

rise of irrigation agriculture and, by the late 1950s, Guymon had obtained a modern airport to serve several dozen locally-owned aircraft.<sup>18</sup>

## **Agricultural Change**

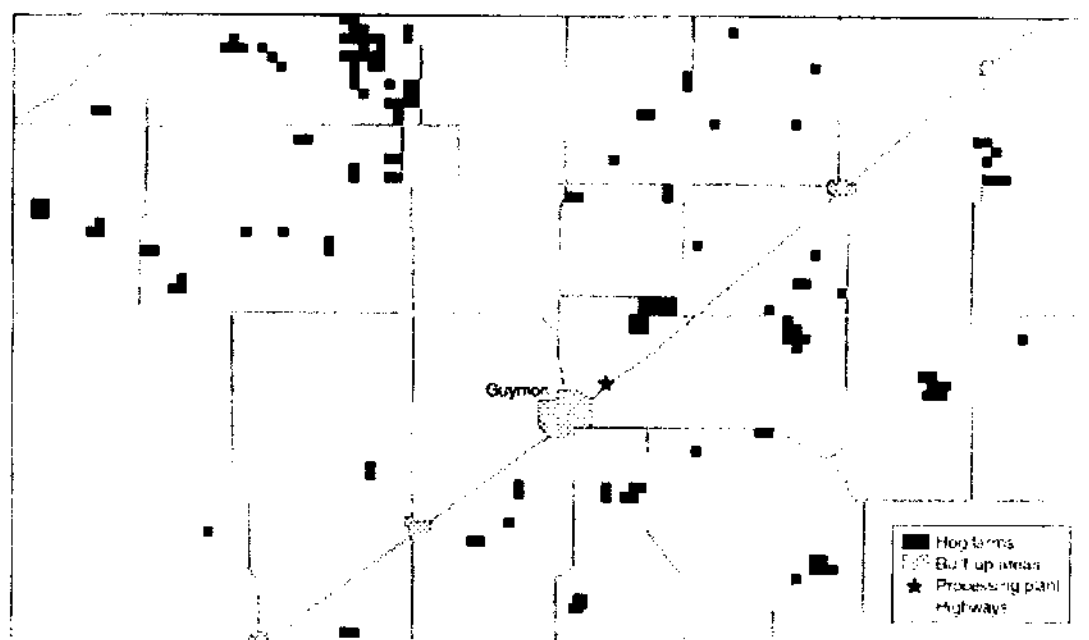
### **Ranching**

Ranching has long been the most important economic activity of Texas County, and it remains extremely important today. Ranchers, mostly from the Upland South, settled No Man's Land during the 1880s and 1890s. Ranching was the only viable economic activity before the arrival of the Chicago, Pacific, and Rock Island Railroad in 1901.

Ranching in Texas County has changed a great deal since first gaining a foothold in the days of the overland cattle drives of the 1880s. Rail shipping points pushed closer and closer to the Panhandle before 1901, allowing ranchers to manage larger herds on the open-range of No Man's Land. The last railhead was the wild cow town of Tyrone, located just within the Panhandle in what would become the northeastern corner of Texas County. Although farmers gained a permanent footing in the county beginning in 1901, they were suffered a great disadvantage until 1906, when open range grazing was finally prohibited. By 1910 ranchers had enclosed all but the most isolated ranches with barbed wire. Ranching has been significant in attracting and sustaining other forms of economic development in Texas County. Land sales to wheat farmers arriving from the Ohio Valley benefited Texas County ranchers during the 1910s. Many ranchers provided the capital needed to organize banks and supply loans to farmers and town merchants in the new railroad towns during the first decades of the twentieth century. Ranching generally rode ups and downs in beef prices that were similar to prices swings for wheat.

For example, the 1910s and 1940s were highly profitable, while the 1920s and 1930s were lean decades. In the fat years of the 1910s most Texas County ranchers improved their herds with purebred stock and during the 1940s they diversified their operations to include feed production, small scale livestock fattening, and scientific herd management strategies into their operations.<sup>19</sup> In lean years they usually went into debt and worked to devise more efficient production strategies. Ranchers were also instrumental in attracting new industries associated with the development of natural gas production after World War II.

In the three decades following the war the study area's ranching economy evolved from one of cow-calf operations supplying feeder cattle to stockyards in Oklahoma City and Kansas City to an ultramodern, vertically-integrated, and locally-focused livestock fattening industry that includes irrigated grain production, feed processing, and meatpacking. In the 1990s this system—enabled by the Hugoton Gas Field and the High Plains aquifer and built by the beef industry—attracted the pork industry. Today the “pork palaces on the Panhandle” harbor every aspect of the pork industry, from breeding to packing, in the same area (Figure 13).<sup>20</sup> In summary, the economy of Texas County was born and has continued to thrive for some 120 years on the production of livestock, to which all other economic activities tend to be tributary.



**Figure 13. Distribution of Hog Farms in the Texas County Study Area, ca. 1995.** Source: Hart, John Fraser and Chris Mayda. "Pork Palaces on the Panhandle," *Geographical Review* 87:3 (1997), 396-401.

### Cash Grain Farming

Cash grain farming developed in Texas County when railroads crossed the area in 1901. Early wheat farmers in Texas County came mainly from the lower Ohio and Missouri valleys. Their activities remained quite limited until 1914, when World War I drove up grain prices and accelerated farm settlement. The 1920s were very difficult for cash grain farmers in Texas County, as grain prices declined over the entire decade. Debt-driven increases in cultivated land during the 1920s spelled disaster during the next decade as the entire region's agricultural economy disintegrated in the deepest part of the Dust Bowl.

Wheat farming partially recovered during the 1940s, but it was significantly pared down from its 1920s extent. New Deal soil conservation efforts, which promoted

improved pasture and soil-conserving crops such as alfalfa, worked to reduce the acreage in wheat cultivation. In 1940, however, much land was returned to wheat cultivation in support of the war effort. Wheat production was lucrative throughout the 1940s, which allowed farmers to pay off debts accrued in the previous two decades. Wheat farmers generally increased the scale of their operations with larger machinery developed after 1945.

The dry 1950s convinced Panhandle farmers that drought would always be a hazard. Recent natural gas development, however, allowed grain farmers to better cope with the uncertain climate of the High Plains in two important ways. First, natural gas royalties carried landowners through hard financial periods when crops failed or prices were depressed. Second, before the 1960s and widespread rural electrification, natural gas played a pivotal role in effecting the development of surface irrigation in the Panhandle. Rotary drilling, an oilfield technique perfected much earlier, had no problem tapping the High Plains aquifer, but it was the electric pump, powered by a small generator running on (often free) locally-produced natural gas, which allowed Texas County farmers to draw fossil water up several hundred feet to the fields on the surface. Early surface irrigation was especially important in the expansion of alfalfa and grain sorghums that were a growing part of the beef production system.

During the 1970s the electric pump running from a natural gas generator evolved into a spectacular contraption known as the center-pivot irrigation system. These quarter-mile long sprayers rotate in a 160-acre square and irrigate about 130 acres using electric motors to pump water and drive rotation motors. Where natural gas is available to the landowner, both the energy and water inputs are essentially free. The result is one of the

highest concentrations of irrigated grain production in the United States, a fact made quite visible when flying over Texas County.

### **Ethnicity**

Manifestations of ethnicity on the Texas County cultural landscape are not of great consequence in relation to this study. New Mexico Hispano sheep herders briefly occupied and utilized the Oklahoma panhandle region prior to the arrival of cattle ranchers in the 1880s, perhaps even leaving their mark on the landscape in the form of adobe houses, as in the one known to have existed in Hooker in 1903. Throughout the historical period under study (1901-1960), there were very few people of Hispanic heritage in Texas County. In the last two decades of the twentieth century a large wave of Hispanic migration began to dramatically change the ethnic makeup and culture of the area, but this topic is not the subject of this study.

African-Americans have not had a visible presence in the three survey towns. According to the U.S. census of population, there was one “negro” person in Texas County in 1910, seven “black males” in 1920, none in 1930 or 1940, and two in 1950. African-Americans have not had a significant role in the history of Texas County.

In its most ethnically-diverse census year during the period under study, 1910, less than one in 20 people living in Texas County were of foreign ancestry (Figure 14). Most of these were German farm families who had relocated to the vicinity of Hooker to farm wheat. The graph below shows the number of foreign-born white people and their proportion of the total population of Texas County over the span of the period under study.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total Population</b>	<b>Foreign Whites</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>1910</b>	14,249	643	4.51
<b>1920</b>	13,975	380	2.72
<b>1930</b>	14,100	274	1.94
<b>1940</b>	9,896	158	1.60
<b>1950</b>	14,235	141	0.99

**Figure 14. Foreign-Born Whites as a Percentage of Population, Texas County, Oklahoma, 1910-1950.** Source: United States Census of Population, various years.

Prior to 1917, the Hooker Advance lauded its German population and published articles in German. The population was large enough to support a German Evangelical Lutheran Church. After 1920, however, the ethnic German population faded in distinctiveness, most likely through conscious assimilation. By the 1950s, the foreign-born population had declined to less than one percent, making Texas County one of most ethnically homogenous counties in Oklahoma. As late as 1960, when the total population of Texas County was 14,162, only nine non-white males over the age of 21 were living there.

### **Industry (Other than Energy Related)**

Of the three study towns, Guymon was the only town containing significant manufacturing activities during the study period. Until the 1950s the only manufacturing in Hooker were printing and publishing, represented by the Hooker Advance Building (108 West Glaydas Street), ice production, small-scale farm apparatus production, and electric utilities. In addition to these, Hooker has always been a center for small grain

storage and wholesaling, an activity represented by the Cargill Elevator (Broadway Street and Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad) and the National Register listed [1983] Wheat Pool Elevator Company elevator (off Texas Avenue). Goodwell has never had a manufacturing base, although it does have a large grain elevator, the Farmer's Elevator Company Concrete Elevator ("C" Avenue and Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad).

Guymon's historic industries were, in order of importance, petroleum processing (discussed below), farm equipment manufacturing, food processing, sheet metal fabrication, and printing and publishing. The farm equipment sector included firms such as Kings Welding and Machine, Dandee Manufacturing Company (located at First and Main Streets, south of the commercial section), Plains Manufacturing Company, and the Adams Hard-Facing Company (Fifth and Elm). The food processing sector was represented by Bill's Bakery (Fourth and Ellison), the Guymon Coca-Cola Bottling Company (1307 North Main), the Tri-State Food Bank (Second and Quinn), Perry Mill, Roby's Products, and Polf Potato Chips. The sheet metal trade was represented by Klines Tin Shop (105 North Main) and Guymon Sheet Metal (410 North Quinn). Printing and publishing was represented by Stanfield Printing (108 West First) and the Guymon Observer (121 North Main). In addition to these, Guymon also had an ice plant that utilized the abundant natural gas of the area.

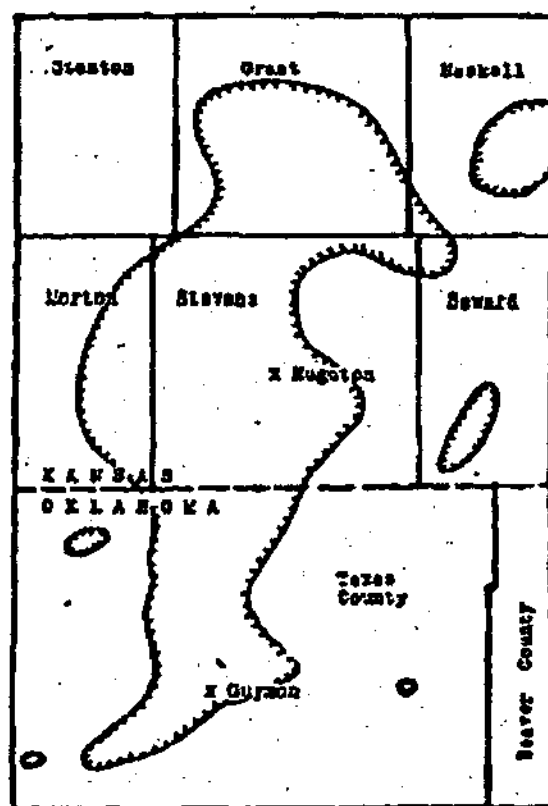
## **Energy**

Natural gas production and petroleum processing have been very important industries in Texas County since the mid-twentieth century. The energy industry accounted for the

largest share of the industrial sector during the last few decades of the period under study (prior to 1960). More than half the county is covered by the giant Guymon-Hugoton gas field, one of the largest known natural gas fields of its kind in the world, which spans well beyond Texas County into Kansas and Texas.

The huge Guymon-Hugoton field was initially discovered in 1923, but was slow to develop due to the cost-prohibitive depth of the formation, which was two to three times as deep as comparable wells in central Kansas and Oklahoma. Fortunately for landowners in the vast gas field, drilling technology enabled large scale production—and lease money—just as they were nearly expelled from the area by drought, dust storms, and dismal farm prices.<sup>21</sup> Gas production in Morton and Stevens Counties in Kansas, which border Texas County, began in 1929.<sup>22</sup> By 1931 tens of thousands of acres of leases had been taken by major gas companies and two pipelines moved gas to the Chicago, Indianapolis, and Omaha markets.<sup>23</sup> The Oklahoma part of the field was confirmed in late 1936 when discovery wells near Hardesty, just east of Guymon, reached sweet gas at about 2,700 feet, revealing that the Hugoton gas field actually extended well into central Texas County. Within a few years the discovery had attracted pipeline companies to connect the field with markets in the central and north Great Plains and the Great Lakes region. The Oklahoma side of the field, however, remained essentially “shut-in” (without pipeline access). In the early 1940s Kansas gas producers began moving into Texas County in response to production restrictions by the Kansas Corporation Commission.<sup>24</sup>





*Outline of Hugoton Field*

**Figure 15. The Known Extent of Hugoton Giant Gas Field, March, 1940.** Source: "Kansas Gas Proration Forces Development in Guymon Area," *The Daily Oklahoman* [31 March 1940], 50.

So much high-quality gas was found during the early 1940s that the Oklahoma Corporation Commission (OCC), seeking to avert a price collapse and keep gas in reserve, soon repeated the earlier actions of its Kansas counterpart. In November 1942, with over 40 gas wells producing in the 30 by 8-mile strip of the field called the "Guymon sector," the Kansas Corporation Commission set production rules to require wells to be capped when pressure fell below a prescribed wellhead level. Soon afterward, however, the Interstate Oil Compact Commission advised states to set minimum wellhead prices for natural gas. By April 1943, war-induced fuel shortages in the Midwest had

prompted deregulation of oil and gas production. An immediate increase in gas well drilling was difficult, however, given equipment and manpower shortages, and the fact that no interregional pipeline had yet been constructed. When it became clear that private companies could not afford the steel to build the necessary line, the War Department agreed to supply steel for a 16-inch pipeline if a company could complete the project by December. Cities Service Gas Company, which had long been active in the Guymon sector, won the contract on July 28, 1943 to construct a 26-inch pipeline from Guymon to Blackwell, Oklahoma and the Midcontinent mainline system that supplied the industrial areas of Missouri and Kansas. The Hugoton Field thus opened for rapid gas well development in late 1943 as part of the war effort.<sup>25</sup>

Generally, the natural gas boom in Texas County began in 1944 following pipeline completion and carried on to supply a growing demand for domestic natural gas as the postwar housing boom extended new suburbs around Midwestern cities.<sup>26</sup> The companies most responsible for the development of the Guymon Sector during this period were Cities Service, Phillips Petroleum Company, Skelly Oil Company, and Republic Natural Gas. In 1958, the Guymon-Hugoton gas field contained 1,373 wells producing 70 billion cubic feet of "sweet" natural gas per month was ranked as the second-largest natural gas reserve in the world. At least 60 different natural gas and oilfield-related businesses were active in Texas County. Guymon, with its county courthouse and airfield, became known as the "Sweet Gas Capital of the World."<sup>27</sup>

Several natural gas processing plants operated in the vicinity of Guymon beginning in the 1940s. Two companies, Panoma Corporation and Harrington & Marsh, Inc., extracted gasoline from natural gas through the process of compression, or

“stripping.” These facilities were located outside the Guymon study area. Natural gas refining also supported several Guymon-area plants that produced carbon black, a material used in the manufacturing of steel and tires. By 1944 two carbon black plants were operating in the Guymon Sector, one by Cabot Carbon Company and the other by General Atlas Carbon & Chemical. That year Cabot Carbon began work on a third plant near Guymon.<sup>28</sup> Carbon black plants in the Guymon area during the 1950s and 1960s included Atlas Carbon Company, B & H Foundry, and Cabot Carbon Company. None of these facilities, however, are represented by the built environment of the Guymon study area.

Three minor oilfields were also developed in Texas County during the late 1950s and early 1960s. The first was the Southeast Camrick field, located southeast of Guymon. Oil was discovered there in 1953 at about 6,700 feet in the Purdy sands. In May 1956, after several years of exploration, Parker Petroleum discovered oil at the Northwest Eva field, located west of Guymon. Northwest Eva’s oil was found in the Keyes sand at 4,410 feet. The third field, East Postle, was discovered in 1962 at a location northwest of Guymon at depth of 6,450 feet.<sup>29</sup>

### **Depression/Recovery**

The federal government had a strong presence in Texas County during the 1930s and 1940s. Because of its size, county seat status, and centrality, Guymon housed most of the New Deal program administrative offices. These included the Production Credit Corporation (PCC), the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA), the Civil Works Administration (CWA), the Agricultural Adjustment Administration (AAA), the

Works Progress Administration (WPA), and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC).<sup>30</sup> The PCC loaned money to farmers and ranchers in the area. The FERA provided destitute families with emergency assistance. The CWA put unemployed men to work grading roads and leveling fields. The AAA developed programs that paid farmers not to plant crops and purchased (and destroyed) livestock from farmers who could not afford feed. Both the WPA and the CCC provided area men with local jobs such as constructing stock ponds and small lakes that worked to rehabilitate the land and help agriculture recover. After the war, Texas County farmers established a water conservation district that brought a U.S. Soil Conservation Service office to Guymon. The federal government's soil conservation efforts have been credited not only with allowing agriculture to quickly bounce back after the 1930s, but also with averting a repeated disaster during the more severe drought of the 1950s.<sup>31</sup>

Goodwell resident H. H. Finnell, professor and director of the agricultural experiment station at Panhandle A&M College (OPSU), has been recognized as having played an especially important role in getting the federal government to institute soil conservation measures that adapted cultivation practices to the fickle precipitation regime of the High Plains. Finnell was a proponent of contour listing and terrace construction that worked to preserve the required moisture and bacteria levels necessary to sustain topsoil and keep it from blowing away.<sup>32</sup>

## **Historical Themes of the Three Study Towns**

### **Goodwell**

#### Founding and Naming

Goodwell was founded as a railroad town on the Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific Railroad when it was constructed in 1901. According to area lore, the town was named by railroad workers who enjoyed the high quality water from a well at the site. A post office was opened at Goodwell on 16 June 1903. Goodwell was incorporated on 2 January 1917.<sup>33</sup>

#### Natural Resources

Water, whether used for human consumption, filling steam locomotives, or irrigating crops, has been the most significant natural resource over the long term in Goodwell. Like the other two study towns, Goodwell is located adjacent to the Guymon-Hugoton gas field region and benefited from population and economic growth from oil industry workers during the middle part of the twentieth century. The third most important natural resource in Goodwell is high quality topsoil. Together, groundwater, natural gas, and topsoil are the natural resource bases of Goodwell and Texas County generally.

#### Agriculture

Goodwell initially grew as a railroad town serving the local ranching and winter wheat farming area of southwestern Texas County. The primary economic motor of Goodwell

is Oklahoma Panhandle State University, originally named Panhandle A&M College, which is a regional agricultural institution of higher education.

### Commercial Establishments

At least six newspapers have existed in Goodwell at one time or another, including *The Goodwell Gazette* (founded in 1928), *The Goodwell Independent* (founded in 1920), *The Goodwell News* (founded in 1908), *The Goodwell Eagle* (founded in the 1920s), *The Goodwell Sentinel* (1950-1952), and *The Goodwell-Texhoma News* (1993-present). Other commercial establishments included a bank, groceries, gasoline service stations, hardware stores, and other activities that generally provided goods and services to the local residents.

In terms of wholesaling and manufacturing, in 1930 Goodwell contained two grain elevators along the Rock Island Railroad right-of-way—one 13,000 bushel capacity ironclad elevator built in 1915 and a new (1930) concrete one of 125,000 bushel capacity—owned by Farmer’s Elevator Company. Adjacent to the elevators were the oil storage facilities of the Smith Oil Company and Champlin Refining Company, each with a storage capacity of 20,000 gallons.

Goodwell’s commercial district, which was located on Main between First Street and Third Street, never exceeded two blocks in size. In 1930 the little strip of commercial buildings housed the Goodwell Hotel, two print shops, two drug stores, a pressing shop, a bank, a few offices and miscellaneous stores, two corner filling stations, a feed store, a carpentry shop, a garage, a tractor repair shop, and the Big Jo Lumber Company. Since the 1950s, a variety of other establishments have occupied these

buildings, but they have not worked to preserve the building stock. Except for a couple of convenience stores, Guymon, which is only nine miles northeast, has essentially terminated all commercial activity.

### Town Growth and Residential Development

Goodwell has a history of slow growth. Early Goodwell was a classic example of a railroad T-town in which the commercial district was aligned along a Main Street that intersected the railroad right-of-way at a 90 degree angle. This focused business properties along a single axis during the earliest years of settlement. Nevertheless, Goodwell has always been in the shadow of Guymon, which is illustrated by the fact that it was not formally incorporated until 1917. Had it not been for some political good fortune in 1909, the town probably would have dissolved by mid-century. In 1909 Goodwell landed the agricultural college, which gave it a new *raison d'être*.

The town's population grew twice during the twenty five years following World War II: first in the late 1940s when veterans came to college under the G.I. Bill, and again in the late 1960s when their children—the Baby Boom generation—also attended college. Since 1970, however, Goodwell's population has been static at best. The residential pattern of the town reflects the two population influxes of the late 1940s in the Minimal Traditional and Early Ranch house styles, as well as the 1960s in modest brick Ranch houses.

The town was never large or complex enough to develop distinct patterns of social geography and it appears to have never had significant zoning ordinances. Residential patterns reflect merely changes in the street grid, themselves artifacts of the original plat.

Because of the town's very slow growth, Ranch style houses of the 1960s and mobile homes of the 1980s are interspersed among earlier bungalows and austere kit houses of the 1920s.

### Schools and Churches

Goodwell contains three Protestant churches: Goodwell Baptist Church, Panhandle Centenary United Methodist Church, and the Church of Christ.

The most significant periods of growth in Goodwell are associated with the expansion of higher education. In 1909 the Oklahoma Legislature designated Goodwell as the location of a state agricultural school. In 1921 the Legislature expanded the school to become a two-year institution and renamed it the Oklahoma Panhandle Agricultural & Mechanical College (Panhandle A&M College). In 1925 it became a four-year, baccalaureate-granting college. The name was changed to Oklahoma Panhandle State College in 1967. The current name of the institution, Oklahoma Panhandle State University of Agriculture and Applied Science (OPSU), was formalized in 1974.<sup>34</sup>

Because of the near-stasis of population in Goodwell and the relatively low enrollments over the years at OPSU, much of the campus landscape and built environment remain essentially unaffected by the integrity-reducing change characteristic of growing institutions. The low level of landscape change is verified by the 1930 Sanborn maps. The cornerstone of the Science Building was laid November 10, 1927.<sup>35</sup>



### Politics and Government

According to area folklore, following statehood an informal agreement between civic leaders in Goodwell and Guymon arranged a voting pattern that allowed Goodwell to obtain the agricultural school and Guymon to get county seat status.<sup>36</sup>

Local government in Goodwell operates using a Mayor/Town Council model. There is a mayor, a town clerk, a town treasurer, five city councilors, and a five-member zoning board. The Goodwell Police Department is responsible for providing police services and protection to the residents of Goodwell and Oklahoma Panhandle State University. The department has three paid full-time officers, one paid part-time officer and five volunteer reserve officers. The Goodwell Fire Department provides fire protection for the Town of Goodwell and Oklahoma Panhandle State University. The department also provides services to rural areas outside of the town, and assists other departments when needed outside of the county and state. The department has 20 volunteer fire fighters. The Goodwell Ambulance Service provides ambulance service to the residents of Goodwell, Oklahoma Panhandle State University, and a 220 square mile area around the town. The service has 10 volunteer personnel, all licensed EMT-Basic or above.

### Cultural and Social Aspects

For a community so small, Goodwell has a wide range of cultural amenities. University programs offer the area a great variety scientific exchange, performing arts, and sporting events that would otherwise not exist. Goodwell has had at least six newspapers during its history.<sup>37</sup> The most significant cultural amenity is a first-rate historical museum, the

(1951) No Man's Land Historical Museum (207 West Sewell Avenue). The museum was built by the No Man's Land Historical Society, which formed on October 3, 1934. With leadership of several leading Panhandle ranchers and educators, the historical society acquired many artifacts that attract visitors from around the region. The museum was constructed with \$30,000 raised locally by the historical society and a matching grant from the Oklahoma Legislature. The museum today is an excellent facility that houses archaeological, historical, and local cultural exhibits and sponsors public education programs.<sup>38</sup>

The social geography of housing in Goodwell is determined by the presence of Oklahoma Panhandle State University. In 1970, only 54 percent of the 449 dwellings were single-family units, and 63 percent of the occupied housing was rented. That year, one in five dwellings were mobile homes—scattered throughout the town—and nine percent of the housing stock was vacant. A 1979 OEDA report described Goodwell to be in need of capitalization to improve housing quality and retail services.<sup>39</sup>

### Population Changes

Goodwell may be best described today as a small, commuter-oriented college town/agricultural service center lacking any significant commercial or industrial function. Never a large town, Goodwell would more than likely not have survived the early part of the century without the presence of the college. Having attracted scarcely 500 people in 1930, Goodwell, like most towns in the southern high plains, lost over a quarter of its population during the “dirty thirties.” Neither was population recovery spectacular during mid-century: the two significant population gains resulted from years of increased

postsecondary enrollment, first in the late forties when veterans enrolled under the G.I. Bill, and again in the late sixties, when the baby boom generation reached college age. These surges were typical of college towns during the century.

What is unusual is that despite increasing enrollments in the late 1990s, Goodwell has not experienced a similar surge of population in recent years. The 2000 census enumerated a population of 1,192, significantly lower than the town's 1970 high of 1,456. That year, the college enrollment was 1,341 and the population of college-age (18 to 24) residents made up nearly two-thirds of the town's total population, an amazingly skewed proportion even for the smallest of college towns. Even with a significant commuter population in 1970, Goodwell had become essentially the living quarters of the few resident college students, faculty, and staff.

During the 1970s, OPSU enrollment steadily declined and the population followed.<sup>40</sup> Modest enrollment and population growth have followed since the 1980s as the service area of the university has expanded into Texas and Kansas. This is perhaps due in part to the increasing tendency for students, faculty, and staff to commute to Goodwell. Many students who do not commute occupy mobile homes on the perimeter of town. This highly transient population supports a few convenience stores, but most other retail and professional services have long since gravitated to Guymon. Commuting and a fondness for mobile homes have weakened capitalization of existing housing stock, much of which has become vacant and derelict.

## **Guymon**

### Founding and Naming

Edward T. "E.T." Guymon was born in Illinois in 1859. In his early 20s, he came west to McPherson, Kansas, where he worked as a grocery store clerk. Eventually, Mr. Guymon acquired an interest in the store. The Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad began pushing southwest in the spring of 1888 and reached Liberal, Kansas. Mr. Guymon established the Star Grocery Company in Liberal. In the 1890s Mr. Guymon speculated the next town to come up along the future railroad would be west of the Beaver River. He purchased a section of land, which eventually became the original town, known as Sanford, and established his Star Mercantile Company on the site now occupied by Stanfield Printing. Legend has it that the railway freight agent so often confused Sanford with Stratford (another town on the line), that he changed the name to Guymon, since Star Mercantile was the only recipient of freight at the location anyway.<sup>41</sup>

### Natural Resources

The two most important natural resources relative to the historical and continued development of Guymon are water and natural gas. Water, or the lack of it, in regard to agriculture, has been the primary factor in population change in Guymon during the twentieth century, but discussion of its role is reserved for the section on agriculture below.

The giant Guymon-Hugoton natural gas field has been significant to the economy of Guymon. The first experimental well in Texas County was 3,040 feet deep, drilled by a local company near Texhoma between November 1922 and December 1923. Because

no pipeline or storage infrastructure for natural gas existed at the time, the estimated 15 to 30 million cubic feet of natural gas from this well was not utilized. The deep Tertiary sands of the High Plains region would continue to confound developers and petroleum geologists until new deep drilling techniques were invented in the 1940s and new petroleum exploration technologies were developed in the 1950s and 1960s. While natural gas-related firms were located in Texas County in 1940, by 1948 there were three natural gas-related firms in the Guymon area.<sup>42</sup> Today, natural gas is the power source for irrigation in Texas County.

### Agriculture

Settlement surged for three decades after the drought of the 1890s, as farmers growing cotton and small grains flocked to the region. The war time demand and government incentives for wheat production in the 1910s and then large-scale mechanization in the 1920s brought far more of the region's land into cultivation than could be sustained during times of drought. Thus in the 1930s, the lack of adequate rainfall produced the environmental disaster of the Dust Bowl, and the decline of regional population.

Since mid-century, technological advances have allowed intensive agricultural exploitation of the Ogallala aquifer. This cheap, high-quality water source has enabled intensive commercial grain production, which is the base of the local livestock fattening and meat processing industries. This sector of the present economy is all but entirely the realm of corporate agribusiness based elsewhere, and has been criticized by environmentalists as ecologically and economically unsustainable. Nevertheless, firms that specialize in the intensive production of grain and livestock and the processing of

meat have created thousands of new jobs in the Guymon area in the last decade, making Texas County far and above the most agriculturally profitable in Oklahoma. The agribusiness demand for labor has attracted the largest influx of population to Guymon since the 1920s.

### Commercial Establishments

A saloon operated by Jim McQuinen has the distinction of being the first business in the town of Guymon. Other early day businesses in Guymon were a hotel operated by a Mrs. Wilson and the first newspaper, operated by R. B. Quinn and called The Herald, which came to Guymon from Hardesty.<sup>43</sup>

The first bank to open in Guymon was the Beaver County Bank, which was organized in 1901 by E. T. Guymon, John H. Lott, Charles Summers, and Ellison, with Guymon serving as the first president and largest stockholder.<sup>44</sup>

In his biography of H. C. Hitch, historian Donald Green surveyed the advertisements from the 1910 Guymon Herald. In the town's most populous census year, Green captured a snapshot of Guymon's commercial landscape, which included the following establishments: the J.G. McLarty Grocery; Langston Hardware Company; the City Meat Market; the Savage Drug Company; Dr. Lightner, Dentist; First National Bank; Ross and Fletcher (seed, feed, coal, and wagons); William Dutch, Bakery; the Star Lumber Company; the Star Mercantile Company; North Main Street Grocery; the Westland Hotel; Ennis & Dale Buick; Langston & Lyons EMFs (automobiles); Ennis & Dale Real Estate; Farmers Co-Operative Milling Company; Lon Holland, Blacksmith; J. C. Sheil Dry Goods and Clothing; Latham Dry Goods; Hazelton and Langston, Bonded

Abstracters; and the Dime Theater.<sup>45</sup> Guymon's county seat status naturally attracted most of the county's professional and legal services (abstractors, banking), which in turn tended to attract higher-order retailing such (automobile dealerships, theaters).

The Sanborn maps of Guymon in 1930 illustrate changes that had taken place during the 1920s boom years. The core area of Guymon's business district was North Main Street between Fourth and Sixth Streets. On North Ellison at the railroad right-of-way were two modern brick-clad hotels, the Chenault Hotel and the Willoquhby Hotel. Nearby was the Pierce Petroleum Company's oil storage facility and Guymon's three grain elevators: the old (1897) Rogers Grain Company elevator at South Main and the railroad; the (1920) Light Grain and Milling Company 22,000 bushel grain elevator; and the Guymon Equity Exchange elevator, which had been rebuilt in 1916. The Guymon First Church of the Nazarene was located at First and Main, and the brick-clad South Side School was at East First and South Sullivan.

Guymon has had several newspapers over the years. These include: *The Guymon Daily News* (1934-1938), *The Guymon Democrat* (1907-1919), *The Guymon Herald* (190?-1925), *The Guymon Observer* (1946-present), *The Guymon Tribune* (1921-1926), *The Guymon Daily Herald* (1950-present), *The Oslo Posten* (1910-191?), *The Panhandle Herald* ([Guymon] 1925-1941), *The Panhandle News-Herald* (1941-1950), and *The Texas County News* ([Guymon] 1931-1941).<sup>46</sup>

### Town Growth and Residential Development

Guymon's commercial district emerged soon after its platting in 1902 along Main Street directly north of the Rock Island Railroad. Street paving commenced in early 1910 when

some 10 miles of Guymon streets were paved by W. C. Ondler, who pulled a grader with a gasoline traction engine.<sup>47</sup> Also that year the first brick business building was constructed on Main Street to house the C. Summers and Sons Dry Goods Store.<sup>48</sup> Main Street merchants had also planned a drainage system for the business district that year.<sup>49</sup>

The earliest residential area was located two to three blocks west of the business district along the north-south axis of Academy Street between West First Street and West Twelfth Street. Here were situated the homes of the relatively affluent citizens of the 1920s. It should be noted that this area generally does not have the same opulence of comparable neighborhoods of oil boom towns elsewhere in the state.

By the 1950s residential infilling continued around the initial business and residential section, including into a triangular area southwest of the Rock Island tracks between Fifth Street and May Street. Along the western and northwestern periphery of Guymon newer subdivisions composed of Ranch style homes built during the 1960s and 1970s expanded the city westward. Publicly-subsidized housing constructed during the 1960s and 1970s predominates in the northeastern quadrant of Guymon, and mobile homes are quite common in the southeastern section near the newer Highway 54 Bypass.

### Schools and Churches

Guymon contains many Protestant churches and one Catholic church. These include Guymon First Baptist Church (601 North Academy); Northridge Freewill Baptist Church (1738 North Oklahoma), Calvary Baptist Church (619 South May Street), Sunset Lane Baptist Church, Tabernacle Baptist Church (709 N. Ellison), Grace Southern Baptist (115 Northwest Tenth Street), Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses (1023 N Sunset Lane),



Victory Memorial Methodist Church, Panhandle Hispanic Ministry (104 Northwest Sixth Street), First Presbyterian Church (310 Northwest Seventh Street), St. Stephens Episcopal Church (6080 Sunset Drive), First Pentecostal Holiness (1007 Ellison Street), First Apostolic Church-United Pentecostal (1011 North Crumley Street), Lighthouse Tabernacle Pentecostal Church (1029 Knutson Street), Church of the Four Square Gospel (--), The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Memory Lane), First Assembly of God, St. Peters Catholic Church, First Church of God, First Christian Church, Church of Christ, Trinity Lutheran Church (1212 N. Crumley Street), Church of The Nazarenes (2214 North Sunset Lane), New Life Christian Center (405 North Main Street), Panhandle Bible Center (1901 North Lelia Street), Victory Center, Living Word Fellowship (802 North Roosevelt Street), and the Seventh Day Adventist Church (1710 North East Street).

The first school in Guymon was built on the site where the grade school in the south part of town is now located.<sup>50</sup> There is one public library in Guymon.

### Politics and Government

According to area folklore, following statehood an informal agreement between civic leaders in Goodwell and Guymon arranged a voting pattern that allowed Guymon to get county seat status in recognition of Goodwell as the location for the agricultural school.<sup>51</sup>

The Texas County courthouse, National Register-listed [1984], was constructed in 1927.

Local government in Guymon consists of a statutory council/city manager system.

Guymon has a comprehensive city plan and a zoning department. The city provides garbage service, gas, sewer and water to its citizens.

### Cultural and Social Aspects

The most important annual event in the Oklahoma Panhandle is the Pioneer Days Celebration, held on the second of May each year since beginning in 1933. The celebration commemorates the Oklahoma Organic Act (May 2, 1890), which established Oklahoma Territory and brought territorial government to No Man's Land. Activities such as parades, a rodeo, and the naming of a Pioneer Queen developed out of the area's spring cattle roundups and Independence Day celebrations of earlier decades.<sup>52</sup> Guymon also had a dancing club in the Summers Building.<sup>53</sup>

## **Hooker**

### Founding and Naming

The early history of Hooker exemplifies the optimism, competitiveness, and tenacity of Great Plains settlers in the early twentieth century. Like most plains settlements at the time, Hooker was a railroad town and, like almost all of those that survived, it was founded after tracks were laid. The Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific Railroad completed its line through area in 1901 and the town of Hooker was begun in the spring of 1902 by E. J. Albright. At Albright's point on the line in 1902 there was an old abandoned adobe house, a new frame section house built by the Rock Island, and two sod houses.

Albright converted the adobe dwelling into a post office and received recognition from the federal government on October 13, 1902. He decided to name the place after John "Hooker" Threlkeld, a rancher in the area. Despite recognition as a post office, only a handful of people arrived within the year, making Hooker not much more than a

campsite along the new railroad. The first frame residence was constructed in October of 1903 by F. T. Norbury.<sup>54</sup>

In February and March of 1904, under the subsidiary name of the Chicago-Oklahoma Town Company, D. W. Swem, A. S. Cobb, E. J. Albright, and others platted the town site that would become Hooker. Starting at the northwest corner of Section 34, they ran a straight line perpendicular to the railroad and named it Broadway. Meese, Fields, Ireland, Swem, Albright, Hooker, Beaver, and Chicago Streets paralleled Broadway on both sides of the tracks. The other streets were parallel to the railway, crossing the other streets at right angles. From the railway northwest these were Illinois, Glaydas, Imo, Clara, and Johns Streets. From the railway southeast the streets were named Clarence, Russel, Murray, Sheffield, and Cobb. The southeast portion of the plat also included two streets, Longnecker and Remmel, which were too far northeast to cross the tracks to the other side of the plat. The resulting plat of Hooker, with a gridiron street pattern parallel and perpendicular to the railway, created an original town oriented at exactly 45 degrees from the township and range survey.

The original town plat of 160 acres (the entire northwest quarter of section 34) was a somewhat crude example of what is known in the parlance of railroad town planning as a "T-town" plan. Actually, Hooker was an older design that railroad companies had discarded in the 1890s; it also reflected the high hopes of Albright and the other town founders in that it was composed almost entirely of business lots measuring 25 feet by 150 feet. By the time Hooker was platted in 1904, the trend was to plat only one side of the tracks, since usually only one side developed anyway, and to reserve business lots only for a few streets, notably the two perpendicular arterials.<sup>55</sup> Hooker benefitted

from the T-town's ability to attract merchants and grow a business district along the two main streets, Glaydas and Broadway.

As railroad townsite agents on the plains realized, most commercial development took place along one or two streets. They preferred the T-town plan because it concentrated development on two primary arterials that intersected to create single point of highest land values—the prime business location of the town—where only high-order services, typically banks, could absorb the expense. In Hooker's case this was Broadway (the spine of the plat) and Glaydas, the “main” street paralleling the tracks. Placement of the parallel street one or two blocks away from the railway protected buildings from the cinder fires, smoke, steam, and noise of the tracks; it was as close to the railway as comfort allowed. Like a magnet imposing economic order, this single intersection set the pattern of business development so that higher-order services, such as law, real estate, and upper-end retailers (jewelers) clustered near the banks, while stores, restaurants, and saloons accumulated farther out.<sup>56</sup>

Settlement in Hooker began immediately after the platting with newcomers arriving by rail and purchasing lots from Albright, the town site agent.<sup>57</sup> Apparently not satisfied with building houses on business lots, in November 1906 A. C. Murphy and J. S. Morris bought the H. O. Baker place, the southeast quarter of section 33, west of the original town. The eighty-acre Murphy-Morris Addition contained 28 blocks with all but two containing 12 larger residential lots measuring 50 by 140 feet. The addition conformed to the township and range grid, creating a dividing boulevard between it and the original townsite. The new street, which intersected the railway at a 45 degree angle, was named Jefferson Street.

Apparently working at the same time as Murphy and Morris, two brothers named Baker secured land north of the original townsite, in the southwest quarter of section 27, from a farmer named Ruggles. This 80-acre addition also conformed to the cardinal directions and was composed of 18 residential blocks, each with 16 lots measuring 50 by 150 feet. Northside Addition was divided from the original townsite by Panhandle Street; the other east-west streets were Madison Avenue and Dewey Avenue. From west to east beginning at Jefferson Street, the new north-south aligned streets of the addition were named Oklahoma, California, Missouri, Texas, Nevada, and Massachusetts.

Later that year Albright, through his Town Company, made another addition to Hooker called First Addition, which extended his original townsite eastward into part of the northeast quarter of section 34, rounding out the number of blocks to 100.<sup>58</sup> The platted area south of the tracks remained undeveloped because it was used as the city dumping ground.<sup>59</sup> History would prove Hooker as surveyed to be larger than necessary, particularly the area of the First Addition and the original town southeast of the railway. No significant development would ever take place there during the first half of the century.<sup>60</sup>

Nearly three years after lots began to be sold, on December 7, 1906, Hooker had attracted a few hundred settlers and merchants, a population large enough to apply for incorporation; it achieved incorporation in January 1907. The incorporated area included the original town site, the east side addition of the Town Company, the Murphy-Morris Addition, and the Baker Addition.<sup>61</sup>

### Natural Resources

Water was for years the most crucial resource relative to successful town development in Hooker. The first community water well was drilled in March of 1904. Population growth and increasing demand for water prompted an attempt to drill a deep well in 1911, which failed after reaching 1,053 feet. Thousands of trees were planted by early town settlers, but most succumbed to summer heat and aridity.

### Agriculture

Dry land wheat farming did not become the mainstay of the region until the outbreak of the First World War and the Great Plow-Up of the 1910s. In the first decade of settlement the primary crops were cotton, corn, and oats. Wheat was introduced later as farms mechanized. Other profitable dry land crops introduced with wheat included maize, kaffir corn, milo, cane, feterita, sudan, millet, barley, and broom corn. An Enid grain buyer was first to open shop on the Rock Island tracks in 1906. In November of 1907 the Bolin-Hall Company constructed a wood-frame elevator with a capacity of 18,000 bushels on the south side of the tracks. In 1908 the Liberal Elevator Company constructed the still-standing tin-clad elevator farther northeast with a capacity of 20,000 bushels.

Wheat production began to fuel Hooker's growth in 1914. In 1915, the Hooker Advance remarked that the area had been settled by a large contingent of wealthy, progressive German farmers, and the paper published in German twice per week.<sup>62</sup> In November 1917 Hooker exported 45 rail cars of broomcorn.<sup>63</sup> By 1920, Hooker exported about one-third of the wheat produced in Texas County. Even though there were massive

crop failures during the 1930s, wheat continued to be an important crop of the region throughout the twentieth century.

Although Hooker is located on the far northwestern periphery of possible dry land cotton farming, the first load of cotton was brought into Hooker during the fall of 1905.<sup>64</sup> Cotton was very profitable in 1905 and the area was far from the reach of the boll weevil, which was just then invading Oklahoma and Indian Territories from Texas.<sup>65</sup> Hooker's first cotton gin, located at the southeast corner of the Murphy-Morris Addition, west of the depot, was completed and opened for business in September of 1908. The four iron-clad buildings of the Hooker Gin Company included two storage buildings, the gin and oil press building, and a cotton house.<sup>66</sup>

Early in the century the many ranches in the Hooker area obtained blooded cattle such as shorthorns, Aberdeen-Angus, and Herefords. Early settlers also included quite a few dairy farmers who kept herds of Holstein, Guernsey, and Jersey cattle. In 1926, for example, local dairymen exported from Hooker a total of 50 tons of butterfat worth some \$40,000. Other profitable agricultural activities included poultry raising and hog farming. Prior to the 1930s the area produced orchard fruits, including apples, pears, plums, peaches, apricots, and cherries. Even a few grapes were produced. Cantaloupe production was important by 1917, when a cantaloupe growers organization was established in the area.<sup>67</sup>

Residents experienced a few "freak" dust storms in 1926. During the first five months of 1933, however, Hooker suffered through some 29 separate dust storms. The Dust Bowl days lasted until 1939, convincing as many as one-fourth of the residents to leave.

### Commercial Establishments

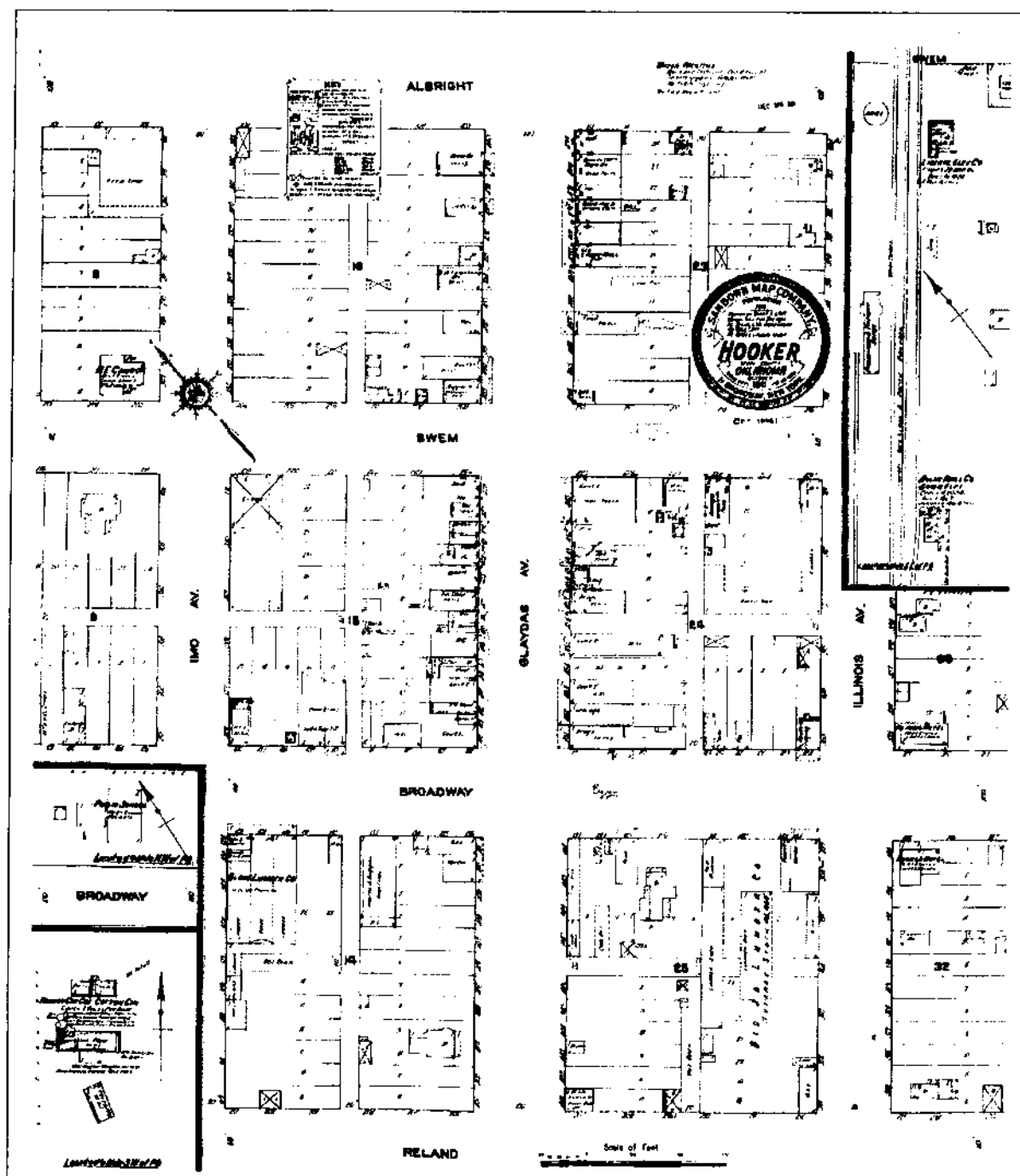
Compared with the other two towns of the study area, Hooker has a relatively good historical record of commercial activity. In 1911, when the town's population was approximately 700, the business district was confined to only two blocks centering on Swem and Glaydas from Albright to Broadway (Figure 16). Included in this area were the brick bank at 428 North Glaydas and a brick general store at 463 North Glaydas. Hooker contained no less than three hotels at this time: the frame Hooker Hotel on the southeast corner of Illinois Avenue and Broadway, just southeast of downtown; the frame Illinois Hotel on the northeast corner of Illinois and Broadway; and a lodging house across the street from the Illinois Hotel. Heavier commercial activities, including several lumber yards and warehouse space for hay and broomcorn, hugged the railroad right-of-way southwest of the business district. The largest church at the time was the Methodist Episcopal Church, which occupied the northwest corner of Imo and Swem.

In 1922, with an estimated population of 1,300, Hooker's commercial landscape had noticeably matured (Figure 17). The business district between Swem and Broadway (Glaydas) was filling with brick buildings. On the northwest side was a bank, a lodge hall, a post office, a drug store, a bake shop, and many other stores. On the southeast side was a dance hall, a drug store, a motion picture theater, and more stores. The three hotels built before 1911 were still there, and a new bank was located on the west corner of Glaydas and Broadway. The warehouse and lumber yards on the northeast part of Swem had expanded by 1922, and the automobile age had arrived by this date, as indicated by the automobile service station on the north corner of Glaydas and Broadway. Northwest of the business district, in the Rock Island right-of-way, were the (1903) Liberal Elevator

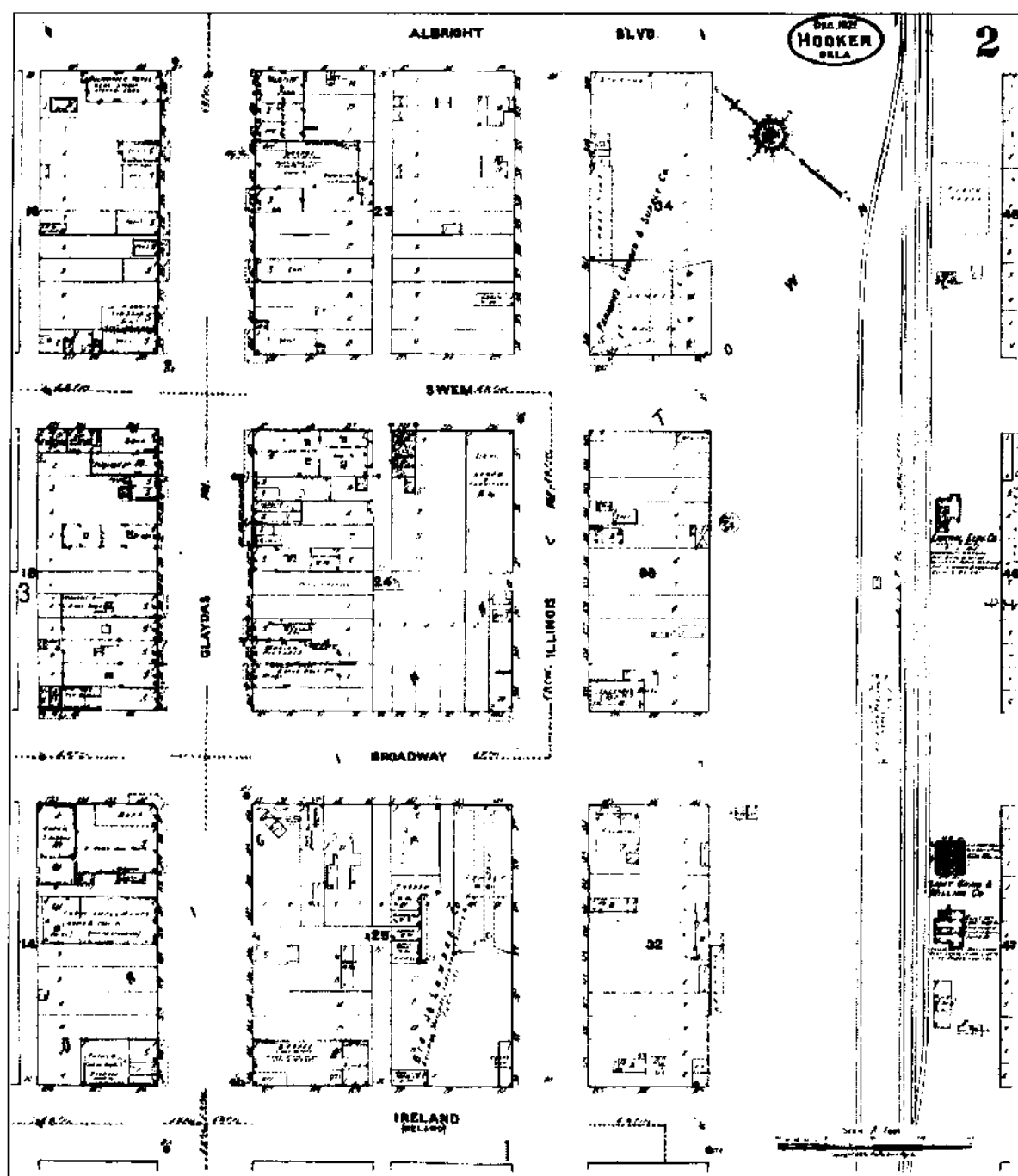


Company ironclad elevator, and two elevators operated by the Light Grain and Milling Company, one brick (1920) and another ironclad built in 1907.

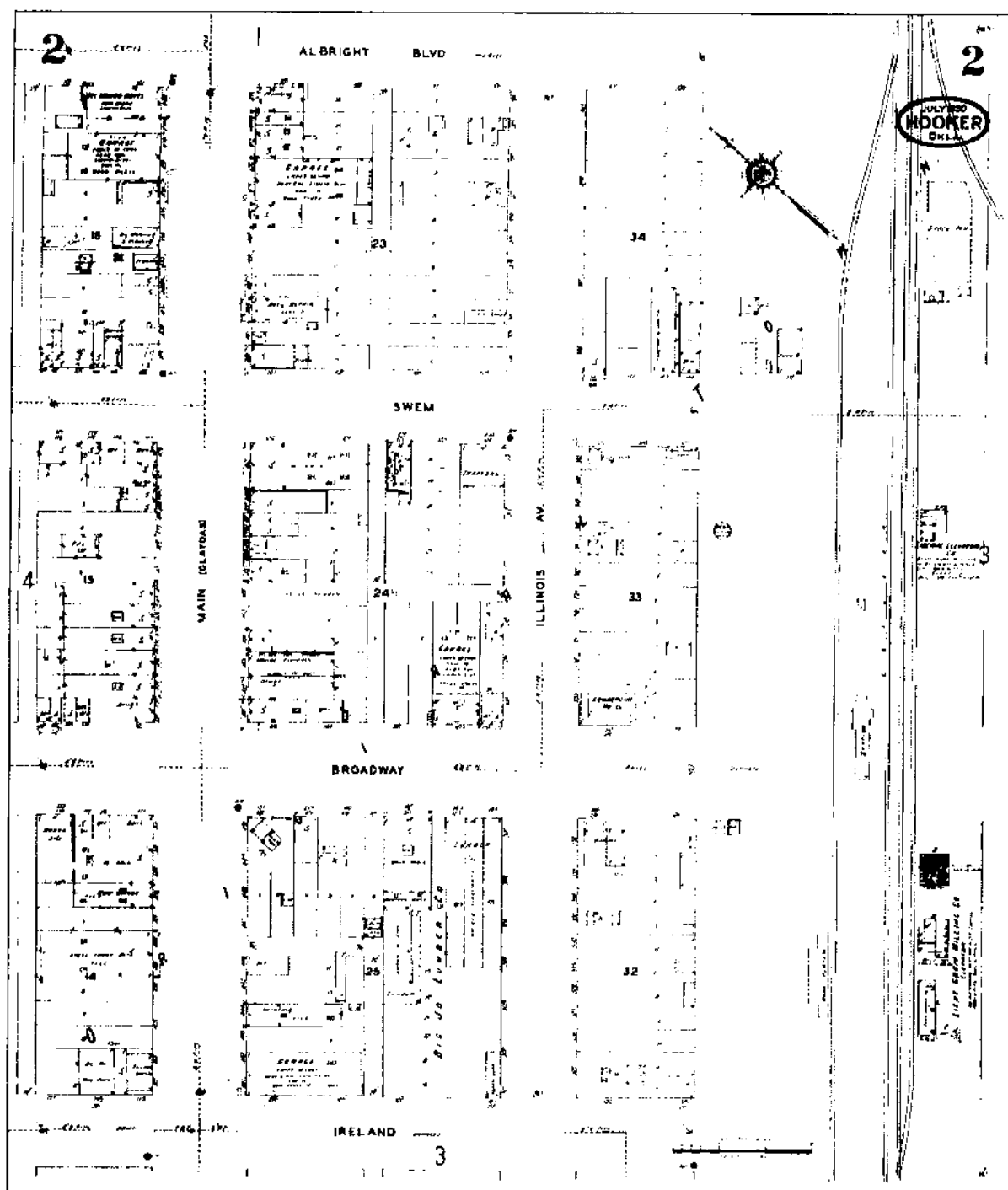
By 1930 Hooker had approximately 2,000 people and had added a considerable degree of commercial activity (Figure 18). The rising importance of the automobile is made clear by the presence of several new filling stations (corner of Swem and Albright on Clarence), new tourist cabins (between Swem and Albright on Clarence), and several new petroleum refining operations (Champlin, Sinclair, Phillips Petroleum, and Continental Oil Co.) located along the Rock Island right-of-way. Nearby, between Hooker and Albright Boulevard, was the new (1928) Oklahoma Wheat Pool Elevator, as well as the older structures. An ice plant had been added to the city power plant.



**Figure 16. Downtown Hooker, Oklahoma, 1911.** Source: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of 1911.



**Figure 17. Downtown Hooker, Oklahoma, 1922.** Source: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of 1922.



**Figure 18. Downtown Hooker, Oklahoma, 1930.** Source: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of 1930.

### Town Growth and Residential Development

Relative to the other Texas County towns in this study, Hooker got the latest start. It began as a classic example of a plains railroad town, serving a wheat-producing hinterland settled by Midwesterners in the first three decades of the twentieth century.

A passenger and freight depot, located southwest of the extant wood-frame grain elevator, was completed in the summer of 1905. By the time of Oklahoma statehood in 1907, Hooker was better tied to the nation than many towns throughout the Twin Territories. In that year the Rock Island drilled a well near the tracks, constructed a large wooden tank, and made Hooker a watering station. At least six trains, including passenger, express, and freight lines, arrived daily.<sup>68</sup>

The intersection of the town's two main thoroughfares—Swem and Glaydas—early became the commercial core of Hooker. Citizens Bank, located at the corner of Swem and Glaydas, was incorporated February 13, 1906 opened April 21, 1906, but did not move into their new building until January 15, 1907.<sup>69</sup> The Farmers and Merchants Bank (124 East Glaydas Street), was organized April 4, 1906.<sup>70</sup>

Hooker's first hotel, the Commercial Hotel, was constructed by Fred Rosenthal and J. N. Bixenman on the east side of Swem near the railroad in 1904.<sup>71</sup> The Hooker Hotel, a frame building on the south corner of Broadway and Illinois, was constructed soon afterward.<sup>72</sup> Other early commercial activities included the Ewing Livery Barn, which in 1905 was the largest building in town.<sup>73</sup> In 1906 W. H. Weedon opened a photography studio in a brick building on Glaydas.<sup>74</sup>

During the windy afternoon of June 1, 1908, a disastrous fire leveled most of the Hooker business district, including 33 business buildings in two full blocks and three

residences. Although there was little anyone could do to stop the fire once it ignited in the Hughes Building, it was trade day, so most of the area's farmers were in town with wagons and teams. Working quickly, they were able to save a remarkable amount of merchandise from stores and, although thirty-eight businesses were displaced, most stayed in business and were able to rebuild.<sup>75</sup>

After the great fire, many insurance companies refused coverage to Hooker businesses, prompting the town council and local businessmen to seek a reliable water source. In 1913, after five years of rebuilding, the town council conducted a municipal bond sale that funded the construction of a new municipal water service, as well as a natural gas plant and an electrical power generation plant. Located at the corner of Ireland and Illinois Avenue, it included a one-hundred-foot-tall water tower with a 75,000 gallon steel tank. The tank was an especially important investment for the future of Hooker, because it not only allowed business owners to obtain fire insurance, it conveyed to potential investors that the town was safe and progressive.<sup>76</sup>

The rebuilding of Hooker commenced in the summer of 1908. Hooker had three lumber yards at the time, including the Blake Lumber Company at Broadway and Imo and the Big Jo Lumber Company at Broadway and Illinois. Significantly, entrepreneurs R. H. Matthews and J. H. Morrison constructed a new brick kiln during the summer of 1908; their first production run of 60,000 bricks was sold in September. Wary of future fires, Hooker business owners overwhelmingly rebuilt with brick. As a result, much of Hooker's post-1908 commercial architecture consists of brick-clad commercial style buildings; for example, the Anders Building (213 East Glaydas Street), was constructed in 1908.<sup>77</sup> Since much of the reconstruction was done by the same builders and laborers

using similar techniques and decorative details, a strong feeling of architectural continuity developed along the Glaydas Avenue commercial corridor. This continuity is not only aesthetically appealing, it is representative of the rebirth of the town, its literal rising from the ashes of June 1, 1908. Among the most impressive properties built at this time is the National Register-eligible 1908 Farmers and Merchants Bank Building at 124 East Glaydas Avenue, which took over Citizens Bank upon reopening.<sup>78</sup>

In addition to the brick plant, in 1911 Hooker had several coal yards, machine shops, a wholesale dealer in oil and gasoline, and numerous wholesale and retail merchandise stores. The latter included such shops as Maj. P. C. Regenold's soda and confectionary shop.<sup>79</sup> In 1916 A. M. Peck built an ice house capable of storing two rail car loads of ice.<sup>80</sup> The Delmonico Hotel, located near the railroad tracks, opened August 1, 1917. A fire on January 21, 1921 damaged seven business buildings.<sup>81</sup> The Hooker telephone company was organized in 1907 when it took over a few early telephone companies.<sup>82</sup> Street improvement began in 1909 with grading and oiling by voluntary contributions from businesses. By 1915, the main thoroughfares had been paved with cinders.<sup>83</sup>

In 1910 Hooker had a population of 550, or four percent of the county population and within a year its population had grown to 700.<sup>84</sup> In 1915 The Hooker Advance (108 West Glaydas Street) advertised that the town had a high school, several churches, two banks, two grain elevators, a cotton gin, three two-story hotels, two restaurants, two lumber companies, two hardware stores, several general stores, grocery stores, produce houses, and two drug stores, as well as electric lights, cement sidewalks, and a new water system.<sup>85</sup>

An examination of the 1922 Sanborn map suggests that Hooker was a leader in establishing municipal services in Texas County. Publicly-owned water works, which were installed in 1918, were providing some 85,000 gallons of running water to Hooker each day. A steel water tower located at the intersection of the railroad, Illinois, and Swem provided 100 psi of water pressure to the town, which now had 20 double hydrants. Electricity for lighting was also provided by the Light plant and at Illinois Avenue and Ireland.<sup>86</sup> Telephone connections had also been established by 1922, which was relatively early for small towns in the Great Plains.

### Schools and Churches

Hooker settlers sought to bring organization and commercial efficiency to their community as early as March of 1904 with the establishment of the Hooker Improvement Association. The association initiated community amenities such as the Sabbath school, businessmen's association, and public school.

As was typical in new towns at this time, town site proprietors donated lots for churches. The first church lot grant was made to the Methodists in 1904 by E. J. Albright. In late 1906, a new Catholic Church was planned for the south side of tracks facing Swem. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) organized on March 17, 1907. A Seventh-Day Adventist Church was built in September 1907. A German Evangelical Lutheran Church, located at Russell Avenue and Broadway, was constructed in 1908. The Baptist Church, located at Jefferson and Panhandle, was constructed in 1909.<sup>87</sup> A new frame Christian (Disciples of Christ) Church located at Johns and Broadway, was completed in 1917.<sup>88</sup> Apparently, all of the original religious structures have been



removed or destroyed and replaced with buildings constructed at mid-century. Three religious structures were recorded in Hooker during this survey: the United Methodist Church (202 East Imo), St. John's Lutheran Church (301 North Jackson) and the First Church of the Nazarene (202 North Broadway). Today Hooker contains eight Protestant churches and one Catholic church.

The Hooker Public School cost the town \$3,000 and was operating as early as January of 1909.<sup>89</sup> Hooker Consolidated School, located on the northwest side of Broadway between Clara and Johns, was constructed in 1919. Hooker Elementary School (500 North Jefferson Street), a modern facility constructed about 1960 or later, is the only Hooker education-related property recorded in this survey. There is a small public library in Hooker.

### Politics and Government

A new post office was constructed on Gladys Avenue in 1904.<sup>90</sup> In January 1906 impending statehood prompted the formation of municipal government in Hooker with the appointment of a town trustee, justices, constables, a treasurer, and a clerk.<sup>91</sup> A year later Hooker was an incorporated community.<sup>92</sup> The year 1907 would be the last for the saloons in Hooker. Prohibition went into effect on statehood day in November and all the saloons closed.<sup>93</sup> In 1909 the Oklahoma legislature designated Hooker a county court town and it began to divide court operations with Guymon.<sup>94</sup>

Local government in Hooker consists of a statutory aldermanic type of government. The city is zoned and provides garbage service. Hooker is a participant in the Main Street Program and has participated in the Oklahoma Certified Cities Program.

### Cultural and Social Aspects

Over the years Hooker has produced at least three newspapers.<sup>95</sup> The Hooker Advance, which is still the town newspaper, was begun February 1, 1904.<sup>96</sup> Other early but soon unsuccessful newspapers included The Hooker Republican (1906) and The Farmers Voice (1909). Several lodges and social clubs, including the Odd Fellows, the Modern Woodmen of America, the Fraternal Order of Eagles, Masons, Knights of Pythias, Law and Order League, B.A.Y. New Star Homestead, and the Order of the Eastern Star were installed between 1905 and 1910.<sup>97</sup> The Hooker Metropolitan Band organized in 1906 under direction of J. N. Teats of Elk City, Kansas.<sup>98</sup> The Dime Theater, built several years before 1919, was remodeled that year and reopened as the Jewel Theater.<sup>99</sup> Another town band was organized in 1934 with Gerald Hollman directing that held open air concerts on E. J. Albright's empty lots.

A cemetery association was formed in December of 1904 and opened the Hooker Cemetery on a two-acre plot purchased from Charles Bradshaw located east of the new town site.<sup>100</sup> In 1930 the Lions Club completed work on the cemetery. The Hooker Cemetery (NW4, NW4, SW4 of Section 35, T5N, R17E), was recorded in this survey.

By 1922 Hooker's population had reached 1,300.<sup>101</sup> In 1927 the Beaver, Meade, and Englewood (B. M. & E.) Railroad reached Hooker from Beaver City, which, by way of the town of Forgan, linked Hooker to the Missouri, Kansas and Texas (M. K. & T.) system, making it the only town in the Texas County study area to have more than one rail connection. The spur connecting the B. M. & E. Railroad to the Rock Island outlined the east side of town (the surviving National Register listed Wheat Pool Elevator Company Elevator still rests along this abandoned line). This additional rail connection

made Hooker more competitive as a wheat market and helped it attract enough settlers so that by 1930, Hooker rivaled Guymon in population size, with about 2,000 people; but this figure would be its maximum during the century.<sup>102</sup>

#### Data Gaps Discovered in the Development of the Historic Context

This survey found that there was very little secondary source material relating to the history of the three study towns. Hooker was the only town with a single local history written about it, and this was quite limited. The survey was assisted by a few citizens who made available their private collections of old photographs and newspaper articles. Surprisingly, there is not a single historical overview of Guymon available, and even the Guymon Public Library (206 Northwest Fifth Street) does not retain a local history collection or vertical files. Despite the presence of Oklahoma Panhandle State University, Goodwell has had little written about it. Any future intensive level survey conducted in Texas County will be challenged by the paucity of local archives retained in the area.

## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> Oklahoma Economic Development Association (OEDA), Guymon Comprehensive Plan (Beaver, Okla.: OEDA, 1991), 14.

<sup>2</sup> Baird, W. David and Danney Goble, The Story of Oklahoma (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1994), 9-10, 16.

<sup>3</sup> OEDA, Guymon Comprehensive Plan, 14.

<sup>4</sup> Baird and Goble, The Story of Oklahoma, 72.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid., 61.

<sup>6</sup> Lynchings of suspected cattle thieves by cowboy vigilante groups was apparently common. Homesteading Midwesterners, called "Nesters" by the local Texans, were quite unwelcome. See T. E. Beck, "Cimarron Territory," Chronicles of Oklahoma 7 (June, 1929): 168-69.

<sup>7</sup> A 1911 referendum confirmed that open-range grazing would no longer be allowed. As historian Donald E. Green points out in his excellent story of the Hitch Ranch, the year 1910 is a good baseline for the closing of the open range in the Oklahoma Panhandle. Green, Donald E., Panhandle Pioneer: Henry C. Hitch, His Ranch, and His Family (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1979), 73-75.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid., 111-112.

<sup>9</sup> Lowitt, R., "From Petroleum to Pigs: The Oklahoma Panhandle in the Last Half of the Twentieth Century," Chronicles of Oklahoma 80:3 (2002), 265-266.

<sup>10</sup> Except for the 1930s, the Panhandle counties have generally outpaced all non-metropolitan counties in Oklahoma in terms of per capita income and agricultural productivity. Reasons include the fact that it has always had the smallest rate of tenancy and because it has had the greatest rate of mechanization. The first of these points is made by Lowitt, R. "If it Rains': Life in the Oklahoma Panhandle in the 1930s and 1940s," Chronicles of Oklahoma 80:1 (2002), 21-22.

<sup>11</sup> Pauline Hodges, "Jones and Plummer,"  
<<http://www.bvrcowchipnews.com/History%20Facts.htm>> Last accessed 07 June 2005.

<sup>12</sup> "It Looks Good," The Daily Oklahoman [14 August 1906], 3; "Mortgage for \$8,000,000 Recorded in Beaver Co.," The Daily Oklahoman [02 October 1906], 9; H. Roger Grant, "Electric Traction Promotion in Oklahoma." In Donovan Hoffsommer, ed., Railroads in Oklahoma (Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Historical Society, 1977), 102.

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<sup>13</sup> John Jakle, "Landscapes Redesigned for the Automobile," In Conzen, Michael P., The Making of the American Landscape (New York: Routledge, 1986), 296-297.

<sup>14</sup> Oklahoma Department of Transportation, "Planning and Research Division," <<http://www.okladot.state.ok.us/memorial/route66/consthistory/introduction.htm>> Last accessed 07 June 2005.

<sup>15</sup> Weslee Kinsler, "Oklahoma's U.S. Highways" <<http://www.wkinsler.com/highways/oklahoma.html#US%2054>> Last accessed 07 June 2005.

<sup>16</sup> Green, Panhandle Pioneer, 169-170.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid., 164.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid., 186-187.

<sup>19</sup> Ranchers in the Oklahoma panhandle region began upgrading their herds around 1910, replacing longhorn cattle with blooded stock imported from the Middle West. By 1920, the more successful cattlemen had completely improved their herds with Herefords and Angus. Baird and Goble, The Story of Oklahoma, 364-365.

<sup>20</sup> All but one day of the six-month life of a Panhandle pig unfolds in gleaming silver high tech hog barns, where animals are fed, watered, and monitored automatically. Their one truck ride is at most an hour long to one of several gargantuan, multinational-owned packing plants where scores of laborers—nearly all Spanish-speaking—efficiently transform livestock into sausage, bacon, and cold cuts. Hart, John Fraser and Chris Mayda, "Pork Palaces on the Panhandle," Geographical Review (1997) 87:3, 396-401.

<sup>21</sup> "Farm Owners Watch Kansas Oil Prospects," The Daily Oklahoman [09 July 1935], 13.

<sup>22</sup> "Hugoton Area Has Gas Play," The Daily Oklahoman [15 November 1929], 16.

<sup>23</sup> "Hugoton Gas Leases Sold," The Daily Oklahoman [30 April 1931], 21.

<sup>24</sup> "New Gas Field Showing in Oklahoma Panhandle," The Daily Oklahoman [13 December 1936], 46; "Hugoton Gas Field to be Developed," The Daily Oklahoman [16 May 1937], 49. One failed effort sought to connect the field with the industrial market of the Mesabi Range iron mining region of northern Minnesota. See "Hugoton Gas Line Planned," The Daily Oklahoman [21 August 1938], 40; "Kansas Gas Proration Forces Development in Guymon Area," The Daily Oklahoman [31 March 1940], 50. "Tax on Gas," The Daily Oklahoman [08 April 1941], 15; "Natural Gas Line Project is Dropped,"

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The Daily Oklahoman 04 May 1941, 38.

<sup>25</sup> “Kansas Orders Proration in Major Sections of Hugoton Pool,” The Daily Oklahoman [05 November 1942], 16; “States Asked to Fix Price of Natural Gas at Wellhead,” The Daily Oklahoman [20 December 1942], 50; “Cities Service Can’t Get Steel for Hugoton Gas Line,” The Daily Oklahoman [24 January 1943], 32; “Republic Starts Hugoton Gas Line,” The Daily Oklahoman [21 February 1943], 35; “Fuel Shortages Predicted for Midwest,” The Daily Oklahoman [16 April 1943], 15; “Pipeline to Hugoton Gas Field Assured, Fuel Probers Told,” The Daily Oklahoman [18 April 1943], 48; “Cities Service Claims Hugoton Gas Line is War Measure,” The Daily Oklahoman [20 August 1943], 13.

<sup>26</sup> The Guymon Sector of the Hugoton gas field increased production by some 318 percent between 1943 (10,374,054,000 cubic feet) and 1944 (43,290,965,000 cubic feet). “Guymon Area Gas Output Has Big Gain,” The Daily Oklahoman [06 March 1945], 11.

<sup>27</sup> The field contains the largest known reserve of helium in the United States. During the Cold War helium was considered a strategic reserve element because of its use in arc welding, nuclear reactors, and ballistic missile systems. Helium extraction is centered on the town of Keyes in Cimarron County. Oklahoma Economic Development Association, Guymon Comprehensive Plan (Beaver, Okla.: OEDA, 1991), 13; Lowitt, “Petroleum to Pigs,” 261-262.

<sup>28</sup> “Cabot Carbon Given Permit for Gas Plant,” The Daily Oklahoman [16 October 1942], 17; “Cabot Seeking Plant Permit for Gas Field,” The Daily Oklahoman [16 September 1944], 7.

<sup>29</sup> “Dual-Zone Pay Found at Eva,” The Daily Oklahoman [06 May 1956], 24; “Panhandle Oiler Reports High Flow,” The Daily Oklahoman [18 March 1954], 51; “Hamilton Gets Oiler in Northeast Postle,” The Daily Oklahoman [12 May 1962], 34.

<sup>30</sup> The FERA office was moved from Guymon to Woodward in 1935. “U.S. Continues Check on FERA Fund in State,” The Daily Oklahoman [24 January 1935], 9.

<sup>31</sup> Lowitt, “If It Rains,” 27-30.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid., 22, 25.

<sup>33</sup> OEDA, Report on the Goodwell Community Plan, B-7.

<sup>34</sup> Ibid.

<sup>35</sup> “Goodwell College to Lay Cornerstone,” The Daily Oklahoman [03 November 1927], 12.

<sup>36</sup> OEDA, Report on the Goodwell Community Plan, B-8.

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<sup>37</sup> The Oklahoma Historical Society has preserved many present and historic newspapers of Goodwell. They include The Goodwell Gazette (1928-n.d.), The Goodwell Independent (1920-n.d.), The Goodwell News (1908-n.d.), The Goodwell Eagle (n.d.), The Goodwell Sentinel (1950-1952), and The Goodwell-Texhoma News (1993-present).

<sup>38</sup> Green, Panhandle Pioneer, 200-201.

<sup>39</sup> OEDA, Report on the Goodwell Community Plan, B-24, B-38, B-39.

<sup>40</sup> Ibid., B-18.

<sup>41</sup> OEDA, Guymon Comprehensive Plan, 10; Green, Panhandle Pioneer, 47, 135-136.

<sup>42</sup> Gould, Charles N. and John T. Lonsdale, Geology of Texas County, Oklahoma, Oklahoma Geological Survey Bulletin No. 37 (Norman, Okla.: Oklahoma Geological Survey, 1926), 39-45; Thuesen, H. G., Oklahoma Manufactures, 1940, Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College Division of Engineering Publication No. 49 (Stillwater, Okla.: Engineering Experiment Station, 1941), 50-51; Oklahoma Planning and Resources Board, Directory of Oklahoma Manufacturers, 1948 (Stillwater, Okla.: Oklahoma A. & M. College, 1949), 225-26.

<sup>43</sup> OEDA, Guymon Comprehensive Plan, 10.

<sup>44</sup> Beaver County Bank is known today as City National Bank and Trust Company. Ibid.

<sup>45</sup> Green, Panhandle Pioneer, 89-91.

<sup>46</sup> The Oklahoma Historical Society has preserved many present and historic newspapers of Guymon. They include The Guymon Daily News (1934-1938), The Guymon Democrat (1907-1919), The Guymon Herald (n.d.-1925), The Guymon Observer (1946-present), The Guymon Tribune (1921-1926), The Guymon Daily Herald (1950-present), The Oslo Posten (1910-n.d.), The Panhandle Herald ([Guymon] 1925-1941), The Panhandle News-Herald (1941-1950), The Texas County News ([Guymon] 1931-1941).

<sup>47</sup> Green, Panhandle Pioneer, 88-89.

<sup>48</sup> Ibid., 89.

<sup>49</sup> Ibid.

<sup>50</sup> OEDA, Guymon Comprehensive Plan, 10.

<sup>51</sup> Idem, Report on the Goodwell Community Plan, B-8.

<sup>52</sup> In 1941 the event attracted at least 20,000 people. Green, Panhandle Pioneer, 172;

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"Rain Can't Halt Guymon Parade for Pioneer Day," The Daily Oklahoman [03 May 1941], 5.

<sup>53</sup> Green, Panhandle Pioneer, 91.

<sup>54</sup> Hooker Advance, A History of Hooker: A Diamond in the Rough (Hooker, Okla.: Hooker Advance, 1983), 10.

<sup>55</sup> John C. Hudson, Plains Country Towns (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1981), 88.

<sup>56</sup> Ibid., 88-90.

<sup>57</sup> Hooker Advance, A History of Hooker, 10.

<sup>58</sup> Ibid., 14.

<sup>59</sup> Ibid., 24.

<sup>60</sup> A few smaller additions of gridiron streets conforming to the cardinal directions would be made later in the historical period, including the Irvin Addition, a long block composed of 50 business lots measuring 25 by 210 feet located east of Northside Addition, as well as the residential areas of Park and Hofferber Park Additions, east of the Murphy-Morris Addition. Much later, in the late 1960s, newer curvilinear additions were made northwest of town adjacent to the golf course. Information about the additions in Hooker was obtained from plat maps located at the Texas County courthouse in Guymon.

<sup>61</sup> Hooker Advance, A History of Hooker, 14.

<sup>62</sup> Ibid., 13, 18; Sanborn Map Company, Hooker, Oklahoma (October 1911), map no. 1.

<sup>63</sup> Hooker Advance, A History of Hooker, 22.

<sup>64</sup> Ibid., 11.

<sup>65</sup> Bieberdorf, Gustav Adolph, "History of the Distribution of the Mexican Cotton Boll Weevil in Oklahoma," Report, Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station (Stillwater, Okla.: Oklahoma Agricultural & Mechanical College, 1926).

<sup>66</sup> The cotton house was damaged by a tornado in July of 1910. Hooker Advance, A History of Hooker, 15, 17; Sanborn Map Company, Hooker, Oklahoma (October 1911), map no. 1.

<sup>67</sup> Hooker Advance, A History of Hooker, 21.



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<sup>68</sup> According to the 1911 Sanborn map, the tank was directly across (north) of the Rock Island tracks from the Liberal (wood-frame) Elevator. Hooker Advance, A History of Hooker, 11, 15; Sanborn Map Company, Hooker, Oklahoma (October 1911), map no. 1.

<sup>69</sup> Hooker Advance, A History of Hooker, 14.

<sup>70</sup> Ibid., 13, 14.

<sup>71</sup> This building was destroyed by fire on August 28, 1911. Hooker Advance, A History of Hooker, 11, 17.

<sup>72</sup> Ibid., 14; Sanborn Map Company, Hooker, Oklahoma (October 1911), map no. 1.

<sup>73</sup> Hooker Advance, A History of Hooker, 11.

<sup>74</sup> Ibid., 13.

<sup>75</sup> Ibid., 15.

<sup>76</sup> The electric generator ("light plant") was destroyed by fire in December of 1917, leaving Hooker without electricity for a month. The physical plant was improved and expanded in 1921 and again in 1930. Hooker Advance, A History of Hooker, 10, 11; The town jail was a small building located directly beneath the water tower. Sanborn Map Company, Hooker, Oklahoma (December 1922), map no. 1.

<sup>77</sup> Hooker Advance, A History of Hooker, 15.

<sup>78</sup> The building next door, (122 East Glaydas Avenue) the Bardwell Building, was constructed in 1917. The Farmers and Merchants Bank replaced the coping that year to integrate the two facades. Ibid., 15, 21.

<sup>79</sup> Ibid., 17.

<sup>80</sup> Ibid., 20.

<sup>81</sup> Ibid., 24.

<sup>82</sup> Ibid., 13, 14.

<sup>83</sup> Ibid., 15, 16, 18.

<sup>84</sup> Sanborn Map Company, Hooker, Oklahoma (October 1911), map no. 1.

<sup>85</sup> Hooker Advance, A History of Hooker, 18.

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<sup>86</sup> There was also a town jail at this location.

<sup>87</sup> It should be noted that gratis lots for church construction usually occupied peripheral sections of town. Hooker Advance, A History of Hooker, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16.

<sup>88</sup> Ibid., 22.

<sup>89</sup> Ibid., 15.

<sup>90</sup> Ibid., 10.

<sup>91</sup> Ibid., 13.

<sup>92</sup> Ibid., 14.

<sup>93</sup> Ibid., 15.

<sup>94</sup> Ibid., 16.

<sup>95</sup> The Oklahoma Historical Society has preserved The Hooker Advance (1904-present) and The Farmers Voice ([Hooker] 1909-n.d.).

<sup>96</sup> Hooker Advance, A History of Hooker, 10.

<sup>97</sup> Ibid., 11, 14, 16.

<sup>98</sup> Ibid., 13.

<sup>99</sup> Ibid., 23.

<sup>100</sup> Ibid., 11.

<sup>101</sup> Sanborn Map Company, Hooker, Oklahoma (December 1922), map no. 1.

<sup>102</sup> Idem, Hooker, Oklahoma (July 1930), map no. 1.

## Annotated Bibliography

### Architecture

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*This handy little book provides a chronologically-organized listing of the major styles and trends in American domestic architecture from 1600 to the 1990s. Illustrated throughout with elevation drawings by the author, this is the best source for dating domestic architectural trends in the United States. It is particularly useful as a guide to tract housing styles of the twentieth century.*

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*A handy quick-reference for major architectural styles in the United States, including identifying features.*

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*An excellent book that explores the relationship between the image of the ideal house and family and the reality of middle-class family life. Full of photographs and illustrations tracing the evolution of the average American house to mid-century.*

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Goins, Charles R. and Morris, John W. Oklahoma Homes: Past and Present. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1980.

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Gottfried, Herbert, and Jan Jennings. American Vernacular Design, 1870-1940: An Illustrated Glossary. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold Company, 1986.

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*This book includes a collection of excellent photographs on a wide array of buildings and structures taken throughout the state, chronologically organized by period.*

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## Oklahoma

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### Texas County

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*This is essentially an apologetic history of the pre-1890 culture of the Panhandle, where state laws did not exist and vigilantism was responsible for social order. The author downplays the mythology of the cowboys on the plains.*

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*Boss Neff was a rancher near Hooker who was responsible for fundraising and the development of the Oklahoma Panhandle Historical Museum. He is buried in Hooker Cemetery.*

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*This article examines railroad development in the Panhandle region in detail, from the Rock Island's presence in Liberal, Kansas in 1888 to the construction of the BM&E Railroad in 1931. There was no railroad construction between 1901 and 1929 in the region, which made Guymon, Goodwell, and Hooker (Texas County) more accessible than market centers in Beaver County and Cimarron County.*

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*This brief article discusses tourism opportunities in the Panhandle region.*

Grice, Gordon. "Far & Away in Guymon," Oklahoma Today 51:7 (2001), 28-29.

*This brief article mentions the No Man's Land Museum, local restaurants, and outdoor activities available in Guymon and Goodwell.*

Grice, Gordon. "Guymon Bids its First Hundred Years Farewell," Oklahoma Today 51:4 (2001), 72.

*This article profiles Edward Guymon, a businessman in Sanford, Oklahoma and discusses Guymon's contributions to local business, including his ownership of the Star Mercantile Company and the establishment of several commercial buildings in Guymon.*

Hart, John Fraser and Chris Mayda. "Pork Palaces on the Panhandle," Geographical Review 87:3 (1997), 396-401.

*This brief field research report, written by one of geography's most renowned students of American agriculture, is recent enough to supply an excellent perspective on the modern hog business that now permeates the Texas County economy and ties it to the world market.*

Hofsommer, Donovan L. "The Construction Strategies of Railroads in the Oklahoma Panhandle," Chronicles of Oklahoma 58 (1989).

*This article examines the conception and construction strategies of railroads in the Oklahoma Panhandle during the early twentieth century. Of special interest is the large space devoted to the construction of the Beaver, Meade and Englewood Railroad between 1913 and 1929. After the MK&T abandoned the BM&E project, it was purchased by Jacob A. Achenbach and Ira B. Blackstock to become a small private railroad connecting Beaver, Forgan and later Hooker (1922), and Keyes (1929).*

\_\_\_\_\_, "For Better or For Worse: The Oklahoma Panhandle and Its Railroads, 1930-1939," Hard Times in Oklahoma: The Depression Years, ed. Kenneth E. Hendrickson, Jr. (Oklahoma City, Okla.: Oklahoma Historical Society, 1983).

*This chapter examines changes in the railroads of the Oklahoma Panhandle during the years of the Great Depression and Dust Bowl.*

Hooker Advance, A History of Hooker: A Diamond in the Rough (Hooker, OK: Hooker Advance, 1983).

*This is a premier local history of one of the study towns that was produced by the local newspaper. It contains a chronological historical section and contains many useful photographs.*

Hurt, R. Douglas. The Dust Bowl: An Agricultural and Social History (Chicago: Nelson-Hall, 1981).

*This book by one of America's leading historians of agriculture examines the social impact of the 1930s drought on the Texas and Oklahoma Panhandles.*

Hyer, Peggy and Anna Mayer, County Cemeteries in Texas County, Oklahoma (Hooker, OK: Beaver River Genealogical and Historical Society), 1996.

*This compilation contains sections on cemeteries of Goodwell.*

Joel, Arthur H. Soil Conservation Reconnaissance Survey of the Southern Great Plains Wind Erosion Area. United States Department of Agriculture, Technical Bulletin No. 556 (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1937).

*This excellent government report provides a detailed description of the physical and economic conditions of the Oklahoma and Texas Panhandles at the height of the Dust Bowl. It includes many very good photographs of damage and dust storms.*

Johnson, Vance. Heaven's Tableland: The Dust Bowl Story (New York: Farrar, Straus, 1947).

*Among the earlier scholarly works on the Dust Bowl that impacted the study area, this book is considered a classic.*

Kinchen, Oscar A. "Squatters in No Man's Land," Chronicles of Oklahoma 26 (1948-1949), 385-398.

*This article details the legal claim to the Public Land Strip by the Cherokees and how they lost it that brought about the influx of farm settlers in 1885. The author claims that most of the settlers came southwest by way of or from Kansas and used zinc pots as claim markers. Also discussed are sod houses, making a living by hauling bison bones, early townsites and schools, claims organizations, claim jumping, and saloons. The brief settlement of about three thousand declined markedly between the blizzard of 1886 and 1889.*

\_\_\_\_\_. "The Abortive Territory of Cimarron," Chronicles of Oklahoma 23 (1945), 218-231.

*In this article Kinchen chronicles the efforts of Colorado townsite promoter Owen G. Chase in his unsuccessful crusade to organize No Man's Land settlers and establish Cimarron Territory in 1887.*

Lees, William B. "Panhandle Town Unearthed: The Archaeological and Historical Treasures of Hardesty," Chronicles of Oklahoma 63 (1985-1986), 377-395.

*Archeologist William Lees presents evidence of daily life and migration patterns in this interesting article culminating from the Section 106 work conducted at the Old Hardesty townsite in what eventually became the Optima Reservoir impoundment zone. Old Hardesty was one of a handful of towns founded by the settlement influx of 1885-86. Utilizing the territorial census of 1890, he concludes that most settlers to this "pocket frontier" originated in the states of the lower Missouri and Ohio valleys.*

Lowitt, R. "If it Rains": Life in the Oklahoma Panhandle in the 1930s and 1940s," Chronicles of Oklahoma 80:1 (2002), 20-43.

*This is an excellent overview of drastic changes affecting agriculture in the Panhandle region of Oklahoma during the Dust Bowl/Depression of the 1930s and the rapid recovery during the 1940s. Emphasis is placed on the positive role played by the federal*

government and individuals such as H. H. Finnell of Oklahoma Panhandle A&M College in effecting soil conservation efforts. The author interprets soil conservation efforts as the factor that kept the Panhandle from becoming even more depopulated after 1935.

Lowitt, R. "From Petroleum to Pigs: The Oklahoma Panhandle in the Last Half of the Twentieth Century" Chronicles of Oklahoma 80:3 (2002), 260-283.

*This sequel to "If It Rains" is the remarkable story of the land use change, agricultural adjustment, and the economic rebound of the Panhandle—and especially Texas County—during the second half of the twentieth century. Topics discussed include the development of the oil and gas industry after 1953, the development of irrigation techniques beginning in the 1950s, the emergence of feedlots and packing plants during the 1960s, and high-tech hog feeding operations during the 1990s. Postwar economic development is correctly interpreted as the result of the exploitation of the Ogallala aquifer and the super-giant Hugoton gas field.*

Maynard, Louis, Oklahoma Panhandle: A History and Stories of No Man's Land (n.p., 1956).

*This is a short, simple, self-published work on the panhandle.*

Meinig, D. W. Imperial Texas: An Interpretive Essay in Cultural Geography (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1969).

*This book by one of America's foremost historical geographers, describes how the Oklahoma panhandle was initially colonized by New Mexico sheepherders and later Texas cattle ranchers.*

Oklahoma Economic Development Association. Report on the Goodwell Community Plan. Beaver, Okla.: Oklahoma Economic Development Association, 1979.

*This is a detailed, three-part planning document prepared for the Goodwell Planning Commission and the Goodwell Board of Trustees by O.E.D.A. with a HUD grant. The first part examines Goodwell's population, economy, land use, housing, and public facilities. The second part is the Community Plan, which outlines the goals, objectives, policies, standards, and criteria necessary to guiding community development. The third part describes methods of implementation of the Community Plan.*

Overstreet, R. M. "The Story of No Man's Land," Sturm's Oklahoma Magazine (January, 1908), 56-62.

*The author provides a three-part narrative describing the political and settlement history of the Panhandle from initial settlement in 1885 to 1907.*



\_\_\_\_\_. "The Story of No Man's Land," Sturm's Oklahoma Magazine (February, 1908), 17-23.

*The author provides a three-part narrative describing the political and settlement history of the Panhandle from initial settlement in 1885 to 1907.*

\_\_\_\_\_. "The Story of No Man's Land," Sturm's Oklahoma Magazine (March, 1908), 64-68.

*The author provides a three-part narrative describing the political and settlement history of the Panhandle from initial settlement in 1885 to 1907.*

Porter, Acton. "The History of the Public Land Strip to 1907." M.A. thesis, 1942. Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College.

*This is a relatively orthodox, public record-based political history of the region before statehood. It includes no illustrations.*

Purdy, Virginia C., ed. "'Dust to Eat': A Document from the Dust Bowl," Chronicles of Oklahoma 58 (1980-1981), 440-454.

*This essay is by Caroline A. Henderson (1877-1966), who was a homesteader in the Panhandle. Written in April 1935, the article was turned down by Atlantic Monthly, but eventually published in the Chronicles. It details the tribulations, relief efforts, and protests Easterners' general ignorant interpretations of the Dust Bowl situation at the time.*

Rainey, George, No Man's Land: The Historic Story of a Landed Orphan (Enid, OK: George Rainey, 1937).

*This is a privately-published account of the region by a native.*

Randels, Mildred. "The History of No Man's Land." M.A. thesis, 1932. Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College.

*This is a basic political history of the area prior to statehood.*

Sanborn Map and Publishing Company of New York. Goodwell, Oklahoma. New York, N.Y.: Sanborn Map and Publishing Company of New York, 1930.

*Valuable source for determining building materials and structural modifications to buildings. Also good for confirming dates of construction, plat names, block numbers, and lot numbers. Absolutely necessary for conducting historic preservation survey work. Includes maps of Goodwell (1930), Guymon (1911, 1922, 1930), and Hooker (1911, 1922, 1930)*

Schnabel, Joy. "Cimarron Territory: Comedy and Tragedy," Chronicles of Oklahoma 73 (1995), 66-79.

*Written in the spirit of the new western history, this essay examines the attempt by Beaver City settlers to form Cimarron Territory in the late 1880s. Evidently the "movement" was more a machination by a few opportunists.*

Sexton, Kathryn A., The Heritage of the Panhandle: A History of Panhandle State University, 1909-1979 (Goodwell, OK: K. A. Sexton, 1979).

*This locally-produced history book of the university is useful for interpreting the built environment of the campus.*

Shelton, William Lee. "A History of Texas County, Oklahoma. M.A. thesis, 1939. Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College.

*This is a good outline of eighteenth and nineteenth century events relating to the Panhandle, and much less than a county-scale history (5/6 of the narrative is secondary source-based ramble about events that occurred prior to the creation of Texas County in 1907).*

Stanfield Printing Company, 26th Annual Official Program—Pioneer Days of No Man's Land, May 1-3 (Guymon, OK: Perkins Oil Company, 1958).

*This pamphlet is chock-full of useful photographs.*

Stewart, Roy P. "Henry Hitch and His Times," Chronicles of Oklahoma 50 (1972), 41-64.

*An excellent biographical article on one of the more important innovators in Texas County.*

Tate, R. C. "The Trail of Fences and Farms, Towns and Railroads Mark the Passing of 'No Man's Land,'" Oklahoma Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow (Guthrie Cooperative Publishing Company, 1930), 690-93.

*A brief account of the interesting chronology of the Panhandle to statehood.*

Thomas, Maude O. "Story of No Man's Land," Chronicles of Oklahoma 14 (1936), 244-247.

*This is a transcription of an address delivered at the annual meeting of the Oklahoma Historical Society held at Enid on 30 April and May 1, 1936. Miss Thomas was apparently an early settler of the Panhandle.*

Turner, Kenneth R., No Man's Land <<http://www.ok-history.mus.ok.us/enc/nomansland.htm>>  
Last accessed 15 June 2005.

*This essay, by the curator of the Goodwell No Man's Land Historical Museum, summarizes the development of No Man's Land*

Wardell, Morris L. "History," pp. 51-62, in Gould, Charles N. and John T. Lonsdale Geology of Texas County, Oklahoma. Oklahoma Geological Survey, Bulletin No. 37 (Norman, Okla.: Oklahoma Geological Survey, 1926).

*This early essay by a famous Oklahoma historian chronicles the development of the county.*

\_\_\_\_\_. "The History of No-Man's Land, or Old Beaver County," Chronicles of Oklahoma 35 (1957), 23-25.

*This research article by a famous Oklahoma historian examines the development of the Oklahoma Panhandle until statehood in 1907.*

Wolf, M. L. "Along the Paper Trail: All-in-the-Family Office Supply Business in Oklahoma," Oklahoma Today 51:1 (2001), 26.

*This article features family-owned office-supply businesses based in Oklahoma, including Southern Office Supply, Vater Office Furniture, Burkhardt's Office Plus and discusses how the office-supply retailers remain independent in the face of growing competition.*

Worster, Donald. Dust Bowl: The Southern Plains in the 1930s (New York: Oxford University Press, 1979).

*This historical treatment of the Dust Bowl provides an ecological explanation for the event and how the event was overcome. This scholarly source is generally considered among environmental historians to be among the definitive works on the Dust Bowl.*

Wright, Muriel H. "The Seal of Cimarron Territory," Chronicles of Oklahoma 35 (1957), 2-10.

*This article by a famous Oklahoma historian examines the aborted attempt to establish No Man's Land as a separate territory during the 1880s.*

## SUMMARY

The Reconnaissance Level Survey of Three Northwest Oklahoma Towns: Goodwell, Guymon, and Hooker identified, evaluated, and documented a total of 147 properties in the approximately 13.5 square miles in three study towns designated by the OK/SHPO during the 2000-01 fiscal year. Properties were surveyed with minimum level documentation, including the completion of the OK/SHPO Historic Preservation Resource Identification Form and at least two 5 X 7 black and white glossy photographs.

- Twelve (12) individual properties were recommended for National Register consideration.
- Eighty-three (83) individual properties located outside potentially National Register eligible districts were deemed worthy of further study.
- Fifty (50) properties were recorded as contributing resources to the three proposed districts. These include the Oklahoma Panhandle State University Campus Historic District (16 properties), the Guymon Commercial District (11 properties), and the Hooker Commercial District (23 properties). Of the three districts, the Hooker Commercial District contains the highest density and quality of contributing resources and is recommended as warranting the highest priority for intensive level study.
- Thumbnail sketches for three (3) proposed districts were outlined with tentative boundaries and recommendations for further study.

- Nine thumbnail sketches of areas that did not meet qualifications for intensive level survey were developed.
- Fifty (50) of the surveyed properties were DOMESTIC (48 single dwellings, 1 multiple dwelling, and 1 hotel). Single dwellings were the predominant property type surveyed in the study areas.
- Forty (40) properties surveyed in the study area were classified as COMMERCE/TRADE related. These were the second most common type of property in the study areas.
- Nineteen (19) EDUCATION related resources were recorded in the study area. These were the third most common type of property recorded.
- Additional clusters of property types included:
  - TRANSPORTATION related (8);
  - AGRICULTURAL/SUBSISTENCE related (6);
  - Religious Structures (6);
  - Public Works (2);
  - Sports Facility (2);
  - Park (2);
- In addition to the above, one of each of the following types of properties was recorded: Theater; Auditorium; Museum; Medical/Business Office; Cemetery; Clubhouse; Civic; Government; Fire Station; Post Office.

- Residential areas in the three study towns were characterized by a limited variety of architecture. Vernacular versions of high styles such as Queen Anne were not uncommon. Within the study area, one dozen (12) distinctive architectural styles were surveyed and recorded at a minimal level of documentation. These include: Commercial Style (63); Bungalow/Craftsman (11); Tudor Revival (5); Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival (8); Colonial Revival (5); Queen Anne (3); Art Deco (3); Classical Revival (3); National Folk (12); Prairie School (1); Shotgun (3); Art Moderne (2).
- The commercial area in Hooker is characterized by a majority of very high quality historic resources consisting mainly of one and two story brick-clad, Commercial Style business and civic buildings. This survey concludes that there is a very strong justification for a National Register district focused on Glaydas Street in Hooker.
- The Oklahoma Panhandle State University Campus Historic District warrants further study for its significance to the higher education heritage of Goodwell and the Oklahoma Panhandle.
- The Guymon Commercial District may warrant further study for its small cluster of business buildings. Due to growth, few resources in Guymon retain much architectural integrity.
- The study area contains a noticeably more frequent use of stucco and as a wall cladding than in more eastern areas of Oklahoma.

- In each of the three towns Commercial Style buildings frequently incorporate glass blocks and horizontal visual emphasis that may be a signature of the work of a local architect active during the first decades of the century.

Overall, the three study towns possesses numerous cultural resources that meet age eligibility requirements and retain some degree of architectural and historical significance. An intensive level survey is advised most enthusiastically for the Hooker Commercial District. Additionally, twelve (12) significant individual properties within the three study towns retain high levels of historic and architectural integrity and thus deserve immediate attention for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

In terms of individual properties, several are included on a proposed endangered historic properties list for the study areas. These are:

1. The Phillips 66 Service Station (ca. 1930) at Ireland Street and West Glaydas Street in Hooker is National Register eligible. This resource is currently vacant and is being used for storage. This resource is a rare example that deserves immediate recognition.
2. Another National Register eligible resource, Franklin Hall (1915), located on the OPSU Campus in Goodwell, is a university dormitory that is still being used for that purpose.
3. Ten other National Register nominations are recommended for the other

resources recorded as National Register eligible. None of these properties appears to be immediately threatened.