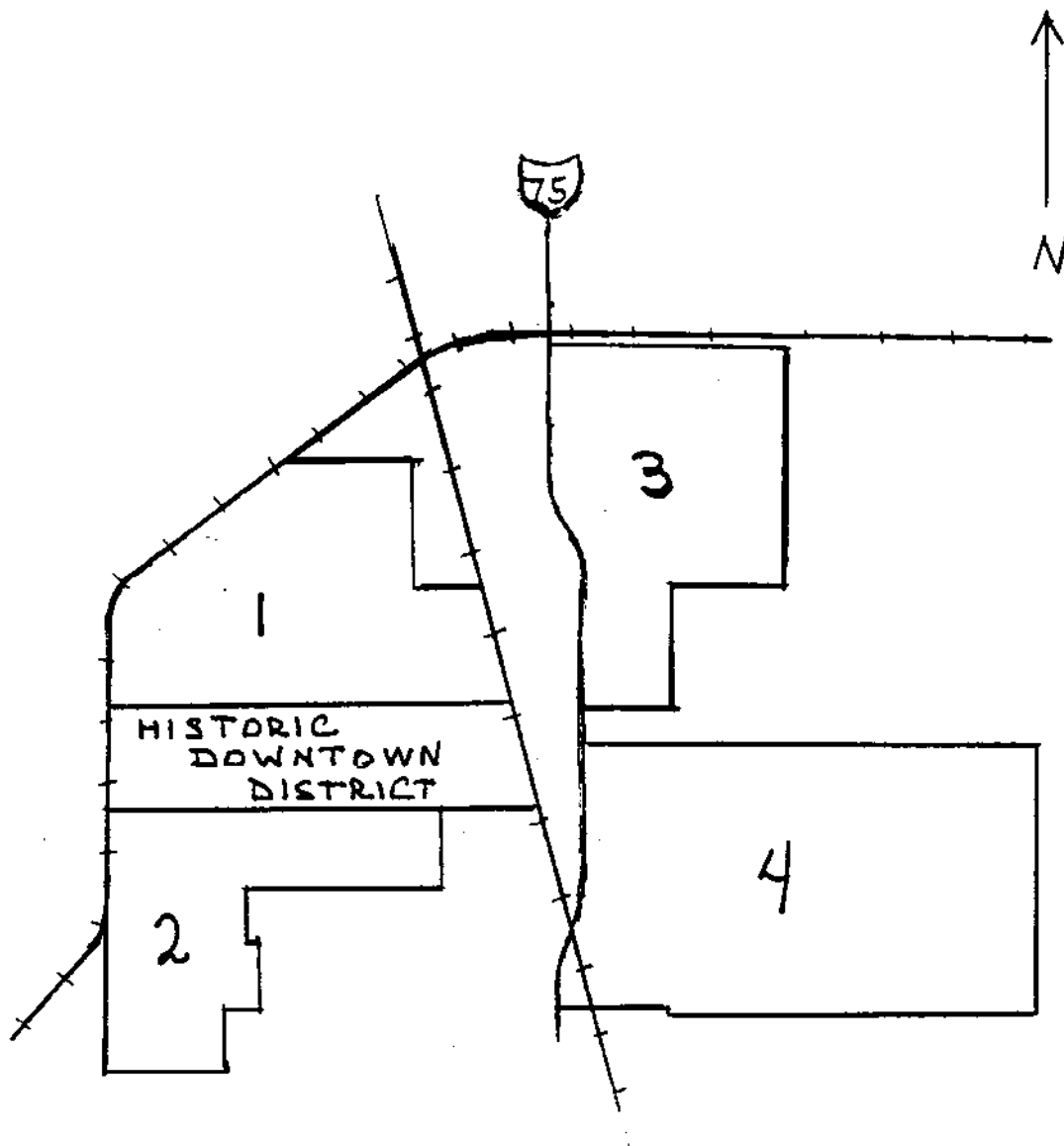
Tract 4: a roughly rectangular area of 360 acres, or 65 blocks, lying east of the Frisco Railroad and southeast of the Okmulgee Downtown Historic District. This area is bounded on the north by East Sixth Street, on the east by Mission Road, on the south by East Thirteenth Street, and on the west by Wood Drive.

Each of these tracts has its own history and characteristics, but some factors deserve special notice. Okmulgee Creek, a major element in

# AREAS SURVEYED

TRACTS 1, 2, 3, 4

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the CITY OF OKMULGEE, OKLAHOMA

the selection of this location for settlement by Creek Indians, loops through the eastern third of Tract 1 and the eastern edge of Tract 2. While Okmulgee Creek is relatively narrow, it currently flows through a deep channel that must be bridged. In Tract 1 it is bridged at North Muskogee Avenue and at East Third Street, but its siting has interrupted the street plan, leaving dead end streets and limiting development in the eastern half of the tract. Before 1900 cotton gins and grain mills occupied the space along Okmulgee Creek from present-day East First to East Fourth streets. One still stands on the site. After 1900 industrialization between the creek and the Frisco Railroad north of East First Street further limited residential development. Similarly in far eastern Tract 2, Okmulgee Creek curtailed proposed residential development and interrupted the street plan east of East Delaware Avenue. Presently a city park and stadium occupy land once platted for residences. Another limiting factor in Tract 2 is Oakwood Cemetery at West Thirteenth Street between South Seminole and Morton avenues.

Okmulgee's post-1900 racial policies affected settlement patterns, particularly in Tracts 1 and 3. North Central Avenue, which bisects Tract 1, was once the demarkation line between white and black residential areas, with blacks segregated in the eastern half of the tract. Tract 3 was almost exclusively black, and many parts were not included in the city limits until late in the survey period. Both Tract 3 and Tract 4 remained partially rural until the post-World War II period, but Tract 4 also included the palatial homes of some of Okmulgee's oil-boom entrepreneurs.

#### IV. RESEARCH DESIGN AND OBJECTIVES

By definition, a reconnaissance-level survey provides an overview of historic resources within a designated study area, typically with the intent of identifying areas warranting an intensive level survey sometime in the future. From reconnaissance-level surveys the investigator may establish the appropriate historic context, estimate the

distribution of historic properties in the area under study, and identify individual properties and potential districts that warrant further study for potential National Register status. Not every building needs to be documented; rather, representative buildings that are typical of, have special characteristics in, or are intrusive to an area are documented. Maps showing these areas, properties studied, their physical context, and their historical potential or lack of it clarify the findings.

This particular study follows procedures set forth in the Architectural/Historic Resource Survey: A Field Guide (1992). It builds on previous surveys of Okmulgee, Oklahoma which have resulted in the designation of the Okmulgee Downtown Historic District--primarily a commercial area--and several individual buildings of a variety of types to the National Register of Historic Places. Likewise, a number of buildings have been documented for the Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory or as contributing components in a Black Heritage Theme Historic Context research project conducted by Terri Myers in 1991. With few exceptions, all lie outside the survey areas of this study.

The purpose of this survey was not to duplicate earlier work but to expand upon established information concerning the historic built environment of Okmulgee, Oklahoma. The principal investigator was to survey the primarily residential tracts designated, determine which areas do or do not warrant further study, and document sample properties from each tract. At the same time, she was to re-document properties previously listed before 1980 by the National Register or Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory that lie within the study area. An annotated bibliography and a historic context document extracted from this survey will aid future researchers should an intensive-level survey or National Register nominations for individual properties be undertaken later. The results of this study, built on the foundations of earlier research, should aid the City of Okmulgee, Oklahoma in preservation activities and



plans for development.

#### V. METHODOLOGY

As is often the case for historic preservation work, much ground-work must be laid in documentary research before the investigator takes the field. Beginning in early June 1993, the investigator began accumulating materials on the history of Okmulgee, Oklahoma. This involved visits to repositories of primary and secondary documents at Edmon Low Library at Oklahoma State University, the Oklahoma Historical Society in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and the Okmulgee Public Library in Okmulgee, Oklahoma. To construct a picture of the town as it developed over time, the investigator examined fire insurance map collections; historic map collections; pertinent interviews in the Works Progress Administration "Indian-Pioneer History"; Okmulgee, Oklahoma newspaper files; Okmulgee, Oklahoma city directories from 1909 to 1934; and collections of government documents relating to the Okmulgee, Creek Nation townsite. Secondary sources consulted included early twentieth-century gazetteers, a Works Progress Administration description of the city, a published history of Okmulgee County, journal articles, and miscellaneous materials included in library vertical files. Reference to National Register nominations, Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory forms, and related materials at the State Historic Preservation Office in Oklahoma City provided additional background material and helped bring the study areas into focus. This research also suggested that the primary period under study would be from 1900 to 1935, from the influx of non-Indian settlement through the point at which the Great Depression and World War II halted most construction in Okmulgee.

With a frame of reference established, the investigator visited Okmulgee to begin field work. The first step was a windshield survey to provide orientation, gain a visual understanding of the study areas, and locate the boundaries of the four tracts. In company with Stephen Gullatt, Okmulgee Community Development Director, the investigator drove

over all four tracts. At that time, it was established that some boundaries of the tracts should be shifted and some areas exempted from further study. The investigator also determined that, in spite of sharing a common historic context and architectural styles, several factors, including spatial separation, justify dealing with the areas under study as four distinct tracts. Consequently, except in the historic context document, each was surveyed independently.

The investigator then began the real field work involved in the project. Using a sketch map of the tract, the investigator walked every block of every open street, mapping each building (excluding out-buildings such as garages still used for that purpose), ascertaining which had lost architectural integrity, and eliminating any building that appeared to have been constructed after 1940. A color-coding system allowed the investigator to see readily where concentrations of buildings warranting further study were located. Notes on prevalent architectural styles, particularly fine examples, typical examples, intrusions, vacant lots, and non-residential properties were made. Potential and existing National Register and Oklahoma Landmark Inventory properties were noted.

The next step was to complete Historic Preservation Resource Identification Forms for buildings selected for documentation. Forms in hand, the investigator used city directories, fire insurance maps, and newspapers as well as the Works Progress Administration description, secondary sources, and interviews to date and document individual properties. Unfortunately, because large sections of Tracts 3 and 4 were not included in the city limits until the 1940s and 1950s, dating pre-existing buildings in these areas was problematic. Research in the computer system and files in the County Assessor's Office in the Okmulgee County Courthouse provided legal descriptions for individual properties.

With the representative properties chosen, the investigator

photographed and photologged each, trying to provide clear shots of at least two, and in most cases three, elevations. Representative street-scapes were also photographed. This phase of the survey verified a point experienced researchers have long known: the best survey work is done during the months when plants are leafless. The trees and landscaping that add so much to the visual impact of residential streets in Okmulgee also severely limit the ability of the photographer to do them justice. Subsequent study of contact sheets allowed the choice of photographs for 5" x 7" black and white glossy prints to accompany each Historic Preservation Resource Identification Form.

At the same time the investigator surveyed the four tracts, she noted properties already on the National Register or Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory. None of the National Register properties included in the tracts under study--East Side Baptist Church, First Baptist Church (Central), St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Church, Okmulgee Armory, and Okmulgee High School--was listed before 1980. Therefore, none required re-documenting. The only Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory property in the study areas--Attucks Elementary School--had been demolished. The investigator photographed and documented the foundations.

Before mapping and assigning a coordinate number to each representative property, the investigator eliminated 7 properties, leaving 128 from those for which Historic Preservation Resource Identification Forms were completed. Grounds for elimination included the inability to obtain good photographs, the conclusion that the building had been moved to the site, destruction in the course of the survey, excessive renovation, duplication of stylistic examples, and, in the case of one property, a possible threat to the safety of the investigator.

In addition to documenting individual properties, the investigator also considered the study areas in terms of potential historic districts. To this end, she eliminated areas jeopardized by commercial intrusions, non-contributing buildings, and vacant lots, mapping them as

areas not warranting further study. Three primary potential districts, designated "North Okmulgee" in Tract 1, "South Okmulgee" in Tract 2, and "Eastside" in Tract 4 remain justifiable. The investigator took special note of one property, Calvary Baptist Church, scheduled for demolition, as well as three properties lying outside potential historic districts that may warrant further study for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places: Okmulgee High School (Board of Education), 1319 East Sixth Street, and 1700 East Sixth Street.

Following completion of the field survey in mid-July, the investigator began the final stages of the project. This included writing the historical context document and report, creating maps illustrating the findings, and generating the forms from which the data base is created. The investigator also met with the architectural historian, Jeffrey K. Williams, to discuss the project and hand over copies of the photodocumentation and historical context document. He used these materials to complete a report addressing the relationship between the physical and cultural environment of Okmulgee, Oklahoma as revealed through its architecture. A copy of his report is included as an appendix to this report.

#### VI. KINDS OF PROPERTIES SOUGHT AND IDENTIFIED

This survey sought to examine four tracts of Okmulgee, Oklahoma for historic properties and potential historic districts. The investigator expected that these would be primarily residential properties. Those included must retain their architectural and historical integrity and be more than fifty years old, more specifically, pre-dating 1935. Types of properties actually encountered included:

##### Residential

These tracts have been historically residential since 1900, and, except along their margins, remain so. Residential properties are of two types.

1. Single dwellings. The great majority of residential properties

in these tracts are single family dwellings. Some are small and unpretentious--i.e., the shotgun houses lining North Porter Avenue; more substantial--the rows of Craftsmen houses on South Morton and Lake avenues; or imposing--the E. R. Black House, occupying most of a block at 1700 East Sixth Street. Many of the larger homes in Tracts 1, 2, and 4 include detached garages that match the house stylistically. Excellent examples stand at 420 North Seminole Avenue, 323 West Second Street, and 501 South Alabama Avenue. On the second floor, above the automobile bays, were servants quarters, some of which are still occupied today, probably on a rental basis. The family at 423 South Porter Avenue took boarders into their large two-story house. But because these properties were designed to be single dwellings, they have been classified as such on the Historic Preservation Resource Identification Forms. Few originally single dwellings in these tracts have been converted to multiple dwelling use.

2. Multiple dwellings. Much of Okmulgee's 1907-1924 residential development came as a result of a concurrent housing shortage. One means of serving that need was to build multiple dwellings with space for rent. The clientele included blue collar workers looking for cheap lodgings, single people, transient professional people (oil company employees, developers, lease hunters, etc.), and families new to Okmulgee. To supply these people with housing, real estate developers built a wide range of multiple dwellings, many of them situated among single family residences in Tracts 1 and 2. A good example of the duplex is 429-431 South Grand Avenue (c. 1921). A number of apartment houses were also built in Tracts 1 and 2. Among the earliest multiple dwellings was the Jackson Apartments at 119 West Third Street (c. 1915). Across the street were the Bayless Apartments (c. 1918). In the black district in Tract 1, the frame Benson Hotel (1917), which probably housed residents as well as transients, stands at 307 North Delaware Avenue. The Collins Flats (presently the Lucerne Apartments, c. 1918)

at 317 South Seminole Avenue, was only one of several apartment houses clustered just south of the business district. Others included the three-story Lucerne (now Hess) Apartments at 309-311 South Morton Avenue, built in 1923 by attorney John F. Lawrence, and the four-story Black Apartments built in 1920 at 428 South Seminole Avenue. Further from the business district were the Tripodi Apartments (1923) at 500 South Alabama Avenue.

### Churches

While all four tracts are primarily residential, each includes a number of churches, products of the flush days of the oil boom. Three are already listed on the National Register of Historic Places: Eastside Baptist Church at 219 North Osage Avenue in Tract 3, First Baptist Church (Central) at 521 North Central Avenue in Tract 1, and St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Church at 515 South Morton Avenue in Tract 2. The first two are historically black churches. A sample of other churches in or near the study areas includes the First Christian Church (1917, included in the Okmulgee Downtown Historic District) at 211 West 8th Street, First United Methodist Church (1924) at 300 South Seminole Avenue, First United Presbyterian Church (1921) at 401 South Seminole Avenue, Calvary Baptist Church at 1227 East 13th Street, scheduled for demolition, and the Church of the Nazarene (1929) at 1100 East 13th Street. Small historic neighborhood churches are especially prevalent in Tract 3.

### Schools

All four tracts included educational facilities, several of which have been torn down, in some cases leaving vacant lots. An example is historically-black Dunbar School at the northwest corner of East Second Street and North Delaware Avenue, noted by Myers in her study of Black Heritage properties in Okmulgee. A vacant school block at West First Street and North Grand Avenue has been filled with metal storage buildings, creating a major intrusion in an otherwise rich potential

historic district in Tract 1. Likewise, Horace Mann School at East Tenth Street and Liberty Avenue has been replaced with a modern facility. Attucks Elementary School at 1201 East Kennedy Street in Tract 3, listed in the Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory, has been demolished; but Okmulgee High School on West Third Street between North Alabama and North Okmulgee avenues is listed on the National Register. An earlier Okmulgee High School (c. 1909), now the Board of Education, at 318 East Eighth Street is spatially separated from a potential historic district by modern commercial development.

### Parks

Parks can contribute to the character of a residential district. Little remains of segregated Simons Park at the southwest corner of East First Street and North Muskogee Avenue in Tract 1. But Rotary Park, built in 1923, facing a row of Craftsmen houses across South Okmulgee Avenue between West Fourteenth and West Fifteenth streets, retains its original circular wading pool, tennis courts, and playground as well as a border of brick pillars. The roofed gate shows the influence of the contemporary Italianate Revival and Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival-styles also to be found in the neighborhood.

### Cemeteries

Included on the east edge of Tract 1 is historic (Creek) Indian Cemetery, occupying all of Block 32 of the Original Town plat. This cemetery was established as early as 1878; among the remaining marked graves is that of W. G. Fryer, builder of the Creek Council House. Historical accounts suggest the cemetery was segregated, with graves of whites and Creeks set apart from those of blacks. Unfortunately, few tombstones remain in place. Most, as well as the traditional Creek grave-houses, have been destroyed or lost. Several tombstones have simply been piled at the base of the trees that shade the cemetery. Outside the south border of Tract 2 between South Seminole and South Morton avenues and not documented is Oakwood Cemetery, established at

the turn of the century. Like Indian Cemetery, it has been neglected but retains some of its integrity.

#### Commercial Buildings

These tracts, being primarily residential, contain few historic commercial properties. Exceptions include parts of the feed mill along Okmulgee Creek at East Third Street, a frame combination residence and commercial building on the northwest corner of Seneca and North Muskogee Avenue, the Gilstrap Grocery on the northwest corner of East Third Street and North Central Avenue, and a sandstone and brick building at 109 East Ninth Street. Only the last of these was documented. Significant modifications in each case preclude their contribution to a historic district, and none warrants further study. There is extensive modern commercial intrusion on the borders of all four tracts along streets carrying a heavy traffic flow.

#### Fire Stations

Fire protection, while not generally thought of in residential terms, by definition has played its role in preserving historic properties in these designated tracts. Okmulgee Fire Station Number 1 (1919) at the southeast corner of North Central Avenue and Fourth Street has been much modified in its incorporation into the new City Hall complex and is included in the Okmulgee Downtown Historic District. Eastside Fire Station at 1245 East Eighth Street, although it has undergone some modification, warrants further study. This unit was established in 1919 as Okmulgee expanded east of the railroad track, traffic along which can interrupt fire service. Eastside Fire Station, Craftsman in style, was designed to resemble houses being built concurrently in that neighborhood. According to Okmulgee's fire chief, plans to restore it to its original appearance are under consideration.

### VII. ARCHITECTURAL STYLES ENCOUNTERED

Architectural styles found in Okmulgee, Oklahoma in the four designated tracts are those typical of the 1900 to 1935 time period.



While Okmulgee residences were overwhelmingly vernacular, architect-designed houses were also present. The investigator documented properties representative of each style encountered.

### National Folk

National Folk houses--L-plan, T-plan, and variations--were quite popular in Okmulgee at the turn of the century. Good examples stand at 303 South Alabama Avenue, 502 East Severs Avenue, and 500 East Third Street.

### Shotgun

Shotgun houses are located in Tracts 1 and 3. In Tract 1 a row of three shotgun houses on North Alabama Avenue near the Frisco Railroad were once occupied perhaps by oil-field laborers. Shotgun houses were also traditionally associated with black neighborhoods. There are several in the 600 and 700 blocks of North Porter and North Muskogee avenues. Most are frame, but 905 Lafayette Street in Tract 3 is brick.

### Queen Anne

While Folk Victorian houses have not survived in the tracts surveyed, the Queen Anne style was quite popular. Among the earliest were 202 West Second Avenue (1903) and the F. H. Hollingsworth House at 408 West Eighth Avenue (1905). On East Ninth Street, 1242 and 1302, both presently restored, were mirror images built in 1906. A more elaborate version with a tower was built nearby at 1310. One of the latest examples (1915) stands at 602 South Seminole. It has a matching, two-story detached garage with servants quarters. Queen Anne decorative details such as patterned shingling, bay windows, and Palladian windows were sometimes imposed on other styles. A good example is the 1906 A. D. Kennedy House, basically a Prairie School four-square, at 502 South Okmulgee Avenue.

### Prairie School

Popular among middle- to upper-class families from about 1910 through the 1920s was the Prairie School. These could be as simple as

the very plain frame four-square house black Okmulgean William Shealey built at 1022 East Second Street in 1915 or as elaborate as 402 South Grand Avenue (c. 1910) with its shed-roofed dormers, bay windows, leaded glass, and double Ionic columns. One of the first known architect-designed homes was that of W. P. Morton at 319 North Seminole Avenue. Leon B. Senter in 1903 produced plans for an early Prairie School house that suggested in its arched porch supports and stucco trim the coming of Spanish and Italian influences to Okmulgee. In the 1920s Prairie School houses with stronger horizontal lines were built along East Sixth Street.

#### Classical Revival

Classical Revival houses appeared early in Okmulgee with the construction about 1905 of the J. L. Peacock House at 304 East Ninth Street. This one-story cottage was regarded as a showplace for many years. Unfortunately the Spencer Adams House (c. 1914) at 601 North Muskogee Avenue has been so renovated as not to warrant further study, and the two-story residence built by black Okmulgeans C. E. and Ruth Ella King House (1916) at 500 North Central Avenue burned in July 1993. A fine example of the Neoclassical house (c. 1918) stands at 821 North Grand Avenue. The First United Presbyterian Church (1921) at 401 South Seminole Avenue demonstrates the Neoclassical style applied to a religious building.

#### Colonial Revival

Colonial Revival houses were quite popular in Okmulgee in the period from about 1910 to 1935. Examples of one- and two-story variations may be found in all four tracts. A typical side-gabled frame Colonial Revival home built about 1923 stands at 519 North Seminole. It is comparable to the two-story brick house at 404 South Okmulgee (c. 1918). Examples of gambrel-roofed Colonial Revival houses stand at 510 South Seminole Avenue and 722 North Morton Avenue (c. 1915). Later examples were Judge W. A. Barnett's one-story home at 1613 East Eighth

Street ((1923) and two-story houses at 1525 East Eighth (1927) Street and 1220 East Seventh Street (c. 1935). The Colonial Revival house was again popular in the post-World War II period, and several examples that do not warrant further study are located in Tracts 3 and 4.

#### Bungalow/Craftsman

By far the most prevalent house type in the four tracts is the Craftsman, dating from about 1915 through the 1920s. Indeed, some streets such as South Okmulgee, South Morton, East Eighth, and East Tenth consist of blocks of Craftsmen built at the height of the oil boom. While many are quite plain, for example 929 North Chickasaw Avenue, others show Bungalow elaborations in their heavy porch supports, wide dormers, and exposed eaves. Prime examples of genuine Bungalows are the Japo-Swiss style at 428 South Okmulgee Avenue and at 1014 East Third Street. Airplane Bungalows stand at 621 Locust Avenue, 624 South Okmulgee Avenue, and 1621 East Eighth Street. Although most Bungalow/Craftsmen in Okmulgee had asphalt shingled roofs, some show Italianate or Spanish Colonial Revival influence in the use of terra cotta tile. Eastside Fire Station at 1245 East Eighth Street is unusual, but appropriate to its residential setting, in its adaptation of the Craftsman style for a public building.

#### Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival

Many finer Okmulgee houses reflect interest in Spanish Colonial Revival styles. While the Spanish Eclectic 1717 East Eighth Street (1924) is fairly small, 501 South Alabama Avenue (c. 1923), 806 North Grand Avenue (c. 1915), and 1524 East Seventh Street (1927) are quite imposing. Other types of buildings also adapted the Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival style: St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Church at 515 South Morton Avenue and the Collins Flats at 317 South Seminole Avenue, in particular.

#### Italianate Revival

Some of Okmulgee's most impressive homes are Italianate mansions.

Outstanding examples are 501 South Seminole Avenue (c. 1917), 1319 East Sixth Street (1923), 1400 East Ninth Street (1923), and 1700 East Sixth Street.

#### Tudor Revival

Less common than many other styles is the Tudor Revival. Particularly good examples are extant at 1511-1511 1/2 East Eighth (1929), 200 Mission Road (1921), and 820 Park Avenue (1932). In Tract 1, 323 West Second Street (c. 1918) combines brick, stucco, and half-timbering on both house and detached garage.

#### Miscellaneous

One of the most unusual houses in Okmulgee is 1345 East Tenth Street, a French Eclectic built in 1921. Several houses combine styles: for example the Cook/Pine House at 420 North Seminole Avenue (1917). One, 601 North Morton Avenue (c. 1905), defies any description except "eclectic" as do the Jackson Apartments at 119 West Third Street. The Black Apartments (1920) at 428 South Seminole Avenue combines Georgian features with the Art Deco. Commercial-style buildings include the Benson Hotel (1917) at 307 North Delaware Avenue and Lucerne (Hess) Apartments (1923) at 309-311 South Morton Avenue. Both the First United Methodist Church and First United Presbyterian Church are Late Gothic Revival. Calvary Baptist Church at 1227 East Thirteenth Street is Art Deco.

### VIII. FINDINGS

#### Documented Properties

The following is a list of all properties documented within the study regardless of whether or not they warrant further study. Documentation of each property consisted of completing the Historic Preservation Resource Identification Form and photodocumenting at least two primary elevations. The photographs were developed as 5" x 7" black and white glossy prints.

The list includes the name of the resource if any, its address or

location, map coordinate, and index numbers for the location of its negatives. The map coordinate refers to the number assigned that property so that it can be easily located on the maps of the four tracts which follow the list. Photograph numbers consist of the following: AHSPCO (an acronym for the project name "Architectural/Historical Survey of Portions of the City of Okmulgee"), a number representing the roll number of the negatives, a colon, and a second number referring to the exposure number. For example, "AHSPCO 11:5, 6" translates "roll 11, frames 5 and 6." "AHSPCO 4:20, 5:4" translates "roll 4, frame 20 and roll 5, frame 4." All negatives and contact sheets, indexed separately by roll, have been submitted to the State Historic Preservation Officer in clear, archival holders. Each holder is identified by the roll number and project name.

The map coordinates for properties determined to be warrant further study are circled; map coordinates for properties that do not warrant further study are enclosed in a triangle. Proposed district boundaries are shown by dashed lines.

Resource Name (if any):

Address:

Photo Negatives:Map Coordinate:

1101 East First Street AHSPCO 9:16, 17	83
1009 East Second Street AHSPCO 9:1, 1	84
1022 East Second Street AHSPCO 9:19, 20	85
1109 East Second Street AHSPCO 8:35, 36	86
1119 East Second Street AHSPCO 8:33, 34	87
202 West Second Street AHSPCO 3:24, 25	8
323 West Second Street AHSPCO 3:0, 30	2
500 East Third Street AHSPCO 1:8, 4:8	23
1014 East Third Street AHSPCO 8:26, 27	88
1125 East Third Street AHSPCO 8:29, 30	89
Jackson Apartments 119 West Third Street AHSPCO 2:7, 8	7
1124 East Fourth Street AHSPCO 8:21 22	92
1125 East Fourth Street AHSPCO 8:23, 24	90
1127 East Fourth Street AHSPCO 8:19, 20	91
1103 East Sixth Street AHSPCO 10:8, 34	93
1300 East Sixth Street AHSPCO 12:21, 22	94
1319 East Sixth Street AHSPCO 13:25, 26	95
1601 East Sixth Street AHSPCO 10:2, 4	96
1615 East Sixth Street AHSPCO 10:3, 5	97

1700 East Sixth Street AHSPCO 10:23, 24	98
1123 East Seventh Street AHSPCO 10:32, 33	99
1220 East Seventh Street AHSPCO 10:30, 31	100
1524 East Seventh Street AHSPCO 10:0, 1	101
Okmulgee High School (Board of Education) 318 East Eighth Street AHSPCO 6:24, 12:20	61
Eastside Fire Station 1245 East Eighth Street AHSPCO 10:29, 13:27	103
1500 East Eighth Street AHSPCO 10:27, 28	104
1511-1511 1/2 East Eighth Street AHSPCO 10:25, 26	105
1525 East Eighth Street AHSPCO 10:10, 11	106
1601 East Eighth Street AHSPCO 12:2, 3	107
1612 East Eighth Street AHSPCO 10:13, 14	108
1613 East Eighth Street AHSPCO 13:28, 29	109
1621 East Eighth Street AHSPCO 10:15, 16	110
1717 East Eighth Street AHSPCO 10:17, 12:4	111
1724 East Eighth Street AHSPCO 10:18, 19	112
First Christian Church 211 West Eighth Street AHSPCO 5:26, 29	41
408 West Eighth Street AHSPCO 4:35, 13:1	33
109 East Ninth Street AHSPCO 6:15, 13:16	56
304 East Ninth Street AHSPCO 12:17, 18	59
1242 East Ninth Street AHSPCO 10:35, 36	113

1310 East Ninth Street AHSPCO 12:5, 6	114
1400 East Ninth Street AHSPCO 11:2, 3	115
1020 East Tenth Street AHSPCO 11:5, 6	116
1203 East Tenth Street AHSPCO 11:7, 8	117
1232 East Tenth Street AHSPCO 11:9, 10	118
1345 East Tenth Street AHSPCO 11:11, 12	119
Church of the Nazarene 1100 East Thirteenth Street AHSPCO 12:23, 24	124
Calvary Baptist Church 1227 East Thirteenth Street AHSPCO 11:16, 17, 18, 19	127
1311 East Thirteenth Street AHSPCO 11:21, 22	126
501 West Fifteenth Street AHSPCO 5:9, 10	32
410 North Alabama Avenue AHSPCO 2:35, 36	1
303 South Alabama Avenue AHSPCO 4:17, 5:0	26
310 South Alabama Avenue AHSPCO 13:2, 3	27
420 South Alabama Avenue AHSPCO 4:19, 5:3	28
Tripodi Apartments (Shamrock Apartments) 500 South Alabama Avenue AHSPCO 4:22, 5:4	29
501 South Alabama AHSPCO 4:21, 5:6	30
914 South Alabama Avenue AHSPCO 4:25, 5:8	31
510 North Central Avenue AHSPCO 1:32, 33	15
420 South Central Avenue AHSPCO 6:12, 13	57
426 South Central Avenue AHSPCO 6:10, 11	58



929 North Chickasaw Avenue AHSPCO 8:10, 11	75
Benson Hotel 307 North Delaware Avenue AHSPCO 4:11, 12	21
406 North Delaware Avenue AHSPCO 1:4, 5	22
411 South Delaware Avenue AHSPCO 12:19, 31	63
Bayless Apartments (Townhouse Apartments) 320 North Grand Avenue AHSPCO 2:6, 4:14	12
806 North Grand Avenue AHSPCO 2:12, 16	13
821 North Grand Avenue AHSPCO 3:32, 33	14
402 South Grand Avenue AHSPCO 12:36, 37	54
429-431 South Grand Avenue AHSPCO 6:9, 12:16	55
718 Lake Avenue AHSPCO 11:27, 13:21	123
621 Locust Avenue AHSPCO 11:14, 15	121
1008 North Miami Avenue AHSPCO 7:10, 11	73
601 North Morton Avenue AHSPCO 3:14, 15	9
606 North Morton Avenue AHSPCO 3:10, 11	10
722 North Morton Avenue AHSPCO 2:15, 17	11
Lucerne Apartments (Hess Apartments) 309-311 South Morton Avenue AHSPCO 12:27, 28	51
602 South Morton Avenue AHSPCO 6:3, 4	52
717 South Morton Avenue AHSPCO 6:6, 12:14	53
523 North Muskogee Avenue AHSPCO 9:24, 27	19
601 North Muskogee Avenue AHSPCO 9:25, 26	20

417 South Muskogee Avenue AHSPCO 6:22, 23	62
800 North Ohio Avenue AHSPCO 9:6, 7	80
814 South Ohio Avenue AHSPCO 11:23, 24	125
523 North Okmulgee Avenue AHSPCO 3:3, 29	3
404 South Okmulgee Avenue AHSPCO 5:22, 23	34
428 South Okmulgee Avenue AHSPCO 5:19, 21	35
502 South Okmulgee Avenue AHSPCO 5:16, 18	36
603 South Okmulgee Avenue AHSPCO 13:6, 8	37
624 South Okmulgee Avenue AHSPCO 5:14, 15	38
619 North Osage Avenue AHSPCO 8:14, 15	81
1005 North Osage Avenue AHSPCO 8:2, 3	72
820 Park Avenue AHSPCO 11:33, 34	128
519 North Porter Avenue AHSPCO 1:16, 3:37	16
520 North Porter Avenue AHSPCO 4:1, 2	17
820 North Porter Avenue AHSPCO 1:23, 24	18
423 South Porter Avenue AHSPCO 6:18, 20	60
319 North Seminole Avenue AHSPCO 3:19, 20	4
420 North Seminole Avenue AHSPCO 2:23, 24	5
519 North Seminole Avenue AHSPCO 3:27, 28	6
First United Methodist Church 300 South Seminole Avenue AHSPCO 5:25, 27	40

Collins Flats (Lucerne Apartments) 317 South Seminole AHSPCO 5:31, 32	42
First United Presbyterian Church 401 South Seminole Avenue AHSPCO 12:7, 8	43
406 South Seminole Avenue AHSPCO 13:11, 12	44
Black Apartments 428 South Seminole Avenue AHSPCO 5:35, 13:10	45
501 South Seminole Avenue AHSPCO 5:36, 13:9	46
510 South Seminole Avenue AHSPCO 13:13, 14	47
522 South Seminole Avenue AHSPCO 5:37, 6:2	48
602 South Seminole Avenue AHSPCO 4:29, 12:25	49
625 South Seminole Avenue AHSPCO 12:9, 12	50
502 North Severs Avenue AHSPCO 1:6, 2:19	24
1101 North Wilson Avenue AHSPCO 7:23, 24	70
601 South Wilson Avenue AHSPCO 11:30, 31	120
512 Woodlawn Avenue AHSPCO 11:36, 37	122
1230 Boston Street AHSPCO 7:38, 13:30	67
1205 Buffalo Street AHSPCO 7:12, 13	71
1001 Chicago Street AHSPCO 7:15, 16	64
1210 Chicago Street AHSPCO 7:17, 18	65
1328 Chicago Street AHSPCO 7:21, 22	66
1126 Kennedy Street AHSPCO 7:8, 9	76

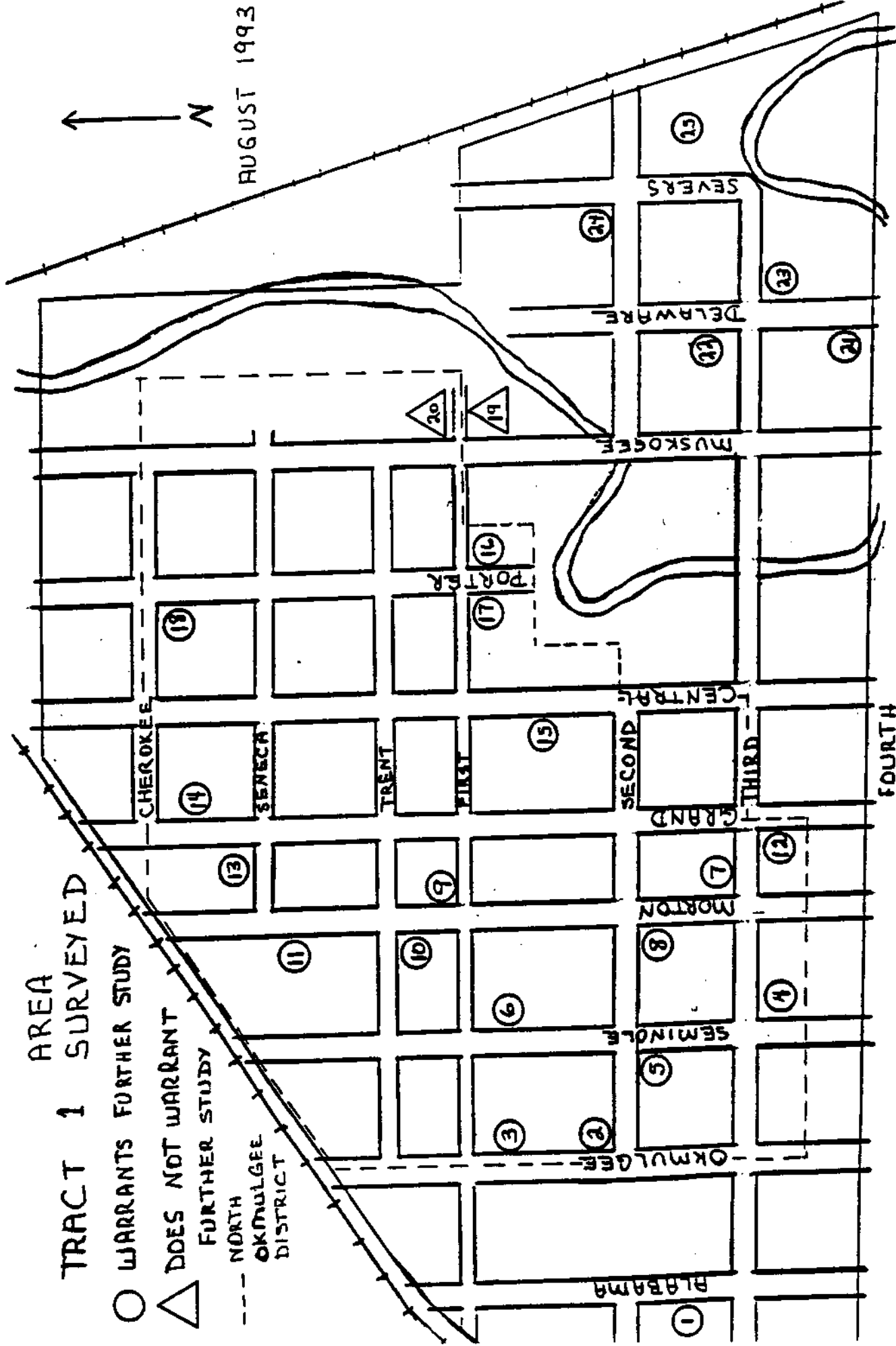
Attucks Elementary School 1201 Kennedy Street AHSPCO 8:0, 1	74
905 Lafayette Street AHSPCO 8:7, 8	68
1329 Lafayette Street AHSPCO 7:29, 30	69
921 Martin Luther King Street AHSPCO 9:22, 23	77
1216 Martin Luther King Street AHSPCO 9:3, 4	78
1205 Randolph Street AHSPCO 9:11, 12:13	82
1121 Smith Street AHSPCO 9:9, 10	79
200 Mission Road AHSPCO 10:21, 22	102
Rotary Park Capital Heights II, Block 16 AHSPCO 4:26, 27	39
Indian Cemetery Original Town, Block 32 AHSPCO 1:0, 4:3, 4	25

# AREA TRACT 1 SURVEYED

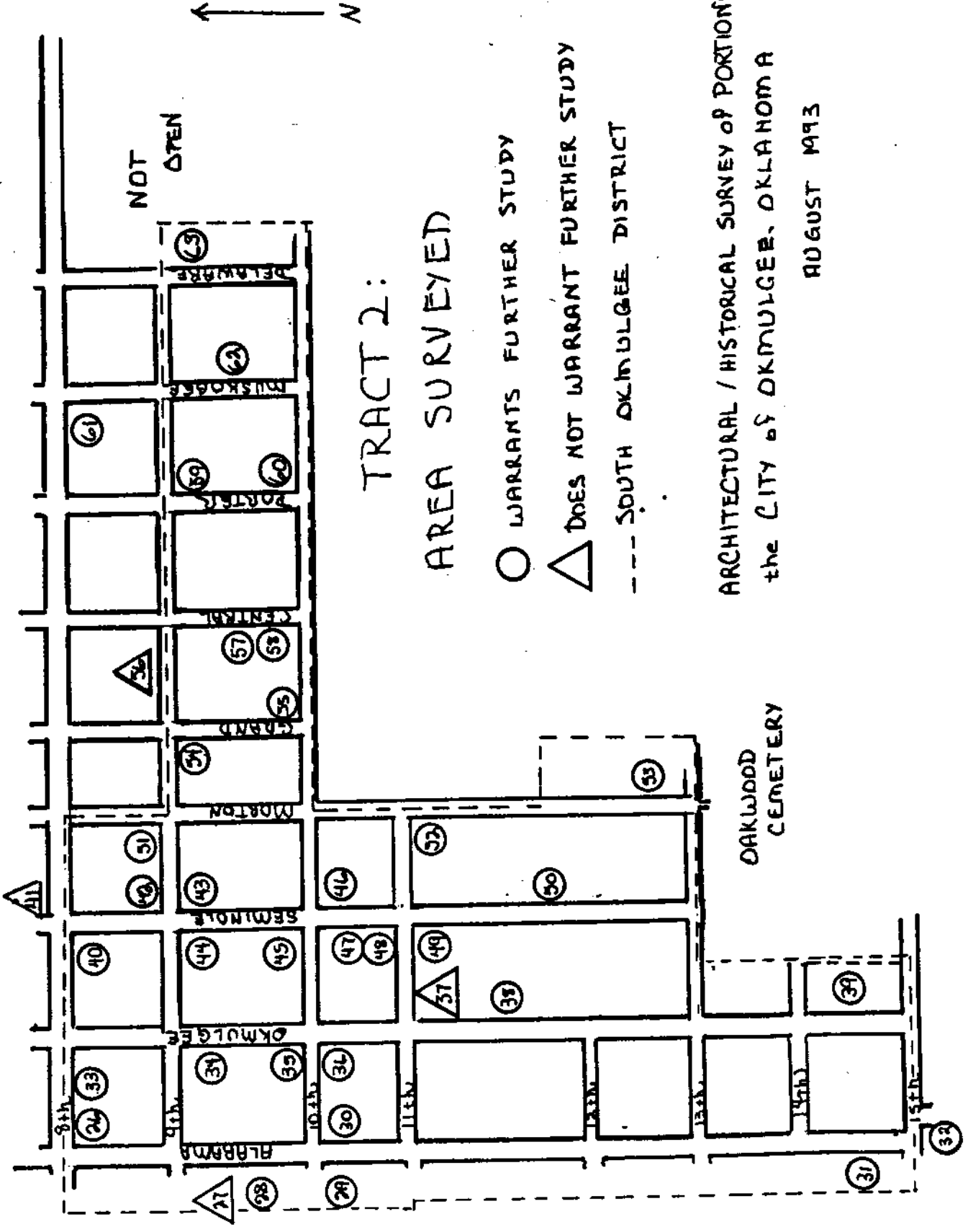
○ WARRANTS FURTHER STUDY

△ DOES NOT WARRANT FURTHER STUDY

--- NORTH OKMULGEE DISTRICT



ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORICAL SURVEY OF PORTIONS OF THE CITY OF OKMULGEE, OKLAHOMA



- WARRANTS FURTHER STUDY
- △ DOES NOT WARRANT FURTHER STUDY
- SOUTH OKMULGEE DISTRICT

ARCHITECTURAL / HISTORICAL SURVEY OF PORTIONS OF  
the CITY OF OKMULGEE, OKLAHOMA  
AUGUST 1993







Individual Properties that Warrant Further Study

The list that follows shows individual properties documented during the survey which the investigator judged worthy of further study for inclusion in a National Register nomination, based on their age and integrity. Most of these properties lie within possible districts identified during the survey. Because exact district boundary lines could change as part of a formal National Register nomination, all properties deemed worthy of further study are listed here.

The format for this listing is the same as for the section listing all documented properties. The maps depicting the location of these properties also follows that section of the report.

Resource Name (if any):

Address:

Photo Negatives:

Map Coordinate:

1101 East First Street AHSPCO 9:16, 17	83
1009 East Second Street AHSPCO 9:1, 1	84
1119 East Second Street AHSPCO 8:33, 34	87
202 West Second Street AHSPCO 3:24, 25	8
323 West Second Street AHSPCO 3:0, 30	2
500 East Third Street AHSPCO 1:8, 4:8	23
1014 East Third Street AHSPCO 8:26, 27	88
1125 East Third Street AHSPCO 8:29, 30	89
Jackson Apartments 119 West Third Street AHSPCO 2:7, 8	7
1124 East Fourth Street AHSPCO 8:21 22	92
1125 East Fourth Street AHSPCO 8:23, 24	90
1127 East Fourth Street AHSPCO 8:19, 20	91
1103 East Sixth Street AHSPCO 10:8, 34	93
1319 East Sixth Street AHSPCO 13:25, 26	95
1601 East Sixth Street AHSPCO 10:2, 4	96
1615 East Sixth Street AHSPCO 10:3, 5	97
1700 East Sixth Street AHSPCO 10:23, 24	98
1123 East Seventh Street AHSPCO 10:32, 33	99
1220 East Seventh Street AHSPCO 10:30, 31	100

1524 East Seventh Street AHSPCO 10:0, 1	101
Okmulgee High School (Board of Education) 318 East Eighth Street AHSPCO 6:24, 12:20	61
Eastside Fire Station 1245 East Eighth Street AHSPCO 10:29, 13:27	103
1511 East Eighth Street AHSPCO 10:25, 26	105
1525 East Eighth Street AHSPCO 10:10, 11	106
1612 East Eighth Street AHSPCO 10:13, 14	108
1613 East Eighth Street AHSPCO 13:28, 29	109
1621 East Eighth Street AHSPCO 10:15, 16	110
1717 East Eighth Street AHSPCO 10:17, 12:4	111
1724 East Eighth Street AHSPCO 10:18, 19	112
408 West Eighth Street AHSPCO 4:35, 13:1	33
304 East Ninth Street AHSPCO 12:17, 18	59
1242 East Ninth Street AHSPCO 10:35, 36	113
1310 East Ninth Street AHSPCO 12:5, 6	114
1400 East Ninth Street AHSPCO 11:2, 3	115
1020 East Tenth Street AHSPCO 11:5, 6	116
1203 East Tenth Street AHSPCO 11:7, 8	117
1232 East Tenth Street AHSPCO 11:9, 10	118
1345 East Tenth Street AHSPCO 11:11, 12	119
Church of the Nazarene (Faith Christian Center) 1100 East Thirteenth Street AHSPCO 12:23, 24	124

Calvary Baptist Church 1227 East Thirteenth Street AHSPCO 11:16, 17, 18, 19	127
501 West Fifteenth Street AHSPCO 5:9, 10	32
410 North Alabama Avenue AHSPCO 2:35, 36	1
303 South Alabama Avenue AHSPCO 4:17, 5:0	26
420 South Alabama Avenue AHSPCO 4:19, 5:3	28
Tripodi Apartments (Shamrock Apartments) 500 South Alabama Avenue AHSPCO 4:22, 5:4	29
501 South Alabama Avenue AHSPCO 4:21, 5:6	30
914 South Alabama Avenue AHSPCO 4:25, 5:8	31
510 North Central Avenue AHSPCO 1:32, 33	15
420 South Central Avenue AHSPCO 6:12, 13	57
426 South Central Avenue AHSPCO 6:10, 11	58
929 North Chickasaw Avenue AHSPCO 8:10, 11	75
Benson Hotel 307 North Delaware Avenue AHSPCO 4:11, 12	21
406 North Delaware Avenue AHSPCO 1:4, 5	22
411 South Delaware Avenue AHSPCO 12:19, 31	63
Bayless Apartments (Townhouse Apartments) 320 North Grand Avenue AHSPCO 2:6, 4:14	12
806 North Grand Avenue AHSPCO 2:12, 16	13
821 North Grand Avenue AHSPCO 3:32, 33	14
402 South Grand Avenue AHSPCO 12:36, 37	54

429-431 South Grand Avenue AHSPCO 6:9, 12:16	55
718 Lake Avenue AHSPCO 11:27, 13:21	123
621 Locust Avenue AHSPCO 11:14, 15	121
1008 North Miami Avenue AHSPCO 7:10, 11	73
610 North Morton Avenue AHSPCO 3:14, 15	9
606 North Morton Avenue AHSPCO 3:10, 11	10
722 North Morton Avenue AHSPCO 2:15, 17	11
Lucerne Apartments (Tylee, Hess Apartments) 309-311 South Morton Avenue AHSPCO 12:27, 28	51
602 South Morton Avenue AHSPCO 6:3, 4	52
717 South Morton Avenue AHSPCO 6:6, 12:14	53
417 South Muskogee Avenue AHSPCO 6:22, 23	62
523 North Okmulgee Avenue AHSPCO 3:3, 29	3
404 South Okmulgee Avenue AHSPCO 5:22, 23	34
428 South Okmulgee Avenue AHSPCO 5:19, 21	35
502 South Okmulgee Avenue AHSPCO 5:16, 18	36
624 South Okmulgee Avenue AHSPCO 5:14, 15	38
619 North Osage Avenue AHSPCO 8:14, 15	81
1005 North Osage Avenue AHSPCO 8:2, 3	72
820 Park Avenue AHSPCO 11:33, 34	128
519 North Porter Avenue AHSPCO 1:16, 3:37	16

520 North Porter Avenue AHSPCO 4:1, 2	17
820 North Porter Avenue AHSPCO 1:23, 24	18
423 South Porter Avenue AHSPCO 6:18, 20	60
319 North Seminole Avenue AHSPCO 3:19, 20	4
420 North Seminole Avenue AHSPCO 2:23, 24	5
519 North Seminole Avenue AHSPCO 3:27, 28	6
First United Methodist Church 300 South Seminole Avenue AHSPCO 5:25, 27	40
Collins Flats (Lucerne Apartments) 317 South Seminole AHSPCO 5:31, 32	42
First United Presbyterian Church 401 South Seminole Avenue AHSPCO 12:7, 8	43
406 South Seminole Avenue AHSPCO 13:11, 12	44
Black Apartments 428 South Seminole Avenue AHSPCO 5:35, 13:10	45
501 South Seminole Avenue AHSPCO 5:36, 13:9	46
510 South Seminole Avenue AHSPCO 13:13, 14	47
522 South Seminole Avenue AHSPCO 5:37, 6:2	48
602 South Seminole Avenue AHSPCO 4:29, 12:25	49
625 South Seminole Avenue AHSPCO 12:9, 12	50
502 North Severs Avenue AHSPCO 1:6, 2:19	24
1101 North Wilson Avenue AHSPCO 7:23, 24	70
601 South Wilson Avenue AHSPCO 11:30, 31	120

512 Woodlawn Avenue AHSPCO 11:36, 37	122
1001 Chicago Street AHSPCO 7:15, 16	64
1328 Chicago Street AHSPCO 7:21, 22	66
1126 Kennedy Street AHSPCO 7:8, 9	76
905 Lafayette Street AHSPCO 8:7, 8	68
1329 Lafayette Street AHSPCO 7:29, 30	69
921 Martin Luther King Street AHSPCO 9:22, 23	77
1216 Martin Luther King Street AHSPCO 9:3, 4	78
1205 Randolph Street AHSPCO 9:11, 12:13	82
1121 Smith Street AHSPCO 9:9, 10	79
200 Mission Road AHSPCO 10:21, 22	102
Rotary Park Capital Heights II, Block 16 AHSPCO 4:26, 27	39
Indian Cemetery Original Town, Block 32 AHSPCO 1:0, 4:3, 4	25

Individual Properties that Do Not Warrant Further Study

Individual Properties that the investigator deemed not to warrant further study are listed below. These properties were less than fifty years old, did not contribute to a residential neighborhood, or had lost their integrity through extensive renovation. The format by which they are presented in the following list is the same as for properties that warrant further study. Coordinate numbers for these properties are shown in triangles on the maps of areas surveyed, above.



Resource Name (if any):

Address:

Photo Negatives:Map Coordinate:

1022 East Second Street AHSPCO 9:19, 20	85
1109 East Second Street AHSPCO 8:35, 36	86
1300 East Sixth Street AHSPCO 12:21, 22	94
1500 East Eighth Street AHSPCO 10:27, 28	104
1601 East Eighth Street AHSPCO 12:2, 3	107
First Christian Church 211 West Eighth Street AHSPCO 5:24, 29	41
109 East Ninth Street AHSPCO 5:15, 13:16	56
1311 East Thirteenth Street AHSPCO 11:21, 22	126
310 South Alabama Avenue AHSPCO 13:2, 3	27
523 North Muskogee Avenue AHSPCO 9:24, 27	19
601 North Muskogee Avenue AHSPCO 9:25, 26	20
800 North Ohio Avenue AHSPCO 9:6, 7	80
814 South Ohio Avenue AHSPCO 11:23, 24	125
603 South Okmulgee Avenue AHSPCO 13:6, 8	37
1230 East Boston Street AHSPCO 7:38, 13:30	67
1205 Buffalo Street AHSPCO 7:12, 13	71
1210 Chicago Street AHSPCO 7:17, 18	65
Attucks Elementary School 1201 Kennedy Street AHSPCO 8:0, 1	74

Districts that Warrant Further Study

This survey identified three districts that warrant further study within the four tracts investigated. These are presented by tract in the following pages along with a list of documented properties within their boundaries. A map of each potential district is also included with contributing properties shown as black circles, non-contributing properties shown as white circles.

It must be noted that while these four tracts were primarily residential, each contained a number of buildings of other types that differ functionally within the National Register Information System but which were historically identified with the neighborhood and contributed architecturally to it, for example, Eastside Fire Station at 1245 East Eighth Street. With the exception of the sole commercial building documented, 109 East Ninth Street, which belongs functionally to the commercial area lying to its north in the Okmulgee Downtown Historic District, these functionally-different properties lying within potential district boundary have been listed as warranting further study.

### Tract 1: North Okmulgee Historic District

Tract 1 lies north of the Okmulgee Downtown Historic District. Commercial encroachment, new construction, demolition, vacant lots, and the meanders of Okmulgee Creek in the southeast corner eliminate Fourth Street and most of the south side of Third Street. Although documented properties warranting further study lie outside the proposed district boundaries, they are visually and spatially isolated from the North Okmulgee District. On the west a line of four-square and shotgun houses in the 300 and 400 blocks of North Alabama Avenue are isolated from the district by the National Guard Armory in the 500 block and the Okmulgee High School complex occupying all of the 400 and 500 blocks and half the 300 block between North Okmulgee and North Alabama avenues. Both the armory and the main high school building are listed on the National Register, but the high school complex includes several large new buildings as well as much paved parking space. This district is similarly isolated from the Okmulgee Downtown Historic District. Clusters of houses in the southeast corner of Tract 1 are boarded up, in ruins, or separated by vacant lots. Houses in the proposed North Okmulgee District include a variety of styles from the first three decades of this century, the period of Okmulgee's greatest expansion. Creation of a North Okmulgee District might well extend northward up North Okmulgee Avenue for several blocks to include contemporary comparable Bungalow/Craftsman houses. As proposed here, the North Okmulgee District would incorporate historically black as well as white residential areas.

### Verbal Boundary Description

From the southeast corner at the intersection of West First Street and North Okmulgee Avenue, go east along the south curbline of First Street to the alley between North Okmulgee and North Seminole avenues. Go north along the alley across Trent Street to the intersection with the railroad track. Go northeast along the railroad track across North Seminole and North Morton avenues to the north lines of Lots 7 and 18, Block 3, Smith Addition. Go east along the north lines of Lots 7 and 18 to the intersection of North Grand Avenue and Cherokee Street. Go east along the south curbline of Cherokee Street across North Central, North Porter and North Muskogee avenues. Continue east along the north line of Lot 24, Block 4, Walnut Grove Addition. Go south along the east lines of Lots 24 through 13, Block 4, Walnut Grove Addition, to the intersection with Seneca Street. Continue south across Seneca Street and along the east lines of Lots 24 through 13, Block 5, Walnut Grove Addition, to the intersection with Trent Street. Continue south across Trent Street and along the east lines of Lots 16 through 9, Block 8, Walnut Grove Addition, to the intersection with East First Street. Go west along the north curbline of East First Street across North Muskogee Avenue to the alley between North Porter and North Muskogee avenues. Go south along the alley to south line of Lot 8, Block 14, Original Town. Go west along the south line of Lot 8 across South Porter Avenue to the south line of Lot 3, Block 15, Original Town. Continue west along the south line of Lot 3 to the alley lying between North Porter and North Central avenues. Go south along the alley to the south line of Lot 6, Block 15, Original Town. Go west along the south line of Lot 6 across North Central Avenue to the southwest corner of the intersection of North Central Avenue and East Second Street. Go south along the west curbline of North Central Avenue to the intersection of North Central Avenue and East Third Street. Go west along the north curbline of East Third Street to its intersection with North Grand Avenue. Go south along the west curbline of North Grand Avenue to the alley between West Third and West Fourth streets. Go west along the alley across North Morton and North Seminole avenues to its intersection with North

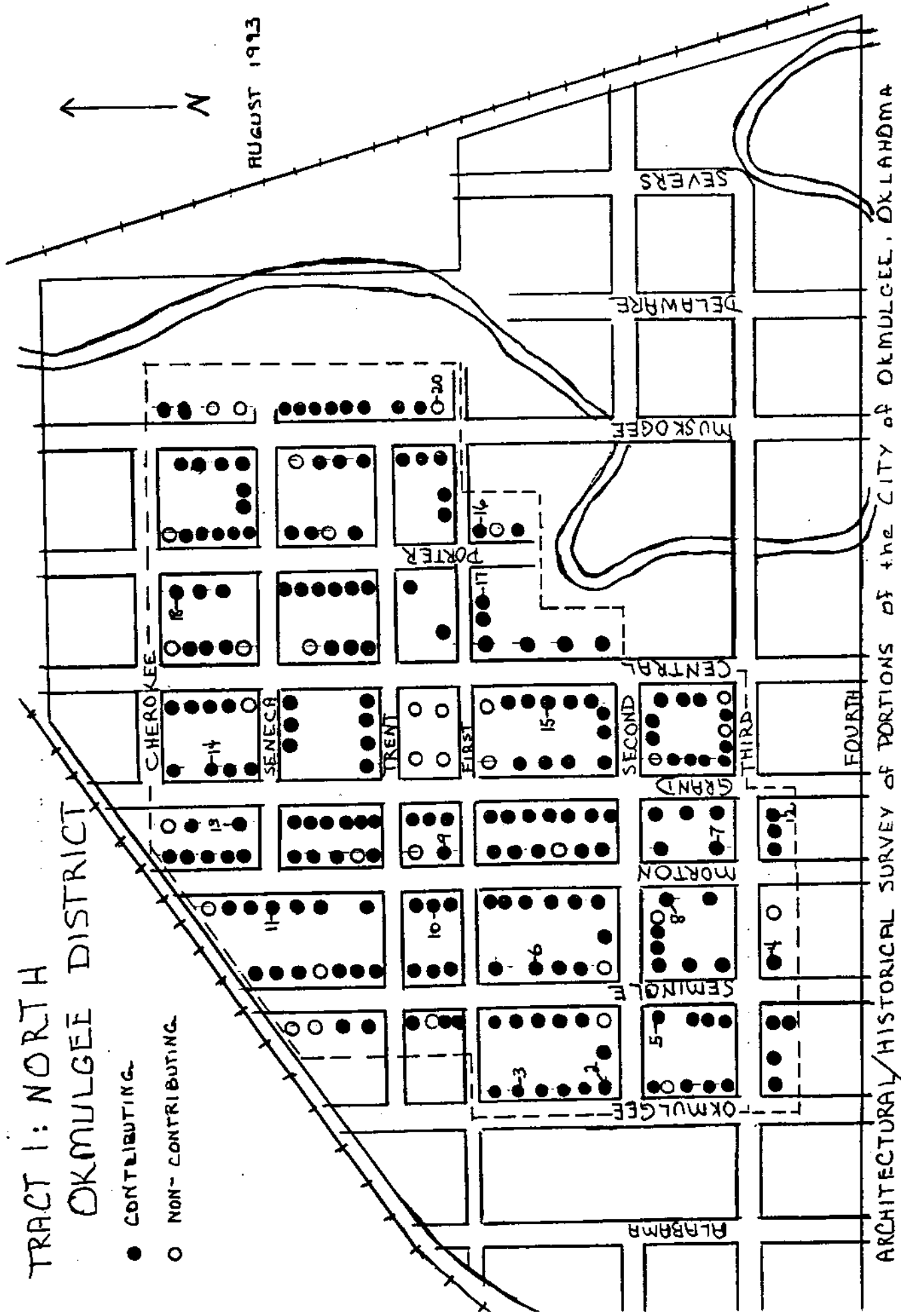
Okmulgee Avenue. Go north along the east curbline of North Okmulgee Avenue across West Third and West Second streets to the point of beginning.

Documented Properties within the District

- 2 323 West Second Street
- 3 523 North Okmulgee Avenue
- 4 319 North Seminole Avenue
- 5 420 North Seminole Avenue
- 6 529 North Seminole Avenue
- 7 Jackson Apartments  
119 West Third Street
- 8 202 West Second Street
- 9 610 North Morton Avenue
- 10 606 North Morton Avenue
- 11 722 North Morton Avenue
- 12 Bayless (Townhouse) Apartments  
320 North Grand Avenue
- 13 806 North Grand Avenue
- 14 821 North Grand Avenue
- 15 510 North Central
- 16 519 North Porter Avenue
- 17 520 North Porter Avenue
- 18 820 North Porter Avenue
- 20 601 North Muskogee Avenue

# TRACT 1: NORTH OKMULGEE DISTRICT

- CONTRIBUTING
- NON-CONTRIBUTING



## Tract 2: South Okmulgee Historic District

Tract 2 lies south of and adjacent to the Okmulgee Downtown Historic District. Commercial encroachment, the conversion of some residences for commercial purposes, and the existence of a number of parking areas or vacant lots along Eighth Street have eliminated most of that street from inclusion in a residential historic district. East of South Morton Avenue, Ninth Street creates the northern boundary. Properties in the district exemplify the architectural styles and urban expansion associated with Okmulgee's oil boom of the first three decades of this century. Although properties contained in the boundaries are predominantly residential, both single and multiple dwellings, a park and two churches are included: Rotary Park, the First United Methodist Church and First United Presbyterian Church. The two churches are contemporaries of and comparable to the nearby First Church, included in the Okmulgee Downtown Historic District, and St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Church at 515 South Morton Avenue, a National Register Property. While a number of houses in this district have been re-sited, most retain their integrity, and contribute to the visual impact of the neighborhood. There are very few new or converted residences in the proposed district. A brick Queen Anne house at 501 West Fifteenth Street was excluded from the district, although documented as warranting further study, because it is in poor repair, is the only house on the block, and historically lay outside the city limits.

### Verbal Boundary Description

From the southwest corner of West Eighth Street and South Morton Avenue, go south along the west curbline of South Morton Avenue to its intersection with West Ninth Street. Go east along the south curbline of Ninth Street across South Grand, South Central, South Porter, South Muskogee, and South Delaware avenues to the north line of Lot 1, Block 129, Original Town. Go south along the east lines of Lots 1 through 4 to East Tenth Street. Go west along the north curbline of East Tenth Street, across South Delaware, South Muskogee, South Porter, South Central, and South Grand avenues to the intersection with South Morton Avenue. From the southwest corner of the intersection, go south along the west curbline of South Morton Avenue across West Eleventh Street to the north boundary of South High Addition. Go east along the north boundary to the east lines of Lots 12 through 7, Block 2. Go south along the east lines of Lots 12 through 7 to West Twelfth Street. Continue across West Twelfth Street and go south along the east lines of Lots 12 through 7, Block 3, to West Thirteenth Street. Go west along the north curbline of West Thirteenth Street across South Morton and South Seminole avenues to the alley between South Seminole and South Okmulgee avenues. Go south along the alley across West Fourteenth Street to West Fifteenth Street. Go west along the north curbline of West Fifteenth Street across South Okmulgee and South Alabama avenues to the alley west of South Alabama avenue. Go north along the alley across West Fourteenth, West Thirteenth and West Twelfth streets to the intersection with West Eleventh Street and the railroad right-of-way. Continue along the railroad right-of-way across West Tenth and West Ninth streets to the intersection with West Eighth Street. Go east along the south curbline of East Eighth Street across South Okmulgee and South Seminole avenues to the intersection with South Morton Avenue, the point of beginning.

Documented Properties within the District

26 303 South Alabama Avenue  
27 310 South Alabama Avenue  
28 420 South Alabama Avenue  
29 Tripodi Apartments (Shamrock Apartments)  
500 South Alabama Avenue  
30 501 South Alabama Avenue  
31 914 South Alabama Avenue  
33 408 West Eighth Street  
34 404 South Okmulgee Avenue  
35 428 South Okmulgee Avenue  
36 502 South Okmulgee Avenue  
37 603 South Okmulgee Avenue  
38 624 South Okmulgee Avenue  
39 Rotary Park  
Capital Heights II, Block 16  
40 300 South Seminole Avenue  
42 Collins Flats (Lucerne Apartments)  
317 South Seminole Avenue  
43 First United Presbyterian Church  
44 406 South Seminole Avenue  
45 Black Apartments  
428 South Seminole Avenue  
46 501 South Seminole Avenue  
47 510 South Seminole Avenue  
48 522 South Seminole Avenue  
49 602 South Seminole Avenue  
50 625 South Seminole Avenue  
51 Lucerne Apartments (Hess Apartments)  
309-311 South Morton Avenue  
52 602 South Morton Avenue  
53 717 South Morton Avenue  
54 402 South Grand Avenue  
55 429-431 South Grand Avenue  
57 420 South Central Avenue  
58 426 South Central Avenue  
59 304 East Ninth Street  
60 423 South Porter Avenue  
62 417 South Muskogee Avenue  
63 411 South Delaware Avenue

**Aug 19 1961**



Tract 3: No Districts

Tract 3, a historically black area of Okmulgee, contains a number of houses and buildings that have retained their architectural and historical integrity. But the tract lacks such concentrations as to warrant consideration for the creation of a historic district. There are many modern intrusions--institutional, residential, and commercial. These include commercial encroachment along Wood Drive the length of the west boundary of Tract 3. The large number of vacant lots and houses in advanced states of disrepair suggest that more vacant lots and modern intrusions will eventually occur. A number of houses that might warrant further study on the basis of age and architectural integrity were found to have been moved onto their present sites during the last decade. Cases in point are two well-preserved Craftsmen at 1309 and 1311 Martin Luther King Street. Many homeowners in this tract maintain their houses well. This has resulted in properties that warrant further study as well as cases of loss of integrity through excessive renovation. An unfortunate example is the Melvina Roper Simpkins House at 1101 East Third Street, identified as a Black Heritage property. There are several small churches that were not documented in this survey. Franklin Memorial and Eastside Baptist Church are on the National Register. Attucks Elementary School in the 1200 block of Kennedy Street, an Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory property, has been demolished. Tract 3 adjoins a portion of Tract 4 in a two-block length between Wood Drive and Miami Avenue, East Fourth Street and East Sixth Street. (There is no East Fifth Street here.)

#### Tract 4: Eastside Historic District

Tract 4, lying southeast of the Okmulgee Downtown Historic District, was once the semi-rural haven of Okmulgee's wealthiest families. Although many houses in this tract pre-date statehood, other sections, primarily in the southeast corner, were not developed until after World War II. In fact, some houses are less than a decade old. The construction of Wood Drive (Highway 75) and the presence of Okmulgee Tech on the northeast corner of this tract, with resulting commercial encroachment, have eliminated several blocks. The new National Guard Armory occupies an entire block in the southwest sector, and modern Eastside School engrosses the 1600 block between East Ninth and East Tenth streets. Several fine examples of 1910s and 1920s architecture lie along East Sixth Street, but infill, commercial intrusion, and modernization isolate them. The Charles W. Wilson house (the present-day Elks Club), just outside the tract on Mission Road, was not documented. Large modern additions on the north and south elevations have seriously impaired its integrity. Eastside District consists of the most promising concentration of historic and architecturally significant houses. It lies along East Eighth, East Ninth, and East Tenth streets and exemplifies the architectural styles of Okmulgee's greatest expansion in the first three decades of this century. Two churches in this tract were included as warranting further study: The Church of the Nazarene (Faith Christian Center) at 1100 East Thirteenth Street and Calvary Baptist Church at 1227 East Thirteenth Street. The latter, an interesting example of Art Deco architecture is, unfortunately, scheduled for demolition because of persistent structural problems. Eastside Fire Station at 1245 East Eighth Street was included in Eastside District as warranting further study because it contributes architecturally to a historic residential district.

#### Verbal Boundary Description

From the southeast corner of the intersection of East Eighth Street and South Osage Avenue, go east along the south curblin of East Eighth Street to the intersection with South Miami Avenue. Go north along the east curblin of South Miami Avenue to the alley between East Seventh and East Eighth Streets. Go east along the alley, across South Ohio, South Wilson, Woodlawn, Liberty, and Prairie avenues to the west line of Lot 2, Block 9, Rebold Addition. Go north along the west line of Lot 2 to East Seventh Street. Go east along the south curblin of East Seventh Street to Mission Road. Go south along the west curblin of Mission Road to the alley between East Eighth and East Ninth streets. Go east along the alley across Prairie, Liberty, and Woodlawn avenues to the east boundary of Fairview Heights Addition. Go south along the east boundary across East Ninth and East Tenth streets to the alley between East Tenth and East Eleventh streets. Go west along the alley across South Ohio to South Miami Avenue. Go north along the east curblin of South Miami Avenue to the south lines of Lots 1 through 16, Block 14, Alta Vista Addition. Go west along the south lines of Lots 1 through 16 to South Osage Avenue. Go north along the east curblin of South Osage Avenue across East Tenth and East Ninth Streets to East Eighth Street, the point of beginning.

Documented Properties Within the District

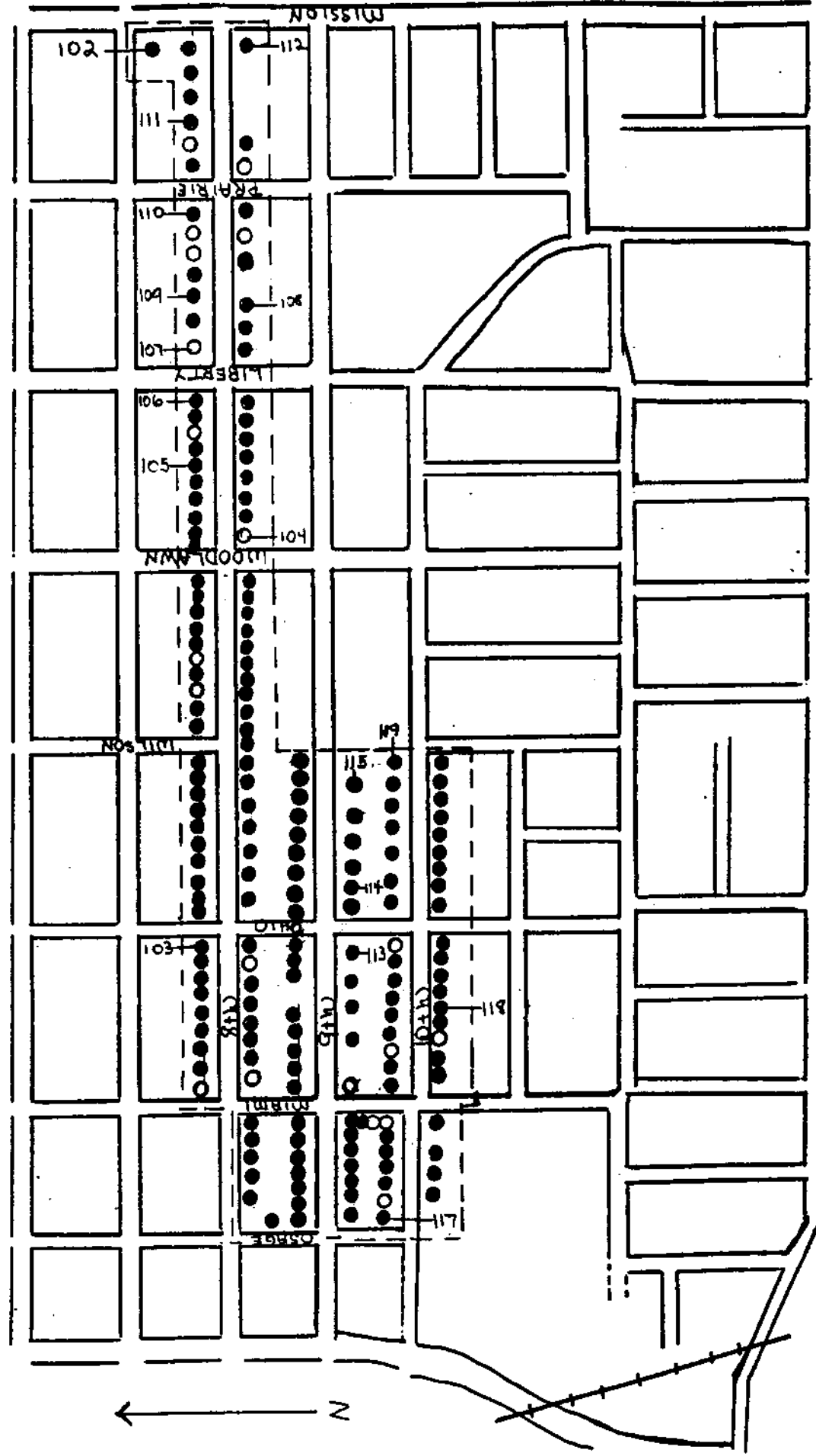
103	1245	East	Eighth	Street
104	1500	East	Eighth	Street
105	1511-1511	1/2	East	Eighth Street
106	1525	East	Eighth	Street
107	1601	East	Eighth	Street
108	1612	East	Eighth	Street
109	1613	East	Eighth	Street
110	1621	East	Eighth	Street
111	1717	East	Eighth	Street
112	1724	East	Eighth	Street
113	1242	East	Ninth	Street
114	1310	East	Ninth	Street
115	1400	East	Ninth	Street
116	1020	East	Tenth	Street
117	1203	East	Tenth	Street
118	1232	East	Tenth	Street
119	1345	East	Tenth	Street

# TRACT 4: EASTSIDE DISTRICT

AUGUST 1993

● CONTRIBUTING

○ NON-CONTRIBUTING



ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORICAL SURVEY OF PORTIONS OF THE CITY OF OKMULGEE, OKLAHOMA

Individual Properties Within Potential Districts that Warrant Further Study for National Register Nominations

Within the potential districts are several properties that may be individually eligible for the National Register. All are eligible under Criterion C as excellent examples of architecture. Some are also eligible under Criterion B because of their associations with individuals important in Okmulgee's history. These are:

202 West Second Street

This territorial residence is a well-maintained example of Queen Anne architecture.

323 West Second Street

This house typifies 1920s Tudor Revival architecture. It includes a detached garage with servants' quarters.

408 West Eighth Street

An excellent example of Queen Anne architecture, this was the home of Dr. F. H. Hollingsworth, physician, civic leader, and first clerk of Okmulgee County.

1400 East Ninth Street

This unaltered residence is a fine example of the Italianate Revival style popular in Okmulgee in the early 1920s.

501 South Alabama Avenue

The home of banker H. Elwood Kennedy, this house exemplifies the Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival Style.

510 North Central Avenue

This airplane bungalow was the home of Victor Brown, a leader of Okmulgee's black community.

426 South Central Avenue

This 1915 brick Classical Revival house was built for Constantine Haniotis, a Greek immigrant and theater owner in Okmulgee. Outbuildings include a detached laundry and stable.

806 North Grand Avenue

A fine example of the Spanish Eclectic residence, this was the home of W. A. Stuart of the Stuart-Fullerton Lumber Company, which supplied building materials to Okmulgee and surrounding oil-fields.

624 South Okmulgee Avenue

This is an excellent example of the late Queen Anne house with detached garage. It was the home of attorney Wellington L. Merwine.

319 North Seminole Avenue

One of the earliest houses in Okmulgee designed by architect Leon B. Senter, this Prairie School residence was the home of Okmulgee merchant W. P. Morton.

First United Methodist Church, 300 South Seminole Avenue

This church, built during Okmulgee's oil boom, is a fine example of the Late Gothic Revival style.

502 North Severs Avenue

This small Folk National house was built by Stephen F. J. Davis in 1903. Of Creek-black decent, Davis was prominent in Okmulgee's black community as a minister and builder.

Rotary Park

Built and donated to the City of Okmulgee by the Rotary Club in 1923, Rotary Park with its Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival gateway typifies the civic growth and architectural styles of the 1920s.

Individual Properties Outside Potential Districts that Warrant Further Study for National Register Nominations

The investigator identified three buildings that are not located in the potential districts but warrant further study for nomination to the National Register. These are:

1319 East Sixth Street

Designed by the architectural firm of Smith and Senter in 1923 for Mrs. E. W. Gill, this house is an excellent example of the Italianate style popular in Okmulgee during the last phase of the oil boom. The two-story red brick and stucco house has retained its integrity. There is a matching detached two-story garage with servant's quarters. The only alterations are the addition of black shutters and a metal patio cover on the east elevation.

1700 East Sixth Street

Built in 1921 for E. R. Black, this two and one-half story house occupies most of a block. It is buff brick trimmed in limestone, Italianate in style. Arches over the lower windows contain a molded urn and laurel drape design. Although it is currently in use as professional offices for Seacat and Seacat, Attorneys, the house is unaltered internally or externally. An arcade connects the house with a matching detached two-story garage and servant's quarters.

Okmulgee High School (Board of Education), 318 East Eighth Street

Built before 1909, Okmulgee High School at 318 East Eighth Street, is Italian Renaissance in style. Three stories with a basement, it combines polychromatic brick with limestone columns, quoins and belt-courses. The public entrance on West Eighth Street is set under a segmental arch and below a pedimented bank of windows. Currently the Board of Education, the building has undergone some remodeling, particularly of the entrance, but has not lost its integrity. Some of the windows are protected by metal covers.

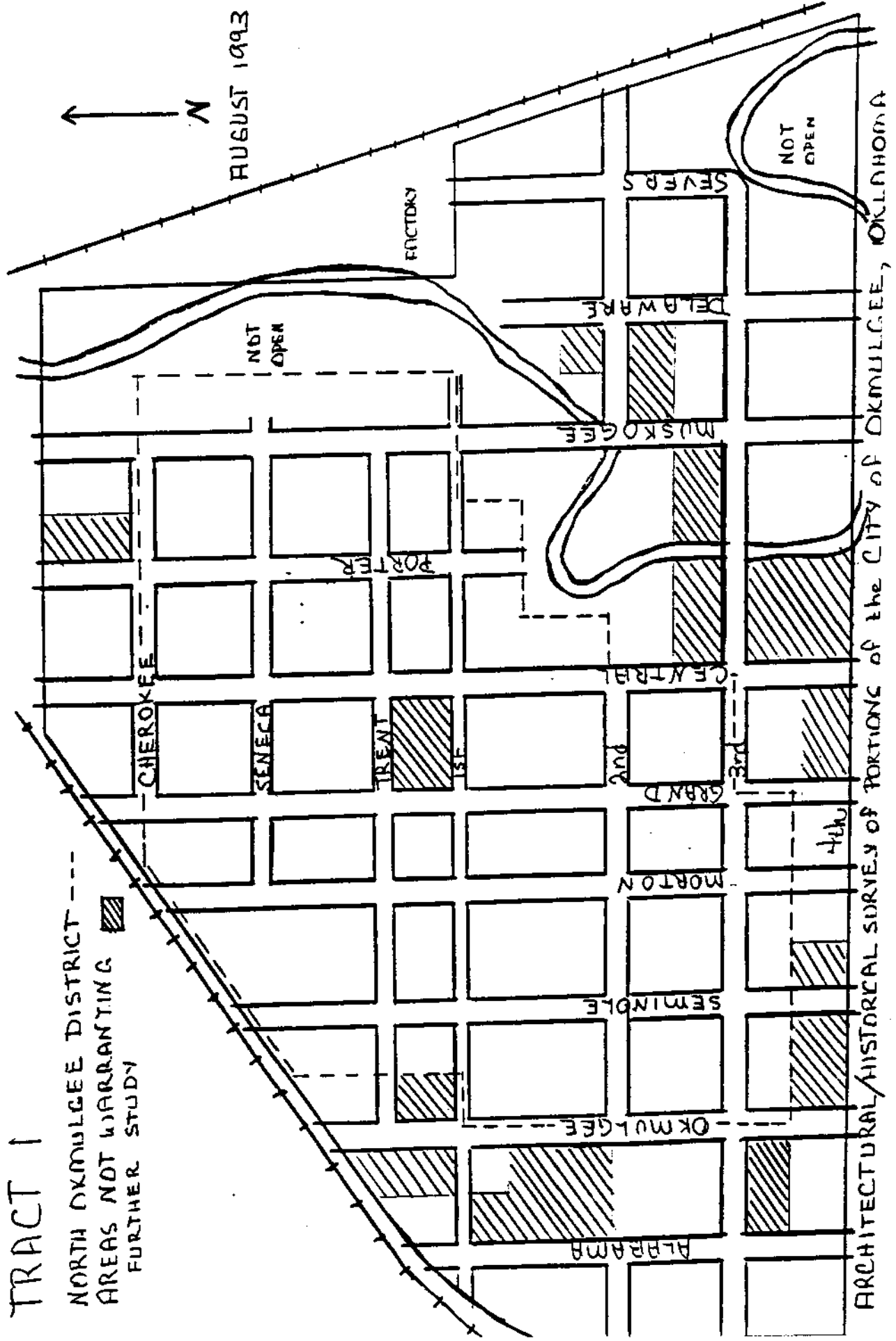
Areas that Do Not Warrant Further Study

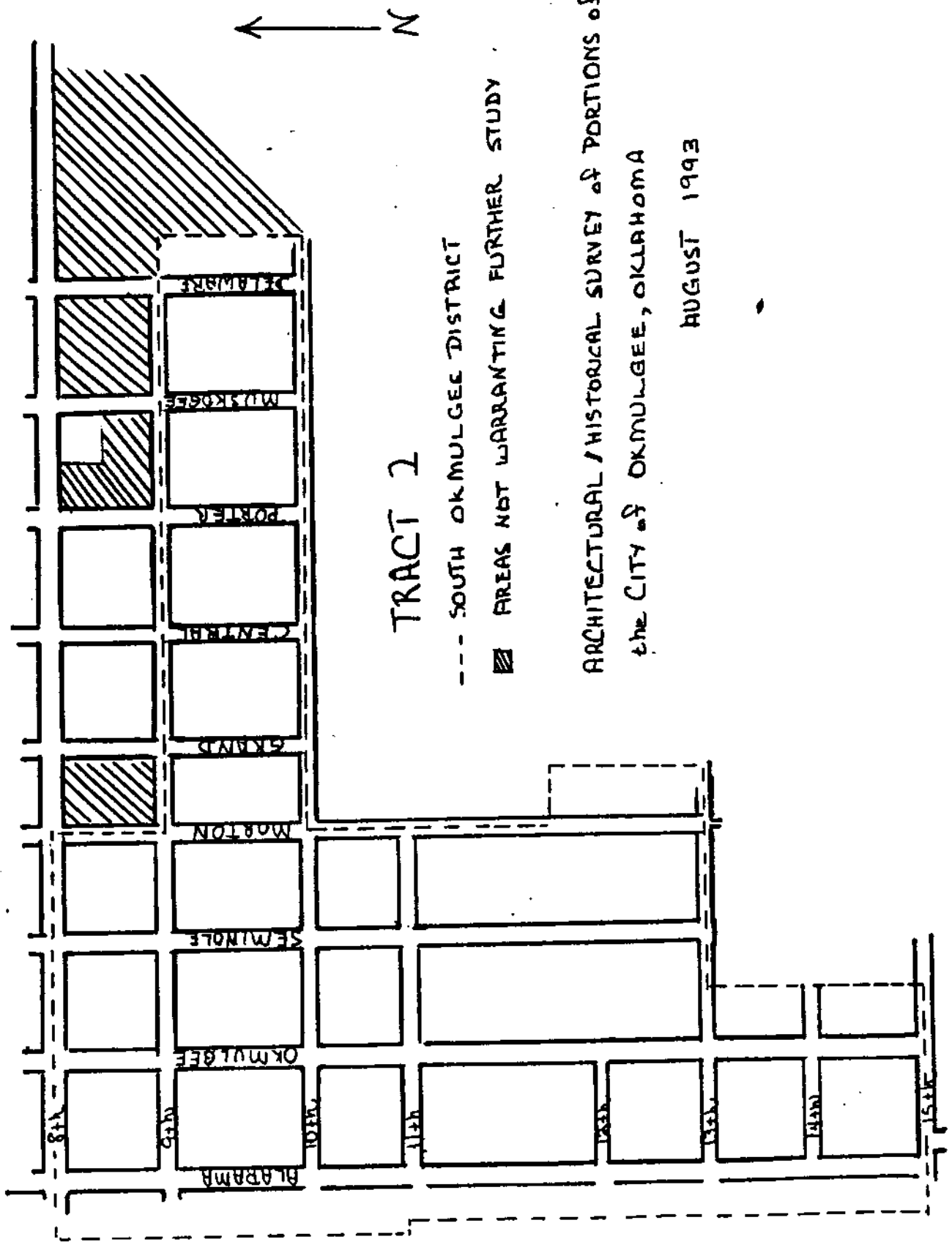
As noted above, some areas in the tracts surveyed were found not to warrant further study for potential districts. This included all of Tract 3 as well as much of southeastern Tract 1 and Tract 4. Areas that do not warrant further study in Tracts 1, 2, and 4 are shown on the following maps by shading. Suggested district boundaries are illustrated by dashed lines. All other areas contain a mixture of properties, warranting as well as not warranting further study.



# TRACT 1

NORTH OKMULGEE DISTRICT ---  
AREAS NOT WARRANTING  
FURTHER STUDY

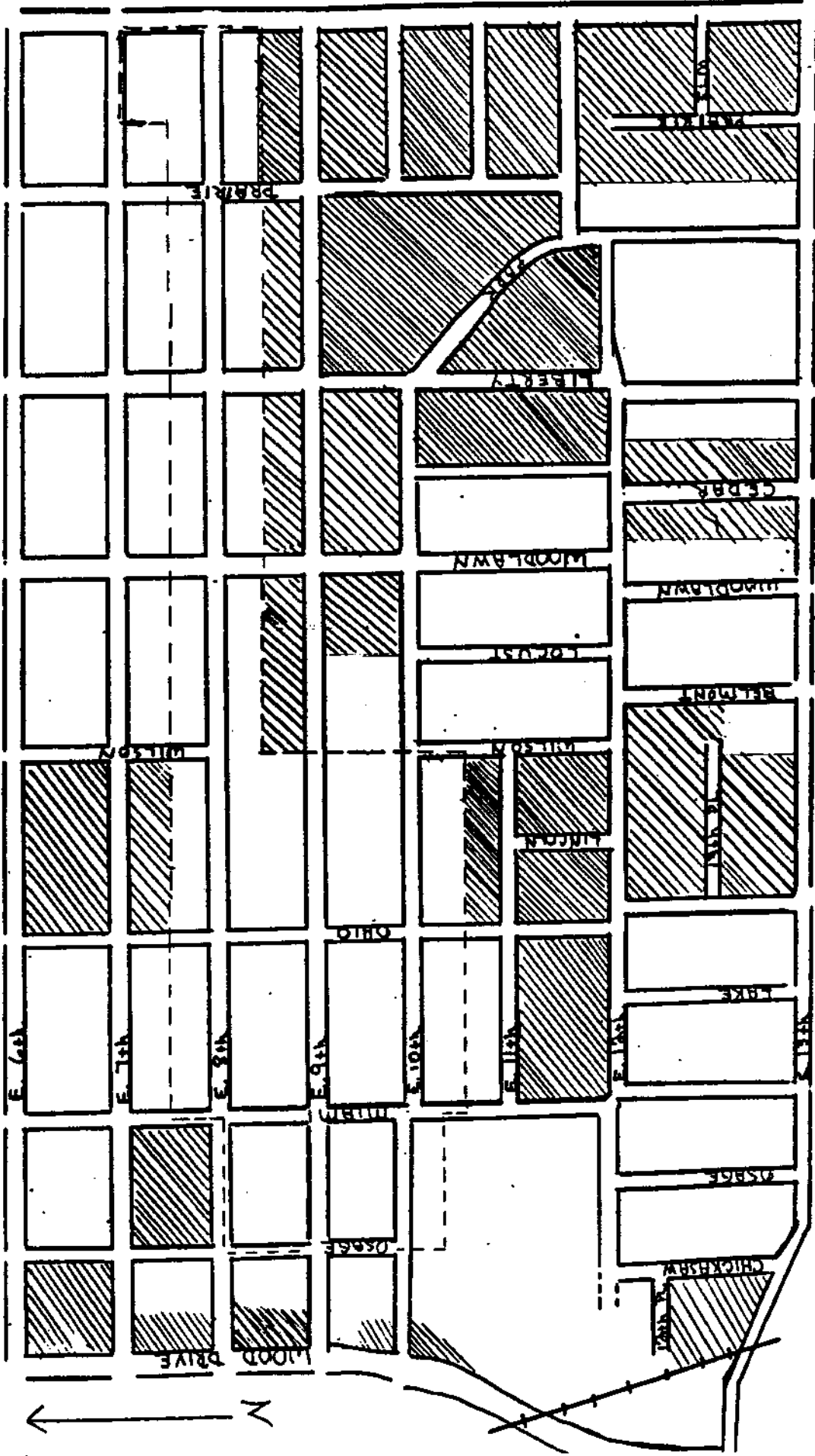




# TRACT 4

AUGUST 1993

EASTSIDE DISTRICT --- AREAS NOT WARRANTING FURTHER STUDY



ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORICAL SURVEY OF PORTIONS OF THE CITY OF OKMULGEE, OKLAHOMA

## IX. SUMMARY

The Architectural/Historical Survey of Portions of the City of Okmulgee, Oklahoma, a reconnaissance-level study, minimally documented 128 properties in selected tracts within the city limits of Okmulgee. Approximately 86 percent warrant further study for possible inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. Fifty-four percent lie within one of three potential historic districts: North Okmulgee, South Okmulgee, and Eastside. Three properties lying outside potential districts--two residences and one school--were deemed worthy of individual nominations to the National Register. Thirteen other properties lying within potential historic districts may be eligible for individual nomination to the National Register. Tract 3 contained no potential districts.

For all 128 properties, a file containing a completed Historic Preservation Resource Identification Form, photodocumentation, and field notes now exists. Duplicates of these files have been submitted to the City of Okmulgee, Oklahoma and to the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office to become a part of the Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory. Finally a diskette containing project data has been submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office to facilitate its entry into a collective data base of significant Oklahoma and national cultural resources.

This survey generally increased the area of Okmulgee, Oklahoma inventoried for historic reasons and the number of properties identified. A survey of primarily residential areas, it complemented the information amassed in creating the existing and contemporary Okmulgee Downtown Historic District. This survey and its products should provide a valuable tool for Okmulgee's on-going preservation movement and an appreciation for the individual properties and districts identified.

## X. HISTORIC CONTEXT

Okmulgee, Oklahoma is a city with a uniquely segmented, tri-racial history. It was founded in the mid-nineteenth century by Native Americans for a specific purpose. Throughout much of its early development, Native Americans, African-Americans, and Anglo-Americans played leading roles. For its first four decades it existed in some isolation from typical nineteenth-century frontier development. Not until after the beginning of the twentieth century did it enter the general American economic, social and cultural mainstream. The exploitation of Okmulgee County oil deposits brought great wealth and expansion to the city from 1907 to the mid-1920s, making Okmulgee the "fourth city" of the State of Oklahoma. Collapse of the local, state, and national economy after 1930 brought growth to a stand-still until after World War II. Physical reminders of this unusual history and the people who contributed to it abound in Okmulgee in its many historically and architecturally significant buildings. Through this built environment one may trace the pattern by which Okmulgee developed in the first three decades of this century and discern something of its unusual character.

Okmulgee was first of all the capital of the Creek--or Muscogee--Nation, a political and cultural division of the nineteenth-century Indian Territory (roughly today's Oklahoma, excluding the Panhandle). Renowned as one of the Five "Civilized" Tribes, the Creeks, a Muskogean people, were living in the present-day southeastern United States when Europeans claimed North America. By the early 1800s their population had been reduced by 90 percent to about 20,000; but their remaining numbers, sophisticated leadership, and confederated tulwa ("town")-based system of government placed them among the most important Native American peoples in the United States. In spite of their advantages, by the 1820s, internal divisions and their occupation of fertile agricultural lands in Alabama and Georgia made them vulnerable to federal and state demands that they be removed west of the Mississippi River. With

other eastern Native Americans, in the late 1830s they were forced to emigrate to a new national domain in the newly-created Indian Territory. Gradually, during the next three decades, they overcame continuing population losses, the unfamiliar Southern Plains environment, and lingering factionalism. By 1860 they could claim stability, a constitutional government, a national school system, good trade and diplomatic relations with their white and Indian neighbors, a growing number of Christian converts and churches, and prosperous farms and ranches--many worked by their black slaves.<sup>1</sup>

The Civil War of 1861-1865 revived removal-era internal hostilities and split the Creek Nation equally into Union and Confederate factions. The war was an unmitigated disaster, erasing almost all the gains made since the 1830s, destroying most structures in the Creek Nation, and leaving the surviving three-quarters of the population impoverished. A punitive Reconstruction Treaty with the federal government forced the cession of one-half the pre-war Creek domain and the emancipation of all slaves. Under pressure, the Creeks adopted these "freedmen," entitling them to full political rights and shares in the Creek national estate.<sup>2</sup>

Another impact of the war was a shift in settlement patterns in the Creek Nation, and it was this alteration that brought about the foundation of Okmulgee. In antebellum days most Creeks had clustered in two primary districts: along the north bank of the Canadian River near its confluence with the North Canadian and along the fertile Arkansas River Valley generally from the mouth of the Cimarron River to the Three Forks. They had no capital but their National Council met periodically at present-day High Spring, Oklahoma. In the aftermath of the war, many Creek freedmen congregated near the Three Forks, laying the foundations for present-day city of Muskogee, Oklahoma. Well-to-do Creeks who had formerly lived in that vicinity moved into the old Canadian district. Pre-war residents of the Canadian district in turn settled further west in the mixed hills, woodlands, and tall-grass prairies of the western

Creek Nation. Concurrently, Creek citizens reorganized their constitutional national government. With the center of population having shifted westward, in 1867 they selected a new central site for meetings of their National Council. The chosen location, which offered a spacious campsite, good water, and abundant grass, lay on a broad prairie through which Okmulgee Creek meandered southward to the Deep Fork of the Canadian River. Recalling a historically significant place in the old eastern homeland, they named the new site "Okmulgee."<sup>3</sup>

Although a settlement of sorts grew up around the new Council House, Okmulgee as the capital of the Creek Nation bore little resemblance to contemporary Anglo-American towns. The Council House itself, a two-story double log house, lay in a grove of black jack oaks just west of Okmulgee Creek. Around it were scattered the small log cabins of Okmulgee's few residents, mostly Creeks and freedmen. Among these freedmen were the wives of Silas Smith, a white man, who went into business at the new settlement as a blacksmith and hotel operator. Other early residents were Columbus Belcher, James Parkinson and Frederick B. Severs, white local ranchers and traders. All except Severs, an adopted Creek citizen, traded under permit of the Creek Nation. Later merchants included W. C. Trent, who went into business in 1875, and P. K. Morton, a Creek, who opened a store in 1899. The pioneering activities of Severs, Trent, and Morton were memorialized in the naming of main Okmulgee streets.

The construction of a substantial sandstone Council House in 1878 sealed the permanency of Okmulgee as the Creek capital. By that time the town had its first two Christian churches. The Indian Mission Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church founded a congregation in Okmulgee in 1869 under the guidance of Creek ministers James McHenry and Samuel Checote. A Baptist congregation was founded the next year. East of Okmulgee Creek residents of the town were interred in a new cemetery that occasionally doubled as an execution ground and accommodated the

Christian dead of all three races. It reflected the multi-cultural character of Okmulgee in the late 1800s in that it contained both Anglo-European-style tombstones and Creek-style grave houses. The establishment of the Creek Orphan Home just east of the settlement in 1891 gave the town added importance. Though the Creek Council House was still the focal point of the town, by 1894 commercial buildings began to line the square taking shape around it. As the federal government forced reluctant Creek citizens to accept the end of their communal landholding system and self-government, Okmulgee was frequently the scene of negotiations with the Dawes Commission. Still, until the turn of the century it remained a very small, quiet place, except during the periodic sessions of the Creek National Council.<sup>4</sup>

The real growth of the town and the advent of a new cultural character began about 1900 with the arrival of the railroad. Until the turn of the century, wagon roads connected Okmulgee with other towns in the Indian Territory, but the railroads had by-passed it. Indeed, according to one old-timer, the arrival of the Missouri, Kansas, and Texas (Katy) Railroad in Muskogee in the mid-1870s caused a number of merchants to abandon their Okmulgee stores for the booming town forty-three miles east. The population shrank from four hundred to two hundred during the 1890s.<sup>5</sup>

Then at the turn of the century the pending dissolution of the Five Tribes national governments, allotment of Indian land in severalty, and opening of those lands to non-Indian settlement brought a flood of immigrants to the territory. With each Creek expecting to receive 160 acres of land, most of which could be leased cheaply or bought by non-Creek citizens after five years, Okmulgee beckoned the ambitious and opportunistic. Closely related was the construction of additional railroad lines such as the Oklahoma and Southern Railway subsidiary of the St. Louis and San Francisco (Frisco) Railroad, which began service to Okmulgee in 1901, the year Okmulgee was first platted. The Original



Town, a long east-west rectangle roughly bisected by the meandering Okmulgee Creek, stretched from First Street southward to Tenth Street and from Oklahoma Avenue on the west to Miami Avenue on the east. The laying of the Frisco track on a north-south angle just east of Okmulgee Creek and the construction of a depot caused the commercial and residential districts, previously concentrated around Council House Square on Sixth Street, to expand eastward. A second track lying between Oklahoma and Alabama avenues angled around the west side of town to a junction about a mile north of the Council House.<sup>6</sup>

The newcomers included blacks as well as whites, the former perhaps encouraged to settle in Okmulgee near a relatively large existing population of Creek freedmen and their descendants. Both white and black newcomers were prepared to take advantage of opportunities they believed existed in the Okmulgee vicinity: good farmland, homesites, jobs, and commerce that would be generated as the coal and oil deposits in the vicinity began to be exploited. The population that had stood at 200 in 1898 rose to 1,200 in 1901 and doubled to 2,500 by 1903. By 1907, the year that Oklahoma achieved statehood and Okmulgee became the seat of Okmulgee County, there were 2,800 residents. Further evidence of development was demonstrated in the incorporation of the town and establishment of the first newspaper, school and bank in 1900.<sup>7</sup>

Although there were still Creek residents in Okmulgee, they were increasingly outnumbered in the early 1900s by white and black residents. Until the turn of the century, relatively tolerant racial relations existed throughout the Oklahoma and Indian territories. By Oklahoma statehood in 1907 this condition began to change, in part because many white newcomers were from the Old South, in part because of increasing race-consciousness across the state and nation. It was the era of Jim Crowism, supported by local, state, and federal law. Developments in Okmulgee reflected hardening social attitudes. Gradually in the first decade of the 1900s, black businessmen were forced to

shift their enterprises from Sixth Street and the vicinity of Council House Square to East Fifth Street. Black residences were eventually consigned to the northeast quadrant of town: north from East Fifth Street and east of North Central Avenue. As residential areas expanded eastward across the railroad tracks, this pattern persisted.<sup>8</sup>

Several houses built by blacks during the early post-1900 period of settlement recall these early times. West of the Frisco tracks at 502 North Severs Avenue stands a home built by an ambitious black newcomer. Stephen Frederick Jones Davis came to Okmulgee from Texas just after the turn of the century. His mother, Sarah Harjo Davis, of Creek-black descent, wished to return to the Creek country to re-establish her contacts with her father's people. Young Davis, a college-educated teacher, Baptist minister, and contractor, married in Okmulgee and built a small National Folk house for his bride. As their children arrived, he gradually expanded it from two rooms to three. Contemporary with the Davis house is a T-plan Folk National house at 500 East Third Street, built about 1905. East of the Frisco tracks, black newcomers early in the 1900s built residences from East First to East Third Street.<sup>9</sup>

Free of the bounds segregation imposed on black newcomers, white immigrants to Okmulgee in the days before statehood began filling the other three quadrants platted in the Original Town. Attorneys, real estate men, merchants, and Okmulgee's first bankers built homes in the areas just north, west, and south of the Council House. North Alabama Avenue built up enough to warrant mapping by the fire insurance companies by 1903. Other houses, mostly frame and some still not quite square with the new rectangular street pattern, were located at least as far south as West Seventh Street. Existing buildings and contemporary photographs show the new homes to have been generally vernacular houses of the Queen Anne, National Folk, and Folk Victorian types. For example, Dr. F. H. Hollingsworth, first Clerk of Okmulgee County, built a large two-story Queen Anne home on West Eighth Street about 1905.

North of the commercial district was the Queen Anne home built in 1903 on the southwest corner of West Second and North Morton. Regarded as a showplace was the one-story Classical Revival home Colonel J. L. Peacock built at 304 East Ninth Street about 1905. Peacock, who arrived in Okmulgee in 1902, was deputy clerk of the U. S. Court before entering local politics. On the east side of the Frisco railroad new homes were being constructed about 1906 in the 1200 and 1300 blocks of East Tenth Street. Among these were several frame Queen Anne houses. Numbers 1242 and 1302 were mirror images of each other, a not-unusual circumstance in Okmulgee.<sup>10</sup>

Homes were also built on the outskirts of town on lands that would later be annexed to Okmulgee. Prime examples were 601 North Morton (c. 1905) and Asa D. Kennedy's home at 502 South Okmulgee. Kennedy, a founder of the Bank of Commerce and a real estate man, built this impressive home before 1906. With its bay and Palladian windows, sunburst gable shingling, and side-lighted entry, it imposed Queen Anne decoration on a Prairie School four-square plan. Sharing the spacious lot in that pre-automobile day was the very large stable, topped by a cupola. On at least one occasion it was used for entertaining.<sup>11</sup>

While most of the new homes built in these early days were vernacular, the architect-designed house appeared early. In 1903 Leon B. Senter, a young Kansas architect just beginning a distinguished career in Okmulgee, designed an early Prairie School home at 319 North Seminole for merchant W. P. Morton. Its stucco trim, arched porch supports, stained glass windows, and bottle glass side-lights set it apart from its neighbors while heralding the arrival of the Spanish and Italian Revival influences that would be so popular in Okmulgee in the next two decades.<sup>12</sup>

The residential areas were, said one booster account, "especially inviting, the architecture being modern. The grassy lawns, one of the chief beauties of the place, the numerous shade trees, and the younger

growth now responding to careful culture, rich garden spots in the rear of cozy cottages, all give to the homes of the city a charm that is exceedingly rare in towns of such rapid growth." The common building material was wood; brick was less common even for foundations. Many new homes incorporated gray or brown sandstone quarried within the city limits. A writer noted that it was "of the very finest quality and a test of thirty years has proven it to be indestructible," a reference to the Creek Council House as well as to commercial buildings. He continued, "It is suitable for all kinds of building, for trimmings, and for side walks, gutters, street crossings, in fact for any purpose that any stone can be used and its cheapness makes it a most economical material."<sup>13</sup>

Between 1900 and the statehood year of 1907, Okmulgee was transformed from a village into a county seat and substantial town, the "Queen City of the Creek Nation," according to one banner. By 1904 two- and three-story brick commercial buildings were going up along Sixth and Seventh streets. A bottling works and ice plant had been added to the cotton gins and grain mills already located along the loops of Okmulgee Creek from East First to East Fourth streets. By the spring of 1905, a telephone system, electric lights, several schools, and a new water works marked the town as up-to-date. A fine new high school was built at 318 East Eighth Street about 1909. In addition to the Frisco tracks bracketing the central business district, Okmulgee claimed its own line --the Kansas, Okmulgee and Gulf, known locally as the "Kog"--as well as a short-lived trolley system.<sup>14</sup>

The slow but steady growth on which Okmulgee's city fathers prided themselves was briefly stunted in 1904. They noted that most of the good building land in the Original Town had been filled in. There were complaints that on the east side of the Frisco tracks the land was either inhabited by blacks or had been engrossed by one Kansas City speculator who was holding on to it to keep real estate prices up.

Furthermore, land surrounding the Original Town was entangled in the allotment process. To protect illiterate and unsophisticated Creek citizens--Indian or freedmen--the federal government at first restricted the alienation of allotted land for five years, after which time the allottee might sell all but his forty-acre "homestead." Land surrounding Okmulgee was held by Creeks and freedmen. Developers pressured these allottees to sell land as soon as they passed the five-year moratorium. This included illiterate people like Maggie J. Grissom and Rosanna Washington, who had little experience with land values and transactions, as well as Samuel J. Haynes, an educated and informed Creek National Council member living at South Morton Avenue and West Eleventh Street. The Burke Act of 1906, passed over the protest of many Native American leaders, extended restrictions on allottees judged to be too illiterate or inexperienced to handle their own affairs. But it allowed the lifting of restrictions from people federal officials deemed "competent." The affairs of "incompetent" Creek citizens, adults as well as minors, were placed under the control of county court-appointed "guardians." It was a tragically flawed system that invited fraud and local political corruption, and it gave a troubling double meaning to the word "restricted" as far as Okmulgee developers were concerned. Nevertheless, by 1905 the lifting of restrictions on individual allottees allowed the city to expand into several new additions--Smith, Grissom, Griffin's, Byrd and Weimer's, Cherry's, and Brady's--270 acres in all, making a total now of 760 acres within the city limits.<sup>15</sup>

And by 1907 it was clear that Okmulgee's development was accelerating. The factor that impelled the city out of slow, steady growth and into an economic boom was oil. As early as May 1905 the Citizens Oil and Gas Company brought in Well No. 1, flowing twenty-five barrels a day. But not until the spring of 1907 did Okmulgee's real boom begin, with a thousand-barrel gusher. Activity continued through May and June, leading the Okmulgee Chieftain to begin running "Oil and Gas Notes" to

keep businessmen up to date. By August Prairie Oil and Gas had a pipeline running to the oil fields surrounding Okmulgee, and by the following February, a mineral lease for a 160-acre plot brought a \$16,000 price tag. Nor was oil extraction the only new contributor to the Okmulgee economy. The Okmulgee Brick and Mining Company was in operation by June 1907; oil field equipment manufacturers were moving into town shortly thereafter. By 1910, 18,000 barrels a day were being pumped from the Okmulgee field, while three big oil well supply companies serviced it from town. The influx of population and business activity soon gave Okmulgee the right to the claim of "fourth city of Oklahoma."<sup>16</sup>

The boom put a strain on housing in Okmulgee that opportunists were quick to see. The editor of the Okmulgee Chieftain noted within weeks of the gusher of 1907 that houses were few and house hunters were many. A new \$60,000 hotel would accommodate visitors, but the town needed permanent residences. By March 1908 a syndicate had formed to build twenty-five new houses in a developing addition.<sup>17</sup> An advertiser warned buyers, "Only a few lots left in beautiful Fair View Heights Addition" at East Eighth, Ninth, and Tenth streets between South Miami and Wilson avenues. Referring to the problem of Creek land ownership, the advertiser continued, "There are restrictions prohibiting the sale of lots to Negroes; this is the ONLY RESTRICTION."<sup>18</sup> J. G. Eldred, an oil man, seemed typical of the Okmulgee entrepreneur of the day in that he diversified his business interests: In May 1908 he built his own residence, a "tenement", and six houses, selling for \$1,800 each, in block 13 of the Smith Addition at North Seminole Avenue and Trent Street. This was "high class residence property."<sup>19</sup>

Similarly, Okmulgee's black residents needed new housing and could afford it because of general prosperity stemming from the oil boom. New residences appeared on North Central Avenue, in the Walnut Grove Addition along North Porter Avenue, and on the east side of town along

East First, Second, and Third streets. The boom in building generated business, too, for dealers in paint, wallpaper, brick, home furnishings, cabinets, and electrical appliances.<sup>20</sup>

Although the National Folk style remained popular among white and black Okmulgeans, particularly in lower income neighborhoods, the new houses going up after 1907 were in many cases variants of the Prairie School four-square popular at the time. The majority were fairly simple vernacular versions: symmetrical and two-storied with hipped roofs and full-width porches. During the decade of the 1910s, they extended north toward West Second Street along North Okmulgee, Seminole, and Morton avenues and along Eighth and Ninth streets south of the commercial district. The William Shealey House built in 1915 at 1022 East Second Street in the black section of Okmulgee was a very plain four-square house. More elaborate was the house at 402 South Grand Avenue. Built about 1910, it featured a shed-roofed dormer, bays on the side elevations, a pedimented porch, and porch supports that combined heavy sandstone bases with triple Ionic columns. Many new houses of varying styles, such as the pair at 402 and 406 South Seminole Avenue, built about 1915, showed decorative influences and wrap-around porches borrowed from the Queen Anne style. Number 423 South Porter, built about 1918, included both a veranda and a storm cellar. Into the 1920s Prairie School houses remained popular in Okmulgee as demonstrated by 602 South Morton, built about 1923, and a pair of Prairie School houses built in 1921 by drilling contractor Walton B. Claypool at 411 and 417 South Delaware Avenue. About the same time, new homes on East Sixth Street took the Prairie School to new levels for Okmulgee, accommodating the advent of the automobile and the hot summer nights by adding a port cochere topped by a sleeping porch on one side elevation.<sup>21</sup>

The less affluent were often housed in a traditional type of worker housing, the shotgun. Rows of shotgun houses were scattered throughout the northeast quadrant of town and lined North Porter and North Muskogee

avenues in the black section. But they could also be found along the Frisco tracks on North Alabama Avenue, east of a secondary commercial/industrial area burgeoning during the 1910s. While most of the shotguns were frame, often board-and-batten, more permanent brick examples could be found in the 900 block of Martin Luther King (McLagan) Street.<sup>22</sup>

Typifying the building boom of the 1910s and 1920s was the Bungalow/Craftsman house, probably the most prevalent style in Okmulgee. Gradually rows of Craftsmen extended southward down South Morton, Grand, Central, and Delaware, northward along North Okmulgee Avenue well beyond the Frisco tracks, south on Lake and South Miami avenues, and out East Tenth Street into the section of town known as the "Eastside." Simple Craftsmen were prevalent throughout the black quadrant of town, especially on East Third and Second streets. Gradually toward the 1920s Craftsmen took on Bungalow-style characteristics while retaining some Prairie School features: exposed eaves, shed-roofed dormers, bay windows, and heavy sandstone or brick and wood porch supports. Two-story frame, brick, and stucco "airplane" Bungalows appeared frequently, some with tile roofs borrowed from the Spanish Colonial and Italianate Revival styles. A developer in 1921 advertised a Bungalow at 812 South Okmulgee Avenue as "an ideal place to live." Asymmetrical and cross-gabled with a latticed front porch, it had "six rooms with seven-room efficiency: double siding, double flooring, the famous IN-A-DOOR MURPHY BED, beautiful fireplace, sun parlor, breakfast room, the most modern of electrical and plumbing fixtures, including one of the most up-to-date bath rooms, which has a shower in addition to the large porcelain bath tub and pedestal lavatory."<sup>23</sup>

Scattered among the Bungalow/Craftsmen were similarly-sized one-story Colonial Revival houses, many with segmental arches over the front door. A report in 1923 lauded 1118 North Okmulgee Avenue as a model of the smaller family residence and its award-winning design as a part of the better homes movement. Its side-gabled roof, clipped eaves,



centered front door, and ten-inch white pine siding could be found on many new houses throughout Okmulgee. A fine example was Judge W. A. Barnett's home at 1613 East Eighth Street on the "Eastside."<sup>24</sup>

Many well-to-do Okmulgee residents who had profited from the oil boom as realtors, developers, attorneys, contractors, and merchants chose less common styles. Between 1915 and 1920, North Seminole, Morton, and Grand avenues built up with impressive Colonial Revival, Spanish Colonial Revival, and Tudor Revival homes. Particularly noteworthy was the Spanish Colonial Revival home built about 1915 at 806 North Grand Avenue for W. A. Stuart of the Fullerton-Stuart Lumber Company. A somewhat smaller house at 420 North Seminole Avenue was unique. Built in 1917 by Herman Yungbludt for Guaranty State Bank president John D. Cook, it combined Prairie School and Italianate features with Tudor Revival half-timbering. Like many of the homes of the middle and upper classes in Okmulgee, the residence included a matching detached two-car garage with servants quarters above the automobile bays. It was later the home of W. B. Pine, oil producer, lumber dealer, president of the Chamber of Commerce, and U. S. Senator from 1924 to 1930. Some of the newly wealthy preferred a rural setting southeast of Okmulgee. Such was the case for oil man T. H. McBrayer, who bought a very large Colonial Revival home about 1915 at what is today 601 South Wilson Avenue.<sup>25</sup>

Those who needed temporary or non-family housing--single people, newcomers, and transient professional men such as oil company employees and lease-buyers--could live in one of the new apartment complexes going up in residential areas during the 1910s and 1920s. Okmulgee had its share of hotels, including the Benson Hotel on all-black North Delaware Avenue; but the Jackson Apartments, Tripodi Apartments, Collins Flats, and Lucerne Apartments offered pleasant living space within walking distance of downtown. Attorney John F. Lawrence, who built the \$50,000 Lucerne Apartments, named for a favorite city of the well-traveled

family, intended to create flats that would have a "home-like" atmosphere. Each of the twelve apartments had a southern exposure, a screened back porch, a living room fireplace, built-in features, tiled bathrooms, hardwood floors, and the latest in kitchen ranges and refrigerators. Each was professionally decorated and furnished in mahogany. A service entrance allowed discreet delivery of ice and groceries, and each apartment had a telephone. The even more impressive four-story Black Apartments on South Seminole Avenue contained office space as well as residences. For the less affluent, duplexes were randomly scattered throughout residential areas.<sup>26</sup>

Nor were residences the only type of construction flourishing in the 1910s and 1920s. Oil boom money supported, among other things, the erection of the First Christian Church, First Presbyterian Church, First United Methodist Church, St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Church, Calvary Baptist Church, and the Church of the Nazarene. Sharing in the prosperity of the times, black Okmulgeans built small frame churches such as the Church of the Living God and Franklin United Methodist Church in their neighborhoods as well as two fine brick buildings, First Baptist Church (Central) and Eastside Baptist Church. Architect Leon B. Senter, his star still rising in the firm Smith, Rea, Lovitt & Senter, helped design commercial buildings, the new Okmulgee High School on North Okmulgee Avenue, and the Okmulgee Public Library, before being persuaded by his former next-door neighbor, oil man Waite Phillips, to move to Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1928 to design the Philcade. The Okmulgee Rotary Club in 1923 contributed Rotary Park with its circular wading pool, playgrounds, and Spanish Colonial Revival-style gate to the city.<sup>27</sup>

Rotary Park at South Okmulgee Avenue and West Fifteenth Street lay at the extreme of Okmulgee's expansion down South Alabama and Okmulgee avenues by 1920. Interrupting South Seminole Avenue and limiting expansion of South Morton Avenue was Oakwood Cemetery, dating from the early 1900s. Developers complained that the cemetery on West Thirteenth

Street overlooking Okmulgee Creek had been condemned years ago and further burials prohibited. Neglected, it was a nuisance to its neighbors, and its five acres could be better used as building lots or even as a site for the proposed St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Church. The problem with developing the cemetery acreage was two-fold: Ending its use as a cemetery would mean contacting all descendants of persons buried there for settlements and quit claims before the graves, many no longer visible, could be moved. Secondly, the land had been granted to the city by the Creek Nation with the stipulation that, should it ever be terminated as a cemetery, the five acres would revert to the Creek Nation. In the end, perhaps, developers decided pursuing that line of expansion was not worth the potential trouble or profit.<sup>28</sup>

Others areas of Okmulgee offered more opportunity. The year 1919 saw the peak for issuance of building permits, and by the early 1920s expansion was well underway in the Eastside district. W. H. Crume commented that for many years his house was listed in the Okmulgee phone book as "two miles east of the city," but the 1923 directory listed him at 1600 East Tenth Street.<sup>29</sup> On East Second, Third, Fourth, Sixth, Eighth, Ninth, and Tenth streets, rows of Bungalow/Craftsmen continued to go up. To protect these new residential areas but not to intrude visually on them, the City of Okmulgee built Craftsman-style Eastside Fire Station on the corner of East Eighth Street and South Ohio Avenue. Although many of these new residences were quite substantial, they could not compare with the Italianate Revival house of T. J. Baker at 1400 East Ninth Street, the \$150,000 Colonial Revival mansion designed by Richard E. Richter for Charles W. Wilson on Mission Road, the Italianate Revival house designed by Smith and Senter for Mrs. E. W. Gill at 1319 East Sixth Street, the legendary John Rebold mansion (demolished) at East Sixth Street and Mission Road, or the Italianate Revival house of his neighbor, oil man E. R. Black, at 1700 East Sixth Street. In addition to the Italianate Revival style, wealthy home-builders in the

Eastside district as well as in older residential areas chose Colonial Revival, Neoclassical, Tudor Revival, and Spanish-influenced designs. Contractors, building suppliers, decorators, and even commercial photographers made the most of the situation by taking out full-page ads in the local newspapers to spot-light a particular house under construction and claim credit for their part in the project.<sup>30</sup>

Through 1923 and into 1924 Okmulgee gave the appearance of a city enjoying flush times, but the boosting and boasting took on an increasingly anxious tone as the months went by. The 1910s and World War I had seen the full flower of the oil boom with production rising steadily. Prices went up from \$.55 per barrel in August 1915 to \$1.40 six months later. The lengthening war in Europe only increased the demand and prices. "Incompetent" Creek orphan Katie Fixico, who lived in a mansion south of town built with the staggering proceeds of mineral rights on her allotment, bought through her guardian all the bonds issued to finance the new Okmulgee County Courthouse in 1917. In these years Okmulgee's prosperity diversified beyond oil, gas, and coal, with brick plants, canneries, and glass plants contributing to it. But the precipitous decline in oil prices from diminishing demand in January 1921 sent a shudder through Okmulgee. By February all drilling stopped until pipeline operators agreed to take all the oil pumped. In March producers relaxed as the well-head price stabilized and turned upward. The architectural firm of Hare & Hare of Kansas City resumed planning an exclusive Country Club District in the southeast quadrant, and newspapers announced proudly that the Okmulgee Field had produced 4.5 million barrels of oil in the first quarter of 1921, breaking Mid-Continent Field output records.<sup>31</sup>

In spite of such good news, Okmulgee's prosperity remained in jeopardy. The year 1922 was slow for realtors and builders; 1923 produced only a short-lived recovery as some of Okmulgee's newly wealthy apparently used accumulated profits to break ground for mansions in the

Eastside district. These, the Methodist church, apartment houses, and a number of the Bungalow/Craftsmen on East Eighth Street sent construction records to a new high. A shortage in small houses encouraged developers to plan a new building campaign in 1924. Senator Pine, in fact, warned Okmulgee to prepare for a population of 100,000 by 1935. But the best times were over. Promoters had a hard time raising \$750,000 to build a new hotel downtown in 1923-1924. Oil and real estate values dropped, the latter on account, some said, of such prominent Ku Klux Klan activity in Okmulgee that the governor imposed martial law on the county in June 1923. By 1924 even Katie Fixico, her resources looted by her guardian, was pleading poverty. Little evidence of sustained economic recovery appeared in Okmulgee as Oklahoma farmers and oil producers saw prices continue to decline. In the 1920s Oklahoma generally was already sliding into the Great Depression of the 1930s. A handful of large houses appeared in the Eastside district of Okmulgee in the mid-1930s, but they were exceptions to the general trend.<sup>32</sup>

In 1924 former Creek citizens came again to Okmulgee for a special session of the Creek council to resolve a few remaining problems. One Creek legislator who had known Okmulgee since its days as the Creek capital sadly commented that Creeks could no longer meet in their own Council House because it had been sold. Their old cemetery near the Frisco tracks now lay abandoned and desecrated. Okmulgee Creek, remembered for its clear waters, good fishing, and fine swimming hole at the site of the North Muskogee Avenue bridge, had become so polluted with oil field and industrial waste that it was known now as the sometimes flammable "Greasy Creek." Could not things be made better again?<sup>33</sup>

Eventually things were made better, but slowly and over much time. The end of World War II saw building resume, particularly in the southeast quadrant. Small tract homes and larger Ranch-style houses appeared south of East Tenth Street and west of South Ohio. In the

northeast quadrant many older houses disappeared to be replaced by small modern homes, but neighborhoods north and south of Council House Square changed very little. Commercial development edged out from downtown along Fourth and Eighth streets. North-south Highway 75 (Wood Drive) created a new commercial zone that encroached on old neighborhoods. The official end of segregation blurred the barriers between black and white sections of town without really changing the nature of the northeast quadrant. Most recently, Creek presence revived in Okmulgee with the construction of the capital complex north of town and scattered tribal housing tracts.

The creation of such organizations as the Creek Indian Memorial Association, which has preserved the Creek Council House, and a strong preservationist movement aimed at protecting historic buildings has helped Okmulgee retain its Okmulgee Downtown Historic District. The acceptance of a number of individual buildings for National Register status demonstrates the historic quality of Okmulgee's built environment. Protection of the residential districts exemplifying the greatest period of Okmulgee's expansion, from about 1900 to 1930, can only add to the aesthetic, historic, and economic appeal of Okmulgee, Oklahoma.

## NOTES

<sup>1</sup>The standard history dealing with these and subsequent events affecting the Creeks is Angie Debo, The Road to Disappearance: A History of the Creek Indians, The Civilization of the American Indian Series (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1941).

<sup>2</sup>Mary Jane Warde, "Now the Wolf Has Come: The Civilian Civil War in the Indian Territory," The Chronicles of Oklahoma 71 (Spring 1993):64-84.

<sup>3</sup>"Creek Nation: Important Places," Map 41, John W. Morris, Charles R. Goins, and Edwin C. McReynolds, Historical Atlas of Oklahoma, third edition (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1986); interview of Samuel J. Haynes 40:315-339, Works Progress Administration, "Indian-Pioneer History," microfiche, Western History Collection, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma; Mary Jane Warde, "Chief G. W. Grayson and the Creek Nation" (an unpublished dissertation, Oklahoma State University, 1991), 123.

<sup>4</sup>Baird Martin, "Okmulgee History," Works Progress Administration typescript, Okmulgee Public Library, Okmulgee, Oklahoma, 14-28; History of Okmulgee County, Oklahoma, comp. and ed. Okmulgee Historical Society and Heritage Society of America (Tulsa: Heritage Enterprises, Inc., 1985), 48-49; "Okmulgee, Creek Nation," 1894, 1896, 1898, Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, microfilm, Okmulgee Public Library, Okmulgee, Oklahoma; Terri Myers, From Creek Freedmen to Oklahoma Oil Men: Okmulgee's Black Heritage and Architectural Legacy (1878-1929), Research Report and Black Heritage Theme Historic Context, Okmulgee Historic Preservation Commission, Okmulgee, Oklahoma, 1991, 35-36; Mary Bozarth Christian, "Old Indian Cemetery (Okmulgee, Oklahoma)," The Ranchman 2 (May 1942):20.

<sup>5</sup>"Railroads in Oklahoma, 1870-1985," Map 64, Morris, Goins, and McReynolds, Historical Atlas; interview of Charles Brant, 16:184, "Indian-Pioneer History," Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

<sup>6</sup>"Okmulgee, Oklahoma," Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1901, 1903, 1907.

<sup>7</sup>Martin, "Okmulgee History," 28-30; History of Okmulgee County, 113.

<sup>8</sup>Jimmie Lewis Franklin, Journey Toward Hope: A History of Blacks in Oklahoma (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1982), 31-33; Myers, From Creek Freedmen, 38-40.

<sup>9</sup>History of Okmulgee County, 684-685; interview with Lillian Harris, June 13, 1993, Okmulgee, Oklahoma; Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1920; Myers, From Creek Freedmen, 53.

<sup>10</sup>Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1903, 1907; Martin, "Okmulgee History," 35; Walter G. McComas, "Okmulgee and Its Resources," Sturm's Oklahoma Magazine 6 (July 1908):25-32; The Okmulgee (Indian Territory) Chieftain, March 28, 1907.

<sup>11</sup>Okmulgee County History, 746, 897-899; The Okmulgee (Indian Territory) Chieftain, July 25, 1907.

<sup>12</sup>Interview with Sylvia Maples, June 17, 1993, Okmulgee, Oklahoma; Tulsa Art Deco: An Architectural Era, 1925-1942 (Tulsa: The Junior League of Tulsa, Inc., 1980), 190-191.

<sup>13</sup>The Capital News, Okmulgee, Indian Territory, March 30, 1905.

<sup>14</sup>Ibid.

<sup>15</sup>Myers, From Creek Freedmen, 40-45; Arrell Morgan Gibson, "The Centennial Legacy of the General Allotment Act," The Chronicles of Oklahoma 65 (Fall 1987):228-251; "Application of Maggie J. Grissom to Alienate Land for Townsite Purposes," No. 76, and "Application of Rosanna Washington to Alienate Land for Townsite Purposes," Townsites, Creek Nation, Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; The Capital News, Okmulgee, Indian Territory, December 21, 1905.

<sup>16</sup>The Okmulgee (Oklahoma) Chieftain, May 27, 1905, April 25, June 6, June 13, August 1, 1907, February 27, 1908, June 30, 1910; Martin, "Okmulgee History," 37.

<sup>17</sup>The Okmulgee (Oklahoma) Chieftain, June 27, July 25, 1907.

<sup>18</sup>Ibid., March 19, 1908.

<sup>19</sup>Ibid., May 28, 1908.

<sup>20</sup>Myers, From Creek Freedmen, 52-53; The Okmulgee (Indian Territory) Chieftain, December 20, 1906.

<sup>21</sup>Myers, From Creek Freedmen, 18; interview with Ruby Sallis, June 11, 1993, Okmulgee, Oklahoma; Hoffine's Okmulgee, Oklahoma Directory, 1922 (Oklahoma City: Hoffine Directory Company, 1922).

<sup>22</sup>Myers, From Creek Freedmen, 14-16.

<sup>23</sup>The Okmulgee (Oklahoma) Daily Democrat, May 29, 1921.

<sup>24</sup>Ibid., March 4, April 15, April 16, 1923

<sup>25</sup>Hoffine's Okmulgee, Oklahoma City Directory, 1919; "Okmulgee Cemeteries," Vertical File, Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

<sup>26</sup>The Okmulgee (Oklahoma) Daily Democrat, March 4, 1923.

<sup>27</sup>Ibid., September 19, 1923, January 31, 1924, February 10, 1924; Myers, From Creek Freedmen, 52; Tulsa Art Deco, 190-191.

<sup>28</sup>The Okmulgee (Oklahoma) Chieftain, March 8, 1921.

<sup>29</sup>The Okmulgee (Oklahoma) Daily Democrat, March 28, 1923.

<sup>30</sup>See for example the Okmulgee (Oklahoma) Daily Democrat of March 11, 1923 focusing on the T. J. Baker house.

<sup>31</sup>The Okmulgee (Oklahoma) Chieftain, August 5, 1915, January 27, April 27, 1916, January 23, February 21, March 6, April 1, April 18, May 29, 1921.

<sup>32</sup>The Okmulgee (Oklahoma) Daily Democrat, January 1, April 1, May 6, May 16, May 23, June 27, 1924, January 6, February 27, 1924.



"Ibid., March 9, 1924.

## XI. ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Books, Articles, and Collections

Christian, Mary Bozarth. "Old Indian Cemetery (Okmulgee, Oklahoma)." The Ranchman 2 (May 1942):20.

Bozarth provides a history of the Creek Indian Cemetery and a description of it as of 1942.

Debo, Angie. And Still the Waters Run: The Betrayal of the Five Civilized Tribes. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1940.

Debo discusses such topics as townsite development in the Creek Nation and the exploitation of individual Creek allottees, both pertinent to Okmulgee, Oklahoma.

\_\_\_\_\_. The Road to Disappearance: A History of the Creek Indians. The Civilization of the American Indian Series. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1941.

This is the standard history of the Creek people from prehistory to the dissolution of their tribal government in 1906. Debo discusses the Creek political and social structure as well as the foundation of Okmulgee as the national capital.

Franklin, Jimmie Lewis. Journey Toward Hope: A History of Blacks in Oklahoma. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1982.

Franklin provides one of the best comprehensive accounts of blacks in Oklahoma, with some references to blacks in Okmulgee.

Gibson, Arrell Morgan. "The Centennial Legacy of the General Allotment Act." The Chronicles of Oklahoma 65 (Fall 1987):228-251.

This article, winner of the Muriel Wright Award, is a concise description of the traffic in Indian allotments that followed the end of communal landholding in the Creek Nation. It bears upon the expansion of platted land surrounding Okmulgee.

Hoffine's Okmulgee, Oklahoma Directory, 1911, 1916, 1918, 1991-1935. Oklahoma City, Okla.: Hoffine Directory Company, various years. Okmulgee Public Library, Okmulgee, Oklahoma.

These directories are particularly useful in establishing settlement patterns, dates for buildings, and occupations of residents.

Martin, Baird. "Okmulgee History." Works Progress Administration manuscript. Okmulgee Public Library, Okmulgee, Oklahoma.

Martin's 1937 WPA manuscript provides a variety of information about the history of Okmulgee and its status in 1937. Particularly useful is the listing of hotels, segregated into black and white facilities.

McComas, Walter G. "Okmulgee and Its Resources." Sturm's Oklahoma Magazine 6 (July 1908):25-32.

This article designed to boost Okmulgee provides a description of the resources of Okmulgee as well as its homes and businesses. The photographs of contemporary residences and commercial buildings are especially useful.

Morris, John W., Charles R. Goins, and Edwin C. McReynolds. Historical Atlas of Oklahoma. Third edition. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1986.

This atlas contains many useful maps that place Okmulgee in both its historical and geographical context.

Myers, Terri. From Creek Freedmen to Oklahoma Oil Men: Okmulgee's Black Heritage and Architectural Legacy (1878-1929). Research Report and Black Heritage Theme Historic Context. Okmulgee Historic Preservation Commission, Okmulgee, Oklahoma, 1991.

This very useful study provides material on the black residents of Okmulgee, their homes, businesses, social activities, and religious organizations. It lays an important groundwork for historic preservation in Okmulgee by identifying remaining properties associated with the black population.

"Okmulgee." Vertical Files. Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Included are various clippings, booklets, and papers with a description of Indian Cemetery, a pamphlet on the First United Methodist Church, and a brief description of the Mainstreet Program.

Okmulgee County History. Compiled and edited by the Okmulgee Historical Society and Heritage Society of America. Tulsa: Heritage Enterprises, Inc., 1985.

This book contains an extensive general history of Okmulgee County as well as segments devoted to individual towns and institutions. It is quite comprehensive and contains many useful family histories unavailable elsewhere. Photographs of residences help determine change over time.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1894, 1896, 1898, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1907, 1911, 1916, 1924, 1946. Microfilm. Okmulgee Public Library, Okmulgee, Oklahoma.

These maps are indispensable for tracing the expansion of the city and dating construction of individual properties.

Shields, Charles J. "Pioneer Days in Okmulgee." A series of articles published in the Okmulgee (Oklahoma) Daily Democrat, 1921.

Judge Shields was a resident of Okmulgee from the 1880s. His memories included the buying and selling of land for additions to Okmulgee at the

turn of the century. A collection of these articles in manuscript is available at the Okmulgee Public Library, Okmulgee, Oklahoma.

"Townsites, Creek Nation" Collection. Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Included in the applications of individual Creek and freedmen allottees is testimony regarding their competence. The testimony of lawyers, realtors, and other allottees provides valuable insight into the development of Okmulgee in the early 1900s.

Tulsa Art Deco: An Architectural Era, 1925-1942. Tulsa, Okla.: The Junior League of Tulsa, Inc., 1980.

Included in this description of the Art Deco era in Tulsa is material related to Leon B. Senter, dean of Oklahoma architects and holder of the state's License Number 1, who began his career by designing several buildings in Okmulgee.

Warde, Mary Jane. "George Washington Grayson and the Creek Nation, 1843-1920." An unpublished dissertation, Oklahoma State University, 1991.

This study presents Creek political, economic and social history as viewed by one mixed-blood Creek. Chapter 4 deals with the economic development of the Creek Nation in the post-Civil War period, merchandizing, and the impact of the railroads on development of towns such as Okmulgee.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Now the Wolf Has Come: The Civilian Civil War in the Indian Territory." The Chronicles of Oklahoma 71 (Spring 1993):64-87.

This article deals with the impact of the Civil War on civilians of the Five Tribes and emphasizes the destructiveness of the conflict. The devastation and resulting mass migration led to the selection of Okmulgee as the site of the Creek capitol in 1867.

Works Progress Administration. "Indian-Pioneer History." Microfiche. Western History Collection. University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma. Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

The "Indian-Pioneer History," on microfiche and hard-bound, contains many useful interviews of Okmulgee's black, Creek, and white settlers. Particularly interesting is Volume 5, pages 96-102, describing Indian Cemetery as it appeared in 1937.

#### Newspapers

The Capital News. Okmulgee, Indian Territory. 1904-1905.

The Okmulgee (Oklahoma) Daily Democrat. 1921-1924.

The Okmulgee (Indian Territory, Oklahoma) Chieftain. 1904-1917.

Interviews Conducted in Okmulgee, Oklahoma

Baldrige, Keith. June 17, 1993. Tract 1.

Gray, Granville. June 18, 1993. Constantine Haniotis House, 426 South Central Avenue.

Harris, Lillian Davis. June 14, 1993. Stephen F. J. Davis House, 502 North Severs Avenue.

Jones, Lorene. June 28, 1993. Tract 3.

Maples, Sylvia. June 17, 1993. W. P. Morton House, 319 North Seminole; Jackson Apartments, 119 West Third Street

Parsons, Terry. July 7, 1991. T. H. McBrayer House, 601 South Wilson Avenue.

Rabbitt, Marilyn. June 10, 1993. Okmulgee High School (Board of Education)

Sallis, Ruth. June 11, 1993. Walton B. Claypool House, 411 South Delaware Avenue.

Thompson, Evelyn. June 10, 1993. 417 South Muskogee Avenue.

Wallace, Lilia M. June 14, 1993. Wallace House, 519 North Porter Avenue.

APPENDIX

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW OF AN  
ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORIC SURVEY  
FOR A PORTION OF THE CITY OF OKMULGEE, OKLAHOMA

for Dr. Mary Jane Warde, Historian

by Jeffrey K. Williams, AIA,  
Professor of Architecture  
Oklahoma State University  
August 29, 1993

Architectural form, like form in other arts, reflects the values and aspirations of society. This is a recognized condition which has proven true throughout many years of history and historical study.

This particular study clearly represents this fact, although in some very unique and interesting ways. While there has been a tri-racial history present in Okmulgee for many years, the history represented by this survey in the form of buildings illustrates only a portion of Okmulgee's history. This is because of the modest beginnings and limited economic success which Okmulgee faced during its early years. Chronicling primarily residential properties, the study area presents an opportunity to evaluate the personal side of Okmulgee's residents, identifying their aesthetic preferences, their economic means, and the pattern in which these developed.

The original Creek roots of the town are not represented in any building stock covered in the survey. The only portion of the study area which hints at the richness of this heritage is the Creek Indian Cemetery, which unfortunately is devoid of any significant structures. Thus, one third of the tri-racial history is nonexistent architecturally.

The earliest buildings of the study area are very simple buildings with plain exterior facades and unoriginal plans (from an architectural perspective). This is represented by the vernacular buildings referred to as "folk style" houses and "shotgun" houses. The best remaining examples of this situation are the shotgun house at 410 N. Alabama Avenue and the congregation of shotgun residences in the 600-700 blocks of N. Porter and N. Muskogee Avenues. These properties serve to illustrate a people whose economic means were extremely limited. The size and appearance of the home was either not of significant concern to its residents or improvements were beyond their means. The residents were most likely a modest people, for there was little external celebration in the physical expression of their buildings. They were built of

inexpensive and impermanent materials. Perhaps the majority of the resident's time was spent at the workplace, thus eliminating the need or desire for more elaborate dwellings. The properties are located in areas which were at the time the periphery of town, indicating they were the least expensive parcels of property as well. While the property at 410 N. Alabama illustrates that this was not solely a black response to building needs, the primary concentration of these properties was and still is located in what is the major concentration of black residents in Okmulgee. Thus we have represented the second major segment of the tri-racial history of Okmulgee.

When one turns to the more architecturally inspiring residences of the town one can see a development pattern which reflects the energy and power of the arrival of the railroad, the boom of oil discoveries, and the influx of masses of people. Due to these circumstances Okmulgee saw a rapid physical and cultural growth which established it as a major town in Oklahoma. This also happens to represent the history of the white culture of Okmulgee, the third segment of the tri-racial background of Okmulgee's past.

One of the most interesting illustrations of the increased means and energetic spirit is the profusion of the bungalows of the Craftsman movement which erupted in the north, west, south and southeast areas of the city. This profusion is illustrated by whole streets of development (S. Okmulgee, S. Morton, E. Eighth, E. Tenth for example). The best of these are the residences of 929 N. Chickasaw Avenue, 428 S. Okmulgee Avenue, 1014 E. Third Street, 621 Locust Avenue, 624 S. Okmulgee Avenue, and 1621 E. Eighth Street. Of these particular structures, the most interesting features are the exuberant beam patterns and deep porches of 428 S. Okmulgee Avenue and the Prairie Style influences of 624 S. Okmulgee Avenue. Typically these bungalows are small-scale wood frame construction, most often one story, with a porch or porches and wide overhangs. They often have exposed rafters or knee braces. While they



were typically sided with wood, some were more elaborately dressed in a permanent brick skin, usually reflecting some elements of the Prairie Style in its crafting. These are representative of the middle class that developed as a result of the boom development. There is clearly more energy and pride displayed by these structures than we see in the more simple earlier structures.

Another style of primarily middle class vernacular housing was that of the Queen Anne style. This frame construction was characterized by an informal organization of materials and building forms. Sometimes painted in energetic combinations of colors, the typical wood materials were horizontal siding at the lower elevations and shingle patterns or more delicate siding above the eave line. Distinctive roof configurations characterize these structures, and a few even have corner turrets. The best examples of this expression are the residences at 202 W. Second Avenue, 408 W. Eighth Avenue, 1242 & 1302 E. Ninth Street, 1310 E. Ninth Street, and 602 S. Seminole Avenue.

The best architectural examples of the study area exist within the areas identified as Tracts 1, 2 and 4. These are the areas which saw the wealthier citizens locating within them. The location of the various structures depends upon the time frame in which it was built. Typically the earliest structures were located in Tract 1, with the most recent occurring in Tract 4. These were typically wealthy oil or business people, bank executives or professionals. Often they could afford the services of an architect, and they certainly wanted to project a more worldly image. More than likely this segment of the population had a broader exposure to the variety of architectural styles which were prevalent during the first decades of the century. This is clear by the broad range of architectural styles which exist from this period: Prairie School, Classical Revival, Colonial Revival, Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival, Italianate, and Tudor Revival. In addition, there are a number of structures which fit into this category that can

only be described as Eclectic in style, having drawn on elements of several styles. This was certainly in vogue during this period in history.

There is a fairly even distribution of these styles, with the best of each style being exhibited by the following properties:

Prairie Style: (a predominantly horizontal appearance characterized by broad hipped or gabled roofs with large overhangs)

1022 E. Second St. (plain)

402 S. Grand Avenue (elaborate)

319 N. Seminole Avenue (one of first known architect designed residences)

A representative group of Prairie Style structures also exists along E. Sixth Street.

Classical Revival: (typically more formal arrangements of permanent materials which applied Classical ornamentation to the facade -- the best examples are treated primarily as symmetrical massings with a columned entry serving as the focal point of the design)

304 E. Ninth Street

500 N. Central Avenue

821 N. Grand Avenue

Colonial Revival: (a simpler, less formal massing and typically less expensive materials)

404 S. Okmulgee Avenue

722 N. Morton Avenue

Spanish Colonial: 1717 E. Eighth Street

501 S. Alabama Avenue

806 N. Grand Avenue

Italianate: (typically a rather formal, restrained, rectangular massing with horizontal emphasis, overhanging eaves with decorative bracketing, and strong entrances; they frequently included balustrades -- this style is, more than any other in the study area, most consistently represented by high quality examples)

501 S. Seminole

1319 E. Sixth Street

1400 E. Ninth Street

1700 E. Sixth Street

Tudor Revival: (often an eclectic combination of styles, these examples are typically dominated by half timber expressions on the facade)

820 Park

323 W. Second Street

All of these various styles share the common characteristic that they are built of more permanent materials (most often brick, but sometimes various types of stone). They clearly communicate a strong sense of permanence or stability. And they certainly represent an advance culturally beyond the vernacular buildings discussed earlier in this review.

In addition to the residential properties which dominated the study area there are several nonresidential buildings which warrant mention. These would be the Gothic Revival churches at 300 S. Seminole Avenue (First Methodist) and 211 W. Eighth Street, the beautiful Greek Revival

First Presbyterian Church at 401 S. Seminole Avenue, the predominantly Georgian Black Apartments at 428 S. Seminole Avenue, and the Classical Revival Board of Education Building at 318 E. Eighth Street. While all of these properties traditionally have some relation to residential usages, these are all located in Tract 2, and are more closely associated with the current downtown commercial areas than any residential area. As would be expected, these masonry structures convey a strong sense of permanence. They obviously have been well studied (designed) by architectural professionals. As such, they indicate a level of sophistication of the populace that has come a long way since the turn of the century.

As stated at the beginning of this review, these properties clearly represent the values and aspirations of the people for which they were built. Interestingly, there were no clear examples of either Art Deco or International Style buildings. While these were styles which were emerging shortly after the turn of the century, their impact typically was not felt by small towns such as Okmulgee until the twenties, thirties and forties. Considering the early arrival of the Depression era in Okmulgee, the absence of these styles also reflects the historical pattern which existed in the town, again making the point that what is built or not built is a reflection of the times.