

**FINAL SURVEY REPORT**  
**ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORIC RECONNAISSANCE LEVEL SURVEY**  
**OF CERTAIN PARTS OF THE CITY OF ARDMORE**  
**40-93-80052.021**

Submitted by:

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Submitted to:

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Oklahoma Historical Society  
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Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73102

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## ABSTRACT

This document serves as the final survey report of the Architectural/Historic Reconnaissance Level Survey of Certain Parts of the City of Ardmore. The Oklahoma Historic Preservation Survey, an adjunct of the Department of History at Oklahoma State University, performed the survey between September 1, 1993 and August 31, 1994 under a contract (40-93-80052.021) with the State Historic Preservation Office of the Oklahoma Historical Society. Project personnel conducted the survey in order to: (1) identify and minimally document individual historic properties and potential districts which warrant further study for possible inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places; (2) identify and characterize portions of the study area devoid of historic resources; and, (3) identify reference material useful for completing National Register nominations of properties deemed worthy of further study. To facilitate this entire process, a historic narrative of Ardmore's development up to 1954 was also prepared. This narrative provides the context necessary to evaluate the historic significance, or meaning, of these properties.

The survey covered approximately the 1954 city limits of Ardmore with the exception of the Ardmore Historic Commercial District, which is already listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The study area lies within the State Historic Preservation Office's Management Region #5 and consists of 3.76 square miles (2408 acres). A total of 87 properties were minimally documented, of which 78 (89.6%) warrant further study for possible National Register inclusion. Most of those lie within the potential National Register district identified in the survey, the Southwest Ardmore Historic District with 33 documented properties (37.9%). This report, together with the accompanying individual property files, should facilitate land-use management in the study area in a manner sensitive to its historic resources and in

compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, As Amended.

## INTRODUCTION

The city of Ardmore, located in south central Oklahoma, offers an interesting case study for preservation. In many ways, its history parallels that of similar Oklahoma towns.

Ardmore rests in a small pocket of the geographic region of Oklahoma known as the Sandstone Hills. Before statehood in 1907, it lay in the Chickasaw Nation portion of Indian Territory. When the State of Oklahoma came into being, the young city became the seat of Carter County. It quickly emerged thereafter as the major retail, industrial, and government center for south central Oklahoma.

Like so many other towns in Oklahoma and throughout the nation, Ardmore owed its founding to the arrival of the railroad. In 1887, the Gulf, Colorado, and Santa Fe Railway--building a north-south line across Indian Territory--established a station in the present-day city and dubbed it "Ardmore" after the Pennsylvania hometown of a company official. The arrival of the rails attracted a number of Euro-Americans who hoped to establish a commercial center for the surrounding region, the inhabitants of which included white ranchers who were leasing grazing land from the Chickasaw Nation and its citizens who operated cotton plantations and small farms.

The city began to grow after the arrival of the rails, but only slowly. Since Ardmore was within the jurisdiction of Indian Territory, only non-Indians who had intermarried into the Chickasaw Nation could legally own land. The rest merely leased their property, and this tended to frustrate the Euro-American concept of economic development.

Passage of the Dawes Act and the dissolution of native sovereignty when the new State of Oklahoma absorbed Indian Territory, however, opened the door to Euro-American economic exploitation. In April 1897, the Choctaw and Chickasaw acquiesced to the Atoka Agreement, by which the Dawes Act's stipulation of allotment was enacted. Members of the two nations each received 320 acres, their Freedmen each received 40

acres, and the remainder of their land became available for purchase under various federal land laws. In Ardmore, this enabled many whites to obtain property they previously had only leased, while newcomers could now easily obtain city parcels as well. Indeed, with land holding opened to whites under allotment, Ardmore gained status as a second class city in 1897; one year later it became a first class city. By the time the city was designated the seat of Carter County with statehood in 1907, Ardmore's population reached 8,618, up from 5,681 seven years earlier.

From its founding, and until 1954, Ardmore's social and economic development relied heavily on its relationship with the surrounding area. As the county seat, it emerged as the major governmental and retail marketing center for the region. Access to a major railroad also established Ardmore as an important agricultural processing and distribution center, especially for south central Oklahoma's cotton crop. Thus, the industrial sector which grew adjacent to the tracks included cotton gins, cotton compresses, a major mill, a dairy products factory, and a host of other retail and industrial concerns.

Throughout most of its history, Ardmore generally maintained a steady growth pattern. The population increased 65% between 1910 and 1920, due primarily to the discovery and development of the Healdton oil field to the west. As the nearest railhead prior to the construction of a spur into the field, Ardmore became the recipient of many of the oil field industries, workers, and millionaires. After this boom, the population grew at a smaller yet steady rate. Cattle and cash crops joined cotton as an important agricultural commodity through the 1920s. Despite the ravages of depression in the 1930s, the city actually even managed a very modest population increase. This provided the foundation for further growth in the 1940s thanks in part to the creation of the Ardmore Air Force Base west of town for bomber training, and the escalation of oil production from nearby fields due to wartime

mobilization.

The nucleus for the Ardmore of today emerged during the 1950s, thanks to two major developments, both of which proved short lived. After being closed at the conclusion of the war, the air base reopened in 1952. Also, a new oil boom occurred early in the decade. However, by 1959 the base had closed and the oil boom subsided. Nevertheless, the 1960 census revealed a population of 21,225, a 19% increase over that in 1950. In the 1960s, Ardmore managed to remain stable, despite the loss of the air base and decreased oil production, by attracting new enterprises to its industrial park outside the study area. This included a major tire manufacturing plant.

The Architectural/Historic Reconnaissance Level Survey of Certain Parts of the City of Ardmore attempts to link this history to extant historic resources. Many of the older residences documented date to the 1910-1930 period, when Ardmore enjoyed considerable growth and the area's cotton and oil industries were in their heyday. A residential district, in fact, was identified, many of its homes dating from this era. Other individual properties worthy of further study for possible inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places were also identified. Even large areas of the city devoid of historic resources were documented. In all those efforts, this project sought to facilitate the preservation of significant historic resources as Ardmore continues to grow into the future.

## RESEARCH DESIGN AND EXECUTION

This project's research design followed professional methodological standards, as well as the "Archeology and Historic Preservation: Secretary of the Interior Standards and Guidelines" (Federal Register, 29 September 1983: 44716-44742). It intended for each step in the process, as much as possible, to build upon the results of the previous task, thus making for a time- and cost-efficient effort.

The initial phase centered on research into the history of Ardmore. Accordingly, the development of a historic narrative focusing on the study area's past began immediately and was continually refined during the course of the project. This activity served two primary purposes. First, it helped identify property types and specific historic properties which the survey might identify. Second, when applied with the National Register Criteria for Evaluation, it facilitated the determination of a property's significance in relationship to the broad patterns of Ardmore's historic, archeological, architectural, and engineering heritage. In short, it provided the link between a property as it exists today and the past which gives it meaning. This narrative is included in a separate section of this report. This work was completed primarily by the Graduate Assistant, Grace Venable, under the principal investigator's supervision.

Before commencing the actual field survey, the Graduate Assistant was also trained for this phase of the project. This included familiarization with the Historic Preservation Resource Inventory Form; National Register Bulletin Twenty Four: Guidelines for Local Surveys: A Basis for Preservation Planning; National Register Bulletin Fifteen: Guidelines for Applying the National Register Criteria for Evaluation; the anticipated project products; and, various administrative details. At this time, the Graduate Assistant also conducted additional research in directories, Sanborn Maps, topographical maps, and other sources in an attempt to specify likely extant properties.

Once the training and additional research were completed, the Graduate Assistant entered the field. She sought to document representative properties in the study area which were at least forty years old. Documentation required completing a Historic Preservation Resource Inventory Form and photographs of each property's primary elevations. While performing these tasks, the Graduate Assistant also began making determinations of individual properties warranting further study for possible inclusion on the National Register. One potential historic district was also identified. Whenever possible, the surveyor complemented the existing research with information from oral interviews with local citizens and material available locally. All this research enabled completion of the Historic Preservation Resource Identification Form as thoroughly as possible. The Graduate Assistant finished this phase of the project in a highly concentrated five-week period, although the re-taking of photographs and some additional research required several return trips.

Even while the field work progressed, preparation of the photodocumentation began. Rolls of film were collected and developed onto contact sheets. From these, project personnel determined which exposures needed to be processed into 5" X 7" black-and-white glossy prints.

All information for completing the individual Historic Preservation Resource Identification Forms was compiled into a data base using the dBase IV program. From this data, the actual Identification Forms were ultimately generated.

As the information was entered into the computer, the Principal Investigator and Graduate Assistant met with the Architectural Historian, Jeffrey K. Williams of the Oklahoma State University School of Architecture, to review the survey findings. At this meeting, Williams received the photodocumentation and a copy of the historical narrative. He then completed a report addressing the relationship

between the study area's physical and cultural environment, as revealed through its architecture. A copy of the Architectural Historian's report is included as an appendix to this report.

The final phase of the project entailed compiling the survey data into its final form. This included final revisions of the Identification Forms, specifically designating individual properties and districts potentially eligible for the National Register, identifying areas devoid of historic industrial properties, preparing maps, compiling individual property files, and composing the final report.

## PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Following the guidelines set forth in R.F.P. #40-93-80052.021, this project sought to fulfill the following objectives.

The first was to identify within the study area those individual properties and districts, which on the basis of age (at least forty years old) and retention of integrity, warrant further study for possible inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. This time frame enables the State Historic Preservation Office to manage more efficiently those resources which may become eligible for the National Register within the next decade. This process also included determining representative property types in the study area, and re-documenting properties in the study area already listed on the Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory, but not listed on the National Register. The identification of these resources involved minimal documentation in accordance to State Historic Preservation Office requirements -- completion of a Historic Preservation Resource Identification Form for each property and photodocumentation of its primary elevations. From this data, and drawing upon information from the historic narrative prepared in conjunction with this project, preliminary determinations of eligibility were made for each property. The justifications for these determinations are found on the individual Historic Preservation Identification Forms for each property on file with the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office and in the thumbnail sketches for those properties elsewhere in this report.

Fulfillment of this first objective allowed for completion of the second. This involved the identification and characterization of properties documented during the survey deemed ineligible for the National Register and, therefore, not worthy of further study. The justifications for a property's exclusion were based primarily on the loss of historic integrity, no known historical associations, a lack of singularity, or its status as a non-contributing resource in a potential

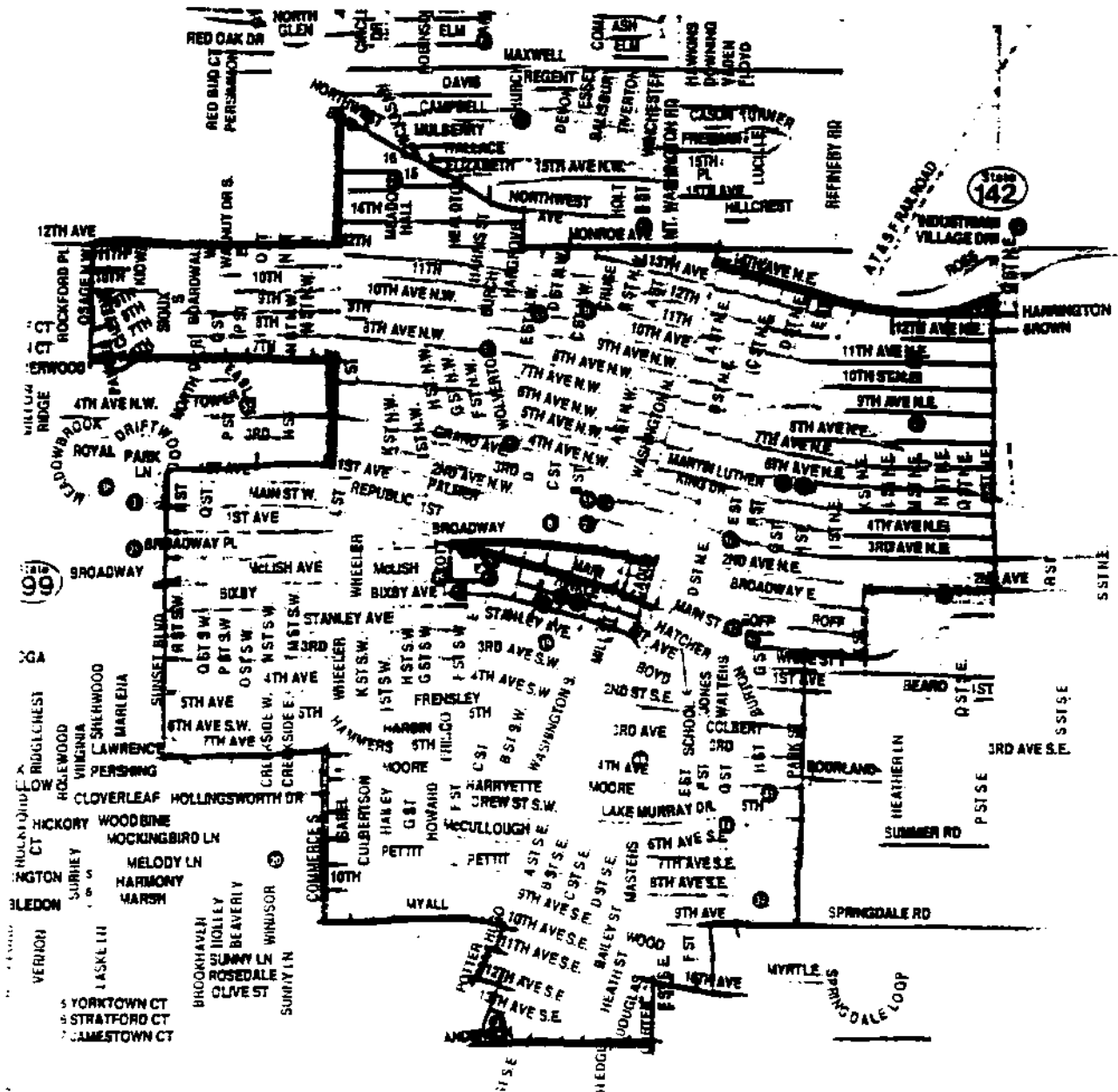
National Register district. Again, individual determinations and their justification are found on the pertinent Historic Preservation Resource Identification Forms. This process also facilitated the identification of sections of the study area devoid of historic industrial related resources. These areas are described in thumbnail sketches in another section of this report.

A third major objective concerned the identification of reference materials required to complete future National Register nominations of the individual properties and the potential district deemed worthy of future study. Many of these sources were noted while preparing the historic narrative. Others came to light during the course of this survey. An annotated bibliography of these materials comprises a separate section of this report.

#### **AREA SURVEYED**

The study area for this survey consisted of approximately the 1954 city limits of Ardmore, Oklahoma, with the exception of the Ardmore Commercial Historic District already listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Covering approximately 3.76 square miles (2408 acres), the study area lies within the State Historic Preservation Office's Management Region Five. Maps depicting both the management region and study area follow.

# STUDY AREA



## KINDS OF PROPERTIES SOUGHT AND IDENTIFIED

During the field work, representative examples of the property types described below were identified and documented. By definition, property types share similar physical or associative characteristics. The property types defined for this project concentrate on their shared associative, or functional, qualities. The designations essentially follow the various general categories and corresponding functions of property used in completing National Register of Historic Places forms. This should enable easy identification of all resources of the same property type by manipulation of the "Historic Function" field once the data on the Historic Preservation Resource Identification Form has been entered into the State Historic Preservation Office's collective data base.

### Commercial Properties

Ardmore's historic central business district spans Main Street between C Street West and the Santa Fe Railway right-of-way. It contains the typical assortment of retail establishments, banks, hotels, other businesses, and the county courthouse.

Normally, one would expect to find examples of commercial style architecture, especially one- and two-part vertical block buildings in such an area. Some of these have been altered with new first floor retail treatments and metal siding, thereby compromising their historical integrity. However, enough retain their integrity that the Ardmore Historic Commercial District was listed on the National Register in 1983. This district was not included in the survey. However, it documents a notable commercial building on the periphery of the central business district, the Art Deco Gilbert Building on Broadway West.

### Residential Properties

Residential additions platted and developed between 1902 and 1954 comprise most of the study area. Therefore, the survey expected to encounter houses manifesting the architectural styles most commonly employed on the Southern Plains during this period. Among Victorian houses these include Queen Anne and Folk Victorian, and Eclectic houses such as Colonial Revival, Neoclassical, Tudor Revival, Mission Revival, Prairie, Craftsman, Modernistic, and International. The survey also anticipated that the oldest houses would be found in the original townsite and that styles in other areas would reflect the chronological period in which their addition was developed.

The survey indeed identified a wide variety of domestic architecture. However, many of the historic houses in the study area were built during the 1910-1930 period, when Ardmore grew in the wake of increased cotton cultivation and oil production. Accordingly, Craftsman influenced residential architecture is particularly prominent, and consequently hardly rare. The survey did identify a potential residential historic district. The Southwest Ardmore Historic District comprises an area south and west of downtown. The highly stylized homes, deep-set backs, and wide streets, indicate that this was--and is--an affluent neighborhood.

### Industrial Properties

Enjoying rail connections to the west, north, and south, the city quickly became a major regional wholesaling, distribution, agricultural processing, and manufacturing center. The survey, therefore, expected to encounter examples of utilitarian industrial architecture along the Santa Fe right-of-way. These would have characteristic massive scale, simple rectangular shaping, and little decorative detail. Many of the city's historic industrial properties lie with the Ardmore Historic Commercial District already listed on the National Register.

### Health Care Properties

All communities have health care needs, so the survey sought to identify related properties, especially hospitals. None were expected to be found, however, since the Memorial Hospital of Southern Oklahoma was constructed in the late 1940s and has received many additions since. The survey, in fact, revealed that the scale of these alterations, in addition to construction currently under way, seriously compromise the integrity of the facility's historic section.

### Education Properties

The survey expected to locate and document a large number of education-related properties. Research indicated that Ardmore continually erected public schools during the period studied. The survey documented a number of the city's schools built prior to 1954. Notable examples of these include: Franklin School, Lincoln School, Washington School, Will Rogers School and the original High School.

### Religious Properties

The survey fully expected to encounter a large number of churches throughout the study area. The census data suggests that much of the city's population through 1960 consisted of native-born whites, so it was anticipated that Protestant denominations would dominate. Their architectural style, it was thought, would range from the simple to the monumental, depending on the size and affluence of the individual congregations.

The survey identified and documented a number of such churches warranting further study for possible National Register listing. These include: the First Orthodox Baptist Church; First Baptist Church; First United Methodist Church; St. Phillip's Episcopal Church; St. Mary Catholic Church; Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church, an African-American congregation; and, Temple Emeth, a synagogue. This variety

underscores the diversity of historic religious properties in the study area.

### Social Properties

Social properties include meeting halls, clubhouses, and buildings hosting civic organizations. It was expected that several of these properties would be found. Many fraternal organizations such as the Elks, Moose, Odd Fellows, Masons, and the American Legion have long histories in the city. Given Ardmore's stature as a major urban center for south central Oklahoma, it appeared likely that properties associated with social welfare and private philanthropy would be located.

One such building was identified, the YWCA on Broadway, constructed in 1936 thanks primarily to the philanthropy of the wife of a prominent local oil man. The upper story of the Gilbert Building on Broadway also served as a Masonic lodge, as revealed by the Art Deco reliefs at its roofline.

### Recreational/Cultural Properties

Recreational and cultural properties serve as physical links to how people in the past utilized their leisure time. Research indicated that Ardmore contained numerous such properties, including theaters, an opera house, and sport facilities. Accordingly the survey expected to locate and document a variety of recreational and cultural properties. However, some of these historic properties are located in the Ardmore Historic Commercial District.

Those recorded by the survey included three WPA projects: the Ardmore Auditorium; Walker Stadium; and, Hardy Murphy Coliseum. The survey also documented Whittington Park.

### Public Works Properties

For a city to survive, it needs an infrastructure. Being in a relatively arid portion of Oklahoma, a reliable water supply especially concerned the city residents early in its history. Accordingly, the city constructed a reservoir north of town which lies outside the study area. Other resources associated with the infrastructure, including water towers, were found to be less than forty years old.

### Automobile-Related Properties

Especially after the First World War, the automobile revolutionized American society. People became increasingly mobile, allowing them to travel greater distances both to reach work and in the pursuit of leisure. Accordingly, a variety of related industries emerged to serve the motoring public. Most notable for the built environment was the gas station and motor court, tourist camp, and motel.

As a major regional urban center, and lying at the crossroads of U.S. Highways 70 and 77, the survey expected to find such automobile related properties. It did indeed document several gas stations, but no motor courts or motels.

## PROPERTIES IDENTIFIED AND DOCUMENTED

The following is a list of all properties documented within the study area regardless of whether or not they warrant further study. Documentation of each property consisted of completing the Historic Preservation Resource Inventory Form and the photodocumentation of its primary elevations. The photographs were developed as 5" X 7" black and white glossy prints.

The list includes the name of the property, its address or location, map coordinate, and index numbers for the location of its negatives. The map coordinate refers to the number assigned that property so that it can be easily located on the maps which follow the list. The index number identifies the roll number for the photodocumentation. The acronym "ARD" refers to Ardmore, the focus of the survey, and the final series of numbers refers to the exposure number. Thus, the designation, "1 ARD 19, 20" refers to film roll 1 and exposures 19, 20 as the photodocumentation for that property. All negatives and contact sheets have been submitted to the State Historic Preservation Officer in clear, archival holders. Each holder is identified by the roll number and project acronym. A separate index also accompanies the negatives and contact sheets.

The square map coordinates indicate those properties determined as not warranting further study for possible National Register inclusion. Those deemed worthy of National Register consideration have been enclosed with a circle. For ease of presentation, the study area has been divided into seven portions, some of which were further divided to allow better representation of the properties. A map for each was prepared, and a base map and key serves as a guide to these section maps, which appear at the end of the list.

The properties listed were identified, first, by driving through the entire study area. During this process, areas devoid of historic

resources were determined, as were individual properties and potential districts eligible for the National Register. Those areas believed lacking in historic resources were driven through again. Potentially eligible individual properties and districts were walked through and information for documentation gathered.

Resource Name:

Address:

Photograph

Map Coordinate:

Harvey-Douglas Funeral Home 122 First Avenue Southwest 1 ARD 2,3	01
First Baptist Church 225 First Avenue Southwest 13 ARD 3,4	02
Hank's Filling Station 321 First Avenue Southwest 9 ARD 13,14	03
Fraley-Poff-Thi Home 700 Third Avenue Northeast 7 ARD 8,9	04
Calvary Presbyterian Church 800 Third Avenue Northeast 6 ARD 25; 7 ARD 6; 8 ARD 16,17,18,19	05
Ardmore Vocational Building 25 Third Avenue Northwest 24 ARD 12, 13	06
Residence 615 Third Avenue Southwest 23 ARD 21, 23	07
Charles B. Goddard Home 902 Third Avenue Southwest 3 ARD 11,12	08
Residence 906 Third Avenue Southwest 3 ARD 9,10	09
Turner Home 1501 Third Avenue Southwest 14 ARD 5,7	10
Berryhill Home 618 Sixth Avenue Southeast 6 ARD 22,23,24; 21 ARD 8	11
Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church 1020 Seventh Avenue Northeast 21 ARD 9,10	12
Colvert Home Twelfth Avenue and O Street Northwest 8 ARD 6,8,9	13
Residence 711 Bixby Avenue Southwest 2 ARD 19,20	14

Residence 819 Bixby Avenue Southwest 10 ARD 19,20	15
Residence 905 Bixby Avenue Southwest 2 ARD 12,13	16
Residence 910 Bixby Avenue Southwest 2 ARD 14,15	17
Residence 1000 Bixby Avenue Southwest 24 ARD 7, 8	18
Residence 1003 Bixby Avenue Southwest 2 ARD 10,11	19
Residence 1012 Bixby Avenue Southwest 2 ARD 6,7	20
Residence 1303 Bixby Avenue Southwest 3 ARD 21,22	21
Residence 1411 Bixby Avenue Southwest 3 ARD 23,24	22
Residence 1501 Bixby Avenue Southwest 3 ARD 25,26	23
Fell House 1605 Bixby Avenue Southwest 5 ARD 15,16,17	24
Residence 1620 Bixby Avenue Southwest 14 ARD 3,4	25
St. Phillip's Episcopal Church 516 McLish Avenue Southwest 4 ARD 11,12,13,15	26
Central Church of Christ 607 McLish Avenue Southwest 9 ARD 11, 12	27
Residence 802 McLish Avenue Southwest 10 ARD 17; 25 ARD 7	28
Cox Home 1008 McLish Avenue Southwest 2 ARD 2,3	29

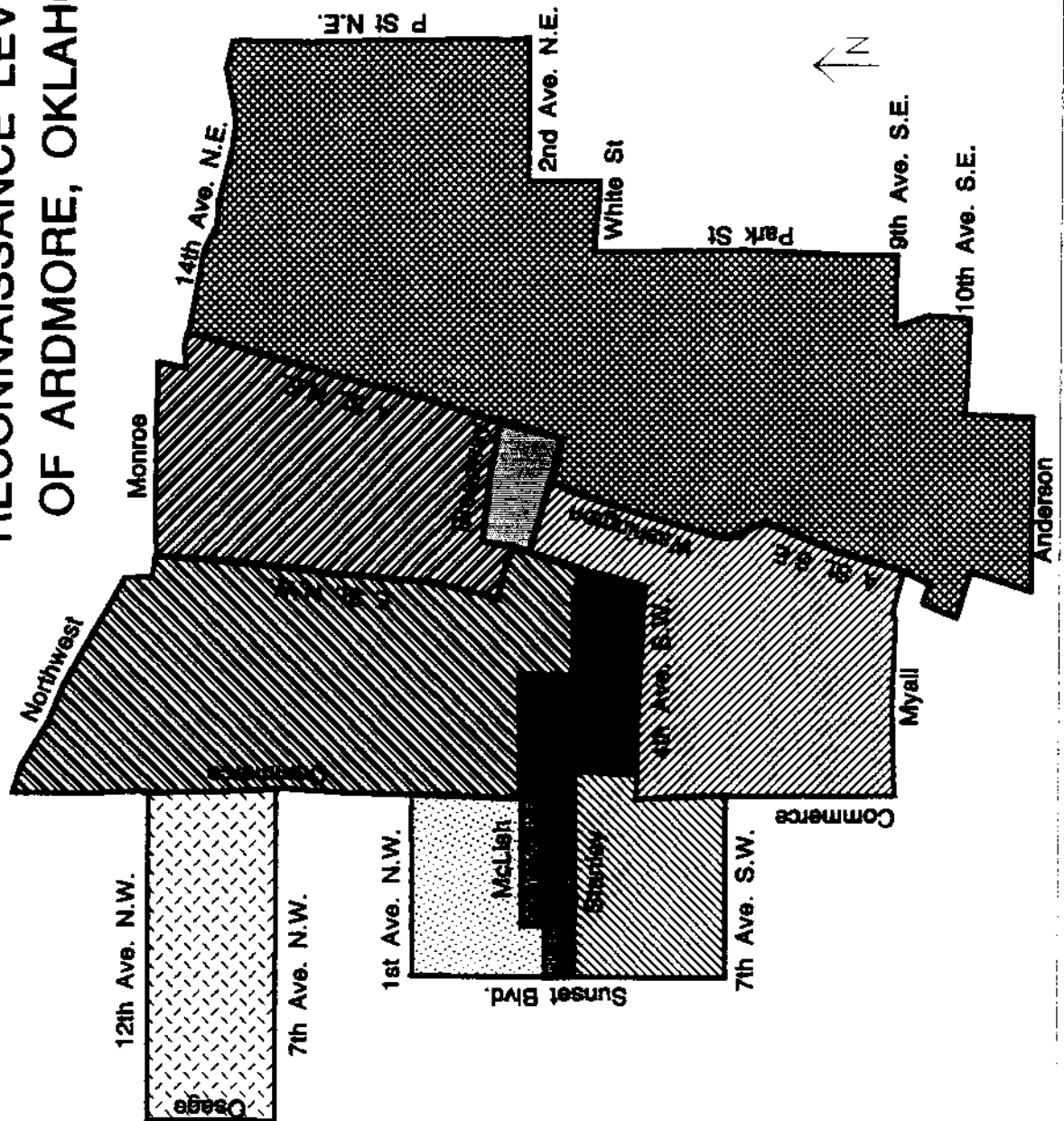
Residence 1201 McLish Avenue Southwest 10 ARD 5,6	30
Residence 1207 McLish Avenue Southwest 3 ARD 17,18	31
Residence 1305 McLish Avenue Southwest 3 ARD 15,16	32
Residence 1306 McLish Avenue Southwest 3 ARD 13,14	33
Temple Emeth Synagogue 421 Stanley Avenue Southwest 11 ARD 9; 23 ARD 14	34
Carnegie Library 506 Stanley Avenue Southwest 1 ARD 17,18	35
Moore Home 626 Stanley Avenue Southwest 13 ARD 15,16	36
Residence 823 Stanley Avenue Southwest 23 ARD 24, 25	37
Residence 1622 Stanley Avenue Southwest 10 ARD 12,13	38
Residence 1805 Stanley Avenue Southwest 24 ARD 9, 10n	39
A. C. Cruce Residence 203 C Street Southwest 1 ARD 6,7	40
Residence 304 C Street Southwest 23 ARD 16; 25 ARD 9	41
Oklahoma Confederate Veterans' Home 1015 Commerce Street South 8 ARD 3,5; 25 ARD 14	42
William I. Cruce Home 624 D Street Northwest 0 ARD 6,7	43
Residence 903 D Street Northwest 0 ARD 10a; 23 ARD 12	44

Lloyd Noble Home 907 D Street Northwest 0 ARD 12; 23 ARD 13	45
Nance Pecan Factory 23 D Street Southeast 6 ARD 8,9,10,11	46
Wirt Franklin Home 201 D Street Southwest 13 ARD 9,10	47
Residence 220 D Street Southwest 1 ARD 14,15	48
Franklin Elementary School 615 E Street Northwest 6 ARD 3,4,5	49
St. Mary Catholic Church 125 E Street Southwest 11 ARD 6,7	50
Vernon Home 214 E Street Southwest 13 ARD 7,8	51
Walter Neustadt Home 211 F Street Southwest 1 ARD 16,21	52
Residence 315 F Street Southwest 13 ARD 5,6	53
Residence 324 F Street Southwest 23 ARD 17, 18	54
Drew Home 403 F Street Southwest 4 ARD 18,19	55
Residence 125 G Street Southwest 13 ARD 13,14	56
Residence 302 G Street Southwest 11 ARD 14,15	57
Residence 306 G Street Southwest 23 ARD 19, 20	58
Small's Bakery 204 H Street Northeast 8 ARD 15; 25 ARD 6	59

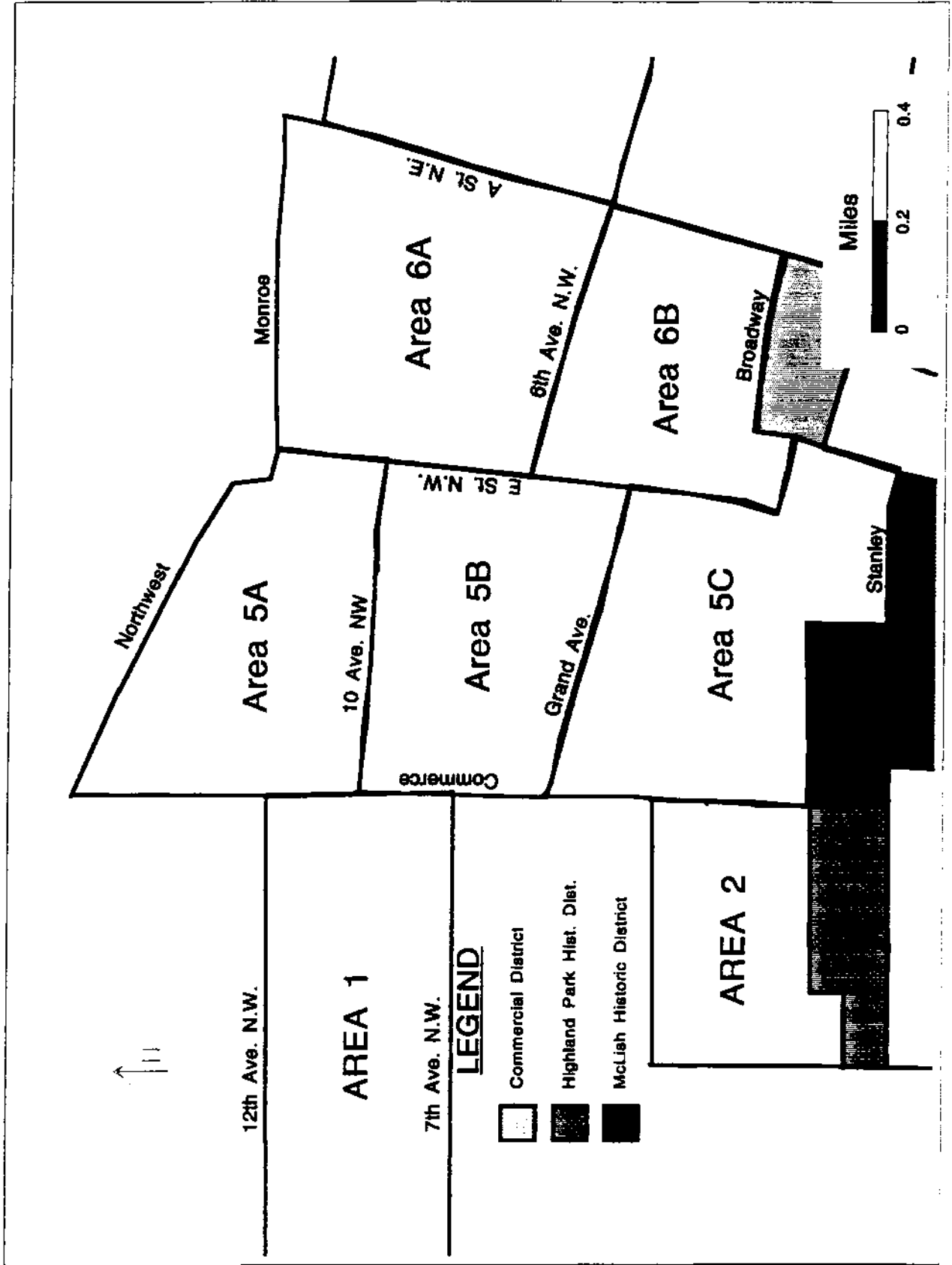
Joiner Home 1303 Harris Street Northwest 7 ARD 14,15	60
Central Park Bandstand 500 Main Street West 9 ARD 6,7	61
First United Methodist Church 501 Main Street West 9 ARD 8,9,10	62
Ardmore Milling Company Mill 100 Mill Street South 7 ARD 19,20,21,22	63
Will Rogers Elementary School 11-15 Monroe Street Northwest 9 ARD 18,19,20,21	64
Residence 401 O Street Southwest 3 ARD 27,28	65
Ardmore Municipal Building 23 Washington Street South 4 ARD 27,28	66
Colvert Dairy Products Company Building 135 Washington Street South 4 ARD 20,21,22,23,24,25,26	67
Ardmore High School 215 Washington Street North 20 ARD 15,16,17	68
First Orthodox Baptist Church 320 Washington Street North 24 ARD 15, 16	69
DeWitt Home 519 Wolverton Street Northwest 7 ARD 10,13,13	70
Walker Stadium Broadway West and Sunset Drive Northwest 8 ARD 12,13	71
YWCA (Young Women's Christian Association) 27 Broadway West 12 ARD 17 ; 20 ARD 9,10,11	72
Gilbert Building 117 Broadway West 20 ARD 7,8	73
Ardmore Auditorium 220 Broadway West 24 ARD 19, 20	74

First Presbyterian Church 223 Broadway West 6 ARD 16,17,18; 24 ARD 21, 22	75
Hale/Milburn Ford Building 330 Broadway West 17 ARD 7,8	76
Cummings Sinclair Service Station 817 Broadway West 9 ARD 22,24	77
Douglas-Grant Home 610 Douglas Boulevard Southeast 14 ARD 22,23	78
Ardmore Muffler Service 231 Lake Murray Drive South 15 ARD 2,5,6	79
Hardy Murphy Coliseum 600 Lake Murray Drive South 20 ARD 22,23,24	80
Whittington Park 500 Lake Murray Drive South 20 ARD 19,20,21	81
Washington Elementary School 711 Martin Luther King Drive Northeast 9 ARD 15,16,17	82
KVSO Radio Station (Old) 905 Northwest Boulevard 23 ARD 6,7,8,9	83
Hardy Murphy House 1022 Northwest Boulevard 0 ARD 3a; 23 ARD 10	84
Ardmore Armory 35 Sunset Drive Northwest 8 ARD 10,11	85
Quintin Little Home 517 Sunset Drive Southwest 5 ARD 20; 24 ARD 12	86
Smith Home 519 Sunset Drive Southwest 24 ARD 13, 14	87
Federal Building 39 Washington Street North 24 ARD 23, 24	88

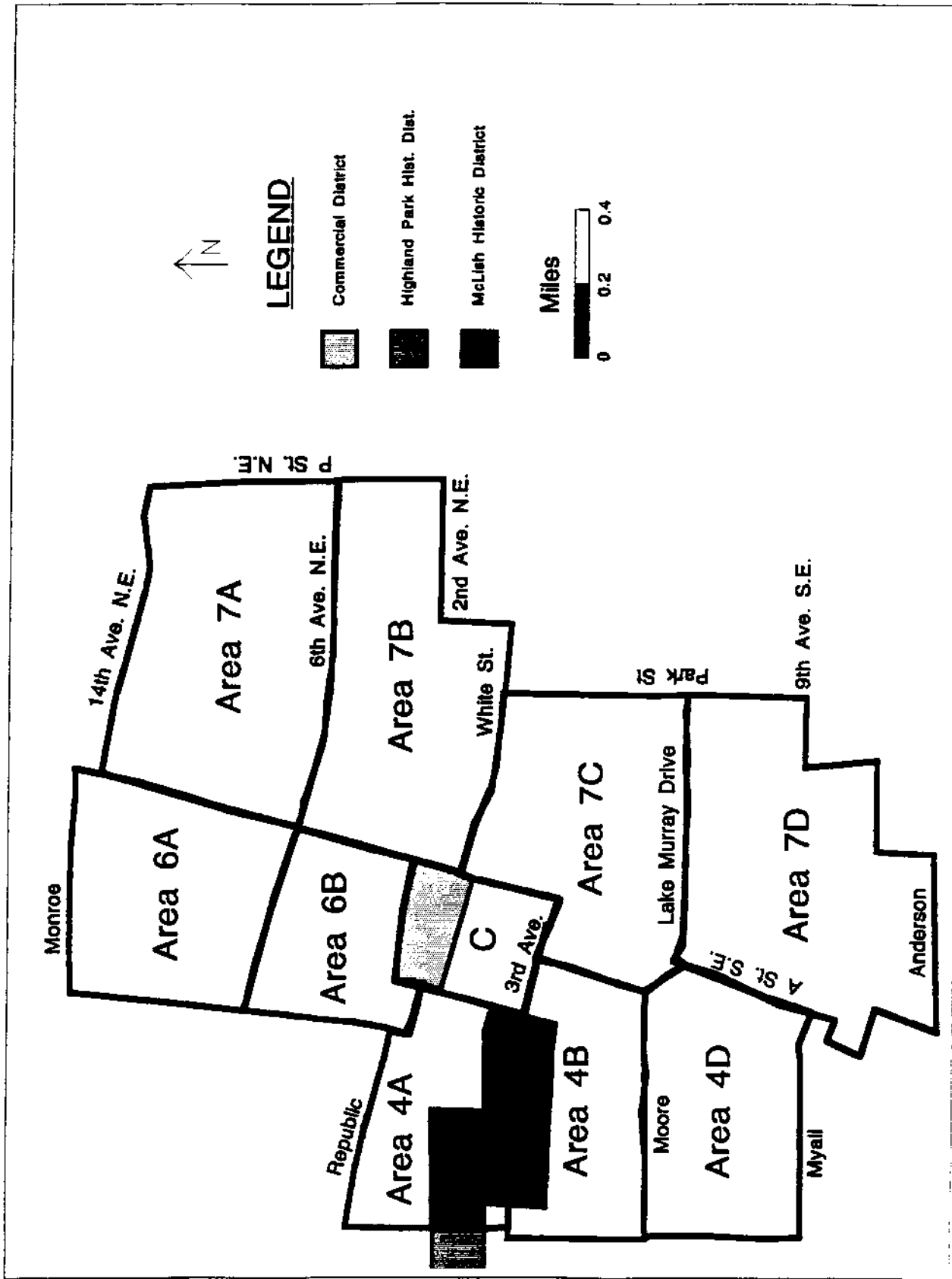
# RECONNAISSANCE LEVEL SURVEY OF ARDMORE, OKLAHOMA: 1994



# AREA SUBDIVISIONS



# AREA SUBDIVISIONS



### KEY TO AREA MAPS

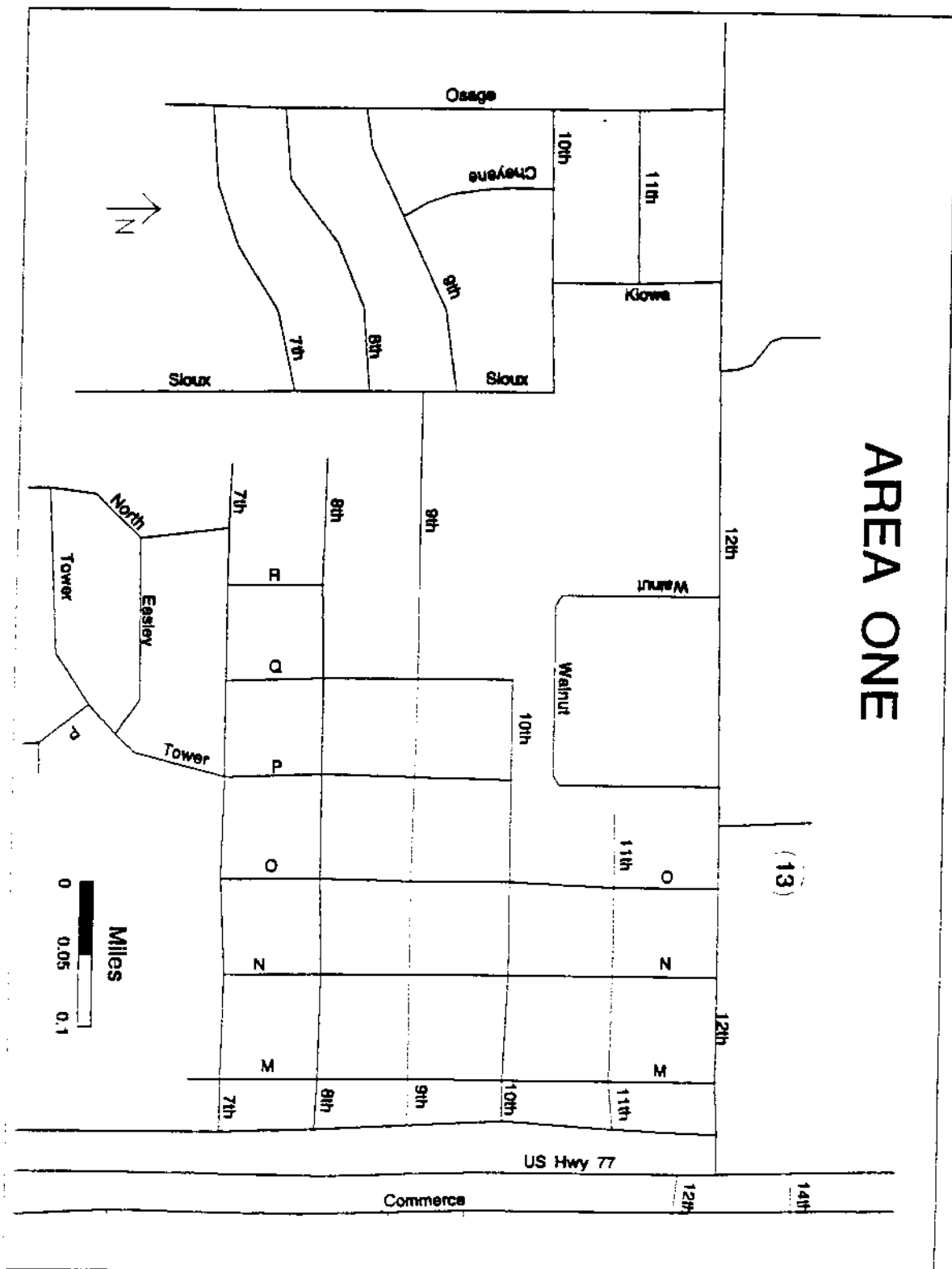
- ☐ Warrants Further Study
- ☐ Does not Warrant Further Study
- - - Boundaries of Proposed McLish Historic District
- - - - Boundaries of Proposed Highland Park Historic District

**NOTE:** Area maps overlap in coverage to assure depiction of all documented properties.

All maps were generated using Tiger Files of the Strategic Mapping Agency and the Geographic Information System (GIS) Atlas program.

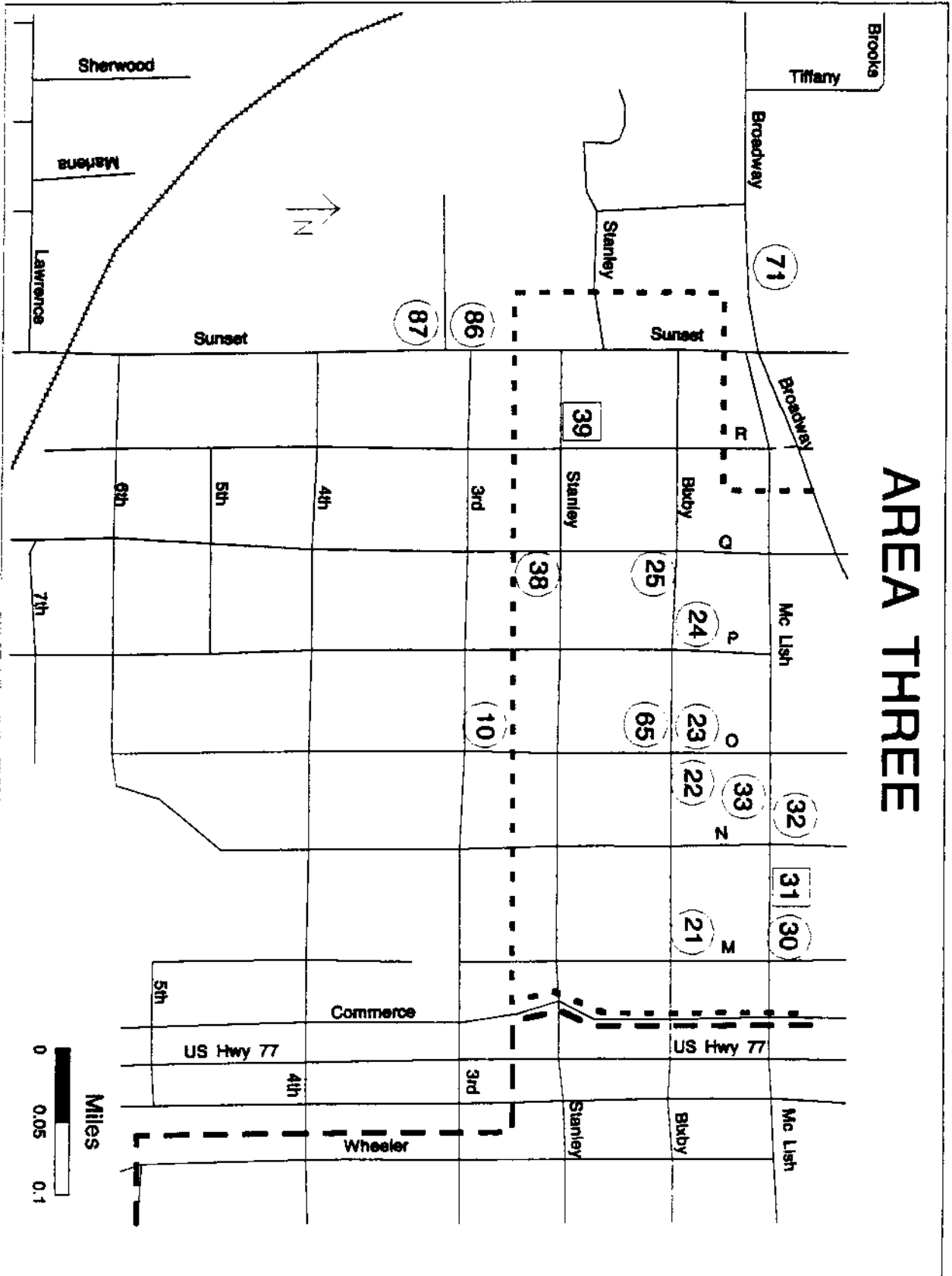
Brian Schulz, doctoral student in the Oklahoma State University Department of Geography served as project cartographer.

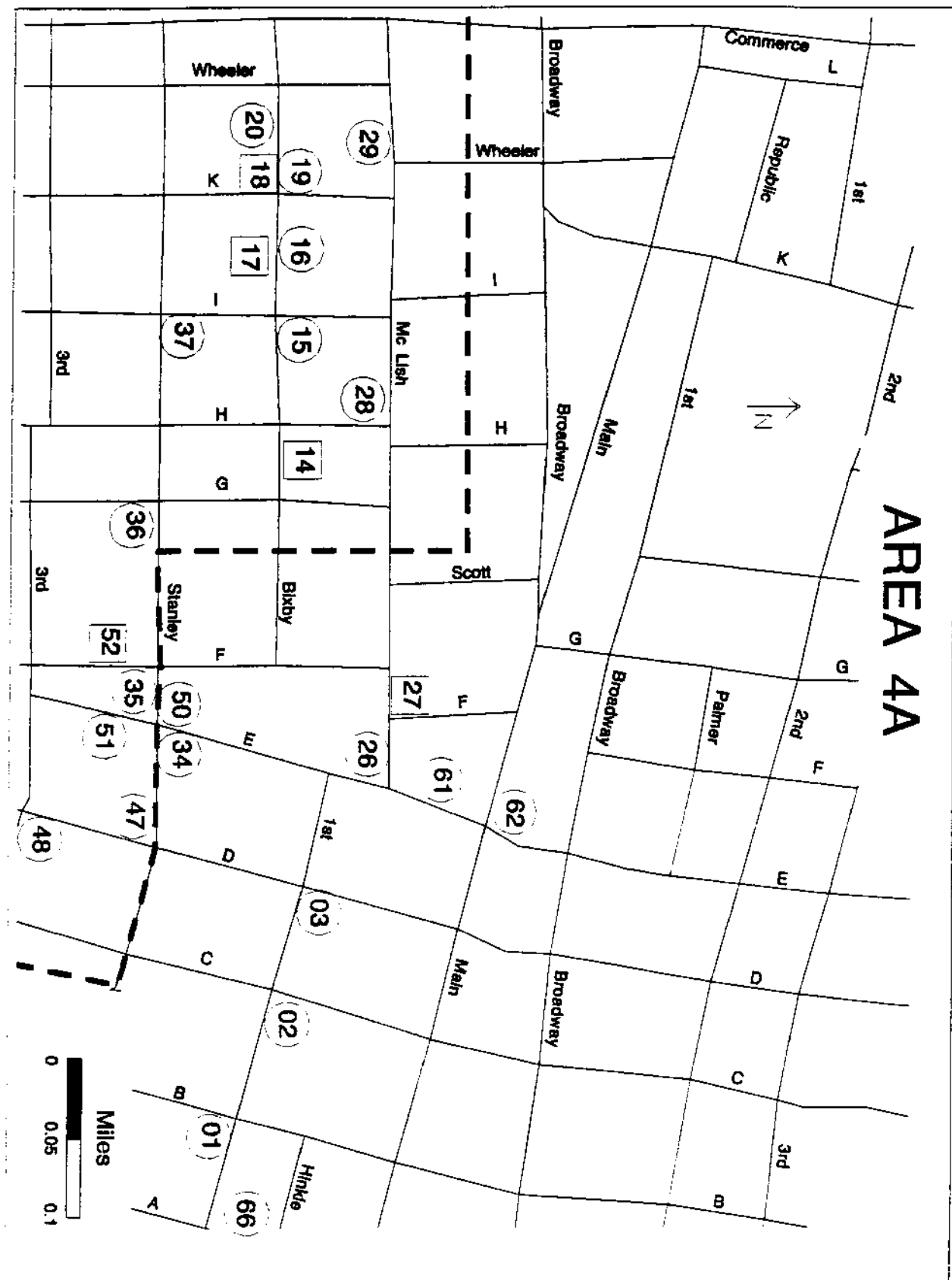
# AREA ONE



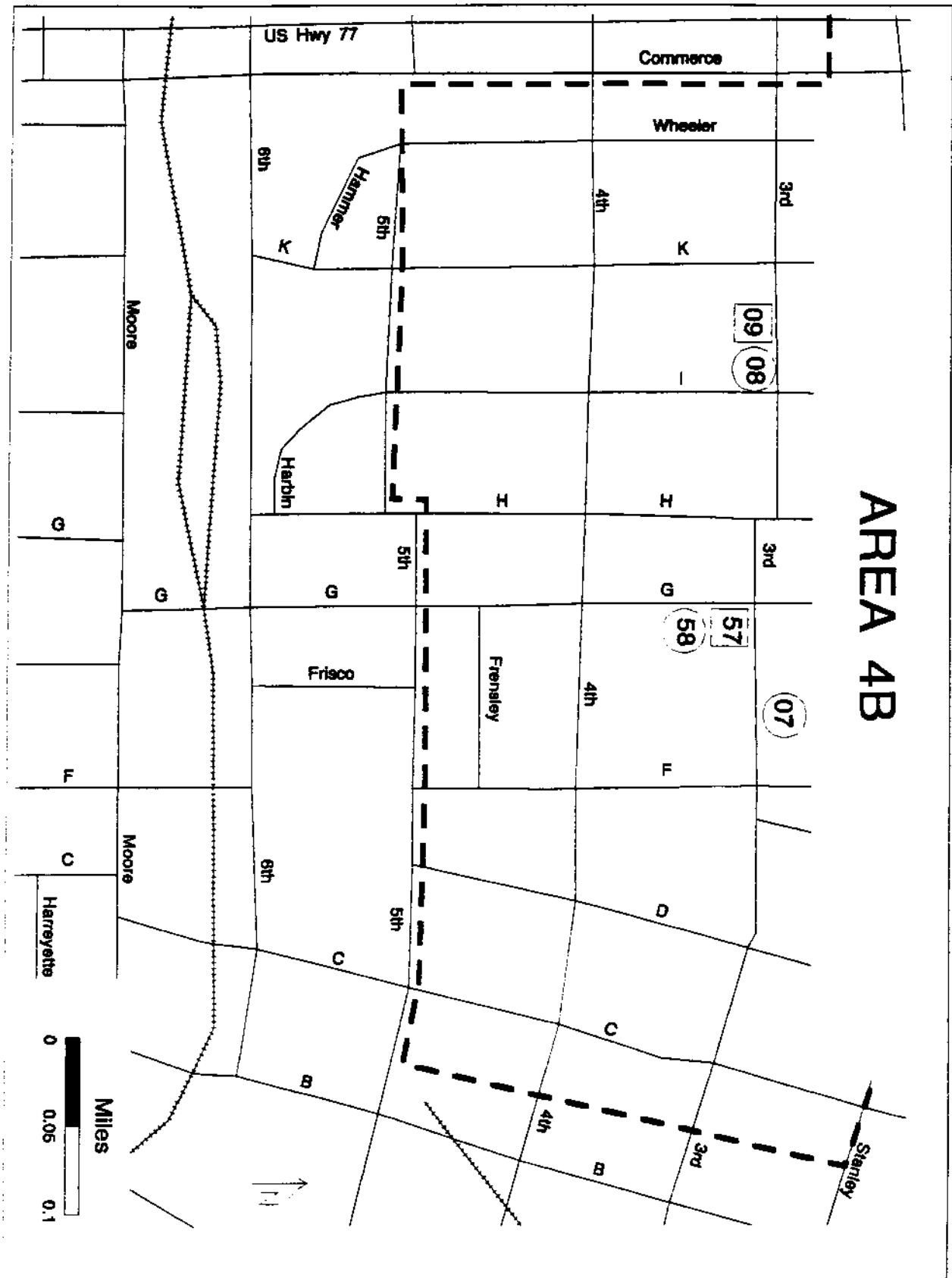
[illegible]

# AREA THREE

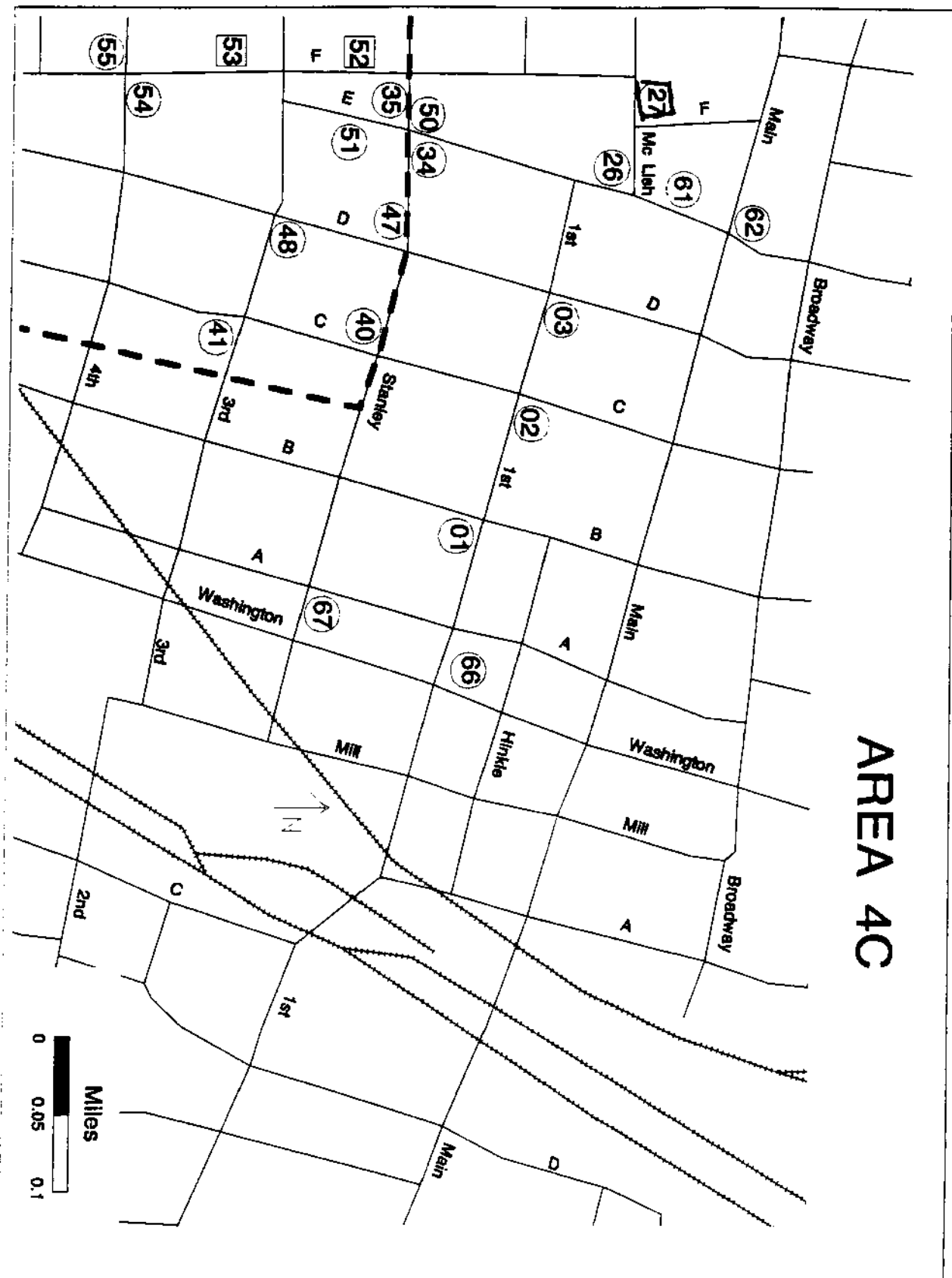




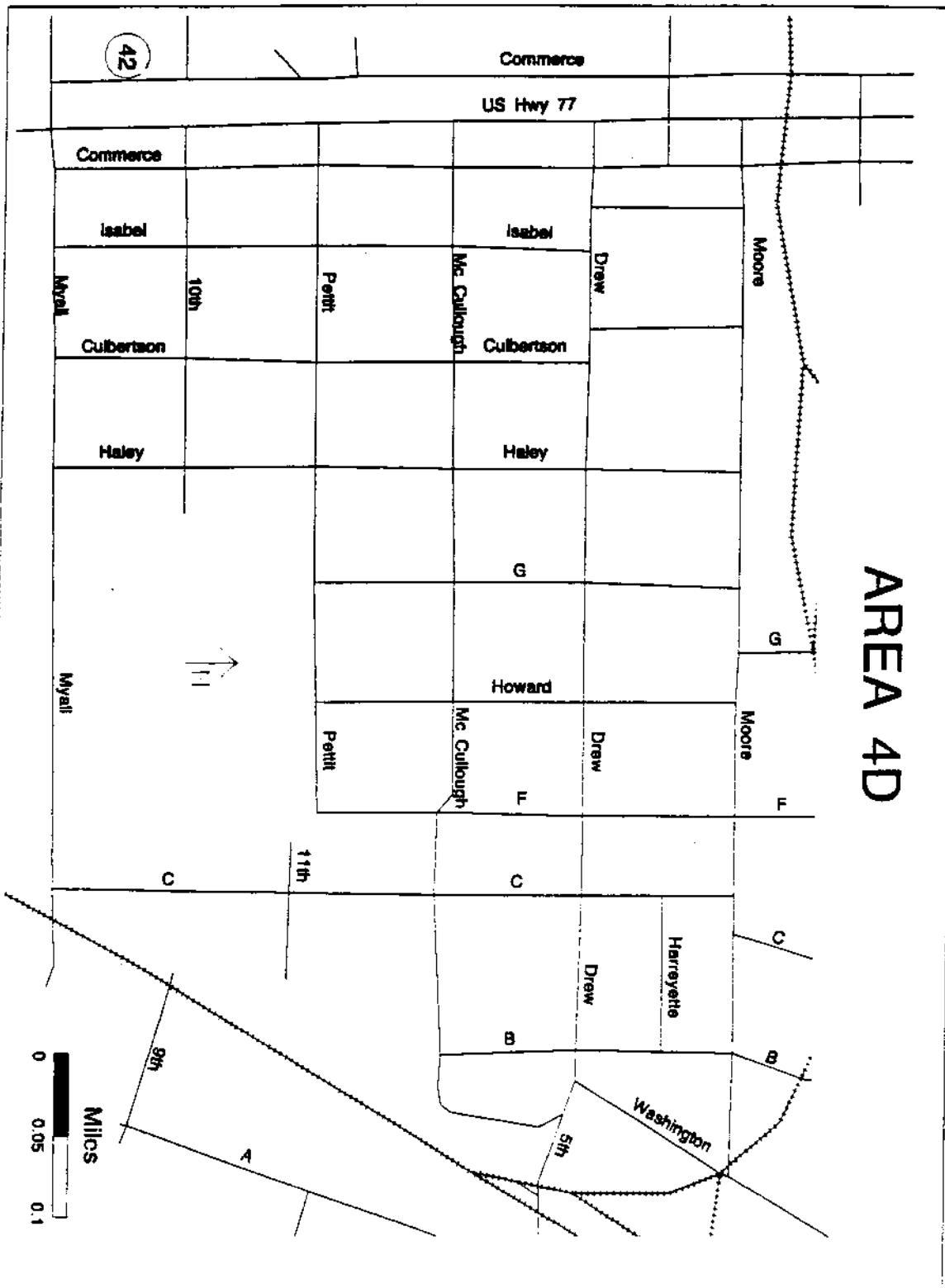
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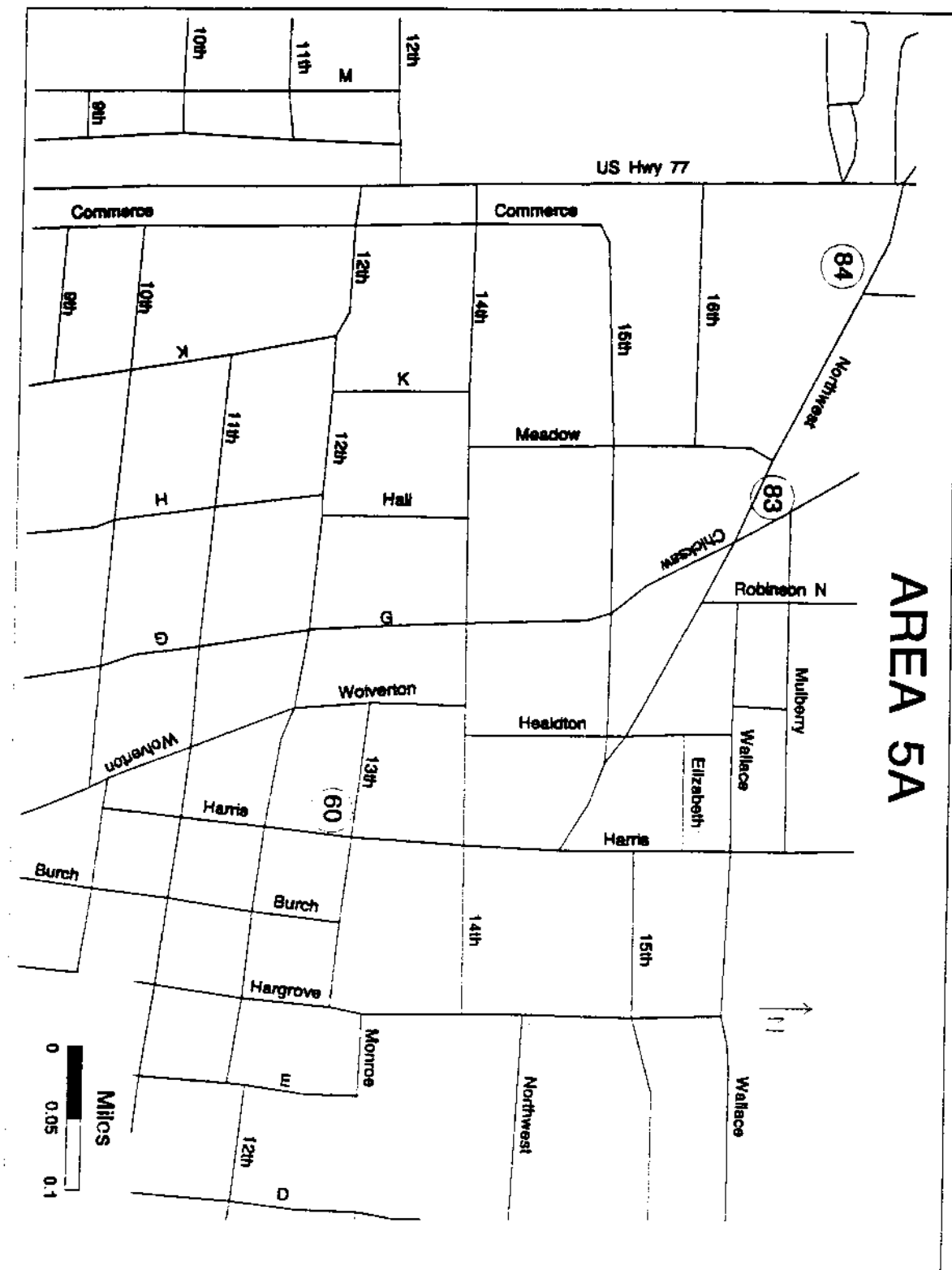


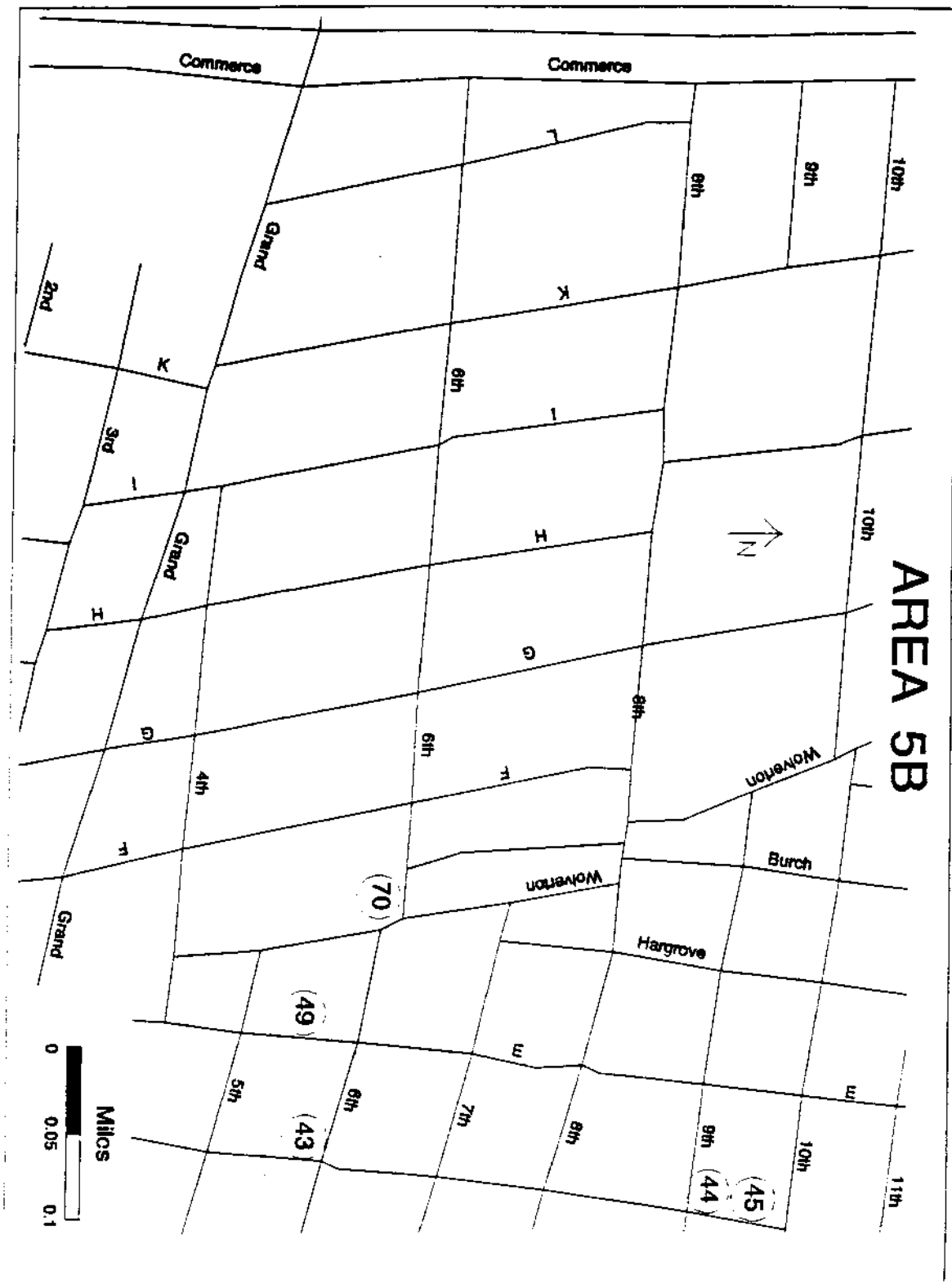
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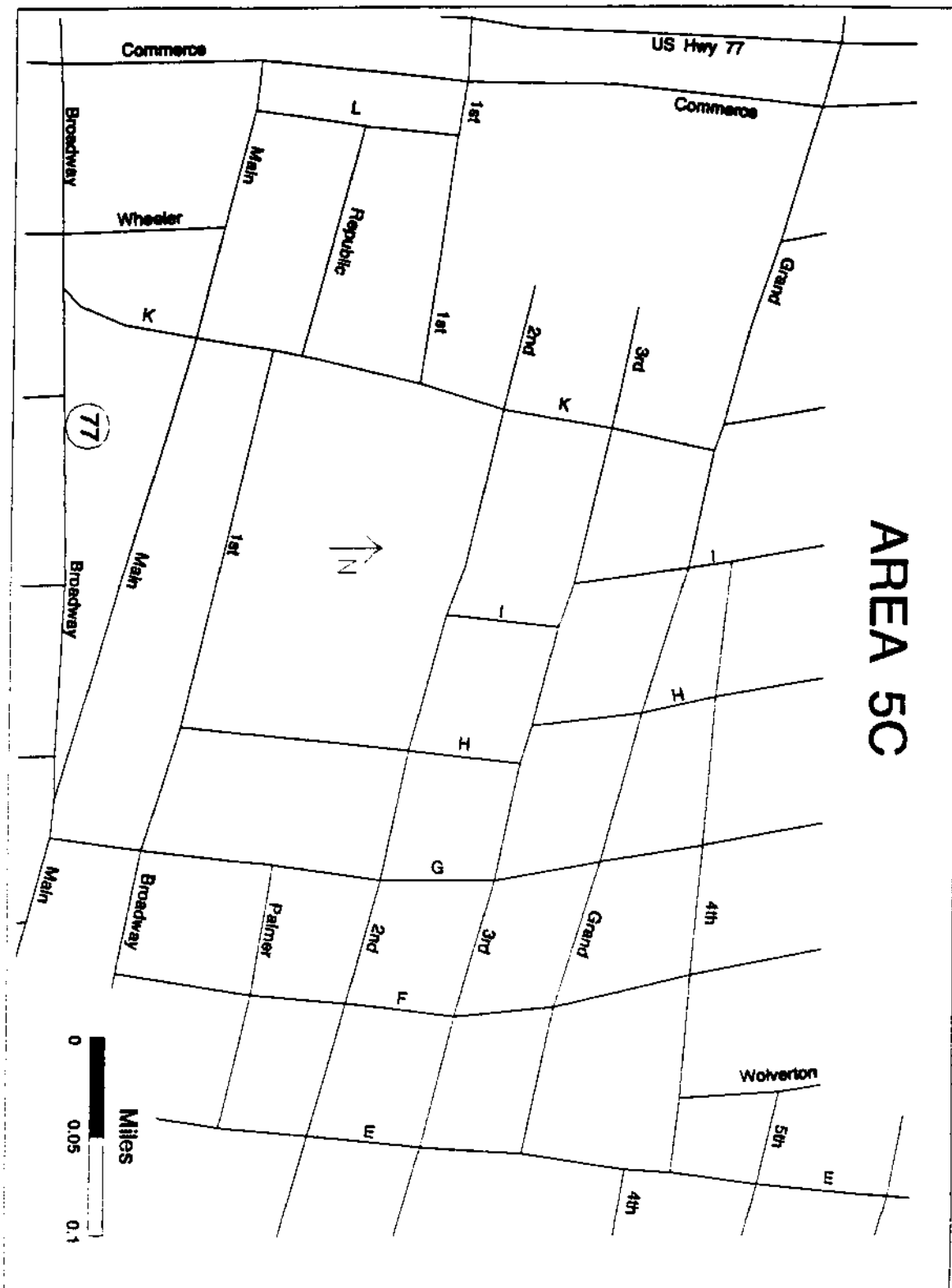


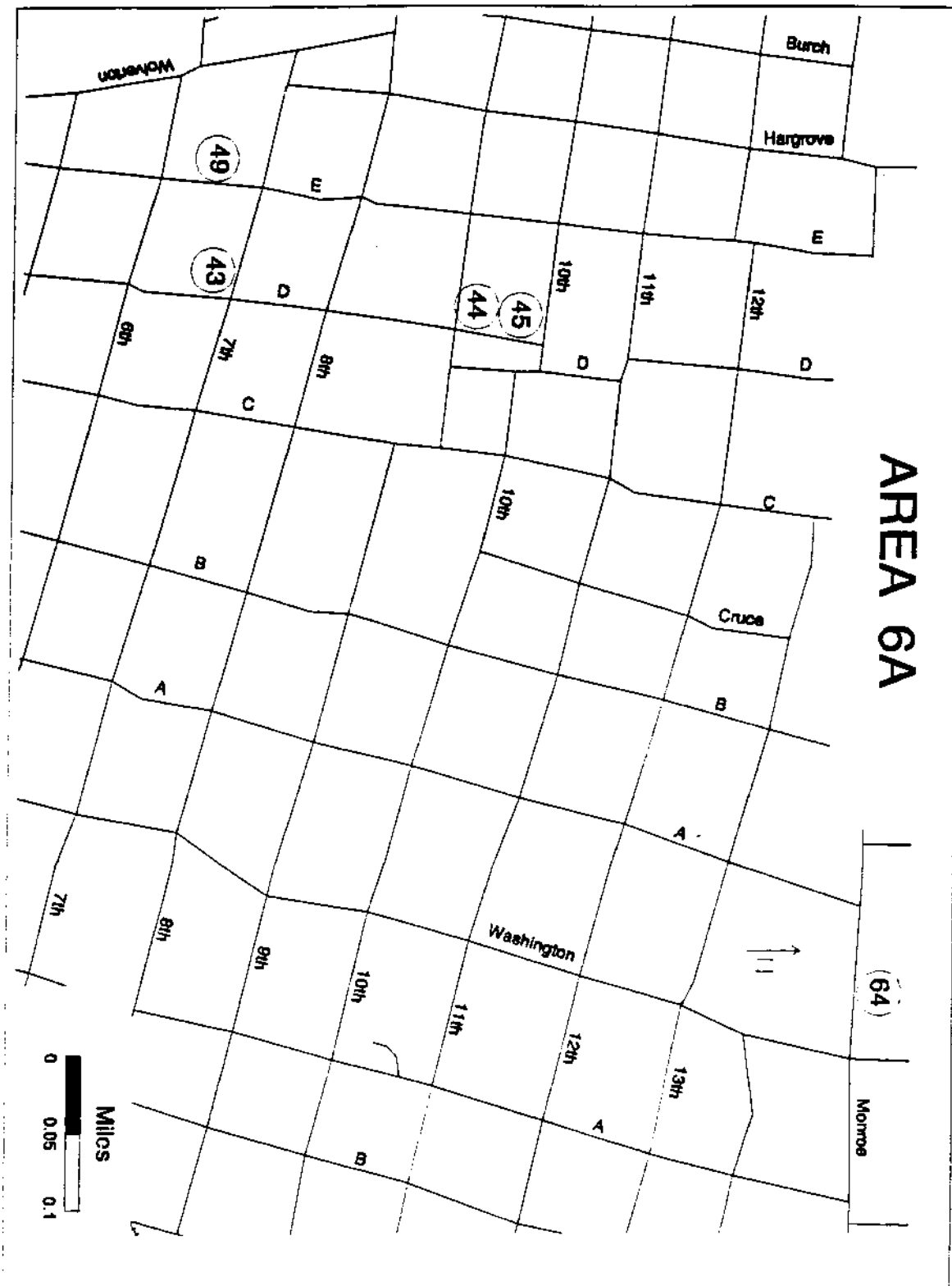
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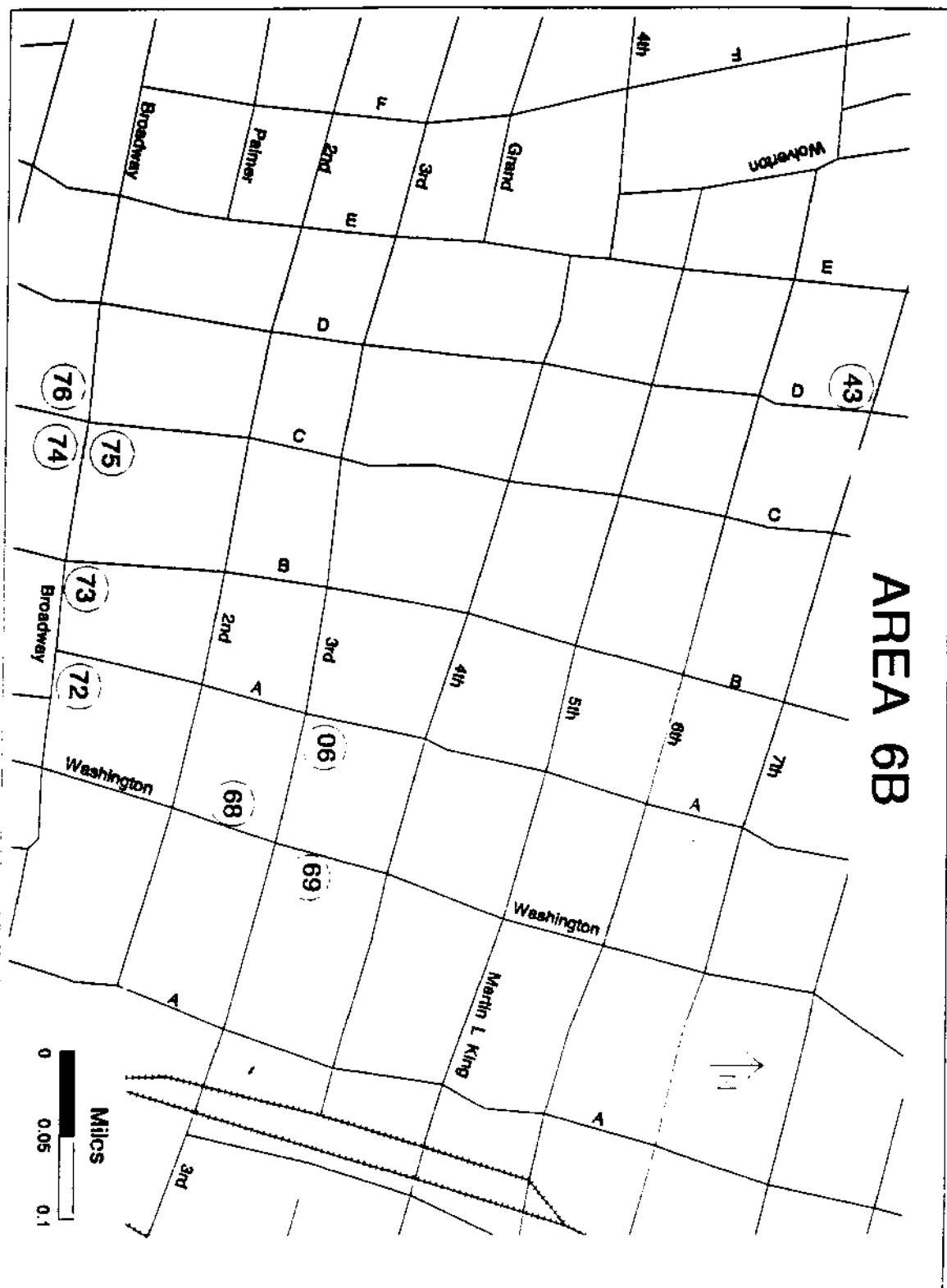


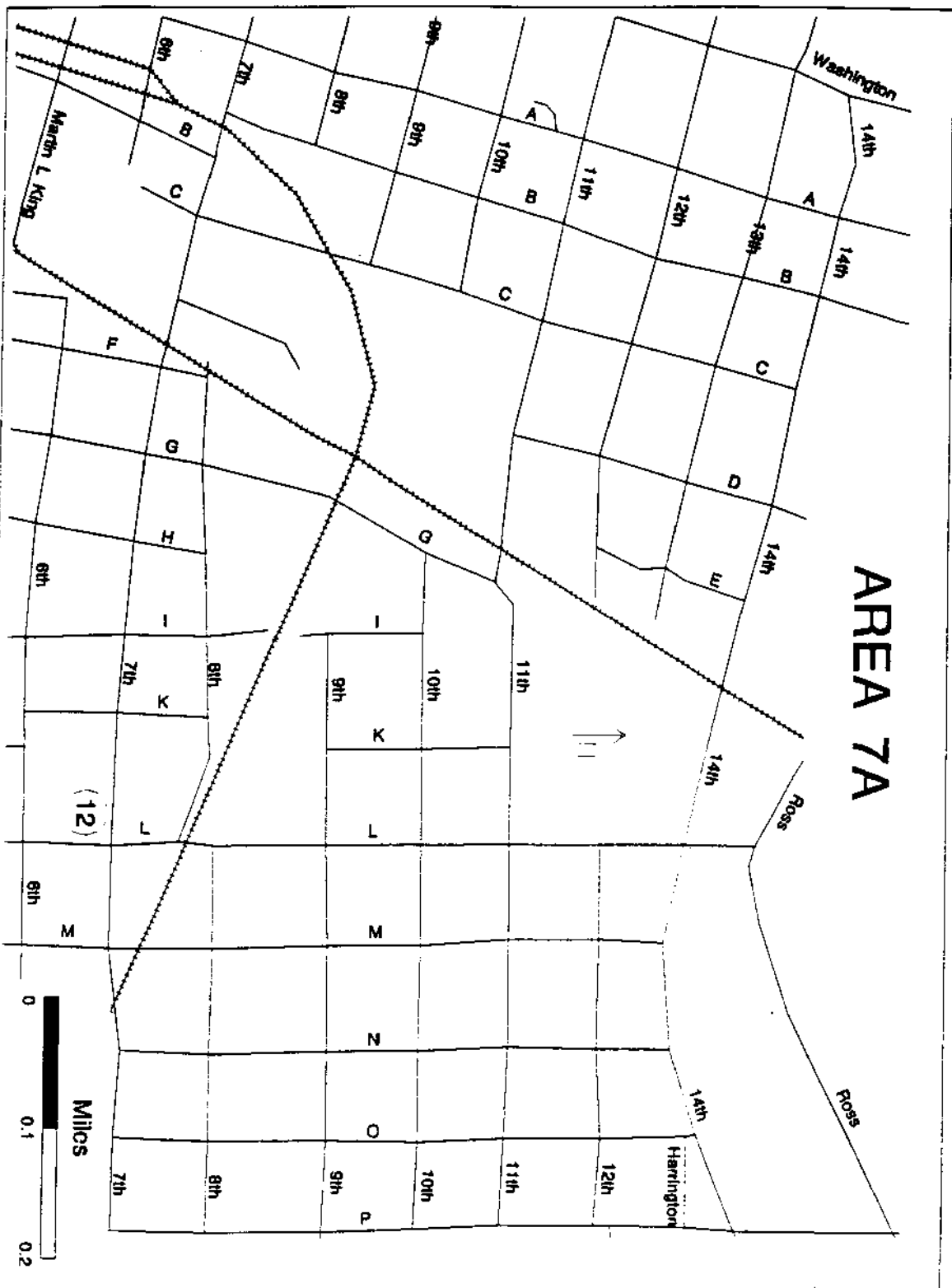




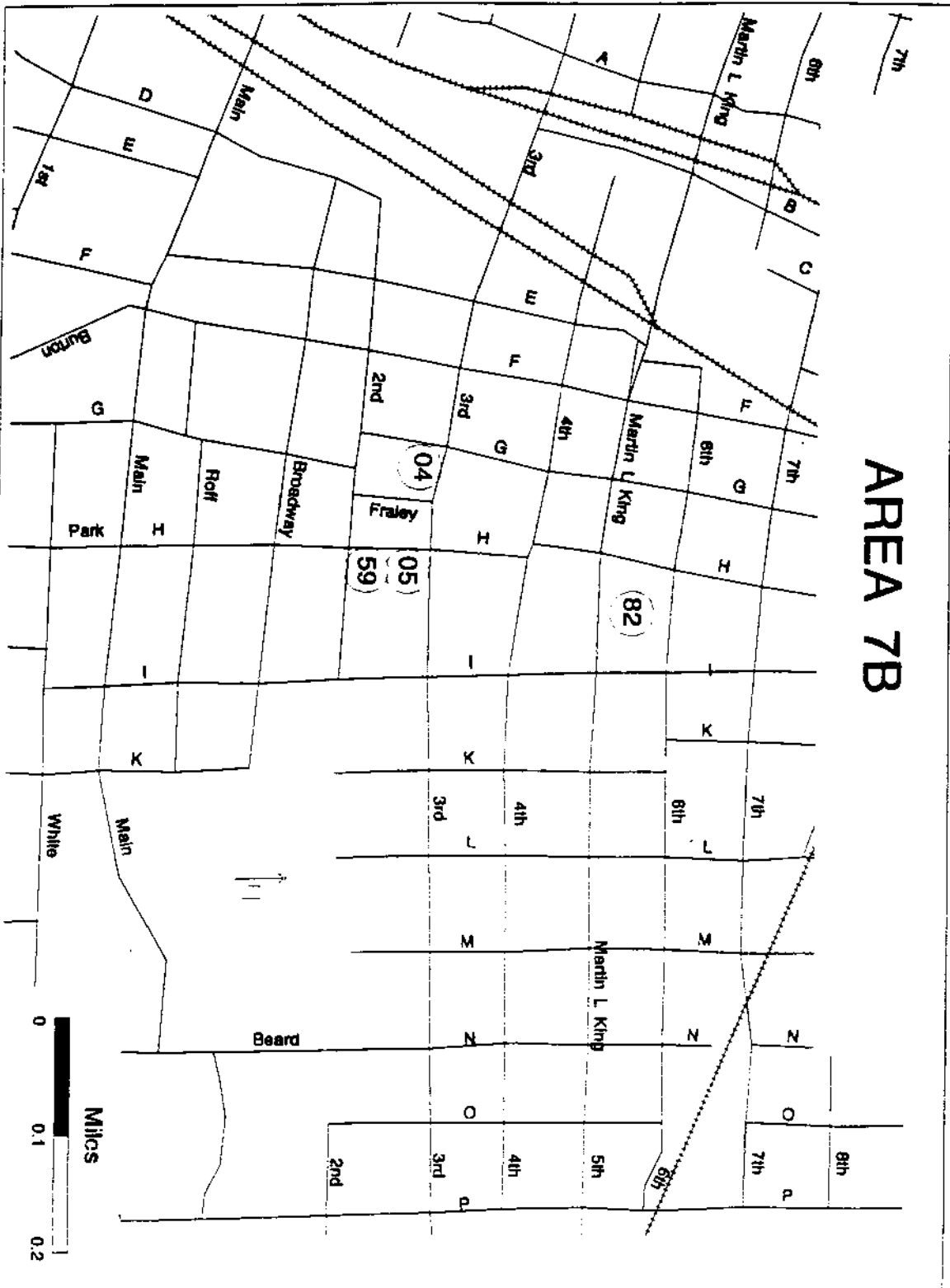




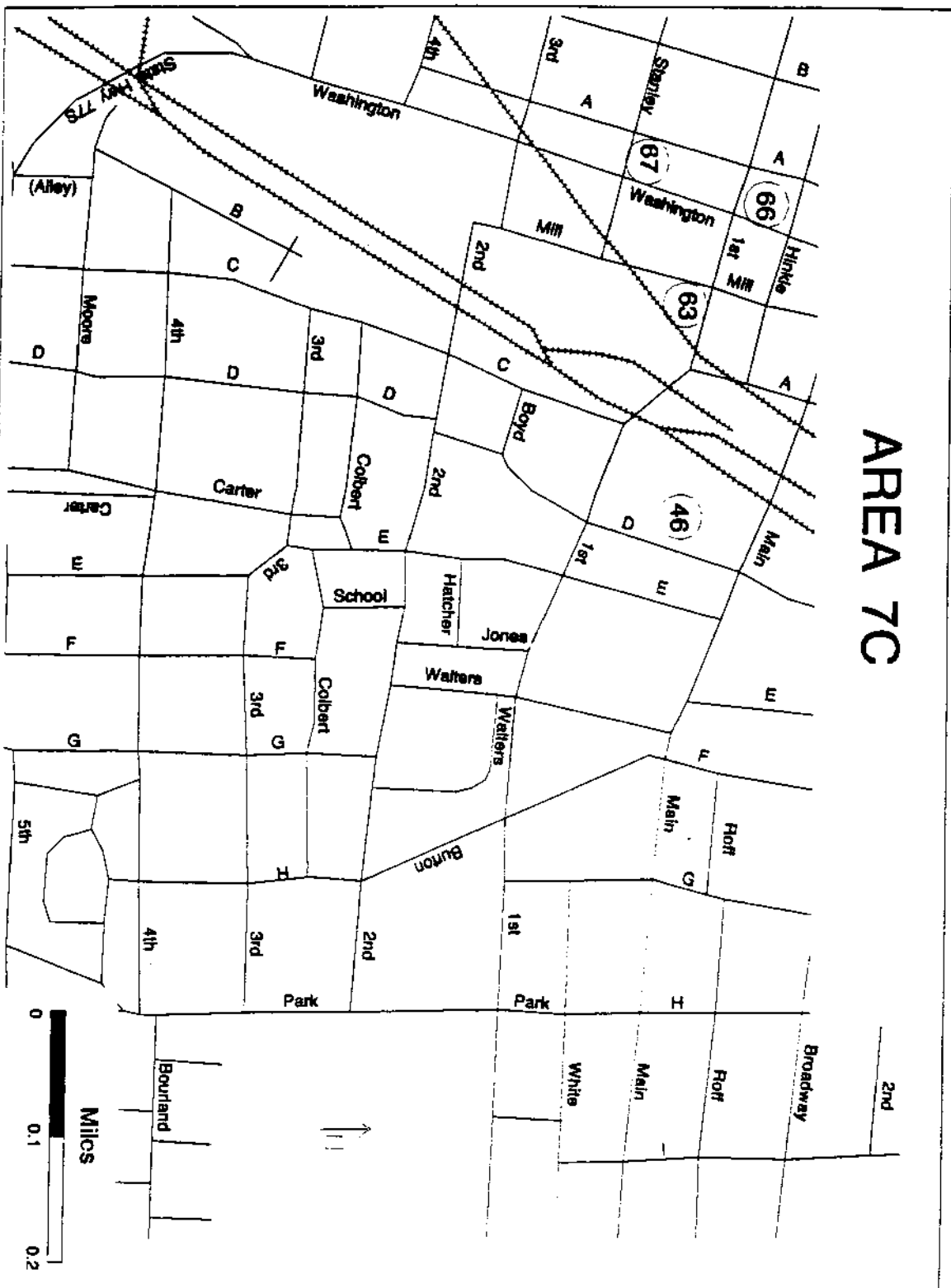




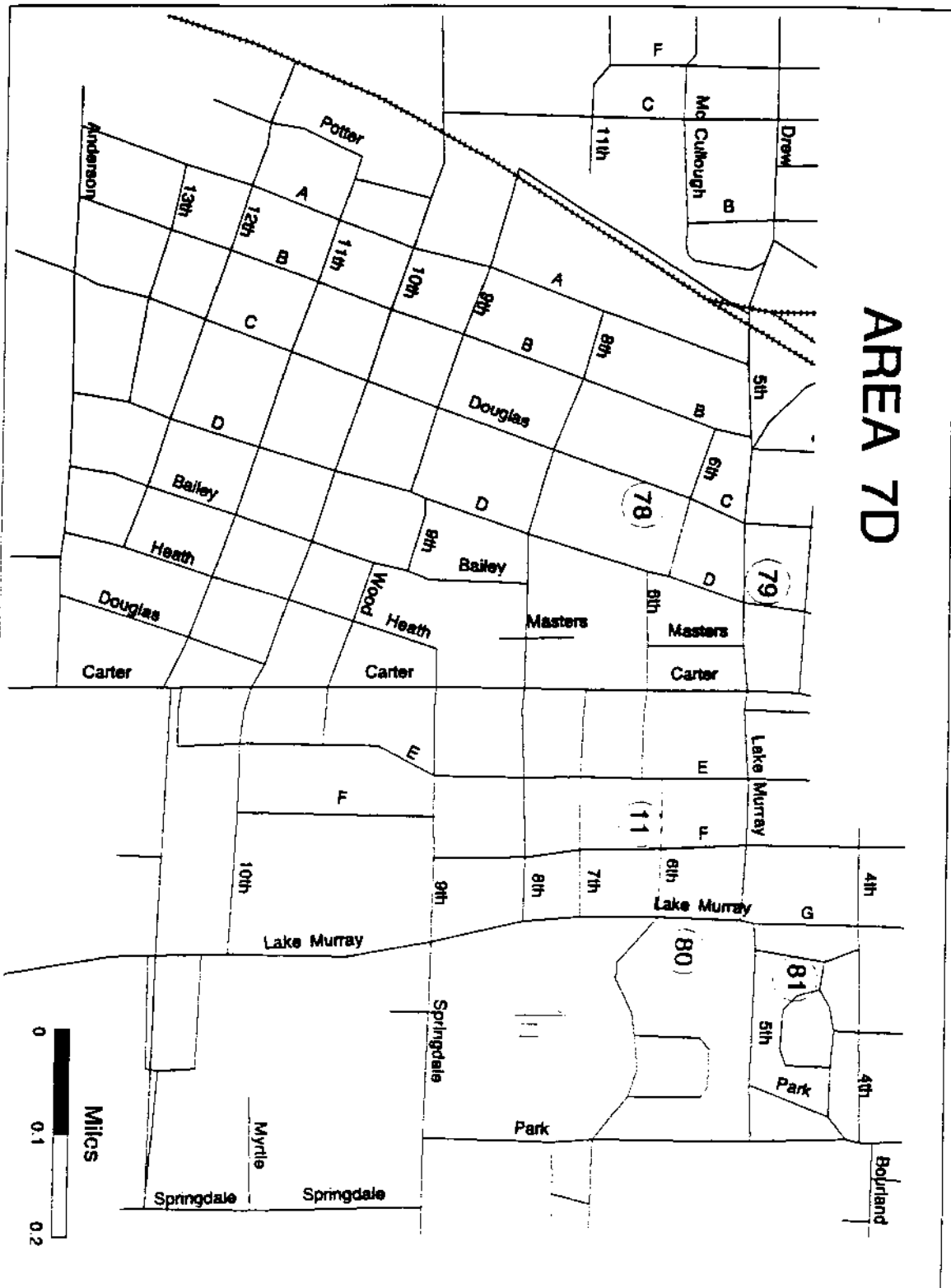
# AREA 7B



# AREA 7C



# AREA 7D



## INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES AND DISTRICTS WARRANTING FURTHER STUDY

### Individual Properties

The list which follows indicates the individual properties documented during the survey which, on the basis of their age and integrity, were deemed worthy of possible inclusion on the National Register. Some of these properties are also included in the possible districts identified during the project. Since the exact composition of these districts potentially could change as part of a formal National Register nomination, their additional listing as individual properties is appropriate.

The format for the listing is the same as the section listing all documented properties, so that section may be consulted as a key for the information provided. The maps depicting the location of these individual properties also follows that section.

More specific information on these properties can be found in the thumbnail sketches of the individual properties and potential districts which appear in another section of this report.

Resource Name:

Address:

Photograph

Map Coordinate:

Harvey-Douglas Funeral Home 122 First Avenue Southwest 1 ARD 2,3	01
First Baptist Church 225 First Avenue Southwest 13 ARD 3,4	02
Hank's Filling Station 321 First Avenue Southwest 9 ARD 13,14	03
Fraley-Poff-Thi Home 700 Third Avenue Northeast 7 ARD 8,9	04
Calvary Presbyterian Church 800 Third Avenue Northeast 6 ARD 25; 7 ARD 6; 8 ARD 16,17,18,19	05
Ardmore Vocational Building 25 Third Avenue Northwest 24 ARD 12, 13	06
Residence 615 Third Avenue Southwest 23 ARD 21, 23	07
Charles B. Goddard Home 902 Third Avenue Southwest 3 ARD 11,12	08
Turner Home 1501 Third Avenue Southwest 14 ARD 5,7	10
Berryhill Home 618 Sixth Avenue Southeast 6 ARD 22,23,24; 21 ARD 8	11
Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church 1020 Seventh Avenue Northeast 21 ARD 9,10	12
Colvert Home Twelfth Avenue and O Street Northwest 8 ARD 6,8,9	13
Residence 819 Bixby Avenue Southwest 10 ARD 19,20	15
Residence 905 Bixby Avenue Southwest 2 ARD 12,13	16

Residence 1000 Bixby Avenue Southwest 24 ARD 7, 8	18
Residence 1003 Bixby Avenue Southwest 2 ARD 10,11	19
Residence 1012 Bixby Avenue Southwest 2 ARD 6,7	20
Residence 1303 Bixby Avenue Southwest 3 ARD 21,22	21
Residence 1411 Bixby Avenue Southwest 3 ARD 23,24	22
Residence 1501 Bixby Avenue Southwest 3 ARD 25,26	23
Fell House 1605 Bixby Avenue Southwest 5 ARD 15,16,17	24
Residence 1620 Bixby Avenue Southwest 14 ARD 3,4	25
St. Phillip's Episcopal Church 516 McLish Avenue Southwest 4 ARD 11,12,13,15	26
<del>Central Church of Christ</del> <del>607 McLish Avenue Southwest</del> <del>9 ARD 11, 12</del>	27
Residence 802 McLish Avenue Southwest 10 ARD 17; 25 ARD 7	28
Cox Home 1008 McLish Avenue Southwest 2 ARD 2,3	29
Residence 1201 McLish Avenue Southwest 10 ARD 5,6	30
Residence 1305 McLish Avenue Southwest 3 ARD 15,16	32
Residence 1306 McLish Avenue Southwest 3 ARD 13,14	33

Temple Emeth Synagogue 421 Stanley Avenue Southwest 11 ARD 9; 23 ARD 14	34
Carnegie Library 506 Stanley Avenue Southwest 1 ARD 17,18	35
Moore Home 626 Stanley Avenue Southwest 13 ARD 15,16	36
Residence 823 Stanley Avenue Southwest 23 ARD 24, 25	37
Residence 1622 Stanley Avenue Southwest 10 ARD 12,13	38
A. C. Cruce Residence 203 C Street Southwest 1 ARD 6,7	40
Residence 304 C Street Southwest 23 ARD 16, 25 ARD 9	41
Oklahoma Confederate Veterans' Home 1015 Commerce Street South 8 ARD 3,5	42
William I. Cruce Home 624 D Street Northwest 0 ARD 6,7	43
Residence 903 D Street Northwest 0 ARD 10a; 23 ARD 12	44
Lloyd Noble Home 907 D Street Northwest 0 ARD 12; 23 ARD 13	45
Nance Pecan Factory 23 D Street Southeast 6 ARD 8,9,10,11	46
Wirt Franklin Home 201 D Street Southwest 13 ARD 9,10	47
Residence 220 D Street Southwest 1 ARD 14,15	48
Franklin Elementary School 615 E Street Northwest 6 ARD 3,4,5	49

St. Mary Catholic Church 125 E Street Southwest 11 ARD 6,7	50
Vernon Home 214 E Street Southwest 13 ARD 7,8	51
Residence 324 F Street Southwest 23 ARD 17, 18	54
Draw Home 403 F Street Southwest 4 ARD 18,19	55
Residence 125 G Street Southwest 13 ARD 13,14	56
Residence 306 G Street Southwest 23 ARD 19, 20	58
Small's Bakery 204 H Street Northeast 8 ARD 15; 25 ARD 6	59
Joiner Home 1303 Harris Street Northwest 7 ARD 14,15	60
Central Park Bandstand 500 Main Street West 9 ARD 6,7	61
First United Methodist Church 501 Main Street West 9 ARD 8,9,10	62
Ardmore Milling Company Mill 100 Mill Street South 7 ARD 19,20,21,22	63
Will Rogers Elementary School 11-15 Monroe Street Northwest 9 ARD 18,19,20,21	64
Residence 401 O Street Southwest 3 ARD 27,28	65
Ardmore Municipal Building 23 Washington Street South 4 ARD 27,28	66
Colvert Dairy Products Company Building 135 Washington Street South 4 ARD 20,21,22,23,24,25,26	67

Ardmore High School 215 Washington Street North 20 ARD 15,16,17	68
First Orthodox Baptist Church 320 Washington Street North 24 ARD 15, 16	69
DeWitt Home 519 Wolverton Street Northwest 7 ARD 10,13,13	70
Walker Stadium Broadway West and Sunset Drive Northwest 8 ARD 12,13	71
YWCA (Young Women's Christian Association) 27 Broadway West 12 ARD 17 ; 20 ARD 9,10,11	72
Gilbert Building 117 Broadway West 20 ARD 7,8	73
Ardmore Auditorium 220 Broadway West 24 ARD 19, 20	74
First Presbyterian Church 223 Broadway West 6 ARD 16,17,18; 24 ARD 21, 22	75
Hale/Milburn Ford Building 330 Broadway West 17 ARD 7,8	76
Cummings Sinclair Service Station 817 Broadway West 9 ARD 22,24	77
Douglas-Grant Home 610 Douglas Boulevard Southeast 14 ARD 22,23	78
Ardmore Muffler Service 231 Lake Murray Drive South 15 ARD 2,5,6	79
Hardy Murphy Coliseum 600 Lake Murray Drive South 20 ARD 22,23,24	80
Whittington Park 500 Lake Murray Drive South 20 ARD 19,20,21	81
Washington Elementary School 711 Martin Luther King Drive Northeast 9 ARD 15,16,17	82

KVSO Radio Station (Old) 905 Northwest Boulevard 23 ARD 6,7,8,9	83
Hardy Murphy House 1022 Northwest Boulevard 0 ARD 3a; 23 ARD 10	84
Ardmore Armory 35 Sunset Drive Northwest 8 ARD 10,11	85
Quintin Little Home 517 Sunset Drive Southwest 5 ARD 20; 24 ARD 12	86
Smith Home 519 Sunset Drive Southwest 24 ARD 13,14	87
Federal Building 39 Washington Street North 24 ARD 23, 24	88

### Districts

The survey identified two potential National Register districts within the study area, designated in this report as the Highland Park Historic District and the McLish Historic District. A map of each district follows the listing of its properties documented in the survey. The format for the listing is the same as the section listing all documented properties, so that section may be consulted as a key for the information provided.

More specific information on the districts can be found in the thumbnail sketches which appear in another section of this report.

# Highland Park Historic District

Resource Name:

Address:

Photograph

Map Coordinate:

Residence 1303 Bixby Avenue Southwest 3 ARD 21,22	21
Residence 1411 Bixby Avenue Southwest 3 ARD 23,24	22
Residence 1501 Bixby Avenue Southwest 3 ARD 25,26	23
Fell House 1605 Bixby Avenue Southwest 5 ARD 15,16,17	24
Residence 1620 Bixby Avenue Southwest 14 ARD 3,4	25
Residence 1201 McLish Avenue Southwest 10 ARD 5,6	30
Residence 1207 McLish Avenue Southwest 3 ARD 17,18	31
Residence 1305 McLish Avenue Southwest 3 ARD 15,16	32
Residence 1306 McLish Avenue Southwest 3 ARD 13,14	33
Residence 1622 Stanley Avenue Southwest 10 ARD 12,13	38
Residence 1805 Stanley Avenue Southwest 24 ARD 9,10	39
Residence 401 O Street Southwest 3 ARD 27,28	65

# McLish Historic District

Resource Name:

Address:

Photograph

Map Coordinate:

Residence

615 Third Avenue Southwest  
11 ARD 10,11

07

Charles B. Goddard Home

902 Third Avenue Southwest  
3 ARD 11,12

08

Residence

906 Third Avenue Southwest  
3 ARD 9,10

09

Residence

711 Bixby Avenue Southwest  
2 ARD 19,20

14

Residence

819 Bixby Avenue Southwest  
10 ARD 19,20

15

Residence

905 Bixby Avenue Southwest  
2 ARD 12,13

16

Residence

910 Bixby Avenue Southwest  
2 ARD 14,15

17

Residence

1000 Bixby Avenue Southwest  
2 ARD 8,9

18

Residence

1003 Bixby Avenue Southwest  
2 ARD 10,11

19

Residence

1012 Bixby Avenue Southwest  
2 ARD 6,7

20

Residence

802 McLish Avenue Southwest  
10 ARD 17,18

28

Cox Home

1008 McLish Avenue Southwest  
2 ARD 2,3

29

Carnegie Library

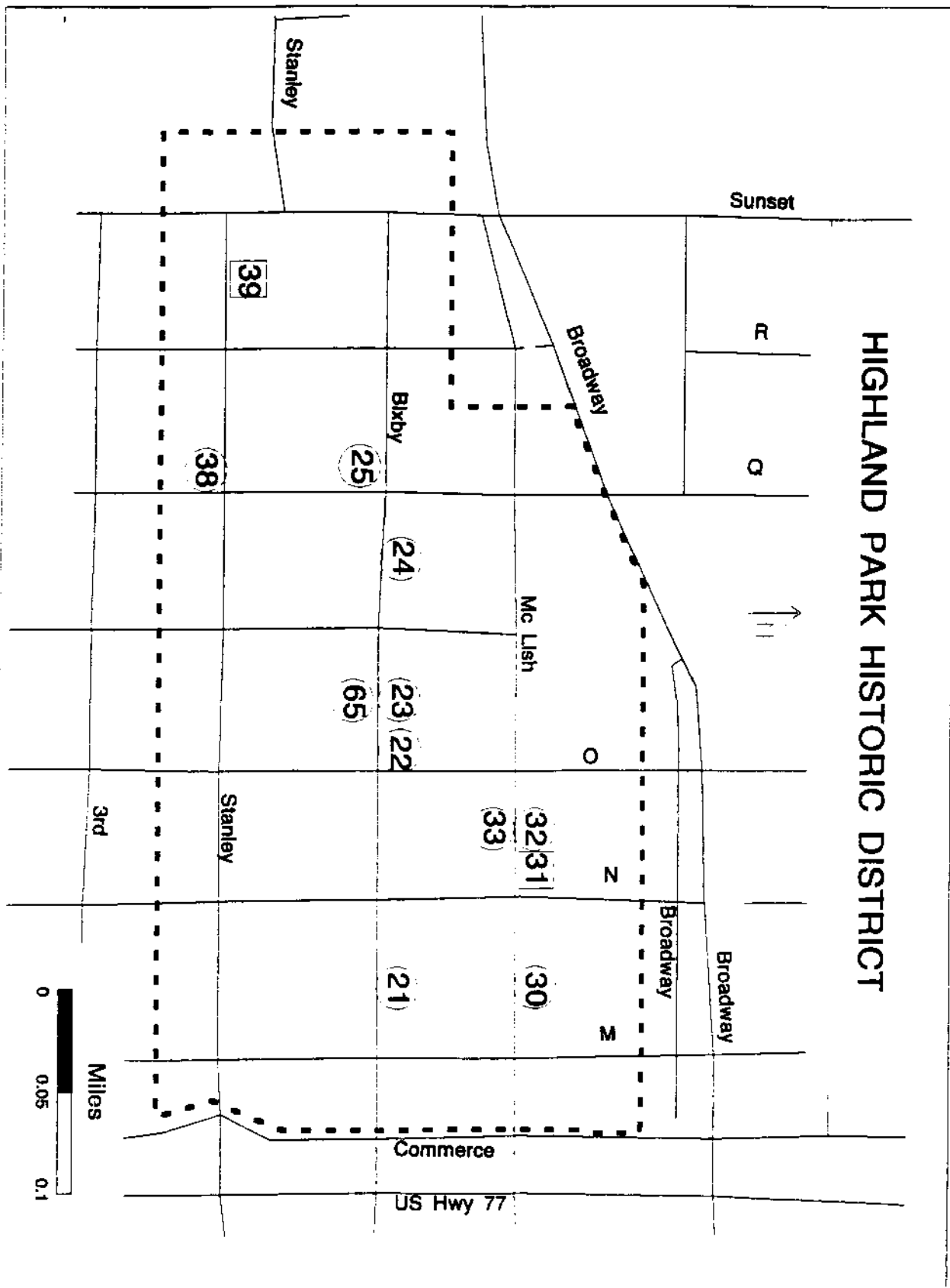
506 Stanley Avenue Southwest  
1 ARD 17,18

35

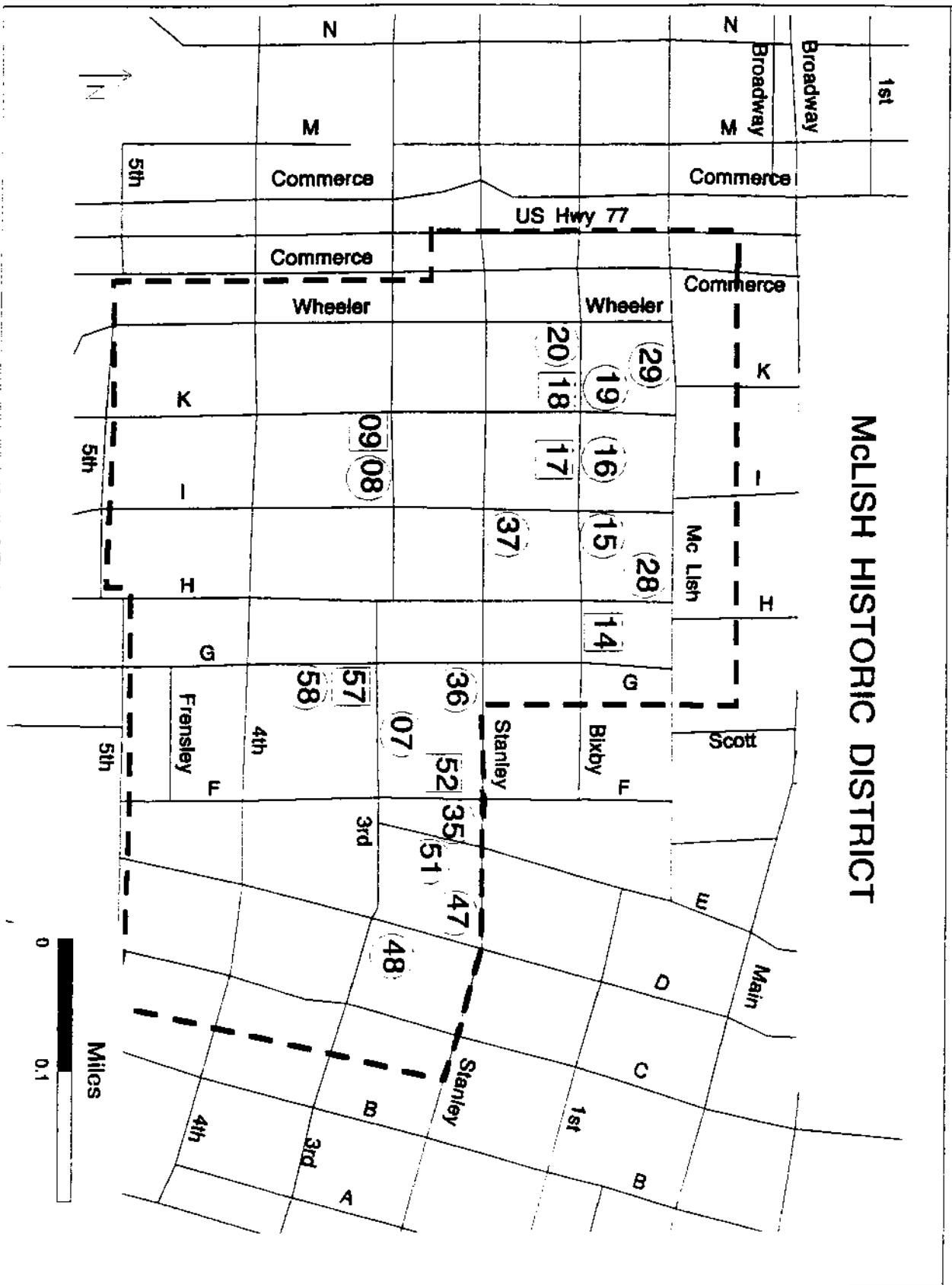
Moore Home

626 Stanley Avenue Southwest 13 ARD 15,16	36
Residence 823 Stanley Avenue Southwest Being Retaken	37
Wirt Franklin Home 201 D Street Southwest 13 ARD 9,10	47
Residence 220 D Street Southwest 1 ARD 14,15	48
Vernon Home 214 E Street Southwest 13 ARD 7,8	51
Walter Neustadt Home 211 F Street Southwest 1 ARD 16,21	52
Residence 315 F Street Southwest 13 ARD 5,6	53
Residence 324 F Street Southwest 23 ARD 17,18	54
Drew Home 403 F Street Southwest 4 ARD 18,19	55
Residence 125 G Street Southwest 13 ARD 13,14	56
Residence 302 G Street Southwest 11 ARD 14,15	57
Residence 306 G Street Southwest 11 ARD 16,17	58

# HIGHLAND PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT



# McLISH HISTORIC DISTRICT



**THUMBNAIL SKETCHES: INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES AND DISTRICTS WARRANTING  
FURTHER STUDY**

The following offers brief sketches of both individual properties and the district which warrant further study for possible National Register nomination. As such, it is recommended that these receive an intensive level survey in the future.

National Register eligibility rests on two major determinants, both of which need to be present. First, the property must have integrity. Basically, this involves being in the same location, being of the same materials, and appearing essentially the same as it did at the time during which it was historically important. The second factor is significance. National Register significance is applied in accordance to four major criteria--association with historically significant events or trends (Criterion A); association with historically significant persons (Criterion B); architectural significance, usually defined as particularly good example of a style or the work of a master architect (Criterion C); and, the likelihood of property yielding information in the future, typically applied to archeological properties (Criterion D).

In the lists which follow, emphasis is placed on explaining how the significance of the property warrants its further study for National Register eligibility and under which criterion or, in some cases, criteria. All have their integrity.

Individual Properties

**Harvey-Douglas Funeral Home - 122 First Avenue Southwest**

This resource was Ardmore's first mortuary and remains in that business today. The two-story building has east and south wings, and incorporates two architectural styles. Its stone-capped castellations suggest Tudor influences, while the one-story entrance with an entablature supported by stone Tuscan columns is typical of the Colonial Revival style. For its association with a long established local business, as well as its unique architecture, this property warrants further study under Criteria A and C.

The one-story irregularly shaped building has a cross hipped roof of red Spanish tile. Its most defining feature, however, is the complex arched entryway. As a unique example of the Italianate style, and for its association with Turner, this property warrants further study under Criteria B and C.

**Berryhill Home - 618 Sixth Avenue Southeast**

This two-and-a-half story Queen Anne house was built around 1905. It has a hipped roof with cross gables, and above the first story it contains a variety of shingle patterns. It is also marked by an extensive porch which wraps around approximately 90% of the home. The Berryhill family occupied this house between the 1910s and at least the 1940s. As a particularly good, and unique, example of the Queen Anne style, this property warrants further study under Criterion C.

**Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church - 1020 Seventh Avenue Northeast**

This African-American church is one of the few church buildings in Ardmore retaining its original appearance. It was constructed in 1936, shortly after the congregation was organized. The one-and-a-half story L shaped building illustrates a minimal application of the Italian Renaissance style. Its most distinctive feature is a full story entry porch supported by four heavy wooden Doric columns. For its historical association with Ardmore's African-American community, and unique architecture, the Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church warrants further study under Criterion C.

**Colvert Home - Twelfth Avenue Northwest and O Street Northwest**

This two-and-a-half story Queen Anne home was built around 1910 for B.M. Bynum. Raymond G. Colvert, local owner of Colvert Dairy Products, purchased the house in 1926 and made it the cornerstone of his family farm, then on the outskirts of Ardmore. Its architectural details include a steeply pitched cross hipped roof with conical turret, wrap-around front porch, and porte-cochere on the west. For its association with Colvert, and as an ornate local example of the Queen Anne style, this property warrants further study under Criteria B and C.

**St. Phillip's Episcopal Church - 516 McLish Avenue Southwest**

J. B. White designed this one-and-a-half story rectangular Late Gothic Revival church in 1927 using Oxford University's Merton College Chapel as a model. It has a steeply pitched gable roof and a gothic tower on the northeast corner. Constructed of rough hewn limestone blocks quarried by hand at Carthage, Missouri, the buttresses along the east side are stone capped. As a highly stylized local example of Late Gothic Revival architecture, it warrants further study under Criterion C.

~~Central Church of Christ - 607 McLish Avenue Southwest~~

~~This two-story T shaped building was erected in 1952 as a modern application of the Late Gothic Revival style. The Gothic influences include: stone capped parapeted gables; arched windows surrounded by cast stone molding; a stone pedimented arched doorway; and, buttress-like pilasters capped with stone. As a modern local example of the Late Gothic Revival style, the Central Church of Christ warrants further study under Criterion C.~~

**Temple Emeth Synagogue - 421 Stanley Avenue Southwest**

Designed in 1952 by Ludwig Isenberg, this one-and-a-half story building has a one-story rectangular wing on the south side. The geometric detailing places its style in the Modern Movement. A triangular tower protrudes from the center of the front gabled end of the sanctuary. The stained glass windows are long and rectangular, consisting of straight vertical lines of metal and glazing. As a local example of the Modern Movement in American architecture, and for its association with Ardmore's long-established Jewish community, this property warrants further study under Criteria A and C.

**Oklahoma Confederate Veterans' Home - 1015 Commerce Street**

This two-story Classical Revival building was constructed in 1910-1911 as a care facility for Oklahoma veterans who fought for the Confederacy during the Civil War. Its defining architectural details include a full height entry porch supported by four concrete Ionic columns, a second story balcony with wrought iron balustrade, and a palladian window. Since 1949, this property has been known as the Oklahoma Veterans' Home. For its historical association with the state's military history, and as an example of the Classical Revival style, this property warrants further study under Criteria A and C.

**William I. Cruce Home - 624 D Street**

Often referred to as "The Maples", this was the home of William I. Cruce, who, with his brother and second Governor of Oklahoma Lee Cruce, maintained a prominent law practice in early Ardmore. The two-story Classical Revival home was erected in about 1907. Its architectural details include a hipped roof; gabled dormers; and, a centered two story porch on the main facade, supported by four octagonal brick columns and having a second floor balcony with a balustrade. The home is set on a large lot containing mature maple trees. For its association with Cruce, and as a particularly good example of its architectural style, this property warrants further study under Criteria B and C.

**Colbert House - 907 D Street Northwest**

This Craftsman/Bungalow style residence was constructed c.1917. Its design appears to have been especially influenced by the work of Frank Lloyd Wright. The one-story rectangular residence has a combination gabled and hipped roof, and blonde brick walls. The full width front porch is supported by square, stone capped pillars. A porte-cochere extends to the south and is separated from the house by similar pillars. Oil man Wirt Franklin once owned this home and in it installed Ardmore's first air

conditioning unit. For its unique application of the Craftsman style, this property warrants further study under Criterion C.

**Nance Pecan Factory - 23 D Street Southeast**

This three-story stucco Commercial style building was erected in 1932 by Swift and Company for processing chickens. H. A. Pruitt purchased it in 1941 and began a pecan processing operation for which it is best known. It has a flat roof with a parapet having castellations at intervals between the windows. The first story also includes a concrete loading platform and office wing on the west side. For its historical association with Ardmore's agriculturally related industry, this property warrants further study under Criterion A.

**Wirt Franklin Home - 201 D Street Southwest**

This was one of the early homes of Wirt Franklin, a discoverer of the Healdton Oil Field. The c.1910 residence incorporates many elements of the Prairie style of architecture, but with unusual building materials. It has a hipped roof with metal diamond shaped shingles. The porch wraps around the home's northeast corner, and is also stuccoed. Large aluminum awnings, added at a later date, cover most of the windows. For its unique application of the Prairie style, this property warrants further study under Criteria C.

**Franklin Elementary School - 615 E Street Northwest**

This one-and-a-half story H-shaped brick building was constructed in 1928 and reflects influences of the Italian Renaissance Revival style. The composition deck roof imitates Spanish clay tile, and the entryway is marked by a broken pediment over spiraled columns and an inscribed cartouche. The school was part of Ardmore's ward system developed by then superintendent Charles Evans. For its association with the educational history of Ardmore, this property warrants further study under Criterion A.

**St. Mary Catholic Church - 125 E Street Southwest**

Ludwig Isenberg designed this 1951 church in the Moderne style of the Modern Movement in American architecture. The gable roof slopes downward from its two-story height at the front to a one story height at the rear. The main facade is essentially a glass wall, broken only by vertical lines of metal supports and double doors. The stained glass windows mimic this verticality with their long rectangular glazing. A brick tower extends above the roofline on the southeast corner. As a local example of the Moderne style, and as a work of a locally prominent architect, this property warrants further study under Criterion C.

**Small's Bakery - 204 H Street Northeast**

This 1955 commercial building is an example of the limited application of the Moderne style. The one-story brick building has relatively smooth brick curved walls extending back from the main facade, and multi-pane fixed windows. John Small's bakery

was a prominent part of northeast Ardmore before moving to this location in 1955. It now houses Pattillo's Company, Incorporated, a food service enterprise. For its association with Ardmore's commercial history, and as a commercial example of the Moderne style, this property warrants further study under Criteria A and C.

**Joiner Home - 1303 Harris Street Northwest**

This large one-story brick home was built around 1920 for Ulysses S. Joiner, one of the original board members of Ardmore's Exchange National Bank. It exhibits elements of the Prairie School of architecture, with deep boxed-in eaves and square brick pillars, having geometric stone caps, supporting both the porch and a porte-cochere. Stone coursing runs about a foot below the roofline, and false brackets decorate the porch eaves. As a particularly good local example of the Prairie style, this property warrants further study under Criterion C.

**Central Park Bandstand - 500 West Main Street West**

This limestone structure was added to Central Park in 1928 as a tribute to Ardmore's World War I veterans. It incorporates elements of Italian Renaissance architecture with its colonnades reaching around the sides of the stage and parapeted roof with castellations. The limestone used for the bandstand was donated by nearby St. Phillip's Episcopal, and subsequently it visually compliments that and other churches in the area. For its unique utilization of the Italian Renaissance Revival style, it warrants further study under Criterion C.

**First Methodist Church - 501 Main Street West**

This two-story Beaux Arts style church was built between 1920 and 1924. Four full-height columns supporting a triangular pediment dominate the main facade. Pediments also accent each of the three sets of double doors at the entrance. The other facades have two-story stone arches containing both first and second story windows. A cornice with dentils marks the roofline as well. As the only Ardmore church of Beaux Arts design, this property warrants further study under Criterion C.

**Ardmore Milling Company Mill - 100 Mill Street South**

This concrete mill was erected in 1926 and consists of six five-story high cylindrical storage bins. Metal machinery for carrying and grading grain rests on top of its flat roof. A number of related outbuildings rest nearby at ground level. Ardmore has historically served as a center for processing agricultural commodities produced in the surrounding area. For this association with the city's agricultural industry, the Ardmore Milling Company Mill warrants further study under Criterion A.

**Will Rogers Elementary School - 11-15 Monroe Street Northwest**

This 1955 school was designed by the architectural firm of Collins

& Flood and constructed by George Chapman & Co. The one-story rectangular building exhibits elements of the Modern Movement in American architecture and resembles a home. A horizontal emphasis is achieved by strips of hopper windows topped by glass block expanses. As the only public building in Ardmore utilizing the Modern style, and for its association with the city's educational history, this property warrants further study under Criteria A and C.

#### Ardmore Municipal Building - 23 Washington Street South

This three-story brown brick building was constructed in 1937 by the Public Works Administration, a forerunner of the Works Progress Administration. It has Art Moderne details, including: stone coursework below the first and third floor windows; fleur-de-lys between the first and second floor windows and at intervals above the third floor windows; juted corners; and a recessed door with massive brick pilasters and a cartouche inscribed "Municipal Building". As an example of the work done by the PWA and WPA, and as a public example of the moderne style, this property warrants further study under Criteria A and C.

#### Colvert Dairy Products Company Building - 135 Washington Street South

This four-story rectangular brick building has a two-story south wing and a one-story north wing. The former is the original factory, built in 1923, and its present Moderne appearance dates to its last remodeling in 1954-1955. The entire facility is currently abandoned. The Colvert Dairy Products began serving Ardmore in 1918 and was one of its largest agriculturally related industries. For this association, the Colvert Dairy Products Company Building warrants further study under Criterion A.

#### Ardmore High School

This three-story Beaux Arts building was designed by J. B. White and built by L. F. Lee in 1912 as Ardmore's first high school. The roof of the main core--and the southern, northern, and western wings--is flat with a stone capped cornice. Two one-and-a-half story pilasters with a stone balustraded balcony on top mark the entryway. From the balcony, two Corinthian columns rise to an entablature at the roofline, on which "High School" is inscribed. This building has served as Ardmore's Middle School since the construction of a new high school in the 1970s. As one of the few buildings in Ardmore utilizing the Beaux Arts style, and for its association with the city's educational history, this property warrants further study under Criteria A and C.

#### First Orthodox Baptist Church - 320 Washington Street North

This one-and-a-half rectangular church has one-story north and south wings connected by short, covered walkways. Its details are fairly subtle, and the style can best be described as minimal Late Gothic Revival. The north and south facades are defined by an indentation of the brick at the windows. The windows themselves have Tudor detailing. A neon sign with the church's name rests above the door. As an example of Tudor architecture applied in a

minimal fashion on a religious property, the First Orthodox Baptist Church warrants further study under Criterion C.

**DeWitt Home - 519 Wolverton Street Northwest**

This 1925 Craftsman style bungalow was the home of W. C. DeWitt, owner of the local DeWitt Cigar Company. Its design incorporates a number of unusual building materials. For example, the porch piers include the use of railroad ties, and the roof consists of Spanish tile. The walls are constructed of sandstone from Lake Ardmore and have irregular coursing. Cigar motifs are worked into the small stone masonry in the north eave of the house, as well as the eaves of the garage. For its unique application of the Craftsman style, and its association with DeWitt, this property warrants further study under Criteria A and C.

**Walker Stadium - Broadway West and Sunset Drive Northwest**

The Works Progress Administration built this structure in 1935 on land donated by E. A. Walker. It primarily consists of concrete risers on the playing field's east and west sides. Attached to these are metal seats. The eastern riser also has restrooms and storage rooms beneath. A press box rises above the west seats, supported by metal poles and concrete pillars. The entire field is enclosed with a chain link fence. As an example of WPA architecture, this property warrants further study under Criterion C.

**Young Women's Christian Association - 27 Broadway West**

This 1938 Art Moderne building was designed by architect J. O. Parr and built by Hugh McIntire. The entrance consists of double brass, glazed doors flanked by curved glass block pilasters. On top is a massive two-story concrete block inscribed with "YWCA". The philanthropy of Mrs. Edward T. Noble, wife of a prominent Ardmore oil man, made this building possible. As a good local example of the Art Moderne style, and for its association with Ardmore's social history, this property warrants further study under Criteria A and C.

**Gilbert Building - 117 Broadway West**

This five-story Art Deco building was one of Ardmore's first skyscrapers. Constructed in 1930, it was designed by J. B. White and served both as retail space and a Masonic Lodge. The blonde brick wall surface along the main facade is broken by pilasters running the full height of the building. Near the roof line are elaborate stone carvings of opened books and ringed Doric columns. Between these are stone zig-zag decorations. As a particularly good local example of the Art Deco style, and for its association with a local fraternal organization, this property warrants further study under criteria A and C.

**Ardmore Auditorium - 220 West Broadway**

The Works Progress Administration constructed the civic auditorium around 1940 on the site of the former Convention Hall. The two-

story brick rectangular building has a flat roof with parapet, and a barrel roof over the stage area along the east wall. Its detailing gives it an Art Moderne appearance. For instance, the northwest and southwest corners of the main facade are curved. Also, the northeast corner is square, but a wraparound effect results from the use of glass blocks and horizontal strips indented into the wall. As an example of WPA architecture, and a historic entertainment venue, this property warrants further study under Criteria A and C.

**First Presbyterian Church - 223 Broadway West**

This two-and-a-half story rectangular brick church was built in 1918 and exemplifies the Late Gothic Revival style. The steeply gabled roof has stone capped parapeted ends. Also, the building exhibits Tudor arched stained glass windows and doors, as well as cast-stone trim and stepped pilasters. The First Presbyterian Church is an excellent example of the Late Gothic Revival style as applied to Ardmore churches, and its stained glass windows are some of the most elaborate locally. For these reasons, it warrants further study under Criterion C.

**Hale/Milburn Ford Building - 330 Broadway West**

This one-and-a-half story L shaped building was constructed around 1943. Its Art Moderne style imitates that of the Ardmore Auditorium across the street. The brick wall on the north facade has curved corners, and along the top half, the blonde brick is broken by three lines of red brick coursing about two feet apart. Two large Art Deco style keys appear over the front entrance. The building was constructed originally for Sam P. Hale Ford and acquired by Ken Milburn in 1955. It remained an automobile dealership into the 1970s. As a good example of the Art Moderne style applied to a commercial building, and for its association with a local transportation related business, this property warrants further study under Criteria A and C.

**Cummings Sinclair Service Station - 817 Broadway West**

This one-story stucco rectangular building exemplifies the Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival style. Constructed around 1930, the porte-cochere and main building have pilasters at their corners which extend above the roofline, stepped once at top and with decorative tile in an arched pattern. This is the best preserved gas station in Ardmore linked to the early powerful petroleum companies. For this association, and as an example of the typical use of the Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival style in roadside architecture during the 1930s, this property warrants further study under Criteria A and C.

**Douglas-Grant Home - 610 Douglas Boulevard Southeast**

This c. 1907 Folk Victorian home was built for Stephen and Maude Douglas, early Ardmoreites for whom the street of this house is named. The one-and-a-half story weatherboard building is decorated with purchased spandrels, wooden posts, balustrade railings, and corner brackets. It also has a wrap around porch and bay windows on each side of its northwest corner, both having heavily decorated gables above them. As one of the best local

examples of residential architecture at the period of statehood, and for its association with an early prominent family, this property warrants further study under Criteria A and C.

**Ardmore Muffler Service - 231 Lake Murray Drive**

This former service station is one of two such resources surviving in Ardmore which exemplify the application of the Mission/Spanish Colonial style to roadside architecture. The one-story concrete building has a porte-cochere attached to the south side of its main facade. It and the main core have a deck roof with Spanish tile. Two gas pump islands remain extant, although the pumps are gone. Built around 1931, this is the only former gas station of the period that continues to serve an automobile related function. As an example of the roadside architecture of the 1930s, and for its association with Ardmore's transportation related businesses, this property warrants further study under Criteria A and C.

**Hardy Murphy Coliseum - 600 Lake Murray Drive**

The Works Progress Administration constructed this massive irregularly shaped building in 1941-1942. It has a rectangular eastern section topped with a metal barrel roof. The west side of the main facade has a flat roof with stone capped parapet, and the remainder consists of several square and rectangular sections. The entire building is sided with rusticated sandstone, and its design places it with the Art Moderne style. As an example of the construction work done by the WPA, and for its association with the social history of Ardmore as the a major fair grounds, this property warrants further study under Criteria A and C.

**Whittington Park - 500 Lake Murray Drive**

This rectangular park covers two city blocks, with curved driving roads throughout. Historical resources within it include irregularly placed sandstone picnic tables with concrete tops and seats, a stone obelisk surrounded by a grid of concrete curbs (presumably former gardens), and a filled-in wading pool. This site has been used for community celebrations and recreation since 1887, and became an official park in 1902. For its long role in Ardmore's entertainment and recreation related history, it warrants further study under Criterion A.

**Washington Elementary School - 711 Martin Luther King Drive Northeast**

The Works Progress Administration constructed this simple Art Moderne school in 1937-1938. The one-and-a-half story building has a square courtyard in its center. It also has a flat roof, except over the middle third, where a barrel roof covers the auditorium beneath. The main entrance projects forward and is the full height of the building. Some of the windows have been infilled with wood and stuccoed over. The school originally served as one of Ardmore's legally mandated segregated facilities for African-American students, and it now houses the city's Early Childhood Development Center. As an example of WPA architecture, and for its historical association with Ardmore's African-American community, this property warrants further study under Criteria A and C.

**KVSO Radio Station - 905 Northwest Boulevard**

This two-story rectangular home was built in 1927 in the Spanish Revival style. Its decorative elements include smooth box-like stucco walls, doorways flanked by pilasters, a balcony with wrought iron balustrade, and Spanish tile roofing. A small concrete block transmitter building is located directly to the southeast. Originally constructed as a "house beautiful" in which local merchants showcased their goods, the building's historical importance derives from being the one-time home of radio station KVSO which served Ardmore and all of south central Oklahoma. For its association with the city's entertainment and recreation related history, and as a good example of the Spanish Eclectic style, this property warrants further study under Criteria A and C.

**Hardy Murphy House - 1022 Northwest Boulevard**

This large Craftsman style bungalow was constructed around 1925 as part of the ranch of famous rodeo performer Hardy Murphy. Over the years, the former ranch has been subdivided and the house surrounded by others. The L shaped home has two gables along the front facade and a porte-cochere with a flat roof. Its porch wraps around the northwest side of the building and has a solid concrete balustrade. For its association with Murphy, who did much to publicize and promote Ardmore, and as an impressive example of the Craftsman style, this property warrants further study under Criteria A and C.

**Ardmore Armory - 35 Sunset Drive**

The Works Progress Administration constructed this large single story rectangular building in 1936. It consists of a central drill floor section and two wings. The walls are constructed of rusticated native sandstone laid randomly. The drill floor portion has a barrel roof with parapets on each end, while the wings have parapeted flat roofs. Exhibiting a minimal Modern style, the former armory now houses the Carter County Genealogical and Historical Museum. As an example of the construction undertaken by the WPA during the Great Depression, and its association with the social history of Ardmore at that time, this property warrants further study under Criteria A and C.

**Quintin Little Home - 517 Sunset Drive Southwest**

This two-story Classical Revival mansion was built c.1930 for Quintin Little, who made his fortune in the nearby Healdton oil field. The rectangular two-story building has two one-story wings on the north and south, and the entire home has hipped roofs. The full height, full width entry porch is supported by eight Doric columns with a roofline cornice accented with dentils. A wrought iron and brick fence encloses the large yard. As an excellent example of its style, and for its association with a well known oil man and philanthropist, this property warrants further study under Criteria B and C.

Smith Home - 519 Sunset Drive Southwest

This Classical Revival home was built around 1930 as the residence of Mary Stuart Smith, an active social worker for Ardmore's citizens. The two-story rectangular home has rusticated sandstone on the front and side facades of the main portion of the building, except for the middle third of the front. This portion is yellow painted brick. A full height, centered porch is supported by four Corinthian columns. A wooden cornice with dentils extends from the porch at the roofline to the corners of the house. As a good example of its style, and for its association with Smith, this property warrants further study under Criteria B and C.

## Districts

The following is a brief sketch of the potential historic districts identified in the survey. A map of each district, along with a list of the documented properties within it, is in a separate section of this report.

### **HIGHLAND PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT**

#### History

The Highland Park Historic District is significant as an example of a residential neighborhood developed between 1910 and 1930, Ardmore's boom years due to oil exploration and development in surrounding fields. The district is named after the two prominent plats of the area.

Ardmore grew rapidly from the expanding oil business and increased trade with the surrounding oil fields, such as the Healdton oil field discovered in 1913. The wealth that many families accumulated from oil and trade helped to build new neighborhoods of elegant homes. The Highland Park area began developing sometime in the mid 1910s, when the area was first platted by the Extension Realty Company of Ardmore. The homes in the district reflect the predominant architectural styles of the time: Colonial Revival, Neoclassical, and Tudor. This area of town represented the ability to live away from the hustle and bustle of the downtown area, without moving to the country-side where residents would lose the services provided by the town. Highland Park was, and still is, considered an exclusive neighborhood for the well-to-do, upper-middle class citizens of Ardmore.

The district is platted by the first Highland Park Addition, probably added between 1915 and 1920, and Highland Park Addition #2 added in 1920. By the early 1930s, almost all development in the area was complete.

#### Description

The Highland Park Historic District is characterized by streets

with wide setbacks and rows of mature deciduous trees which arch over the street itself. The sidewalks were probably poured by the developers of Highland Park. All of the sidewalks are of concrete; some have been removed because of later destruction of historic homes and rebuilding on the property. Some yards are buried by concrete or large, sandstone slates, but this characteristic is confined mostly to McLish Avenue. The larger, two-story homes reside mostly on Stanley Avenue, with smaller Craftsman bungalow and colonial revival style homes on Bixby, McLish, and the eastern half of Stanley Avenue within this district. The district is bordered on the south by a continuation of housing development that represents architectural styles from the 1940s and on.

#### Boundaries

The borders of this district are as follows: Both sides of McLish Avenue from Q Street Southwest, east to Commerce, south to Stanley Avenue, then west along both sides of Stanley to Sunset Avenue, north along both sides of Sunset one block to Bixby Avenue, east to Q Street and north to McLish.

Commerce Street is a four-lane, divided highway. Broadway runs just north of the neighborhood. These heavy-use streets are the major north-south and east-west arteries of Ardmore. Stanley and Sunset Avenues are the streets that provide access to the neighborhood from Commerce and Broadway.

#### Architecture

The landscaping, setbacks, and architectural styles of the homes provide Highland Park Historic District visual cohesiveness. Many of the large homes in the area illustrate the amount of wealth accumulated from oil extraction and trade with the oil fields surrounding Ardmore. Howard Fell, of Simpson and Fell Oil Company, made his fortunes in these oil fields. His Neoclassical mansion was built in 1919 with redwood

siding that has been painted white. The tall, gracious columns add a southern flair to the home. The Quinton Little home on Sunset Avenue also represents a southern architectural influence with its wide front porch supported by classical, two-story columns. The large, immaculately landscaped grounds separating the house from the street also speak of the wealth Little gained from his oil company. Other large homes in the area display neoclassical architecture, as well as other styles. Tudor revival, Italian Renaissance, Colonial Revival, and Builder's Foursquare homes add interest to the streetscapes of this district.

The smaller homes of the area are mostly of the Colonial Revival and Craftsman Bungalow styles. The Colonial Revival style homes mimic the features of the mansions of the district, using classical columns and window pediments or shutters. McLish Avenue contains the majority of Bungalows, each portraying the owners personal tastes and indications of their newfound wealth. Generous porches, interesting porch supports and rooflines, and a variety of siding materials individualize the homes.

Approximately 50 percent of the homes in the district have retained their original siding of wood clapboard or brick, while another 30 percent have been sided with new materials that imitate the original clapboard.

#### Noncontributing Properties

Many of the noncontributing properties in the district are due to alterations made to homes, including enclosed porches and replacement of historic details with modern materials that do not imitate the originals. Some modern style Ranch and Neoclectic homes have been built since the 1970s, as well as a few Minimal Tradition homes built during the post-World War II years. However approximately 75 percent (96 out of 128) of the homes contribute to the historic district.

### Recommendations

The Highland Park Historic District appears to be eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places based on the area's visual cohesiveness and integrity of historic properties. It is recommended that the district be intensively surveyed and a nomination to the National Register be prepared.

## **MCLISH HISTORIC DISTRICT**

### History

The Southwest Ardmore Historic District is significant as an example of a residential neighborhood developed between 1900 and 1930, Ardmore's boom years. The area is visually cohesive. The district is named by its location within the town of Ardmore.

White settlers began developing the southwest corner of Ardmore after the Curtis Act and the allotment of Indian land by the Dawes Commission allowed whites to purchase land in the Chickasaw Nation, Indian Territory. This corner of the town provided distance from the busy and noisy Santa Fe Railroad tracks while still offering close proximity to the downtown shops and businesses. The first homes in the area were large, Victorian mansions that displayed the new-found wealth of Ardmore's early entrepreneurs. Cotton, cattle, and the mercantile business provided fortunes for adventurous Ardmoreites. In 1913, new and even more wealth came from the nearby Healdton Oil Fields. In the following years, the McLish District underwent fast-paced development, so that almost all the homes in the area were built by 1930. The original Franklin Elementary School was built during these years, as well as many churches which border the district. Historically, this neighborhood was considered upper-middle to upper class, and much of the architecture reflects this.

Part of the district was platted as the Original Town (1902). McLish Place platted much of the area between Third and McLish and

Commerce and H Streets in 1905. By 1930, almost all development in the area was complete.

### Description

The McLish Historic District is characterized by streets shaded by rows of mature, deciduous trees lining the grassy areas between the curbs and sidewalks. Many of the neighborhood's concrete sidewalks were poured before statehood by I. H. Marston. Others were poured or repaired as WPA projects in the late 1930s and early 1940s. Many properties sit on plots higher than the street level, so that the earth by the sidewalks is buried by hand-cut sandstone mortared with concrete, or is held in by brick or concrete walls. Accordingly, many homes have short stairways up to the walkways leading to their front doors. There are soft slopes in the area. McLish Place was originally platted to have islands running down the east-west length of Fourth, Third, Stanley, Bixby, and McLish between Commerce and H Streets. Only Third Street was developed to include these thirty foot wide and block long islands, which create a grand parkway. The larger homes are interspersed among the smaller, upper-middle class homes. However, McLish, Third, and Fourth Avenues are predominately Craftsman bungalow homes.

The district is home to the Carnegie Library and Franklin Elementary School. The Library was first constructed in 1905. Charles Evans, the first Superintendent of Schools in Ardmore, helped to increase the small holdings of the Library, staff it with a full-time librarian, and open the facility to the public. Mr. Evans also named Franklin Elementary. He hoped to give the school more distinction by naming it after a president, rather than calling it a numbered ward school.

### Boundaries

The borders of the district are as follows: McLish Avenue from Commerce Street Southwest, east to G Street Southwest, then south on G Street to Stanley Avenue, west on Stanley to C Street Southwest, south on C Street to Fifth Avenue, west on Fifth to Wheeler Street, and north on Wheeler to McLish. All boundaries include both sides of the street except for Stanley between G and C Streets Southwest, where only the south side is included, and Fifth Avenue, where only the north side is included.

Commerce Street, a four lane, divided highway with access streets, runs west of the district. Stanley Avenue is the major east-west thoroughfare in the area. The remaining streets within the boundaries carry mostly residential traffic.

### Architecture

The Southwest Ardmore Historic District is a visually cohesive area in terms of its architecture, as well as its streetscapes. Most of the oldest homes in the area are the largest, and most intricate mansions built locally. The William R. Moore home was constructed in 1903 after Moore had made a fortune with his Ardmore Oil and Milling Company which processed cotton and grains. The residence has since been altered, apparently in the 1920s, after a fire destroyed the roof and some of the architectural details. Yet the home still adds integrity to the district with its Victorian attributes. Another mansion, built for A.C. Cruce, dominates the corner of Stanley Avenue and C Street. Cruce and his brothers, William and Lee, built an early, successful law practice in Ardmore. Lee Cruce even went on to become the second governor of Oklahoma. A.C. Cruce's grand Queen Anne home has been painstakingly maintained by its present owners. The remainder of large homes in the district were built between 1915 and 1930. Charles Goddard, famous oil man and statewide philanthropist, built his home in

1921 in the Italian Renaissance style. Many of the larger homes show the influence of various architectural styles popular to this period of construction. Builder's Foursquares and Tudor style mansions help to create an interesting mixture of architectural styles in the neighborhood.

The majority of smaller homes in the district are Craftsman bungalows. Approximately 50 percent have retained their original siding of wood clapboard or brick, while another 30 percent have been sided with new materials that imitate the original clapboard. Architectural variety can also be seen in the Craftsman details. Many different styles of porch supports and eave brackets add to the distinctive quality of the district. A small portion of the homes were built in the Colonial Revival style. They share the characteristic classical columns and pedimented doorways and porch entryways. The majority of these smaller homes have been well-maintained by their owners.

The architecture of the Carnegie Library and Franklin Elementary only adds to the integrity of the district. The Library, now the home of the Garden Clubs of Ardmore, was originally built in the Neoclassical style in 1905. However, the second floor was damaged in a severe storm in 1925. The building was repaired and added on to in 1940, as part of a WPA project. The resulting one-and-a-half story, Classical Revival style building is the focal point of the island between E and F streets, just south of Stanley Avenue. The present Franklin Elementary School building was constructed in 1928 to replace the smaller school building on the site. The new school displays the Italian Renaissance style.

#### Noncontributing Properties

Many of the noncontributing properties in the district are due to alterations made to homes, including enclosed porches and replacement of historic details with modern materials that do not imitate the originals. Some modern style Ranch and Neoelectic homes have been

built since the 1970s, as well as a few Minimal Tradition homes built during the post-World War II years. However, approximately 77 percent (205 out of 266 resources) of the homes contribute to the historic district.

#### Recommendations

The Southwest Ardmore Historic District appears to be eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places, based on its visual cohesiveness and integrity of historic properties. It is recommended that the district be intensively surveyed and a nomination to the National Register be prepared.

## **THUMBNAIL SKETCHES: AREAS NOT CONTAINING HISTORIC RESOURCES**

The following offers a brief sketch of large portions of the study area which are devoid of historic resources. For a historic preservation survey to be an effective land-use management tool, it is as important to determine where resources are non-extant as well as where they are.

Generally, the portions of the study area lacking such resources constitute all of it, except the documented individual properties and district identified by the survey as potentially eligible for the National Register. For ease of describing and visually portraying these areas, the sketches are presented using the seven areas into which the study area was divided for mapping all the properties documented by the survey. Maps showing these areas can be found in the section identifying all the properties documented by the survey.

### **AREA ONE**

#### Description

Area One is a residential neighborhood bounded by Twelfth Avenue Northwest on the north, Commerce Street on the east, Seventh Street Northwest on the south, and Osage on the west. Twelfth Avenue leads straight into Ardmore from Interstate 35 and is used as a main thoroughfare in northern Ardmore. Commerce, also U.S. Highway 77, is a divided, four lane street with access roads on either side that are lined with commercial properties. A small stream runs through the eastern half of the area. No development has occurred near its banks.

The area was platted as the Sunset View Addition in 1913. Area One can be divided into two neighborhoods, west and east. The different periods of construction and the fact that only Ninth Avenue

joins the area between Sioux and Q streets marks the two neighborhoods as distinct. However, for the purpose of this survey, neither neighborhood was considered to warrant further study because the construction periods are both after 1955.

### Architecture

Most of the homes in the entire area are less than 50 years old. All homes west of Broadway were built in the 1970s and 1980s in the ranch architectural style. They are one-story, rectangular homes with regular setbacks, sidewalks, and curving streets common to this period of property development. Homes between Broadway and Commerce are mostly of the Minimal Traditional architectural style. These homes are small, rectangular, one-story residences with decoration seen mostly in the shutters and simple porch supports. About 8% of these homes were built in the 1930s and 1940s, but most were constructed between 1955 and 1965. A few, small, one-story brick homes have been built within the past twenty years. The streets here are in a grid pattern, with roadside drainage ditches but no sidewalks.

### Recommendations

Because 95% of the homes in this area were built after 1955, the area does not warrant further research at this time, except for the potentially eligible individual properties identified in the survey. However, the area may warrant study in the future. Because these two neighborhoods have remained rather isolated as housing development occurs in other sections of town, Area One may retain the cohesive architectural styles for many years. Such neighborhoods of 1950s and 1970s architecture will become more important to historians in the future.

## **AREA TWO**

### **Description**

Area Two is bounded on the east and south by Commerce and both sides of Broadway, both major arteries of Ardmore's automobile traffic. Sunset and First Avenue create the west and north boundaries. Commercial properties line Commerce and Broadway, while the rest of the area is residential. The Carter County Genealogical and Historical Museum is located on the western edge of the area, at the northern end of Sunset in the Ardmore Armory. Walker Stadium, Ardmore's football stadium, is located just south of the museum. The area was platted as part of the Original Town.

### **Architecture**

Many styles and periods of construction create a visually homogeneous neighborhood in Area Two. The historic homes in the area include Craftsman bungalows from the 1910s and 1920s and Minimal Tradition housing from the 1930s. Many of the bungalows have interesting porch support designs and original wood clapboard. A large percentage of the Minimal Tradition homes retain their simple details and original asbestos siding. These houses are mostly one-story, small, single family residences. Some modern housing has also been constructed, usually in the one-story, ranch style.

About 40% of the historic homes in the area have been altered. Additions of small rooms, enclosed porches, replacement of original details with modern ones, and application all types of exterior siding are some of the changes made to these buildings. Also, the arrangement of the homes is such that no one style dominates the neighborhood.

### **Recommendations**

Because a fairly large percentage of the housing stock has lost its integrity, and because of the lack of one dominant historic architectural style or period of construction, this area does not warrant further study as an historic district. A few exceptions, such as the Armory and Walker Stadium, both built during the 1930s as WPA projects, should be researched as possible nominations to the National Register of Historic Places as individual properties. All these have been identified in the survey.

### **AREA THREE**

#### **Description**

Area Three is bounded by Sunset and Seventh Avenue on the west and south sides. The alley between Stanley and Third Avenue creates the northern boundary. Commerce, the main north-south traffic artery in Ardmore, bounds the area on the east side. This residential area has been developed mainly in the last forty years.

Additions in area three include Glenwood Addition (1918), Highland Park #1 (replatted 1962) and #2 (1920), and Lane Heights (1948).

#### **Architecture**

On Third and Fourth Avenues, the architectural styles, periods of construction, and sizes of the homes are mixed. Some of the smaller homes are of the Craftsman bungalow styles, most of which have been resided. Other small homes are Colonial Revival in style, probably from the influence of the large Neoclassical homes in the adjacent historic district to the north. The porches of these smaller residences reflect classical detailing in arched gable pediments and doric column porch supports. Many large homes on Third and Fourth Avenues are more modern. Their styles range from Colonial Neoelectic, to rambling ranch, to

linear international. Most of the mansions on Sunset Boulevard are also Modern residences except for a few that recall a southern, Neoclassical heritage. These older mansions were apparently built in the 1920s with money made from the nearby oil fields. Between Fifth and Seventh avenues, 95% of the homes are small to medium sized, modern, one-story, ranch style residences built in the 1970s and 1980s. The commercial properties on Commerce are mostly modern buildings, or historic homes that have been converted to accommodate commercial activities.

Most of the historic housing has been altered by new siding, replacement of original, wooden or brick porch supports by wrought-iron supports, and additions to house non-historical functions. Most of the remaining housing stock in this area was constructed after 1955.

#### **Recommendations**

This area does not warrant further study for National Register consideration. The architecture of the area is mixed so that visual cohesion does not exist. The residences along Commerce have been insensitively adapted to non-historical uses. There are a few exceptional properties in the area, however, that do qualify for further research as individual, historic properties. These were identified in the survey.

#### **AREA FOUR**

##### **Description**

The boundaries of Area Four are as follows: south of Fifth Avenue Southwest, east of Commerce, north of Myall, west of A Street Southeast that runs into South Washington, south of First Avenue, and then east of the alley between C and B Streets Southwest. Commerce is a busy four lane, divided highway with access streets. The old Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe railroad runs east-west through the neighborhood near Sixth

Avenue. The area is mostly residential with some commercial properties on Commerce and Washington, light industrial properties on Moore and A Street, and offices on Stanley Avenue.

Subdivisions within Area Four include McLish Place (1905), Rose Lawn (1916), and Walcott Addition (1909). Most of the area is platted by the Walcott Addition.

### Architecture

The architectural styles and periods of construction of this area are mixed. Historic housing includes Craftsman bungalows of the 1910s and 1920s and Minimal Tradition housing of the 1930s. Most of these homes have been altered or allowed to deteriorate. Approximately 50% of the buildings in the area are modern. The modern housing of the area includes small, one-story homes with attached garages. These homes usually have little decoration besides the building materials themselves. The commercial architecture includes modern gas stations, large supermarkets, and drive-in restaurants. Many older residences built along Commerce have been altered with additions, new windows, and new siding to create commercial buildings. The light industrial buildings are simply constructed, corrugated metal, modern buildings. The office buildings along Stanley Avenue are all lawyers' offices. Some are older, Builder's Foursquare homes that have been renovated as offices. Others are modern buildings constructed specifically for office space.

Much of the historic housing stock in this area has been altered by additions, new siding, and removal of integral details and replacement by modern materials. Also, many of these residences have been allowed to deteriorate. The modern homes, businesses, and small factories were all built after 1955. Many of the lots in this area have not even been developed.

### **Recommendations**

This area does not qualify for further study for possible National Register inclusion because of the loss of integrity to historic buildings in the area and the intrusive presence of modern housing and commercial structures which destroys the visual cohesiveness of the area. The only building warranting further study as an individual property is the Harvey-Douglas Funeral Home at B Street and First Avenue, on the very edge of Area Four. This property was identified in the survey.

### **AREA FIVE**

#### **Description**

Area Five is located east of Commerce, a four lane, divided highway with access streets. Both sides of Broadway, one of the east-west thoroughfares of Ardmore, marks the southern boundary. The eastern boundary is marked by E Street Northwest. The northern boundary is Northwest Boulevard heading southeast, dropping south on Hargrove and then west again for one block on Monroe Avenue to E Street. This dense, residential area contains commercial strips on Commerce, Broadway, and Twelfth Avenue, a major east-west traffic artery in northern Ardmore. Subdivisions in the area include Chickasaw Heights (revised in 1922 and 1929) and Frensley Addition (1950).

#### **Architecture**

The architecture of this area is a combination of many styles. Some grand, historic homes were built in the Queen Anne, Neoclassical, and Prairie styles. A few were constructed before statehood, but most are from the 1910s and 1920s. Very few of the mansions retain their original siding materials. Many one-story, Craftsman bungalows of the area were built in the 1920s during the oil boom. These homes vary in

the design of porch supports and gable end decorations. A few natural sandstone facade, one-story bungalows were built during the 1930s. Minimal tradition style homes and post-World War II housing dominates the northern third of Area Five. These simple homes are small, rectangular, one-story residences with small porches and little decoration. Modern ranch style homes have also been constructed in the area. They are one-story, residences usually with brick siding. The commercial properties in the area are a mixture of modern buildings and older residences that have been converted, by additions and alterations, into businesses.

Approximately 70% of the homes have been altered by the addition of new siding which does not imitate the original wood clapboard or covers brick and stonework. Many bungalows have undergone replacement of the original porch supports with decorative wrought-iron supports or wooden posts. Some homes and commercial properties have enclosed porches or new additions. Sixty percent of the businesses are housed in new buildings.

### Recommendations

The loss of integrity to 70% of homes in the area, the mixture of different styles and periods of architecture, and the intrusions of new businesses on the fringes disqualifies this area for further study for National Register consideration. However, some historic homes have retained their integrity and warrant further study as individual nominations to the National Register of Historic Places. These were identified in the survey.

## **AREA SIX**

### Description

Area Six is bounded by Monroe Avenue on the north, A Street

Northeast on the east, Broadway and Main on the south, and E Street Northwest on the west. Both Broadway and Main are major commercial avenues in Ardmore's downtown area. E Street provides easy access through northern Ardmore, but Washington is the busiest north-south street. Twelfth Avenue is a well used east-west thoroughfare in the area.

This residential area has commercial properties along Broadway, Main, Washington, and Twelfth Avenue. All properties in the area are included in the Original Town Plat. The area is on the northern border of the Historic Downtown District already listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

### Architecture

This area is rich in historic properties, many of which have been altered over time. Older homes from the turn of the century are mixed in with 1920s Craftsman bungalows and post-World War II cottages. Most of the very oldest housing stock remains as two-story Victorian homes with steep roofs and wrap-around porches. A variety of Craftsman details can be seen on the medium to small bungalows of the area. The Minimal Tradition style marks 1940s and 1950s housing. Unfortunately, many of these older homes have been altered. Some have been converted into commercial properties.

More modern homes and businesses can also be found in this area. One-story, ranch style homes from the 1970s and 1980s range from large to smaller homes. The commercial properties include supermarkets, strip malls, and office buildings, all built in modern, commercial styles.

The Middle School complex lies in this area and offers a variety of architectural styles. The Old High School was built in the Beaux Arts style, while the Technical Training Building clearly represents the International style.

At least 80% of the properties in this area have been altered by small additions, enclosed porches, new material siding, and replacement of integral design elements with modern substitutes. The styles and construction periods of the properties are mixed so that the neighborhood does not have strong visual cohesion. Approximately 15% of the properties are deteriorated. Also, there are many modern intrusions. This analysis applies to the strips of commercial properties as well.

### **Recommendations**

While this area is clearly an historic neighborhood, the loss of integrity to the majority of homes, and the lack of visual cohesiveness due to the intermingling of property styles and construction periods disqualifies this area for further study for National Register consideration. However, there are several individual properties that do warrant further study. These include a few residential properties that have maintained there integrity and some of the buildings located in the middle school complex. These were documented in the survey.

### **AREA SEVEN**

#### **Description**

The north and west boundaries for this area are Sam Noble Parkway (Fourteenth Avenue), A Street Northeast down to Hinkle, then two blocks over to South Washington, then down onto A Street Southeast. The south and east boundaries are formed by the study area limits for the eastern half of Ardmore. The entire area is mainly residential, with some commercial properties along Lake Murray Drive, Washington, and Sam Noble Parkway. A few agricultural industries exist on P Street Northeast, and the fairgrounds are located at the east end of Lake Murray Drive. The railroad lines running through Area Seven are still very active. The

area was platted as part of the Original Town, but also includes the Berry Garden Additions.

### Architecture

The residential architecture of the area is a mixture of some homes from the 1900s and 1910s, and many more from the 1920s through the post-World War II construction period. Most of the turn-of-the-century housing exists in the southeastern corner of the area, near Douglas Boulevard, and between Martin Luther King Drive (Fifth Avenue) and Third Avenue Northeast. The styles include grand Queen Anne and Folk Victorian. Many bungalow homes were built in the area. The Craftsman details include a variety of styles of porch supports and eave brackets. Most of the older homes are in disrepair or have been altered. Small, one-story, homes devoid of much decoration were built during the 1940s and 1950s. Some modern homes have been built in an economical style. They are small, one-story homes with low gable roofs and attached garages. These Minimal Tradition and Modern style homes are interspersed between the older housing stock.

This area is home to many African American churches, most of which were established in the 1890s and 1900s. Their church buildings have changed over the years. Most are now brick structures built or rebuilt in the 1960s. The Macedonia Baptist Church, built in the 1930s, is still used by its congregation. It is a one-story church with Italian Renaissance influences.

The schools in the area have undergone change as well. Jefferson elementary burned down in the 1980s and was replaced by a modern facility just to the west of the original school building. Washington School was built as a WPA project. Its Art Moderne style is common to many buildings from the 1930s. Douglas High School, no longer used as a public school, was built in the 1920s. Its auditorium is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The commercial properties in the area include historic and modern designs. Main Street was historically an integral part of African-American life. The commercial buildings here, built in the 1910s and 1920s, have two-story, brick facades. Unfortunately, these structures are in poor condition. The same is true for the light industrial factories built along the railroad lines. Built between 1910 and 1930, these factories exhibit some Commercial style influences in their simple, box-like architecture. However, 90% of these buildings are vacant and falling into disrepair. The commercial and industrial properties along Sam Noble Parkway, Washington, Lake Murray, and P Street Northeast are 80% modern buildings.

Much of the older housing has been altered by additions, enclosed porches, replacement of original design elements with modern materials, and all types of modern material siding. Also, some of the housing is deteriorated so that rehabilitation is no longer an alternative. Much of the post-World War II construction occurred among the older housing stock, so there are no visually cohesive neighborhoods. Most of the older commercial and industrial properties are deteriorated or have been altered through the years. The remaining commercial properties are modern intrusions.

### **Recommendations**

The lack of integrity disqualifies this area for further study for National Register inclusion. While much of the architecture in the area is over forty years old, it does not represent any one period of construction or architectural style. However, some individual properties do warrant further study for possible listing onto the National Register of Historic Places. The Macedonia Baptist Church building, Washington Elementary, Ardmore Muffler Service Station, and a Craftsman bungalow built by Charles Fraley, a well-known builder in the 1920s, are examples of properties eligible for further study.

## **HISTORIC CONTEXT**

### **CONTEXT FOR HISTORICAL, PHYSICAL RESOURCES: ARDMORE, OKLAHOMA, 1887-1954**

#### **Overview**

This context first presents a brief overview of the history of the town and then specific subjects about the town's development.

Many people call Ardmore the heart of southern Oklahoma, or "Little Dixie." Its prime geographical location in the center of southern Oklahoma and equidistant from Oklahoma City and Dallas has enabled the city to become the center of trade and services for the surrounding area. In 1887, the town began as one of many stops along the newly constructed line of the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railway that crossed the Indian Territory to link Texas cattle with Kansas markets. Ardmore quickly became the center for agricultural trade, with merchants catering to the needs of the farmers and ranchers that came to exploit the rich Chickasaw lands. Lawyers, bankers, physicians, pharmacists, builders, and masons moved to Ardmore to provide services to the growing population. The oil boom of 1913 caused Ardmore's population and its finances to boom, too. The depression took its toll, but the population of the town did not decrease in that or any decade since. Ardmore served as a military training base for the Air Force during World War II, supplying people and precious oil products. In the early 1950s, Ardmore once again became the center of a short-lived second oil boom which lasted only about five years.

The Native American history of the area to become Ardmore begins long ago, but the civilized tribes did not come to this area until 1820.

The Trail of Tears brought the Choctaws, Seminoles, Creek, and Chickasaws to southern Indian Territory. The Chickasaws first settled in the area as part of the Choctaw Nation. In 1837 they negotiated the Treaty of Doaksville through which they purchased their right to govern themselves.<sup>1</sup> They established the new capitol at Tishomingo and constructed a democratic government.<sup>2</sup> The Chickasaws created plantations, using their African American slaves. In the southern tradition they had adopted many years ago, they raised cotton as a cash crop which was then transported down the Red River to Louisiana markets.<sup>3</sup>

It was this southern tradition and freedom from the United States government that the Chickasaws fought for, and lost, with the Confederate States during the Civil War. The Native Americans were forced to set their slaves free and make them citizens of the Chickasaw Nation. Sharecropping replaced slavery in the farming of cotton. White settlers began to move into the Chickasaw Nation as sharecroppers and more.

The Euro-American history of the Ardmore area begins with the ranching activities regulated by the Chickasaw Tribe in what was Pickens County, Indian Territory. The first building in what would become Ardmore was the cabin of the 700 Ranch, one of the many ranches in the territory established after the Civil War. White settlement of the area did not rapidly increase until the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railway was built through the area between 1885 and 1887. The newly created railroad station, Ardmore, was named by a railroad official for his hometown of Ardmore, Pennsylvania.<sup>4</sup> The depot's central location in

southern Oklahoma and the surrounding, rich farmland attracted merchants and farmers to the burgeoning settlement.

Although no white could own Chickasaw land unless inter-married into the tribe, the settlers leased the land they built upon, farmers often sharecropped, and ranchers paid fees to graze their cattle on the expansive grasslands. The town grew quickly, fueled primarily by the production of cotton and the trade brought by the railroad.

Sharecropping had been important to the area since the end of the Civil War. Many of the Chickasaws' freedmen had become part of this system, but the increasing white settlement to the area dramatically boosted cotton production. Ardmore's position at the middle of much of the richest farmland in southern Oklahoma and its access to the railroad made the town an especially important part of the cotton shipping industry.

By 1889, many merchants had come to Ardmore to cash in on the lucrative cotton trade and supply the needs of the sharecroppers. At first, most built temporary businesses and dwellings of wood. Yet, the merchants Munzensheimer and Daube constructed the famous "Iron Store," a general merchandise store made of iron sheet metal. This building, along with many of the earliest structures, has not survived.

During the next decade, activity increased and merchants built more permanent structures in Ardmore. By 1890, the First National Bank of Ardmore became the first nationally chartered bank in Indian Territory, and the merchants organized the Board of Trade, a predecessor to the Chamber of Commerce. The downtown business district achieved a look of increased permanence with the addition of more merchants and the

Windsor Hotel, opened in 1894 with fifty rooms.

Unfortunately, Ardmore had no real organizational leadership; this would spell disaster for the town. Because the white settlers of Ardmore were not considered citizens within Indian Territory, they did not create a town government. No police or fire protection forces existed. The only law enforcement for the area consisted of the US Marshall, his deputies, and the three US Courts in Indian Territory, created in 1890, one of which met in Ardmore for several months each year. On April 19, 1895, when a fire began downtown in the livery stable on North Caddo Street the townspeople had few resources to fight the blaze. It destroyed much of what is now East Main Street. After this disaster, the townspeople organized a fire department, equipped with one fire engine.<sup>5</sup>

Yet, it was not until 1897 that Ardmore finally became incorporated by federal law as a city of the second class, and the next year as a city of the first class. This encouraged major improvements to the town's amenities. While the downtown rebuilt in only one year and continued to add businesses, such as the Whittington Hotel built with seventy-two rooms in 1896, an adequate school system was slow to develop. Kings College for young men and the Catholic St. Agnes school for girls were both established by 1898, but they served only a fraction of the community. In 1899, four ward schools were built, officially initiating the goal of the town charter to provide educational opportunities for the children of the community.<sup>6</sup> Ardmore began construction on the city's municipal generating plant and installation of electric and telephone services to the community in 1897. By 1902,

the city lake was constructed, providing ". . . all the water Ardmore would ever need."<sup>7</sup>

The Curtis Act, which imposed the allotment of tribal land onto Native Americans, also brought changes to Ardmore at this time. In 1899, the Dawes Commission began partitioning Chickasaw lands, making land legally salable. Now Ardmoreites could purchase, not just lease, the land they had built upon or farmed. The need for good lawyers became evident as the townspeople scrambled to acquire Chickasaw land. The combined presence of the US Court and the impact of the Dawes Commission helped to make Ardmore a legal center for southern Oklahoma.

With statehood in 1907, Ardmore's central position in the area became further entrenched. Pickens County, Indian Territory, became Carter County, with Ardmore as the county seat. Both the county and city law officials played a central role in turning the rowdy, ever growing, Oklahoma town into a respectable community. Lawless settlers and wanted men had flocked to Indian Territory. Although the US Marshals and Courts helped apprehend and dispel these men, they and the new state and local law officials could not keep back the tide of rough and often violent oil field workers attracted by the development of the nearby oil and gas wells.

Oil brought more than just violence; it also brought prosperity and fame to Ardmore. Edward Galt, Roy Johnson, Sam Apple, and Wirt Franklin contributed to the successful development of the oil resources in the area. While many travelers and townspeople had known about the "medicinal black waters" from seep holes in the area, and asphalt had been mined for several years just south of the town, it was not until

1903 that the first experimental wells proved that oil was indeed to be found in southern Oklahoma.<sup>8</sup> During the 1910s and 1920s, Ardmore became engorged with money from oil production, helping to make the town a financial center for southern Oklahoma. Oil men helped establish new banks, Ardmore gained five oil refineries, and the Ringling Railroad was constructed in 1913 to connect Ardmore and the newly-founded Healdton oil field.<sup>9</sup>

Cotton still held sway in Ardmore's economy, too. After the annual harvest, farmers took their loads of "white gold" to the cotton gin to have the cotton processed and baled. In 1918, three cotton gins serviced Ardmore farmers. (None of the gins stand today.) Then the farmers met at "Cotton Corner," the intersection of Main and Washington streets.<sup>10</sup> After the cotton buyers had chosen their bales, the farmers took them to the compress where bales were compressed to one-third of their original size. This increased the amount of cotton that could be shipped in one railroad car.

During the late 1920s, both the oil and cotton markets began to collapse, heralding the tough times of the 1930s and the depression. Oil prices bounced up and down during the 1920s; in September of 1925 oil prices were lower than in 1920, but in 1929 were up to \$2.70 per barrel.<sup>11</sup> Schermerhorn and Tidal Oil Company sent petroleum engineers to southern Oklahoma oil fields in October of 1929 with the hopes of setting up more oil rigs.<sup>12</sup> But the speculation never became reality. Other oil fields produced better and more petroleum; so southern Oklahoma could not compete. By 1933, oil prices per barrel had plummeted to \$0.55.<sup>13</sup>

Cotton production and prices fluctuated, too. Because of the heavy dependence on cotton production, this created an unstable agricultural economy that preceded the Depression. Between 1919 and 1929, the acreage cultivated in Carter County for cotton production fell from 75,439 to 23,240.<sup>14</sup> But cotton ginned in Ardmore came not only from Carter, but also Love, Murray, Marshall, Jefferson, Johnston, Garvin, and Stephens counties. While this produced much activity, the prosperity depended on the prices, which were volatile and reliant on the global market. In 1915 cotton brought seven cents per pound, while in 1920 it brought thirty to thirty-five cents.<sup>15</sup> In 1933, the prices were back up because of nationwide droughts and low yields.<sup>16</sup>

The droughts of the mid-west, the overproduction of farm commodities, and the resulting dust storms did not help Ardmore's agricultural economy, either. Tractors which allowed one farmer to do the work of many had slowly replaced many sharecrop farmers during the 1920s. This caused over-tillage and an exodus of farm workers and sharecroppers from Oklahoma farmland even before the Great Depression.<sup>17</sup> Overuse of the soil became a prime concern in the late Twenties. The First National Exchange Bank and the American Bank and Trust Company advertised for farmers to "Save the Soil by Terracing."<sup>18</sup> Because farmers could no longer depend so heavily on cotton as a cash crop, they began to turn to corn, wheat, oats, fruits, and nuts.

However, Ardmore remained the center of activity for southern Oklahoma, despite the economic fluctuations of its two most important industries. The town was the transportation, financial, legal,

governmental, and medical center for "little Dixie." Ardmore had the railroads and even the town's interurban, the Ardmore Traction Company, which ran through the downtown and up to the Rod and Gun Club north of town. The First National Bank and the Exchange National Bank, both begun in the Indian Territory years, survived the oil and cotton busts to continue serving the entrepreneurial spirit of Ardmore. Lawyers such as the Cruce brothers and the Dyer family helped make Ardmore famous as a legal center. Ardmore had gained the position as the county seat at statehood, making it a governmental center for its hinterlands. The Hardy Sanitarium had been established in 1911 by doctors Walter Hardy and F.P. Von Keller. Five years later, Dr. Von Keller built the Von Keller Hospital.<sup>19</sup>

The bust period of oil and cotton during the 1930s caused many industries to shut down, and many people found themselves out of work or leaving the area. The Works Progress Administration created a County Works Administration headquartered in Ardmore. This administration helped finance and organize construction projects in Carter County, alleviating some of the financial stress of Ardmore and making many necessary repairs, expansions, and buildings for the community. Its projects are listed below:

Lake Murray Project	Plainview School (1935)
storm sewers	Filtration Plant
repairs to walks, curbs,	Football Stadium
and gutters	(Ardmore Athletic Field, 1935)
ditches	Washington School (1938-39)
street markers	Municipal Building (Sept., 1937)
rifle range	Fairgrounds municipal exhibit building
	(1941)
Armory (1936)	Carnegie Library-addition (1941)
Hardy Murphy Coliseum	City Park

(1941-42)  
Jefferson School (1938)      City Hall

Businesses helped each other, too. L. A. Sprekelmeyer, of Sprekelmeyer Printing, allowed businesses and other customers to credit their purchases. Most of the debts were later paid, but "Sprek" never quibbled about late payments, even though he was paying a \$12,000 debt himself. "They needed printing to carry on their business, so they got it."<sup>20</sup>

During World War II, Ardmore did its part in aiding the American campaign. In 1942, the Ardmore Air Force Base, just west of town, was activated for bomber training. New housing for the men was constructed on and near the base and the community extended its services to include the air base. The surrounding oil fields produced much needed petroleum for the war effort, as well. Unfortunately, Ardmore did lose many of its former residents to the war or defense jobs in other towns so that the town increased in population only 1,004 during this decade.<sup>21</sup> The air base closed in 1945 at the end of the war.

In the 1950s, Ardmore became a military and oil center once again, but only for a short time. The air base reopened in 1952, bringing in two troop carrier wings.<sup>22</sup> The town also began experiencing a resurgent oil boom at this time. The boom lasted about five years, and the base closed in 1959. The town fought back during the Sixties, developing the Ardmore Industrial Airpark which attracted new industries, including a large Uniroyal tire plant employing over 1,300 people.<sup>23</sup>

Ardmore has served as a center for transportation, government, medicine, legal practice, agriculture, and petroleum production. Because of the services the town has provided to its surrounding area, the town has grown throughout the years. Despite the booms and busts of the economy, Ardmore's population figures have never dropped, but have grown or remained steady. The town is truly the center of southern Oklahoma.

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**TABLE 1**

**POPULATION OF ARDMORE, 1900-1960**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>WHITE</b>	<b>AFRICAN-AMERICAN</b>	<b>OTHER</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
1900	-	-	-	5681
1907	-	-	-	8759
1910	6795	1628	195	8618
1920	11,932	2008	241	14,181
1930	13,296	2069	376	15,741
1940	14,056	2619	211	16,886
1950	15,558	2023	309	17,890
1960	19,386	1730	109	21,225

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SPECIFIC HISTORICAL THEMES AS RELATED TO ARDMORE  
AND ITS BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Ranching

Herds of cattle roamed the southern Oklahoma plains for several decades before Ardmore was founded. The Chickasaws agreed to permit cattlemen and their herds access, for a price, to the lush grasslands. After the Civil War, most cattlemen came from Texas, where the cattle industry was booming. The year 1866 saw the great drives of cattle along the Chisholm Trail through Chickasaw lands up to the Kansas railroad lines. These cowboys paid an annual fee of \$5.00 along with \$0.25 per head to graze their cattle on Indian lands.<sup>24</sup> But any man who married into the tribe was then excused from paying fees to use community property.

By the 1880s, there were scattered ranches within Pickens County and all of the Chickasaw lands. The 700 Ranch, originally located in what is now southeast Ardmore, was perhaps one of the most famous of these outpost ranches. Alva Roff, an intermarried Chickasaw citizen, established his ranch in 1880. Many cowboys working for Mr. Roff would occupy the ranch house from time to time as they brought herds to graze on the prairie grasses.<sup>25</sup> Other travelers also used the shelter on their journeys through the territory. But whoever used the cabin left it the way they found it, clean and stocked with provisions. These rather impermanent settlements were a part of the ranching industry and lifestyle. The 700 Ranch has been reconstructed at the Carter County Historical and Genealogical Museum in Ardmore. The original ranch house, after being allowed to decay, was rehabilitated and moved to the

Carter County Fairgrounds in Ardmore.

The Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railway, which established Ardmore as a stop along its route in 1887, brought mixed blessings to the cattlemen of the surrounding area. While the cowboys no longer had to make the grueling cattle drives up to Kansas because the cattle could now be shipped on the new railroad line, farmers could also move more easily via the railroad across the grasslands to the fertile land in the Chickasaw Nation. These farmers leased land from the Chickasaws, as had the ranchers, put up fences, plowed the prairie grasses under, and planted cotton.

By 1892, cotton surpassed cattle in financial importance to Ardmoreites, but the cattle industry would have its comeback. That year, Ardmore won the title of the largest inland cotton market in the world. But even after the boom years of the Great World War and the ensuing increase in farm mechanization, the boll weevil infestation and droughts hit cotton production hard. Prices fell and farmers left. By 1940, a general shift from cash crops to cattle had begun, resulting in the top financial priority of cattle and other livestock by 1945. Dairy cattle and their products became increasingly important as refrigeration and modern veterinary medicine increased the production, profit, and distribution levels of the industry.<sup>26</sup>

Despite the rise and fall of the cattle industry, it has always been a part of the financial and social makeup of Ardmore and its residents. Sam Daube, an early merchant in Ardmore, was famous not only for his entrepreneurial spirit but also his fine herd of white-faced Herefords.<sup>27</sup> Hardy Murphy, a famous rodeo entertainer, built his

ranch and house in northwest Ardmore at what is now 1022 Northwest Boulevard and part of the city limits. The Colvert family owned farmland stocked with Herefords on 12th Ave Northwest and the longest lasting dairy product factory in Ardmore located at 135 S. Washington St.<sup>28</sup> The support industry of feed milling is evidenced by the old Ardmore Milling Company, now Bluebonnet Feed Mills, located at the corner of Mill Street and 1st Avenue.

### Agriculture

The Chickasaws brought their African American slaves and plantation farming style with them as they moved along the Trail of Tears to their new lands they would share with the Choctaw Nation in Indian Territory. They found lands with rich soils, ample rivers, and a long growing season of 270 days.<sup>29</sup> By 1842, after having bought their freedom as their own organized nation in 1837, the Chickasaws were adding to the level of trade on the Red River by transporting their plantation grown cotton to the New Orleans' markets.<sup>30</sup> However, the Civil War, in which many Oklahoma Indians participated on the side of the southern states, changed the plantation style of agriculture.

Sharecropping then replaced the plantation system, as was the case in much of the southern United States.<sup>31</sup> The Five Tribes' slaves became freedmen and were entitled to forty acres of land each, but they did not receive their parcel until the Dawes Commission allotted all Native American land in 1898.<sup>32</sup> In the meantime, many freedmen became sharecroppers under the Chickasaw Nation. New white settlers also came to Indian Territory to try their hands at cotton farming.

Most white settlers came with the new Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railway in 1887. These farmers paid a yearly land lease fee and a percentage of their crop profits to the Chickasaws. The great influx of farmers to the fertile lands and their practice of plowing up the grasslands and fencing their property was a cause of much irritation to area ranchers. While reconciliation was slow to come, by 1892 cotton and corn held prominence over the cattle industry. Corn was grown to feed livestock and farm families, and cotton was grown as a cash crop.

The town of Ardmore had originated as a railroad station and quickly grew into a center for trade of all kinds. In 1892, it earned the title of largest inland cotton market in the world. Merchants catered to the farmers, extending them credit for farm supplies and seed. That credit was paid at the end of the harvesting season either with cotton itself or credit tickets earned at the cotton compress. Many merchants also bought cotton as a speculative commodity. The streets of Ardmore's downtown were often so crowded that pedestrian traffic was threatened by the many wagons hauling cotton to the gins and the cotton compress. "Cotton Corner," at Main and Washington streets always seemed to be the most congested. The Ardmore Gin Company and the one cotton compress were located close by at 220 Mill Street Southeast and 400 South Washington Street, respectively. Jones Cotton Gin and O'Brien Cotton Gin were located north and northwest of Cotton Corner. The Ardmore Cotton Oil Mill, which made oil from the cotton seeds, was also located on South Washington. Unfortunately, none of these gins, or the compress, or the oil mill still exist.

The Curtis Act provided a long awaited privilege to Ardmoreites and area farmers and ranchers; the parceling of Indian Nation lands allowed settlers to buy the land they had built upon, farmed, and ranched for so many years. Many still sharecropped the land, but the possibility of owning the land changed agricultural practices and prospects in southern Oklahoma.

World War I provided a boost to the already booming cotton production around Ardmore. Around the country, the war created greater demand for cotton and raised the price to \$0.50 per pound. Farmers used their increased revenue to improve their operations by purchasing tractors and other mechanized farm implements. One man could farm more land than ever. Consequently, many farm tenants and sharecroppers were pushed off farms.<sup>33</sup>

This exodus was accelerated by a boll weevil infestation, drought, and plummet in cotton prices after the Great War. Many farmers lost their land during these hard times. Corporations bought much of the land and reinstated the sharecropping system. These new farm workers either did not understand or did not care about the necessity of preserving precious topsoil during drought conditions. Also, the use of tractors helped increase the number of acres under cultivation, thus exposing even more soil to erosion and loss of nutrients and moisture.<sup>34</sup> The resulting farm failures forced more and more sharecroppers from their farms, and agriculture in southern Oklahoma hit an all-time low.

The Great Depression affected Carter County and Ardmore deeply. By the 1930s, many farmers had given up on cotton production. The New

Deal programs began to offer help to farmers by teaching new conservation methods. Training and education programs offered instruction on crop rotation, fertilization, terracing, flood control, water retention, and soil conservation. Between 1935 and 1937, over eight-hundred Carter County farm families applied to the FHA of the Rural Rehabilitation Administration for financial assistance. Also, the CCC provided jobs at the Lake Murray project. Other WPA projects in Ardmore helped out-of-work farmers and other jobless men and women earn some kind of living. Among those structures and improvements which still exist today are: storm sewers, sidewalks, curbs, gutters, the Armory, Hardy Murphy Coliseum, Jefferson School, Walker Stadium (originally Ardmore Athletic Field), Washington School, City Hall (originally the Municipal Building), City Park, and an addition to the Carnegie Library.

The farming crisis during the Twenties and Thirties affected Ardmore merchants and oil men as well. Many merchants found themselves stuck with debts the farmers could not pay, and oil men faced a slump in oil prices. Those that still had capital to invest began accruing large tracts of mortgaged land, much of which became part of the ranches which began to dominate the country-side again in the Forties.

These changes in agriculture, over time, affected Ardmore. As cotton lost its prominence, the gins and the compress disappeared. Farmers began to diversify their crops to meet the demands of soil conservation and new markets. Legumes, clover, and vetch were planted to replenish the soil and provide feed and grazing for livestock. Wheat production replaced cotton as one of the cash crops. The Ardmore

Milling Company, now Bluebonnet Feed Mills, at Mill Street and 1st Avenue processed the agricultural products grown to make livestock feed. Pecans also became an important and famous agricultural product for Ardmore and its hinterland. Nance Pecans factory still stands at 23 D Street Southeast. Researchers at the Noble Foundation, headquartered in Ardmore at 2510 Sam Noble Parkway, have helped refine many agricultural products and production methods, increasing the diversification of Ardmore's surrounding agriculture.

### Energy

The oil and gas fields surrounding Ardmore helped make the town the financial center of southern Oklahoma. Oil was discovered as early as 1903, but it was not until the discovery of the Healdton Oil Field in 1913 that the oil boom truly began. Speculation by wildcatters and profits from the expanding oil fields brought money from local and East Coast entrepreneurs. Ardmore served as the financial and supply center for its surrounding oil fields. Banks opened and expanded their holdings to accommodate this increased financial activity. Lumber yards began to cater to oil drillers, supplying materials and labor to construct oil rigs. John Ringling financed a railroad spur from the Healdton oil field to Ardmore, making the transportation of supplies easier and faster. The lawlessness spurred by the accompanying growth was the catalyst for a better jail house (no longer existing), larger police force, and more lawyers. Oil refineries and pipelines were constructed to handle the production and shipping of oil based goods. The men who became wealthy from oil production also became

philanthropists for Ardmore and the state.

Roy M. Johnson and Edward Galt formed a company with Wirt Franklin and Sam A. Apple to explore and drill for oil. These men founded the Healdton Oil Field with their first wells, the Wirt Franklin No. 1 and No. 2, which were drilled on land owned by Mr. Franklin. The Hewitt, Fox, Graham, Bayou, and Brock fields soon followed. C. M. "Dad" Joiner, Lloyd Noble, Jake L. Hamon, Charles B. Goddard, and Ward S. Merrick are also among the area's early day oil men who later sold their holdings to such companies as Humble Oil, Sinclair Oil, Sun Oil, and Phillips Petroleum. Many of these men were true philanthropists. The Noble Foundation, established by Lloyd Noble in his father's name, has aided in cancer, geological, and agricultural research. The Goddard Foundation helped build Ardmore's Charles B. Goddard Center for the Arts in the 1970's. Other contributions by these men can be seen in their places of worship and the Ardmore Medical Center (built in the 1960s).

Their homes reflect their wealth, standing within the community, and their diverse cultural backgrounds. Because many of these men came from other parts of the country, they built their homes in styles familiar to them. Charles Goddard's home, at 902 3rd Southwest, was built in the Italian Renaissance style, common in metropolitan areas prior to World War I. Goddard moved to Ardmore from the east, where the Italian Renaissance style was used to create impressive showcase homes.<sup>35</sup> Most other mansions in Ardmore are of the Neoclassical, Tudor Revival, Craftsman or Prairie-subtype style.

The oil fields received men, materials, and other supplies from Ardmore via the Ringling Railroad. Jake Hamon, Sr. convinced John

Ringling, circus magnate, to finance a railroad spur to the small town of Healdton near the oil field. The spur was built in 1913 with its terminus in Ardmore at 301 North Washington (now the Legion Hall) built by local contractor Charles E. Fraley. Before the construction of this railway, all supplies were taken to the oil fields by wagon.

While all the oil refineries were built just to the northeast of Ardmore, other support industries inside the city limits were expanding. Sies Machine Company serviced oil drilling rigs, as well as farm implements and automobiles. The Joe Brown Company began by supplying building materials to the oil fields and expanded to ready-mixed concrete plants throughout the area. The Fraley Brothers Planing Mills and Lumber Yard also provided rigs and the materials to build them; in 1948 Bob Fraley rebuilt the lumber yard in a modern style. Banks also supported the oil industry. The First National Bank and the Exchange National Bank expanded throughout these boom years. Early day gas stations were linked to the reigning oil companies in Ardmore. The building at 817 West Broadway, originally Cummings Sinclair Service Station, is now Daylight Donuts. This structure is still in good and mostly original condition, unlike most gas stations from the same time period.

Lawlessness also accompanied the oil boom. Men flocked to the drilling sites in search of jobs. The work was hard and many of the men played hard, too. Caddo Street was the center of many saloons and eateries which attracted trouble from travelers and oil field workers. Unfortunately, many of these buildings have been boarded up or torn down. Sheriff Buck Garrett and Deputy Bud Ballew became famous for

their duels with outlaws and dealings with the rowdy oil workers.<sup>36</sup>

The Ku Klux Klan also organized around 1921 in response to the illegal gambling, prostitution, and thievery of the time.<sup>37</sup> Sheriff Garrett was later discharged from his post by the State Attorney General because of suspected acceptance of bribes. In 1925, when the oil boom began to slack off, so did the criminal activities.

The petroleum industry has had good times and bad. The oil fields surrounding Ardmore continued to produce oil during the Depression, but at a low price per barrel. World War II did boost activity and prices as the demand for oil supplies increased with America's entry into the war. The early 1950s saw a small second boom, as well, but it did not last into the next decade.

#### Commerce and Industry

Merchants came to Ardmore with the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railway. Two stores, one owned by Bob and Frank Frensley and the other by Samuel Zuckerman, began on the site of Ardmore before the first passenger and supply train arrived.<sup>38</sup> The downtown strip of merchants on Main, Broadway, and Caddo streets grew rapidly, despite two disasters which destroyed many of the buildings. In 1895, a fire ravaged the wooden stores and businesses along Main Street, destroying eighty-five buildings. In 1915, a railroad car filled with casinghead gasoline began to leak. A spark from the strike of a hammer in a nearby building caused the explosion which tore apart Caddo and Main Street buildings.<sup>39</sup> Both times, Ardmoreites quickly rebuilt their ruined downtown with grander buildings that exemplified the booming mercantile

economy. Much of the historic downtown area is currently on the National Register of Historic Places.

Law emerged as an important force in Ardmore's development, too. The town became the seat for the United States Court in 1890. Lawyers came to Ardmore to cash in on the lucrative court market which served the surrounding area and was boosted by the presence of many outlaws that "hid" in Indian Territory. "By 1895 there were over 100 lawyers in Ardmore out of a population of about 3,000.<sup>40</sup>" The parceling of land by the Dawes Commission also provided lawyers with more work dealing with legal boundaries and land titles. Thus, Ardmore quickly became a legal center for southern Oklahoma, and in 1907 the seat for the newly established Carter County. This tradition has not diminished through the years; many lawyers have moved their offices from the downtown district to older homes on Stanley Avenue between B and C Streets Southwest.

Medicine and industry in Ardmore began to truly flourish in the 1960s. While the Hardy Sanitarium and the Von Keller Hospital serviced Ardmore during the early decades of this century, they have since been torn down. Medical services are now centered in and around Ardmore's Medical Center built in the 1960's from donations made by citizens of the town. The industries of Ardmore have changed with the needs of the community. The earliest industries were lumberyards and milling companies. Dairy plants, furniture manufacturers, bakeries, printers, newspapers, machine shops, cotton gins, and the compress all became important industries in Ardmore in the first half of this century. Many of the buildings that housed these industries have been demolished or

altered significantly. However, the Ardmore Milling Company, built in 1922, survives as the Bluebonnet Feed Mills, the Colvert Dairy Plant still stands on South Washington Street, John Small's Bakery remains with few alterations on South H Street, and the Ardmoreite is still headquartered in the Gilbert Building at 115 West Broadway. Most of the heavy industries, such as oil refineries, were built to the north and northeast of the city limits. In 1960 the Ardmore Industrial Airpark, located at the abandoned US Air Field donated to the city, opened to encourage the growth of new industries. Many of the newer industries which employ many Ardmoreites are located at this industrial park.

#### Transportation

Ardmore's birth began with the railway. In 1886, the Santa Fe Railway began construction on a new line to connect Texas with Kansas. Ten sites were chosen along the line to serve as depots. The engineers who surveyed the route for the railroad named each depot after towns from their home state of Pennsylvania, and thus the site of Ardmore was named.<sup>41</sup> The first train came to Ardmore from Gainesville, Texas, on July 28, 1887. It carried supplies and settlers to build the new town.

The Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe line helped make Ardmore the shipping and trading center of southern Indian Territory. The settlement utilized the depot to serve a surrounding hinterland of rich grazing and farmlands. Cattlemen brought their herds to Ardmore to be added to the loads of cattle being shipped from Texas to the Kansas markets and beyond. Many of the new settlers to the area were farmers

who relied on the train not only for transportation for themselves, but also their products. Cotton was shipped from Ardmore to all parts of the world. In fact, Ardmore once earned the title of the largest inland cotton shipping center in the world.<sup>42</sup> Merchants built their stores along Caddo and Main streets to tap into the business from the railroad. Lumber yards, eateries, saloons, general stores, and boarding houses were just blocks from the depot and the railroad line.

Other railroad lines were built to serve Ardmore as well. By 1902, Ardmore had three lines: the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe, the Arkansas and Choctaw, and the Western Oklahoma.<sup>43</sup> In 1913, construction crews began the Ringling Railroad, a short line running west of Ardmore to the newly founded Healdton oil fields.<sup>44</sup> John Ringling, of circus fame, funded this new spur and the construction of the depot at North Washington Street and Northwest Third Avenue.<sup>45</sup> Thus, Ardmore became the center of the supply industries for oil production, too. Five refineries operated in Ardmore during the 1910s and 1920s. Lumber yards specialized in supplying raw materials and finished drilling rigs for oil fields. Many new workers flocked to Ardmore aboard the train before they headed out to Healdton.

Both the depots still stand and are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The lumber yards have been moved or altered, as have most of the stores that lined Caddo Street. Main Street still has many of its buildings, most of which were constructed after the explosion of a railroad tank car filled with casinghead gas in 1915. The historic district of Main Street buildings from C Street Southwest east to the railroad tracks has been added to the National

Register as well.

The Ardmore Traction Company, the only interurban in Ardmore, ran from 1906-1922. The trolley ran to the downtown district and up to its terminus north of town. The Traction Company did not last long because of the expense of running such a high maintenance service in a small town and the increasing competition from the new automobiles.<sup>46</sup> During the 1930s, the tracks of the interurban were removed as a WPA project.

### African Americans

Ardmore was a racially segregated town for many decades. The properties east of the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe railroad lines have historically been African American. Their civic organizations, churches, businesses, and homes were kept separate from those of white Ardmoreites. Despite these hindrances, African Americans have enjoyed many successes in Ardmore, including the desegregation that occurred during the 1960s and 1970s.

The coming of the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railway brought prosperity for the freedmen of the Chickasaw Nation and new African American settlers in the growing town of Ardmore. African American professionals and merchants began to build their businesses. In 1941, the African American community created their own Chamber of Commerce which went on to improve street signage in northeastern Ardmore, help build the east side swimming pool in 1956, and integrate businesses downtown.<sup>47</sup> Some of the original, segregated buildings still stand on

East Main Street. Most are simple, red brick contiguous buildings that have fallen into disrepair.

Civic clubs and churches were organized, beginning in the 1890s, to help develop the African American community. The southern Oklahoma Boosters Club organized in 1934 under the direction of S.M. Lackey. This club helped found the Chamber of Commerce, directed activities for the community at the Lake Murray Camp #3, and organized the boy and girl scout troops of the community.<sup>48</sup> Many churches were active in the social lives of Ardmore's African American citizens. Most of the original church buildings have been rebuilt or remodeled since the 1960s, as the congregations and the services offered by the churches continued to grow.

The schools, along with the white and African American communities, were segregated until the 1960s. Jefferson and Washington Elementary schools and Douglas High School were built within the African American community. In 1966, teacher Mentha Varner was transferred to Lincoln Elementary, an all white ward school, thereby beginning the process of desegregation. Six years later, she became the first African American principal in Ardmore at the Early Childhood Center, housed in what was Washington Elementary. The center serves all kindergarten aged children in Ardmore. Later in the 1970s, a new High School was built on the outskirts of town to serve all Ardmore students and effectively desegregate the school system.

Ardmore's African Americans have also been active in its local government. S.M. Lackey was known as the "Black Mayor" of Ardmore for

his commitment to the progress of his people and his service within the southern Oklahoma Boosters Club. However, it was Mazola Holman McKerson who held the position as Mayor from 1979-1980. She was the only woman and African American to have held that position. In 1969, H.F.V. Wilson was elected Carter County Superintendent of Schools. Karl James Crisp served as the director of the Community Action Agency in Carter County. Also, in 1984 Joyce Wilson became the director of the Department of Human Services in Ardmore.<sup>49</sup>

### Religion

Many of the churches in Ardmore were established by the 1890s and continued to grow. Ardmore has been graced by a diversity of congregations and a lack of conflict between them. One of the largest Jewish populations in Indian Territory resided in the town in 1890. Max Westheimer and Sam Daube helped establish the congregation and its first Temple.<sup>50</sup> The population has slowly diminished since, but their faith has remained strong. Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians, Episcopalians, and Catholics help round out the religions practiced in Ardmore. The small wooden church buildings erected by the original congregations have been torn down and replaced with grander structures. Many of these more permanent structures still stand, most with additional buildings and new adjoining wings surrounding the main chapels.

The First Presbyterian Church was one of the first to build a large sanctuary in 1918; the building still stands at 223 West Broadway. The First Methodist Church at 501 West Main was constructed from 1920-

1924 in the grand Beaux Arts style. St. Phillips Episcopal Church at 516 McLish is unique with its gray stone work. Built in 1927, the chapel retains its original interior woodwork and stained-glass windows. During the next year, the construction of the First Baptist Church at 225 First Avenue Southwest was completed. The First Orthodox Baptist Church was built ten years later with planned conveniences for the elderly members. No grand staircase led to the front door, and the entrance was placed close (approximately 20 feet) to the curb to allow easy access to the sanctuary. This building practice was quite uncommon at the time; most every other church had the traditional stone stairway to the main entrance. The Calvary Presbyterian Church built at 800 Third Avenue Northeast in 1940. In 1982, the Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Church, organized in Ardmore in 1894, bought the chapel. The interior of this building has also remained intact.

Those churches that were organized by the African Americans in Ardmore have a long history as well. Most congregations organized between 1890 and 1900. Also, the majority of the original church buildings have been rebuilt or remodeled since the 1960s. However, the Macedonia Baptist Church, built in the 1930s, still stands in the northeast corner of the original town. Its simple design, which shows Italian Renaissance influences, provides an excellent example of the early church buildings of all Ardmore.

The more modern International architectural style appeared in churches designed during the 1950s. Both St. Mary Catholic Church and Temple Emeth, a Jewish congregation, were designed by architect Ludwig Isenberg in 1951 and 1952, respectively. The structures face each other

across E Street Southwest at the corner of Stanley Avenue. The stained-glass windows are not purely symbolic, as in most previously built churches, but decorative in their linear quality which emphasizes this modern design principle dominant in the churches' designs.

### Education

Ardmore has a long history of educational institutions. Hargrove College provided two year college degrees and elementary and high school education from 1895 to 1914. In that year, Bloomfield Academy for Chickasaw girls and boys moved into the building. The Indianola Business College ran from 1893 to 1899.<sup>51</sup> Neither of these two buildings still stand. A Catholic school for children and a few other parochial schools provided the only education for children (except in-home education) until after 1897 when Ardmore was officially incorporated as a city. Ardmore's first High School (now part of the middle school) at 215 North Washington was built in 1912 in the Beaux Arts style. The Junior High (no longer existent), Jefferson, Franklin, Washington, and Lincoln Elementary schools were built later, most in the late 1920s. Will Rogers and Charles Evans Elementary were built in the 1950s.

Dr. Charles Evans was instrumental as the first superintendent of Ardmore schools in the organization and expansion of the public education system. Dr. Evans came to Ardmore in 1905 when Ardmore had only wood-frame school buildings and no public library.<sup>52</sup> Jefferson, Franklin, Washington, and Lincoln schools were all named by Dr. Evans, who believed the historic names would lend dignity and substance to

Ardmore schools. He also donated much of his personal library and encouraged school children to donate their books to the Carnegie Library which had been built but not supplied with any books or opened to the public.<sup>53</sup> This building presently exists at 506 Stanley Southwest as the Ardmore Garden Club. Dr. Evans' home still stands at 1317 Bixby.

Separate African American Schools were also part of the Ardmore Public School System until 1966. Those school buildings included Jefferson Elementary (original building non-extant), Washington Elementary, and Douglas High School. Ms. Mentha Varner, an African American school teacher, began the process of desegregation by transferring to Lincoln Elementary, an all white school. Desegregation continued into the 1970s, when the new High School was built for all students of Ardmore. Washington School became the Early Childhood Center in 1972. This center served all kindergarten aged children in Ardmore.<sup>54</sup>

#### Government

After the Louisiana Purchase, the Choctaw Nation governed the area of Ardmore. When the Chickasaw Tribe was granted separate nation status in 1856, they enforced their laws upon the land. Whites could not own land, except through marriage into the tribe. However, whites were subject to the courts of Arkansas until 1889, when Congress established three US Courts in Indian Territory. Ardmore, McAlester, and Muskogee held these courts until statehood.

Under the Curtis Act, Ardmore became incorporated as a town with the right to a city government in 1897. Before, under Chickasaw laws,

white settlers to the area could not establish their own town government or own the land they had developed. In 1899, the Dawes Commission allotted Chickasaw lands so Ardmoreites could finally buy the land they had leased for so many years.<sup>55</sup> With these new rights, the town citizens set up a Mayoral and ward government. Four ward schools provided formal education to Ardmore's children, beginning in 1899. In 1902, the new City Lake provided a constant water supply for the town. That same year, the Original Town Plat was completed.

In 1907, Ardmore became the seat of the newly formed Carter County. The Carter County Courthouse with its dome and other Federal style detailings, is listed upon the National Register of Historic Places. Ardmore has been the center for all county-wide dealings, including the County Works Progress Administration of the 1930s.<sup>56</sup>

In the early 1920s, Ardmore formally changed its city governmental system to that of a City Commission and a hired City Manager.<sup>57</sup> This was a common occurrence throughout the country in response to the rampant political corruption of the time. Under this new government and with the help of the Works Progress Administration, a new municipal building was constructed in 1937 on South Washington Street. This facility housed the jail, police department, municipal court, fire department, and other city offices. The building is currently on the Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory and is an excellent example of the Art Deco style used by many WPA architects and builders.

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## PROPERTY TYPE ANALYSIS

Property types group together individual properties which share similar physical or associative characteristics. The defining and analysis of property types provides a framework by which large numbers of related properties may be compared for evaluation and nomination to the National Register. The historic context guides this process by identifying the significant themes and events that give these properties meaning, and by providing an initial indication of the kinds of properties likely to be constructed in the study area.

The following property type analysis draws on the historical narrative of Ardmore. Since it was finalized after the survey component of the project was completed, it also contains reference to examples of the property types.

### Commercial Properties

**Description:** Ardmore's commercial economy was first based on serving the cattlemen and farmers of the surrounding countryside. Cotton and cattle created the first base of wealth for many Ardmoreites. Oil later became the greatest force driving Ardmore's economy. But with both agricultural and petroleum resources, Ardmore's businessmen and professionals provided services to the industries. Also, many Ardmoreites controlled those industries.

The businesses and offices would logically locate near the lines of transportation which would bring in customers from the surrounding area; the foremost form of transportation was the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railway that had originally established Ardmore as one of its depots. The first buildings would have been impermanent buildings, with more permanent buildings being constructed as the town grew. The brick buildings that line Main Street, which is perpendicular to the railroad lines, are the end result of two forced periods of rebuilding. The

first came with a fire in 1897, the second with a casinghead gas tank car explosion in 1915. Both times the majority of Main Street businesses were destroyed and rebuilt. The brick buildings that remain were then built since 1915, and the architectural styles would reflect this. The buildings should be larger than if the area had developed slowly, since the businesses that rebuilt were already well established in Ardmore. The largest buildings would be ornate, with decorative stonework, window treatments, and cornice lines. Most of the commercial buildings in the downtown area were listed on the National Register as a Commercial Historic District which includes much of Main Street between West C Street and the railroad lines.

The African American businesses, which were located east of the railroad lines on Main Street, would have been rebuilt or have replacement buildings on the property. The architecture should be the same, if slightly smaller in scale because of the limited number of clientele. The businesses would include barber shops, cafes, and mercantile stores, all serving the African American community only. Much of the properties near the railroad lines have been replaced with large warehouses or factories, and the remaining historic commercial structures are in disrepair.

With the increased prominence of the automobile, certain businesses fell out of favor and new ones were constructed. The livery stables would be replaced with service stations with covered porte-cocheres and attached garages for automobile service. The first of these stations would be small, such as the Cummings Sinclair Service Station, now Daylight Donuts, on West Broadway. Later stations would add total automobile service and would be larger to handle more than a few cars at once, such as the Ardmore Muffler Service Station at C Street Southeast and Lake Murray Drive. Automobile dealerships would also be constructed in the downtown area. These buildings would have large, garage doors to allow automobiles entrance into the showroom,

which would have large windows. Some dealerships would also have service garages for their customers. Hale-Milburn Ford is an excellent example of such a dealership built in the downtown area of Ardmore.

**Significance:** The commercial properties have several significances. Their primary significance lies in their representation of the economic stability and prosperity of a community. When towns such as Ardmore grew and prospered as the result of agricultural success and oil field development, the commercial properties also became more affluent and substantial. Oil companies, doctors, and lawyers needed offices from which to conduct their businesses. Merchants grew wealthy from supplying the needs of the cattlemen, farmers, and oil crews. The significance of these properties is reflected through architecture, as merchants and entrepreneurs expressed their aspirations and achievements through their buildings. Certain commercial properties also have social significance as they reflect changes in lifestyles from dependence on mass transportation, the horse, or foot to reliance on the automobile as the primary means of transportation.

**Eligibility:** To be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, commercial buildings should retain their integrity of design, location, and materials. Commercial buildings can also be judged eligible for the National Register if they are contributing resources to a historic district.

### **Industrial Properties**

**Description:** Industrial properties should include agricultural product and petroleum processing. Agriculture and oil were important factors in Ardmore's economy. Merchants and professionals serviced these industries and Ardmore provided a center of transportation for the goods. Because petroleum processing is an undesirable industry within the city limits, the oil refineries were located to the northeast of the study area. However, agricultural product processing began near

Ardmore's downtown district, along the railroad lines. Cotton became less prominent as a cash crop during and after the 1930s. Therefore, many of the industrial properties associated with cotton processing may no longer be standing. Grain production and processing became more important to Ardmore's agricultural economy during the 1940s and 1950s. It has remained an important crop. The concrete grain elevators that were evolving during the first half of this century should still be a dominant part of Ardmore's skyline. Pecan production became important to Ardmoreites during a period of expansion and experimentation with local crops during the 1930s and 1940s. Industrial properties involving pecan processing may be present. Examples of industrial properties were found in Ardmore. They include the Colvert Dairy Product Processing plant on South Washington, the Ardmore Milling Company at Mill Street and First Avenue, and Nance's Pecan factory at 23 D Street Southeast.

**Significance:** The significance of industrial properties is economical. The impact of jobs and revenues created by processing plants is important to the community. Instead of shipping the raw materials and products to other locations for processing, Ardmoreites built processing plants from which finished products were shipped to nationwide markets via the railroads and highways.

**Eligibility:** Industrial properties must maintain their integrity of location, materials, and design. They must also be clearly associated with the processing that was historically important to Ardmore.

### **Transportation Properties**

**Description:** Ardmore's birth began with the railroad. The Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railway line was completed from Texas to Ardmore in July, 1887. This railroad helped make Ardmore the shipping and trading center of southern Indian Territory and later Oklahoma. Agricultural products could be brought into Ardmore to be shipped to

nationwide markets. Raw petroleum was shipped into Ardmore's refineries. People also came on the railway to settle in Ardmore. The depots of the railroad lines were important buildings. The architectural style of the Santa Fe depots was usually mission or spanish revival. The Ringling Depot was built with funds from John Ringling of circus fame. His wealth helped build the Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Pacific Railway from the Healdton oil fields and surrounding towns to Ardmore, to join with the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railway. Both depots are listed on the National Register.

Ardmore also had an interurban from 1906-1922. This trolley ran to the downtown district and up to its terminus north of town (outside the study area) near the Gun and Rod Club and the Dornick Hills Club. The tracks were removed from the streets as part of a WPA project.

Busses became important to Ardmore's transportation system. The bus lines ran to other towns in Oklahoma and northern Texas. Bus depots were usually built in the downtown commercial core. Such was the case in Ardmore. The depot sits just east of the municipal building. It was built in a simple, commercial architectural style, but has since been altered.

Automobiles became increasingly important during the 1930s and later. Highway 77 was constructed to include Commerce Street. The street was widened to four lanes, divided by a grassy island, and access streets were added to the east and west of Commerce. This brought in heavy traffic for many years until Interstate 35 was constructed just to the west of town. Main Street, the major thoroughfare for the commercial core, was changed into a one way street to accommodate the increased traffic. Unlike many other towns, Ardmore's streets had already been paved with asphalt in the 1910s and 1920s because of the nearby asphalt mine.

**Significance:** The significance of railroad transportation is primarily economic. Railroads connected town to distant markets. This

was especially important to the merchants, cotton farmers, cattlemen, and oil companies. Lines such as the Santa Fe and the Ringling Railways also had passenger service, allowing for the ease of personal travel, making them socially significant as well.

The significance of the interurban is primarily social. Its service made it possible for Ardmoreites to reach the downtown area and recreational areas more easily.

Bus transportation permits those without cars to travel long distances on regularly scheduled routes. The buses often stopped at towns not serviced by the railroads. Because busses were used as passenger transportation, their significance is primarily social.

Car and truck traffic had an economic impact on the commercial core. Whether automobile travel was leisure or business oriented, it required its own special commercial activities to meet the needs of the automobile user. The corresponding commercial properties were often located in the heart of the city. Automobile transportation has social significance, as it provided greater personal freedom and mobility. It is also responsible for the decline in railroad and bus traffic, as both passengers and shippers preferred the increasing flexibility of the automobile and truck. Ironically, as the automobile once brought economic benefits to the commercial core, in more recent years it has contributed to the growth of strip developments which draw business away from the downtown area.

**Eligibility:** Railroad and interurban buildings such as depots, stations, and related properties should retain their integrity of location, design, and materials. Their historic association with these modes of transportation should be clearly defined. The same is true with bus depots. Buildings and structures associated with automobile transportation should possess historic significance such as a symbolic connection with the rise of the automobile as the dominant form of transportation in the United States. They also should retain their

integrity of design, setting, and materials.

### **Religious Properties**

**Description:** Religion has played an important role in the development of Ardmore and its citizens social values and organizations. Many of the churches in Ardmore were established in the 1890s and continued to grow. Ardmore has been graced by a diversity of religious beliefs and a lack of conflict between them. One of the largest Jewish populations in Indian Territory resided in the town in 1890. Also, the African American population organized their own congregations, many of which are still separate from the white community today.

The buildings themselves should reflect the growth in the churches and their prominence within the social structure of Ardmore. The most popular and largest churches are usually located near the downtown commercial area. The buildings were built in the 1920s as the congregations outgrew the original church structures. The new buildings were large and elaborate to reflect the wealth and social power of the congregation. Some excellent examples of these churches are St. Phillips's Episcopal Church, the First United Methodist Church, and the First Baptist Church of Ardmore. Other, smaller congregations, which had sometimes broken off from the original congregation, built their church buildings in their neighborhoods or farther away from downtown. The architecture should be smaller in scale and not quite as decorative as the largest churches. Some examples are the Calvary Presbyterian Church and the First Orthodox Baptist Church buildings.

**Significance:** The significance of these properties is religious and social. Some churches are significant because of their historic association with a person or event. Churches may also have architectural merit because the buildings are symbols of the congregation's social power in the community and are therefore often of monumental scale and excellent craftsmanship.

**Eligibility:** A religious building is eligible if it derives its significance from architectural distinction or historic merit. The building must retain its integrity of design, setting, and materials.

### **Educational Properties**

**Description:** Education was typically a high priority for the settlers of Indian Territory. Early school houses built in the city limits rarely survive, as they are torn down to make way for larger and better school buildings. The schools built between 1920 and 1940 are usually brick structures with one to three stories, large doorways, and lines of windows.

Ardmore has a long history of educational institutions. Hargrove College provided two year college degrees and elementary and high school education from 1895 to 1914. In that year, Bloomfield Academy for Chickasaw girls and boys moved into the building. The Indianola Business College ran from 1893 to 1899. None of these buildings still stand, but they did set a precedence for the importance of education in Ardmore.

Ardmore's first High School was constructed in 1912 in the Beaux Arts style. Douglas High School was built at the same time for the African American students. New ward school buildings at Jefferson (originally an African American school), Franklin and Lincoln elementaries were built in the late 1920s in the Italian Renaissance style. Washington, which later became the Early Childhood Center, was built in the late 1930s as part of a WPA project. All these buildings still stand except for Jefferson which burned down in the 1980s. The Douglas High School auditorium was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Libraries are also important to public educational systems. Early libraries are usually small but grand in scale. In other words, the floor space is limited but the appearances of public libraries are often

stately because of the classic, decorative architectural styles used. The Carnegie Library was built in 1905 in the Neoclassical style. Damage to the second floor in a 1925 storm resulted in the renovations and addition built in the late 1930s, as a WPA project. The present, one-and-a-half story building has an Italian Renaissance style.

**Significance:** The significance of education related properties is as evidence of a long tradition affirming the importance of schooling, not only to individuals, but for the community. The construction of a public library shows an interest in making information available to the community as a whole.

**Eligibility:** To be eligible for listing on the National Register, educational properties in Ardmore must retain integrity of design, setting, and materials. Schools and libraries are often altered to allow for increased attendance and changes in methodology. However, some changes do not diminish the integrity or the significance of the property if it retains its association with the city's provision for educational opportunities for its citizens.

#### Government Properties

**Description:** Ardmore was made the county seat of the newly formed Carter County at statehood. This called for the creation of a county courthouse. Ardmore was also a large town which required local government buildings such as a post office, city hall, fire station, and police station. The courthouse may have been originally housed in upper-story offices in downtown buildings until a permanent building could be constructed. The original post office, organized in the 1890s, would probably not still be standing. A larger building of a grand architectural scale may be present, as this was the common building practice during the 1920s and 1930s. The original city hall was more than likely replaced by a larger structure as the town government grew. Usually, the fire and police stations were located near the center of

town, or the downtown area, in order to reach all areas of the town easily. Examples of these properties were located in the survey. The courthouse and the historic downtown office buildings are listed on the National Register. The historic post office buildings have been replaced by a modern facility built in the 1960s to meet the expanding postal service needs of the community. The original city hall on South Washington was replaced in the late 1930s by an Art Moderne style building which housed the city offices, police offices and jail, planning department offices, and the fire station.

**Significance:** The significance of these government properties varies according to the level of government with which they are associated. The post office has the widest scope of significance because of its part in a federally operated communication network. The courthouse is important to all citizens of Carter County, whereas the city hall and fire station have local significance only.

**Eligibility:** To be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, government properties should retain their integrity of location, design, and materials. They should have strong associations with either the city, county, state, or federal government and that body's enactment and administration of laws or other activities associated with the political process.

### Social Properties

**Description:** Citizens usually establish social organizations in the early stages of the development of the town. While many such organizations were housed in downtown commercial buildings, sharing space with banks or retail stores, the organizations were sometimes prosperous enough or had enough financial support to construct their own buildings. Ardmore has many active social organizations, including the southern Oklahoma Boosters Club, an African American organization, the Rotary, the Masons, and many others. Most of the earliest meeting halls

were built in the Historic Downtown Commercial district which has been nominated to the National Register. However, two buildings were identified by the survey as properties of social organizations. The Young Womens' Christian Association (YWCA) built an Art Deco style, two-story building in the 1930s with funds donated by Eva Noble. The Masonic Lodge built the Gilbert office building in 1933 of which the top floor is used as a meeting hall for the organization. Both buildings are located on the north side of West Broadway, near downtown.

**Significance:** The significance of these properties is primarily social. The organizations played an integral part in the formation of the town's social structure. The buildings they constructed are indicative of the extent of the groups' commitment to becoming permanent members of their society.

**Eligibility:** To be eligible for listing on the National Register, properties associated with the social history of Ardmore must retain integrity of design, setting, and materials. Exceptions may be made for properties with uncommon associational values.

#### **Recreational and Cultural Properties**

**Description:** Early Ardmore's growing population needed recreational and cultural outlets. These types of properties usually include: theaters, concert halls, parks, playgrounds, and country clubs. Theaters and concert halls were historically located within the downtown area. Parks, playgrounds, and country clubs are usually located some distance from the town center. Ardmore's country clubs, which include the first gun and rod club in the state and the Dornick Hills country club and golf course, were built outside of the study area. Also, the theaters located downtown were located within the Historic Commercial District already listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The survey did identify several historic parks, one of which has not been significantly altered, and a municipal auditorium.

Whittington Park was the first park area used by Ardmoreites. The area was officially made a city park in 1902. The municipal auditorium was constructed in 1940 to replace an earlier auditorium. The present building is an excellent example of the Art Moderne style.

**Significance:** Properties associated with recreation and culture serve as evidence of the increase in leisure time among the population. This in turn represents the stability and well-being of the community. Therefore, these properties possess both economic and social significance.

**Eligibility:** To be eligible for listing on the National Register, recreational properties should retain their integrity of design, location, and materials. Certain exceptions for the park areas should be made for the construction of park pavilions, but not for the total renovations of the park's landscaping.

#### **Residential Properties**

**Description:** In Ardmore, where much of the survey area was included in the Original Town Plat drafted in 1902, many of the homes in the area may be historic. However, continued development of neighborhoods may diminish the possibilities of finding historic districts. Individual properties are often altered, too. Those homes which were built during the 1890s and 1900s will be more rare than those of later periods. During these years, many palatial homes were built in the Ardmore area in the Victorian styles to display new found wealth from cotton and mercantilism. The 1910s and 1920s were the oil boom years. The mansions from this era should have more elaborate details and be of a diversity of styles. Many smaller homes of the working class should be present in Ardmore, as more people came to the town to cash in on the prosperity. These homes were usually Craftsman bungalows taken from pattern books that were common at the time. Homes from the 1930s and early 1940s may be more rare, as the depression that hit both

agriculturalists and petroleum companies took its toll on Ardmore's economy. The style should be that of Minimal Tradition. Post-World War II housing did not really begin development in Ardmore until after 1955. Many examples of the bungalow homes and 1920s mansions were found by the survey, especially in a southwest historic district. A few early homes were located within the town as well.

**Significance:** Residential properties may be significant for many reasons, depending on their association value, style, and location. The historic owner or resident or the architectural style of a house may give the property its importance. In Ardmore, homes associated with early entrepreneurs and oil men seem likely to be significant to local history. These residences serve as reminders of the economical and social importance these people and their families played in the development of Ardmore.

**Eligibility:** To be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, residential properties should retain integrity of design, setting, and materials. Exceptions may be made for residences with uncommon associational value or as contributing parts of a district. In these instances some alterations may be considered acceptable if the overall design and details have not been obscured.

## SUMMARY

The Architectural/Historic Reconnaissance Level Survey of Certain Parts of Ardmore proved a success. It documented 87 properties in the study area. Of these, 78 properties (89.6%) warrant further study for possible inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. This high ratio is due to that fact that the only individual properties documented that do not warrant further study are non-contributing resources in the proposed districts. Streetscape photographs and verbal descriptions characterize, and therefore document, the large portions of the study lacking potentially eligible properties. Of course, isolated individual properties in these areas warranting further study were identified and documented in this project. Thirty-three of the properties (37.9%) lie within the potential National Register district the survey identified.

*Central Church*

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

The Oklahoma Historic Preservation Survey, as the results reflect, fulfilled its contractual obligations. In addition to the accomplishments noted above, the Survey also generally increased both the area within Oklahoma inventoried for historic sources, and the number of properties identified. It also markedly increased awareness of resources associated with one of the state's largest metropolitan areas, and as such an area having considerable review and compliance related activity. In all these ways, this project and its products will serve as a valuable tool for the future preservation of these unique

resources specifically, and regional land-use management in general.

## ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

1983 Directory of First Baptist Church, 225 First Avenue, South West Ardmore, Oklahoma. Columbia, SC.: Olan Mills, 1983.

The first page of the directory contains a brief history of the church. It was organized on April 21, 1889. The present building was erected sometime between 1918 and 1936. No specific date is given. The photographs of the church indicates architectural significance. Also, all other buildings were built after 1957 but are not on the same block as the church.

Ardmore Oral History Collection, 1956. Ardmore, OK.: Washington High School, 1956.

Although these interviews were collected by high school students and many of the tapes had deteriorated before they were recopied, the stories told by the interviewees may be helpful. Most of the questions asked deal with the early lives of Ardmoreites. Some prominent oil men, financiers, and townswomen were interviewed. However, other less prominent people were included in the collection. John F. Easley describes the people who settled in early Ardmore as very poor and attracted by the available land. Mr. Farley Richmond explains that the Chickasaw Gin (cotton gin) was the first industry of any real notice. It was begun around 1894 and employed fifty or sixty men. Mr. Roy Johnson reminisces about his wildcatter days, illustrating the differences in drilling practices over time.

"Ardmore, Queen City Where Cotton is King--Largest and Most Prosperous City in the Chickasaw Nation." Indian Territory T.P.A. (May 1906): 44-48.

As the title indicates, this is a glowing report of Ardmore's natural and financial resources. Included are descriptions of the surrounding lands and agricultural opportunities, the city government, the municipal schools and utilities. The article is short but useful in analyzing Ardmore's growth over time.

Baxter, Scott. Resource Protection Planning Project: The European Ethnic Experience in Oklahoma, 1870-1920, Region Five. Oklahoma State University, Stillwater: Department of History, Oklahoma Historic Preservation Survey, 1986.

This report discusses European immigration to Oklahoma in region five of Oklahoma (Carter, Garvin, Johnston, Love, McClain, Murray, Pontotoc, Pottawatomie and Seminole counties). Of particular interest is the explanation of Jewish immigration to and the creation of a stronghold in Ardmore, Oklahoma. Both the Neustadt Mansion and the Jewish Synagogue in Ardmore provide historic significance to the town. Baxter failed to mention Sam Daube, a German Jew and prominent financier and ranchman, who helped established the Munzensheimer and Daube Store (more commonly known as the Ironstore) and the synagogue.

Baxter, Scott. Resource Protection Planning Project: Transportation in Oklahoma to 1920, Region Five. Oklahoma State University, Stillwater: Department of History, Oklahoma Historic Preservation Survey, 1986.

The report describes transportation, including roads, rivers, trails, and railroads, in region five of Oklahoma. The first railroad line through this region was the Gulf Coast and Santa Fe Railway. Ardmore's birth is attributed to this line. Built in 1887, it brought many whites into Indian Territory. Off-shoots of this line includes the Ringling Railroad, which linked Ardmore and the Healdton Oil Field, and the Ardmore Traction Company, a trolley service which ran for several years in Ardmore. Because transportation played such an important role in Ardmore's founding and continues to contribute to Ardmore's position as a distribution center, this study is important to understand Ardmore.

Blood, K.D. "Cotton Production in Oklahoma, 1928-1937, by Counties." Washington D.C.: Department of Agriculture, 1937.

This report gives the statistics for acres under cultivation, and crop yields for cotton by counties in Oklahoma. The statistics are useful in showing the trends in cotton production in Carter County from 1928 to 1937. The report summary also detailed some of the reasons for drops and increased in production.

Carney, George O. Energy: South Central Oklahoma 1900-1930. Oklahoma State University, 1985.

Carney reports on the exploration and documentation of history of energy, especially oil and natural gas, in region five of Oklahoma. The Healdton and Hewitt oil fields are listed as historically significant to this area. Certainly, these resources had a tremendous impact on the surrounding communities, including Ardmore. Carney lists both OLI and NRHP nominations pertaining to energy sources in this region. Several are listed for Ardmore, including the homes of well-known oil men.

Chandler, Allison and Stephen D. Maguire. When Oklahoma Took the Trolley. Glendale, Ca.: Interurbans, 1980.

This book is a collection of information on each trolley system in Oklahoma. Organized by towns, the book answers the questions where, when, who and why? Pages 73-79 describe Ardmore's trolley system, the Ardmore Traction Company. This system serviced Ardmore from 1906 through 1922, running from the Santa Fe depot through the business district, then northwest to Hargrove College. The Lorena Park Terminus had a baseball field, picnic area, fishing lake, swimming pool, and play grounds. Obviously, the trolley was quite important to Ardmoreites before the widespread use of the automobile.

Crisp, Lillian, T.R. Nash, and Mentha M. Varner. "A Condensed History of Black Ardmore, Oklahoma, to 1987." 26th Annual Shrine Club Rodeo Program (1987): 40. In Ardmore Public Library, Vertical Files.

This page in the program was compiled by the authors to provide information about the African American Community of Ardmore. The information includes the types of professions and businesses, social clubs, churches, and schools run by that community. It is a brief overview, but written accounts of African American history are rare. This account provides useful information about the historical trends in Ardmore.

Daily Ardmoreite. Reporter's Notebook. Ardmore, OK.: Sprekelmeyer Printing Co., 1973.

Basically, this is a selected compilation of McGalliard's articles throughout his years as a journalist for the Daily Ardmoreite. Many of the articles are short stories of Ardmore's history or of important people's lives. McGalliard has worked to help preserve and illuminate the history of Ardmore. This book, as a part of that effort, is a wealth of information about Ardmore, its history, growth, prosperity, and its people.

Evans, Ralph and Helen Evans. The Cross to the Crown. Ardmore, OK.: Enon Baptist Association, 1984-85.

Although this is a poorly written account of the Enon Baptist Association and its affiliated churches, it does provide some information about Ardmore's Baptist churches. From the photographs in the book, only the first Missionary Baptist Church shows any architectural or historical importance. All the other buildings have obviously been built since the 1950's, if not more recently. A short history for each Ardmore Baptist church is provided is useful in determining the significance of those buildings.

Frame, Paul Nelson. "A History of Ardmore, Oklahoma, From the Earliest Beginnings to 1907." MA thesis, Oklahoma State University, 1949.

This thesis begins with the origin of the 700 Ranch, the first building in the Ardmore area, and goes on to discuss the professional men, federal courts, early industries, and social and cultural affairs of Ardmoreites. The thesis is useful in detailing the early history of some individual Ardmoreites and historical trends in the area.

Franks, Kenny A. Ragtown: A History of the Greater Healdton-Hewitt Oil Field. Western Heritage Books, Inc., 1986.

Franks has produced a well-written history of Carter County oil fields. He includes the histories of the oil boom towns, the impacts upon existing communities, the lifestyles of oil field workers, and the pervasive lawlessness of the oil boom years. Ardmore's disastrous gas car explosion of 1915 is well described and illustrated. Franks also writes about Ardmore's refinery, the Ringling Railroad linking Ardmore to the prosperity of the Healdton field, the many banks established with oil money, and Ardmore's Sheriff Buck Garret who kept the law in the surrounding oil fields and smaller towns.

Goodnight, Marjorie C. "Pioneers in the Development of Carter County." MA. Thesis, University of Oklahoma, 1939.

Goodnight has compiled six different stories of men who helped shape Carter County. Five of the men were residents of Ardmore, Oklahoma. Walter Hardy, a physician, Michael Gorman, a financial leader, John Carlock, a partner of the Cruce brothers, Wirt Franklin, an oilman, and Charles Weith, a preacher at Ardmore's Presbyterian Church, all contributed to Ardmore's and Carter County's growth. Their life stories illustrate the pioneer spirit which gave birth to Ardmore and helped it develop into a distribution center for "little Dixie."

Graves, Gregory R. "Exodus from Indian Territory: The Evolution of Cotton Culture in Eastern Oklahoma." Chronicles of Oklahoma 60 (Summer 1982): 186-209.

This article deals with cotton and the changes brought to the culture surrounding this crop by mechanization. Graves explains that mechanization, more than the misuse and subsequent deterioration of the land, caused the exodus of cotton farmers from Oklahoma during the 1930's. The scope of the article includes Northern Texas, Western Arkansas, and Southern Oklahoma. While Ardmore, Oklahoma is not mentioned specifically, its importance as "Cotton King" of Southern Oklahoma was certainly impacted by the depression. Graves' conclusions help explain this piece of Ardmore's history.

Hall, Ralph J. "Bloomfield Indian School and Its Works." MA. Thesis, Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College (Oklahoma State University), 1931.

This thesis explains the history of Bloomfield Seminary for girls. Begun in 1852 by Reverend John Harpole Carr, the original building was erected near Kemp. The school was later moved to the old Hargrove College, Ardmore in 1916. The buildings were renovated and the school reopened in 1917. The school taught some educational and many homemaking skills for Native American, mainly Chickasaw, girls. Some whites did attend the school. These buildings may be just outside of the survey area. However, the school's impact upon the town cannot be neglected.

Hartung, A.M. "Oklahoma, a Memory." The Ranchman 1 (November, 1941): 22-23.

This is a short, colorful story about Ardmore. It conveys mostly popular tales about lawless Indians and oil workers, the difficulties of land acquisition while still Indian Territory, the great fire of 1897, and swine in the streets. The last paragraph does mention some important industries of Ardmore in 1941: asphalt mining, oil refining, flour milling, and ranching. This does give a popular, and perhaps important, picture of Ardmore as seen in the early 1940's.

Industrial Report of the City of Ardmore, Oklahoma and Survey of its Trade Territory. Ardmore, Ok.: Industrial Department of the Chamber of Commerce, 1929.

This document may prove quite valuable as a resource to evaluate Ardmore's growth up to 1929. The information presented includes: population through the years, forms of municipal government, the city scape, financial institutions, and schools. Because much of the data is a comparison of figures from several years, the information is not limited to 1929 alone.

Lauderdale, Joann Tong. "Chronological Information: Ardmore, Oklahoma, to 1959." (handout). Carter County Genealogical and Historical Museum, Ardmore, Oklahoma.

This handout was developed for Paul Harvey's visit to Ardmore in 1959. The chronological information is useful in observing growth and change in the town. Most of the dates also have paragraphs explaining the importance of the event to the town.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New

York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1990.

This book provides necessary information about architectural styles found in American houses. It also details the trends associated with the styles. The book played a major role in the survey.

McGalliard, Mac. "Pioneer Spirit: the Centennial History of Ardmore." Chronicles of Oklahoma 65 (Spring 1987): 76-89.

In this article, McGalliard gives a brief but concise history of Ardmore up to 1987. He describes the settlement of Ardmore, the oil boom days, the impact of the Great Depression and World War II, the slow industrial growth, the school systems, and Ardmore's achievement of receiving the title of "All-America City" twice. This article does what most do not. It gives a full history of the town, not just the history of the pioneer or oil boom days.

Norton, Patty Virginia. "Southern Oklahoma Architecture Influenced by Many Different Cultures." (photocopy) Ardmore Main Street Program, Ardmore, Oklahoma.

This article details the history of some historic homes in Ardmore. The details include the names of original owners, architectural styles, builder's names, and dates of construction. It is useful in locating these homes and understanding the variety of architectural styles in Ardmore's homes.

Norton, Patty Virginia RN. and Layton R. Sutton, MD. Indian Territory and Carter County, Oklahoma, Pioneers Including Pickens County, Chickasaw Nation, 1840-1926. Vol 1. Dallas, TX.: Taylor Publishing Co., 1983.

This is a "mug shot history" of Carter County (formerly contained in Pickens County, IT). This work contains some history of Ardmore and the Chickasaw Tribe. The main portion of the book is made up of submitted stories of families or individuals. Many of the stories are valuable, as they describe the development of Ardmore and its society. Although these stories have been submitted by family members, for the most part, they are excellent starting places for researching Ardmore's past.

"Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory, Ardmore, Oklahoma," Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma City.

A number of historic resources in the study area are included in the Oklahoma Landmarks inventory. The files pertaining to these are located at the State Historic Preservation Office.

"Oklahoma's Live Young Cities." Sturms Magazine 4 (May, 1907): 1-12.

The last page of this article, a compilation of stories of the towns of Oklahoma, contains an enthusiastic report of Ardmore in 1907. The article highlights Ardmore's water supply, the as yet unpaved streets (soon to be paved with asphalt from local mines), the available electricity and gas lines, the commercial center, and the low price of excellent farming land. This is a snapshot of Ardmore and other Oklahoma towns, just after statehood, trying to sell themselves.

Scarpino, Philip V. Resource Protection Planning Project: Industrial Development in the Ten Counties of South-central Oklahoma to 1930,

Region Five. Oklahoma State University, Stillwater: Department of History, Oklahoma Historic Preservation Survey, 1986.

This survey explores the lack of diversified industrial development in this part of Oklahoma. Most industries are based on agriculture, ranching, and some energy related industries. Most agricultural industries include cotton ginning, flour milling, and producing timber products. Energy related industries are not fully explained in this survey, but left to other surveys mentioned above. Scarpino mentions that additional surveys might look for related physical evidence of these agricultural industries, such as: factory buildings, company housing, mill complexes, and quarries. While Ardmore is mainly a distribution center, the dominant role agriculture has played in the community must be respected.

Short, C.W., and R. Stanley-Brown. Public Buildings: Architecture Under the Public Works Administration, 1933-1939. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1939.

This book offers descriptions and photographs of WPA project buildings, including the Municipal Building in Ardmore, Oklahoma. The description details what offices and city departments were housed in the building and provides a floor plan drawing. This is useful in determining the extent of the remodeling done in the 1980s, and in understanding the historic use of the building.

Smith, Michael. Resource Protection Planning Project: Patterns of White Settlement in Oklahoma, 1889-1907, Region Five. Oklahoma State University, Stillwater: Department of History, Oklahoma Historic Preservation Survey, 1986.

This survey explains white settlement on Indian lands in Oklahoma, specifically those lands held by the Choctaws, Creeks, Chickasaws, and Seminoles. Many "illegal whites" entered this area. Others worked for members of the tribes, usually as sharecroppers on Indian lands or as mine workers in Indian mines. The author describes the impact the railroads had on white settlement. He also explains the organization of towns on Indian lands. Although the settlers had no guarantee that they would be allowed to renew their leases, they built many relatively permanent and expensive buildings on the land.

Sparger, Julia. "Young Ardmore, 1962 (?)" Carter County Genealogical and Historical Museum, Ardmore, Oklahoma.

This manuscript provides a short, concise history of Ardmore from the Trail of Tears to 1945. This well written work is useful in dating events and understanding historic trends in Ardmore.

Tompkins, Charles A. United States Community Improvement Appraisal Report: Area No. 11, Ardmore, Oklahoma. State of Oklahoma Department of Government, 1938.

Tompkins compiled a series of letters sent to the US Community Improvement Appraisal Commission, under the WPA. These letters list the improvements, sponsored by federal work programs and money, made in the towns in area no. 11. In the town of Ardmore, much work was created by renovating Plainview Public School, creating of Lake Murray, paving many county roads and constructing bridges, building Washington School, creating a football stadium for the school system, constructing an armory,

building a new city hall, repairing city sidewalks and gutters, constructing a rifle range, and creating a new filtration plant and two disposal plants. This may not be a complete listing of all WPA works in Ardmore. But it gives a good indication of how important these projects were to the economy of the town.

Wise, Donald A. "Birds Eye Views of Oklahoma Towns." Chronicles of Oklahoma 67 (Fall, 1989): 228-248.

This article describes the works of T. M. Fowler, an artist who drew many "birds eye views" of Oklahoma towns. Fowler drew such a portrait of Ardmore in 1891. The picture is on pages 6 and 7. This picture helps locate historically significant districts in Ardmore, as the streets are clearly labeled.

Workers of the Writers' Program of the Work Projects Administration in the State of Oklahoma, compilers. Oklahoma: a Guide to the Sooner State. Norman, OK.: University of Oklahoma Press, 1941.

This guide to Oklahoma, compiled by the Writers Program of the WPA, gives information about the general background of Oklahoma and her principle cities. Ardmore is included in this listing. On pages 125-128, Ardmore's basic history is spelled out. The authors explain the periods of settlement and the oil boom, and the development of the schools and newspapers in Ardmore. Most valuable, however, may be the listing of the locations of major points of interest, such as the railroad stations, the motion picture theaters, and even the city tennis courts.

## **APPENDIX**

# **An Architectural Review of the Reconnaissance Level Survey of Ardmore, Oklahoma**

**Submitted on  
August 1, 1994**

**Submitted to  
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**Submitted by  
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Architecture has long been understood to be an art form which physically records the needs and values of a culture. While Ardmore, Oklahoma is not unique in this way, it does present a unique set of circumstances which have shaped the culture of Ardmore and which have certainly demonstrated themselves in the built environment of Ardmore.

Whether one looks at the community's early agricultural roots and its necessarily utilitarian support facilities, the later petroleum discoveries and their resultant prosperity, or the government-supported WPA projects, one will see a community investing in itself and producing a unique built environment which reflects this history. Fortunately for Ardmore, this built history, a reflection of Ardmore's roots, is still intact.

When one looks at the distribution of property in Ardmore one finds the town grew outward from the railroad lines. The concentration of Ardmore's earliest structures exists near the original location of the railroad depots (one depot was later turned into the American Legion Building and is part of this study). Both the earliest industrial buildings and the downtown are located in this area. While the downtown areas have already been designated an historical district and are consequently not included as part of this study, the early industrial properties such as the Bluebonnet Mill, Nance's Pecans facilities and the Colvert Dairy facilities are included in this study.

The railroad lines also form the dividing lines of the town's residential areas. East of the railroad tracks has traditionally been the lower class housing, currently occupied primarily by the African American population of the community. While this area was included in the study area, only a small number of the documented properties deserve mention as being of architectural significance (i.e. the AME Church and a few Craftsman-style bungalows). North and west of the railroad/downtown lies a mix of economic levels. There are a few noteworthy examples of architecture in these areas, but they are spread throughout the area. It is only in the southwest portion of the town that one finds a concentration of properties which can be described as architecturally significant. In fact, one portion of the southwest contains such a proliferation of upper class homes and Craftsman-style bungalows that this study justifiably recommends this area be considered the Southwest Historic District. Understandably, this area was developed as a result of the prosperous petroleum times.

There are numerous WPA projects that are spread throughout the western and southern portions of Ardmore. While these properties appear to exist as isolated objects in the community, they actually provide anchors for the particular areas of town which they touch (i.e. the Ardmore Auditorium, the Municipal Building and Central Park contribute to the downtown core, the Carnegie Library and the adjacent School form a neighborhood core for the southwest residential areas, and the Hardy Murphy Coliseum/Whittington Park area and the Ardmore Athletic Field/Armory provide recreational cores for their

respective parts of town -- in addition, each of the schools identified in the study form a neighborhood focus for their respective residential area).

In following the concept of descriptive themes, this architectural review now lists and describes properties according to building type:

***Residential Properties:*** The large majority of properties identified by the study are residential properties. As identified earlier, the largest concentration of architecturally significant residential properties occurs in the designated Southwest Historic District. Within the survey there were a variety of architectural styles and quality levels, the best of which are listed below:

***Queen Anne*** (while not proliferous, these properties add considerable character to the Southwest Historic District)

Sayre-Mann House (323 F Street SW; This is a turreted residence with particularly nice eave details and a wrap-around porch)

203 C Street SW (This is a colorful turreted structure with a wrap-around porch)

***Period Houses*** (Typical of the early part of the 20th century, the revival styles were particularly popular in residential architecture. The designation "Period Houses" indicates that, although differing in style, all period houses identified with the decorative vocabulary of an earlier period)

***English precedents***

517 Sunset Boulevard (This elegant Georgian Revival structure is exquisitely detailed, proportioned and maintained)

403 F Street SW (Drew House; A Classical Revival residence, this structure has a strong pediment and a columned entry)

1605 Bixby Avenue (Fell House /A Federalist style wood framed residence)

214 E Street SW (This residence follows the Federalist style with its entry portico and fan light windows)

519 Sunset (This is an expensive but poorly detailed and proportioned Georgian Revival)

802 McLish Avenue (A Tudor Revival with half-timbering, this property has interesting masonry massing and elaborate stone entry detailing)

***Italianate***

819 Bixby Avenue (This structure has Italianate entry massing and strong bracketed eaves)

902 3rd Street SW (This residence is characterized by an elaborate stone entry, tile roofs, porte-cochere, carriage house & boulevard frontage)

1501 Bixby Avenue

***Craftsman-style bungalows*** (Because of the proliferation of this type of structure, only the best examples have been identified. It should be noted, however, that the proposed Southwest Historic District is

*particularly rich in craftsman-style bungalows. These properties are typically wood frame and either brick veneer or painted wood siding)*

220 D Street SW

306 G Street SW

1008 McLish Avenue

1201 McLish Avenue

1411 Bixby Avenue (This property also has interesting classically influenced columns)

125 G Street SW (This structure is very large, with elaborate masonry and wood detailing)

907 D Street NW (This residence is characterized by nice masonry and wood detailing and a strong presentation of its porches toward the street and adjacent park; it is located outside the proposed district boundaries)

903 D Street NW (This craftsman-style property has gambrel roof lines; it is located outside the proposed district boundaries)

1303 Harris Street (Possessing well proportioned masonry massing and detailing, this property is set on a large site indicating development of the property prior to the existing neighborhood and street structure; the adjacent property has the same characteristics as well; it is located outside the proposed district boundaries)

700 Third Street NE (This is a modest brick veneer structure, and one of the better architectural examples from the eastern portion of town; it is located outside the proposed district boundaries)

618 Sixth Street SE (Another property located in the eastern portion of town, this wood frame structure has energetic massing and detailing; it is located outside the proposed district boundaries)

***Eclectic:** (Because of the usage of elements of several architectural styles without one style being overriding, these properties have been described merely as "Eclectic." However, they are not without architectural merit and have been included as such.)*

1012 Bixby Avenue (This property has a Craftsmen-style character w/ Classical columns & some Shingle-style detailing)

401 O Street SW (This unusual large scale structure has Classical columns, and Italianate and Craftsman-style detailing)

**Religious Properties:** Another building type possessing consistently high quality is the religious properties identified by the study. These are as follows:

**AME Church** (This modest brick structure has Gothic Revival detailing and represents a cultural centerpiece of the African American community of east Ardmore)

**First United Methodist Church** (This is a superb example of the Classical Revival and is prominently sited adjacent to Central Park)

***First Presbyterian Church*** (This brick structure has very nice Gothic Revival detailing)

***First Baptist Church*** (This is a brick structure with some Gothic Revival details)

***St. Phillips Episcopal Church*** (This is an interesting stone Gothic Revival structure which occupies a site adjacent to Central Park)

***Central Christian Church*** (A very modest brick structure, this church has a few Gothic Revival details)

***St. Mary Catholic Church*** (This is a modest and controlled example of the International Style which falls within the boundaries of the proposed historic district)

***Temple Emeth*** (This International Style Jewish temple was designed by the same architect as St. Mary Catholic Church and is located directly across the street from St. Mary. This building also falls within the boundaries of the proposed historic district)

***WPA Properties:*** As mentioned previously, the WPA projects had a significant impact on the character of Ardmore. The most architecturally significant properties are as follows:

***Ardmore Auditorium*** ( This property represents one of the most refined WPA designs, with its brick Art Deco facades)

***Carnegie Library*** (This stone structure has symmetrical Beaux Arts planning and detailing and falls within the boundaries of the proposed historic district)

***Municipal Building*** (This Art Deco structure currently serves as the City Hall)

***Hardy Murphy Coliseum*** (This stone structure represents the agricultural/ranching roots of the area)

***Armory*** (Currently the Carter County Museum, this is an interesting stone Art Deco structure)

***Ardmore Athletic Field*** (currently known as Walker Stadium; The stadium's architectural interest lies in its adaptation of seating to the hillside)

***Will Rogers, Washington and Franklin Elementary Schools*** (These structures represent traditional school design of this period: brick structures w/ large expanses of windows and strong Art Deco entry developments)

***Miscellaneous Properties:*** Some properties did not fall under logical building type categories but still merit mention architecturally. They are as follows:

***American Legion Building*** (This old railroad depot has pedestrian scaled waiting areas with well proportioned bracketing & roof overhangs. The west end of building illustrates the service needs of the facility)

***Harvey Funeral Home*** (The original building is a brick two-part

commercial building with an attached columned portico which can still be clearly identified and has been well maintained)

*Colvert Dairy* (This structure has minimal Art Deco detailing)

*Nance's Pecans facilities* (23 D Street SE; This utilitarian structure has an industrial character with large window openings which reflect the need for natural light and most probably a concrete or steel structural system. There is also some Art Deco detailing)

*Bluebonnet Mill* (This is a purely utilitarian structure which happens to have a very nice character to the timber framed main building. Its proportions and simple detailing are much better than the typical industrial building)

*Confederate Veterans Home* (This sprawling Georgian Revival structure has a grand scale but rather clumsy proportions)

*Early gas stations*

D Street and First Avenue SW (This structure has Craftsman influenced massing and details)

1817 West Broadway (Currently housing Daylight Donuts, this structure has Art Deco proportions)

As stated earlier, whether one looks at the community's early agricultural roots and its necessarily utilitarian support facilities, the later petroleum discoveries and their resultant prosperity, or the government-supported WPA projects, one will see a community investing in itself and producing a unique built environment which reflects this history. This history is uniquely Ardmore, and it clearly represents the needs and values of the "culture of Ardmore." It certainly warrants this reconnaissance survey, and further, possesses both a district and many properties worthy of consideration for historic preservation status.