

Reconnaissance Level Survey of McAlester, Oklahoma  
1998-1999

Submitted by:

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To:

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>PAGE NUMBER</u>
I. ABSTRACT	1
II. INTRODUCTION	3
III. RESEARCH DESIGN	7
IV. PROJECT OBJECTIVES	10
V. AREA SURVEYED	11
VI. METHODOLOGY	13
VII. RESULTS	16
VIII. KINDS OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES PRESENT IN THE SURVEYED AREA	25
IX. SPECIFIC PROPERTIES IDENTIFIED AND TECHNIQUES OF INFORMATION COLLECTION	41
X. THUMBNAIL SKETCH OF INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES THAT WARRANT NATIONAL REGISTER CONSIDERATION	63
XI. THUMBNAIL SKETCH OF INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES THAT WARRANT FURTHER STUDY	69
XII. THUMBNAIL SKETCH OF DISTRICTS WARRANTING FURTHER STUDY	89
XIII. THUMBNAIL SKETCH OF AREAS NOT WARRANTING FURTHER STUDY	131
XIV. THUMBNAIL SKETCH OF INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES NOT WARRANTING FURTHER STUDY	148
XV. HISTORIC CONTEXT	155
XVI. ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY	188
XVII. SUMMARY	205

XVIII. ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW	211
XIX. MAPS	
A. THE McALESTER STUDY AREA	12
B. INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES THAT WARRANT CONSIDERATION FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES	68
C. INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES THAT WARRANT FURTHER STUDY AND ARE OUTSIDE PROPOSED DISTRICTS	88
D. PROPOSED DISTRICTS IN McALESTER STUDY AREA THAT WARRANT FURTHER STUDY	92
E. UPTOWN RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT: PROPERTIES THAT WARRANT FURTHER STUDY AND ARE CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES	100
F. DOWNTOWN COMMERCIAL DISTRICT: PROPERTIES THAT WARRANT FURTHER STUDY AND ARE CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES	115
G. SOUTH McALESTER RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT: PROPERTIES THAT WARRANT FURTHER STUDY AND ARE CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES	130
H. PROPOSED DISTRICTS THAT WARRANT FURTHER STUDY AND AREAS THAT DO NOT WARRANT FURTHER STUDY	147
I. INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES THAT DO NOT WARRANT FURTHER STUDY	154
J. INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES OF NOTE OUTSIDE STUDY AREA	209

## I. ABSTRACT

The Department of Geography at Oklahoma State University, represented by Alyson L. Greiner as the Principal Investigator and Jennifer Spencer as the Research Assistant, conducted a Reconnaissance Level Survey of McAlester during the 1998-1999 fiscal year. This survey was carried out under contract to the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office. The survey included a portion of McAlester as specified by the survey and planning subgrant stipulations. One hundred thirty-three properties were minimally surveyed and photographed. This includes completing a Historic Preservation Resource Inventory Form and taking two elevation photographs of each property.

This document constitutes the project report for the Reconnaissance Level Survey, and consists of the following items: an introduction, a discussion of the research design and project objectives, delimitation of the area surveyed, discussion and explanation of the methodology used, and a presentation of results. More specifically, the results of the reconnaissance level survey describe in detail the different kinds of properties encountered in the field. Therefore, the results report on individual properties that warrant National Register consideration as well as districts and properties that warrant further study. The results section also includes thumbnail sketches of areas that do not warrant further study. Maps, keyed to the results, show the locations of the properties discussed and the boundaries of the proposed districts.

A thematic discussion of the evolution of McAlester, which establishes a historic context for the study area, follows the results section. In addition, an annotated bibliography outlines relevant source materials. A short summary recaps the results of the reconnaissance level survey. Professor Jeffrey Williams of the School of Architecture at

Oklahoma State University provides an evaluation of the architectural significance of the individual properties and potential historic districts. In sum, this information helps determine the eligibility of specific properties for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

## II. INTRODUCTION

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, with later amendments, established a unique federal, state, and local partnership for the identification, evaluation, and protection of significant prehistoric and historic resources. While each state determines its specific program emphases and defines its major goals, cultural resource planning at the federal level builds upon work at the state and local levels. These interconnections are outlined in the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines (1983). For example, reconnaissance and intensive level surveys--conducted at the local level and managed by state historic preservation offices--comprise part of the cultural resource identification process or inventory phase. These surveys provide initial documentation and evaluation of properties potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The next stage involves applying the National Register Criteria for Evaluation. These criteria establish standards and guidelines that are applied to all properties nominated to the National Register. A property that successfully meets these criteria will be listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Identifying, evaluating, and nominating properties involves considerable fieldwork and research. As research proceeds it is not uncommon to discover new areas or additional properties that merit further study, or to find that individual properties or areas have lost integrity or no longer exist. Such discoveries are documented and provide a rationale for future planning decisions. Therefore, comprehensive preservation planning involves a series of interrelated steps, and remains an organic process that incorporates new information as it is acquired.

The historic context occupies a central place in the comprehensive planning process. The purpose of the historic context is to provide a scholarly history and analysis of the development of a particular area. Specifically, the historic context groups information about cultural resources according to their shared theme, chronological period, and geographic area. When used in conjunction with the National Register Criteria for Eligibility, the historic context helps establish a property's significance in light of the historical, architectural, archaeological, and engineering past. In this way, the context provides an important bridge that links the existing property to its past significance.

The Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office divides the state into seven management regions and identifies twelve major historic themes. Using this system, Oklahoma's historic contexts generally focus on a specific theme as it applies to one of the seven management regions. More specialized needs may be met by narrowing the geographic area, as in the case of this project on McAlester, and detailing the forces that affected the particular area or community. This approach assures that even very localized historic contexts relate to wider regional or state trends.

The historic context document produced for the Reconnaissance Level Survey of McAlester falls into the latter category. Rather than focusing on a single theme and management region, it details the many historical forces that influenced McAlester's development as well as its extant cultural resources. Researching this historic context included consulting some of the contexts already completed for Management Region #4, in which McAlester is located. These helped establish a better understanding of the town's origin and evolution from a regional perspective.

The Reconnaissance Level Survey of McAlester, including its historic context, demonstrates the implementation of Oklahoma's comprehensive planning process. The context provides the necessary background for making an evaluation of the significance of historic resources within the McAlester study area. Initial windshield surveys helped predict the kinds of resources located in the study area. In turn, this information guided the survey component of the project. Field surveyors entered the study area knowledgeable of the community's history, and with an understanding of the extant resources associated with important historical trends including the arrival of the railroads, the development of coal mining, and the emergence of other industries.

The results of the reconnaissance level survey identify individual properties and districts which: (1) meet eligibility criteria for the National Register, (2) warrant further study for inclusion in the National Register, and (3) are ineligible for the National Register and require no additional consideration. In accomplishing these tasks, this project exemplifies the comprehensive planning process at its best. It also increases the area of the state surveyed at a reconnaissance level. In addition, it identifies and evaluates historic resources in McAlester which have experienced considerable change in the recent past. It also provides needed data for making sound cultural resource management policy and city planning decisions, complies with federal agency laws and regulations, and establishes a solid foundation for the registration and treatment of significant cultural and historic resources.

Completion of the project was a collaborative effort. Dr. Alyson Greiner, Assistant Professor of Geography at Oklahoma State University, served as principal investigator for the grant and coordinated the survey. Research Assistant Jennifer



Spencer, graduate student at Oklahoma State University, served as principal field surveyor and made valuable contributions in all stages of the project. Jess Porter provided much-needed cartographic assistance and was instrumental in improving the quality of the maps in this report. Jeffrey K. Williams, AIA and Associate Professor in the School of Architecture, Oklahoma State University, served as Architectural Consultant. All work was performed under a contract from the Oklahoma Historical Society (40-98-13140.015) using funds from the U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service.

### III. RESEARCH DESIGN

The research design of the Reconnaissance Level Survey of McAlester followed the standard practices used in the disciplines of geography and history. At the outset, the principal investigator focused on documentary evidence including both primary and secondary sources. Primary materials included Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, county and city histories, city directories, and newspaper accounts of the period. Secondary sources helped to place the primary source information into the proper historical frame of reference. Archival research was followed by fieldwork or actual site visits to the designated area or property in McAlester.

The principal investigator followed the procedures used in previous survey projects completed for OK/SHPO, and the guidelines for reconnaissance level surveys set forth in *Architectural/Historic Resource Survey: A Field Guide*. Specific procedures included:

- (1) Developing a list of historic properties in McAlester that had been placed in the Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory and the National Register of Historic Places. This helped identify existing buildings, structures, and objects that have the potential of meeting eligibility requirements for individual National Register properties or would be contributing resources to a potential historic district.
- (2) Evaluating previous thematic surveys and historic contexts for various themes in Management Region #4 where McAlester is located. Examples of these include "Ranching in the Eleven Counties of Southeastern Oklahoma, 1830s to 1930s," "The European Ethnic Experience in

Oklahoma, 1870-1920,” “Industrial Development in the Eleven Counties of Southeastern Oklahoma to 1930,” and “Transportation in Oklahoma to 1920.”

- (3) Identifying existing local histories, especially city and county materials, for use in the preparation of the historic context. Materials such as newspaper accounts and locally written reports were located in the Pittsburg County Genealogical and Historical Society in McAlester, the McAlester Public Library, and at the State Historical Society in Oklahoma City.
- (4) Conducting an initial windshield survey of McAlester in order to assess the different architectural styles, property types, and the character of the various neighborhoods.
- (5) Conducting follow-up windshield surveys using Sanborn maps. These surveys helped identify several types of properties including those that warrant further study, those that are National Register eligible, those that have lost integrity due to property renovations, as well as those that do not meet the necessary age requirements.
- (6) Preparing thumbnail sketches of eligible and non-eligible areas within the McAlester study area. These sketches outline contributing and noncontributing resources in the potential historic districts.
- (7) Preparing thumbnail sketches of individual properties that warrant further study and possess potential for National Register listing.

- (8) Conducting an on-foot survey of the identified individual properties and districts in the McAlester study area using the Historic Preservation Resource Inventory Form.

#### IV. PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The fundamental objective of the Reconnaissance Level Survey of McAlester is to identify those individual properties and potential historic districts in specified portions of the city that meet age eligibility requirements (construction prior to 1959) and retain historic and architectural integrity. The properties that meet these criteria are then deemed to warrant further study through an intensive level survey, or to be potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Both windshield surveys and on-foot analysis helped achieve this goal.

Another objective of this project is to increase the amount of area inventoried in the state at the reconnaissance level, as part of the ongoing Oklahoma Comprehensive Survey Program. Properties surveyed in the course of this project were recorded at a minimum level of documentation. This documentation will provide information relevant to future cultural resource management decisions regarding the McAlester study area. In addition, the project provides a historic context for the specified area, and annotates all reference material relevant to the study area in order to complete future National Register nominations of individual properties and historic districts.

Finally, a third objective includes identifying and characterizing those portions of the McAlester study area which, because the properties lacked sufficient age or integrity, do not warrant further consideration for inclusion in the National Register. Preparing thumbnail sketches and maps of those portions of the study area helped accomplish this goal.

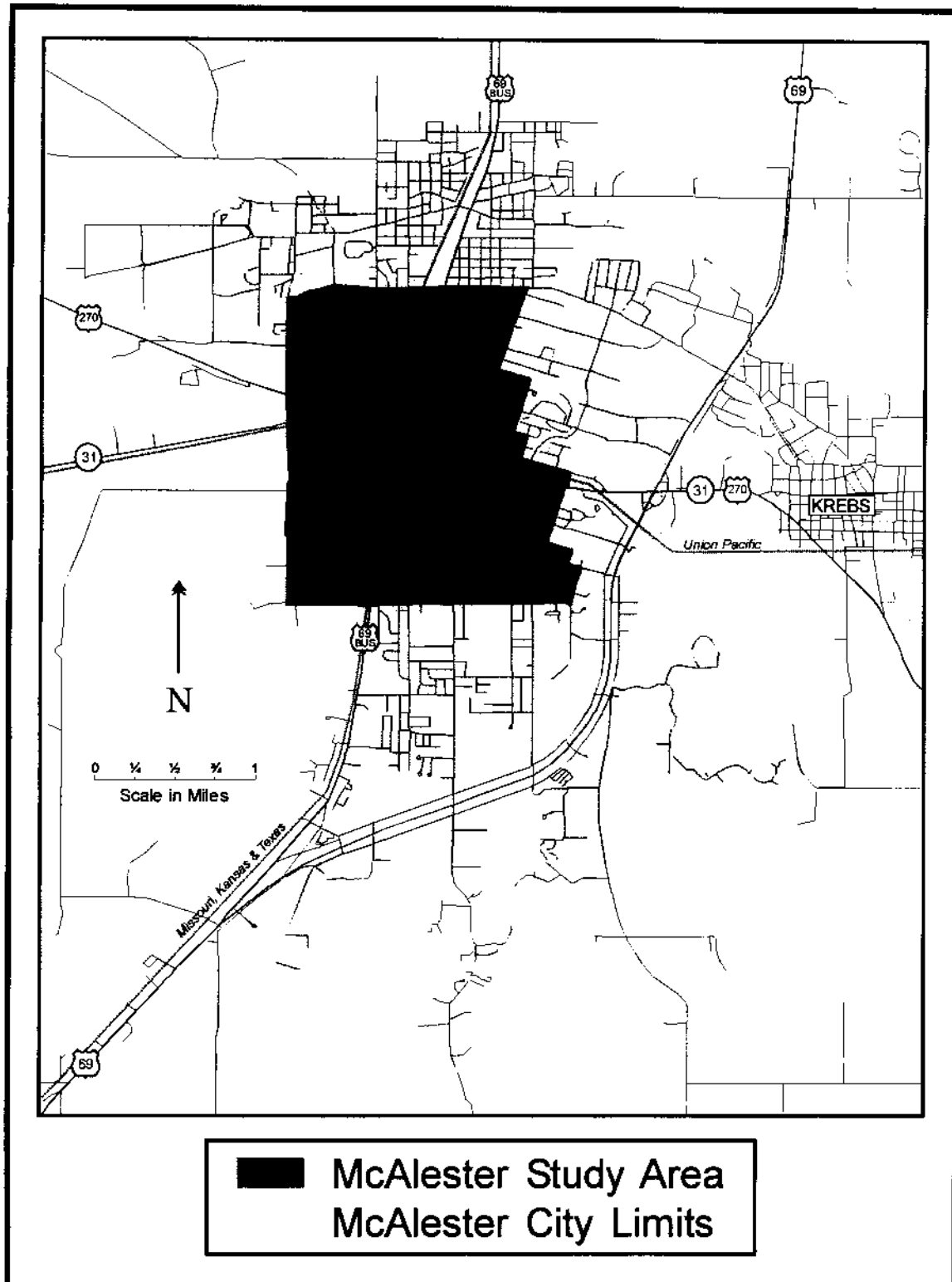
## V. AREA SURVEYED

The area surveyed included a specified portion of McAlester. The survey area is bounded as follows: starting at the initial point of 6<sup>th</sup> Street and Electric Avenue, proceed west to West Street, the south to South Street, then east to 17<sup>th</sup> Street, then north to Comanche Avenue, then west to 16<sup>th</sup> Street, then north to Kiowa Avenue, the west to 14<sup>th</sup> Street, then north to Washington Avenue, then west to 10<sup>th</sup> Street, then north to Jefferson Avenue, then west to 9<sup>th</sup> Street, then north to Harrison Avenue, then west to 6<sup>th</sup> Street, then north to point of beginning. Note: The boundary indicated includes properties on both sides of the street except as otherwise described.

It is important to point out that the boundaries stipulated in the contract for this project are not accurate. For example, West Street is not continuous between Electric Avenue and South Street. In addition, Electric Avenue has been renamed and is now called "Gene Stipe Boulevard." Furthermore, South Avenue does not begin at the southernmost portion of West Street. South Avenue only exists on the east side of Main Street. The maps that are included in this report contain these corrections.

# The McAlester Study Area

Reconnaissance Level Survey of McAlester, 1999



## VI. METHODOLOGY

The methodology for the design of this project followed professional historical and geographical standards. Initially, the principal investigator compiled an extensive bibliography of material pertinent to the historical development of McAlester and Pittsburg County. Materials were gathered from the McAlester Public Library, the Oklahoma Historical Society, and the Edmon Low Library at Oklahoma State University. Unavailable sources were ordered through interlibrary loan from the University of Oklahoma Library and the Oklahoma Department of Libraries.

Once a bibliography had been assembled, the principal investigator read the pertinent primary and secondary sources, and became familiar with relevant historic photographs and maps for use during the research phase. These sources provided considerable insight into the significance of McAlester as well as the historic development of the town. Drawing on this material, the principal investigator prepared a historic context for McAlester.

Fieldwork began during the fall of 1998 at times when the principal investigator and research assistant were available. The McAlester Police Department and the *McAlester News-Capital & Democrat* (local paper) were notified in order to make those agencies aware of the reconnaissance level survey. In addition, local officials and library staff were contacted; and the county assessor and county clerk in Pittsburg County were notified that project staff would be using their records to verify and locate survey form data.

Numerous visits were made to the map library in the Edmon Low Library on the OSU campus in order to consult the various Sanborn Fire Insurance maps covering



McAlester. These maps helped identify different types of properties, construction materials, and dates of construction. In addition, aerial photographs taken in 1967 were consulted in order to get an idea of the amount and kinds of development within the city at that time. These aerial photographs were then compared to digital orthophoto quadrangles of McAlester compiled in 1995 and made available to the public via OneNet, a site on the World Wide Web. Comparing the 1967 and 1995 images of McAlester proved useful in order to verify those parts of the city that are of more recent establishment. The USGS topographic quadrangles for McAlester (1967 and 1978) were also consulted. These helped the principal investigator obtain an understanding of the terrain of the McAlester area.

During the fall and winter months of 1998-1999 two windshield surveys of McAlester were conducted in order to locate individual properties and districts that met age and integrity requirements for potential National Register of Historic Places consideration. Second, individual properties and districts that warranted further study were documented. Finally, areas within McAlester that lacked potential National Register criteria or that did not merit further study were eliminated from further evaluation. The two windshield surveys resulted in a list of 133 properties compiled by the principal investigator and research assistant. This list was subsequently targeted for on-foot evaluation and minimum-level documentation. The principal investigator also photographed two elevations of each property on the final survey list. Streetscape photographs were subsequently made of potential National Register districts, areas that warranted further study, and areas that did not meet age or integrity criteria. The principal investigator was able to complete 90 percent of the project photography before the onset

of spring vegetation. Black and white 5x7 prints with appropriate labels were placed in acid-free envelopes by March 15, 1999.

Follow-up visits to McAlester were made in late February, early March, and again in June, July, and August. These visits helped confirm that individual properties and historic districts had been correctly identified during the earlier surveys. These visits also provided an opportunity to conduct additional research at the offices of the county assessor and county clerk. This research helped to confirm dates of construction and legal descriptions for the final list of 133 properties. The principal investigator then prepared thumbnail sketch analyses for the project report.

Following the completion of fieldwork, rough draft data on survey forms were entered into the computer using the OK/SHPO template. Printing of the final forms, 5x7 prints, and field notes were placed in file folders and organized by address for McAlester. Several computer-generated maps of McAlester were then designed. These maps show: the boundaries of the study area, the location of individual properties eligible for National Register listing, the location of individual properties that warrant further study, the boundaries of proposed districts that warrant further study, the locations of individual properties that do not warrant further study, and the boundaries of areas not warranting further study. The completed file folders and rough draft of the final report were shared with the architectural consultant, Professor Jeffrey Williams of the Oklahoma State University School of Architecture, for his written assessment.

## VII. RESULTS

This section is organized such that the individual results are presented before a discussion of the general findings.

### Individual Results:

The architecture of McAlester can be classified into five basic episodes. These include the following periods: 1890-1919, 1920-1929, 1930-1939, 1940-1959, and 1960 to present. The first period represents the time during which McAlester was platted, experienced explosive population growth, emerged as an important crossroads for the MKT and Union Pacific rail lines, and became the central city for the surrounding coal fields. This was also a time of architectural transition. Quickly constructed wood frame buildings gave way to more durable sandstone and brick structures.

In contrast, the second period represents a time of architectural extravagance. Large sums of money, often acquired in connection with the boom years driven by the coal industry, were channeled into the financing of fabulous office buildings, hotels, and entertainment centers. In time, these buildings often became local landmarks, although they do not all still exist today. Buildings constructed during the third period of McAlester's history primarily reflect the role played by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in rebuilding the economy after the Depression. As a result of the WPA initiative McAlester acquired several new facilities.

The Second World War helped revitalize McAlester's economic and industrial base and stimulated housing construction. During the 1940-1959 period a few new buildings were also constructed downtown, including the Order of the Rainbow for Girls

Building at 313 East Carl Albert Parkway and the F. W. Woolworth Company Building at 110 East Choctaw Avenue. However, changes brought about during the fifth period (post-1960) had much greater impact on McAlester's architectural resources. This was a time of urban renewal for McAlester when old buildings were updated, modernized, and given architectural "face-lifts." The post-1960 period did alter the integrity of some of McAlester's cultural resources.

The following list enumerates the specific results of this project in light of the previous discussion.

1. This reconnaissance level survey has resulted in the generation of minimum-level documentation for 133 properties. Of these, six constitute noncontributing resources in the three proposed districts. Sixteen of the 133 properties were deemed not worthy of further study.
2. Twelve properties listed in the National Register were updated. These include: the Jeff Lee Park, Bath House and Pool (1988), the McAlester Armory (1988), the Busby Theater (1979), the Scottish Rite Masonic Temple (1980), the First Presbyterian Church (1979), the Busby Office Building (1979), the Pittsburg County Courthouse (1984), the Southern Ice and Cold Storage Company (1979), the Mine-Rescue Station Building (1980), the McAlester DX (1980), the J. J. McAlester House (1980), and the Mass Grave of the Mexican Miners (1980).
3. Fieldwork for this project revealed that two of the properties listed above have been significantly altered. These properties include the Southern Ice and Cold Storage Company and the J. J. McAlester House.

4. Fieldwork also revealed that two of the properties that had been listed in the National Register have since been razed. This includes the Busby Theater, which was demolished in 1983, and the McAlester DX which was also demolished sometime in the 1980s.
5. Another property listed in the National Register, the Aldridge Hotel, was not updated because of its recent listing (1995).
6. Nine properties listed in the Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory files had minimum-level documentation completed. These properties include the Mine Superintendent's House, the Osage Coal and Mining Company House, the Carl Albert Federal Building, the Beebee Chapel, L'Ouverture Auditorium, the Michael J. Hunter Park and Pool, the Tobucksy County Courthouse, and the two J. J. McAlester buildings in North McAlester. Of this buildings on this list, four are National Register eligible (Carl Albert Federal Building, L'Ouverture Auditorium, Michael J. Hunter Park and Pool, and Tobucksy County Courthouse), three warrant further study (Beebee Chapel and the two J. J. McAlester Buildings), one (Mine Superintendent's House) does not warrant further study, and another (Osage Coal and Mining Company House) has been razed.
7. Seven of the properties documented have retained their architectural integrity, have strong historic ties to McAlester, and are potentially National Register eligible. This list includes the old McAlester High School, L'Ouverture Auditorium, Michael J. Hunter Park and Pool, the Anton Shirmer Home, the Conway Castle, the old Tobucksy County Courthouse, and the Carl Albert

Federal Building. Both the old McAlester High School and the L'Ouverture Auditorium are associated with the educational development of McAlester. L'Ouverture Auditorium, the Michael J. Hunter Park and Pool, and the Anton Shirmer Home are associated with the ethnic heritage of the city. The Shirmer Home and the Conway Castle are excellent architectural examples. Finally, the Tobucksy County Courthouse is associated with the governmental history of the Choctaw Indian Nation while the Carl Albert Federal Building reflects the city's role as county seat.

8. Of the 133 properties sampled, 92 warrant further study. These properties encompass a wide range of types including single-family dwellings, multiple dwellings, commercial properties, religious structures, theaters, and meeting halls. The following more specific observations apply:
  - a) The properties surveyed fit into the five time periods associated with McAlester's history. About 54 percent of the properties were constructed between 1890 and 1919; 23 percent were built between 1920 and 1929; 16 percent were built between 1930 and 1939; 4 percent were built between 1940 and 1959. Just one property built after 1960 was surveyed.
  - b) Twenty-five historic properties, all single-family dwellings, were identified in the proposed South McAlester Residential District.
  - c) Seventeen buildings on East Choctaw Avenue and East Carl Albert Parkway, the historic focus of McAlester's business district, were

surveyed and identified as part of the proposed Downtown Commercial District.

- d) Eleven historic properties including eight single-family dwellings and three churches were identified in the proposed Uptown Residential District.
  - e) Six religious structures were surveyed because of their historic association with McAlester and also because of their architectural integrity.
  - f) Four properties, used either as meeting halls or group headquarters for social/fraternal organizations, were identified.
  - g) Two education-related properties were surveyed and deemed architecturally significant.
- 9) Seventeen different architectural styles were represented within the sampled properties. These styles include Colonial Revival, Classical Revival/Neoclassical, Tudor Revival, Romanesque Revival, Late Gothic Revival, Beaux Arts, Shingle Style, Queen Anne, Folk Victorian, National Folk, Prairie School, Bungalow/Craftsman, Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival, Art Deco, Moderne, WPA Standardized Style, and Commercial Style.
- 10) Eight properties located outside the study area were surveyed. Five of these were O.L.I. properties including the Mine Superintendent's House, the Osage Coal and Mining Company House, both J. J. McAlester buildings in North McAlester, and the old Tobucksy County Courthouse. One of these properties

was a National Register update (J. J. McAlester House), and the other two were deemed historically significant and warrant additional research (A.F. & A.M. Lodge #9 at 2645 North Main Street in North McAlester, and the Choctaw Cottonseed Oil Mill at 1410 East Washington Avenue).

11) Eight thumbnail sketches of areas in McAlester were prepared. Five areas were deemed not worthy of further study at this time, and three districts warranting further study were proposed.

- a) The Uptown Residential District warrants an intensive level survey because of its historical character and architectural integrity. Eleven different properties and two noncontributing resources were identified. Architectural styles represented here include Classical Revival, Tudor Revival, Queen Anne, and Prairie School.
- b) The Downtown Commercial District is also recommended for an intensive-level survey on the basis of its collection of National Register-listed properties and its continued role as a historic focal point and business district of the city. Four properties in this district already have National Register listings and a fifth property (the Carl Albert Federal Building) is National Register eligible. This district, and especially the section on Choctaw Avenue, is not as architecturally intact as many preservationists would like, especially when properties are viewed individually. Collectively, however, both Choctaw Avenue and Carl Albert Parkway exhibit an attractive range of architectural



styles. Furthermore, the contributing resources in this district possess integrity of location, design, feeling, and association.

- c) The South McAlester Residential District deserves an intensive-level survey because of the density of properties that have maintained a high degree of architectural integrity. Twenty-five properties in this district were deemed worthy of further study and many of them provide good examples of different architectural styles. Several of the styles represented include Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival, Queen Anne, Shingle Style, and Prairie School. In addition, since the early part of the century this area has been recognized as one of McAlester's more exclusive neighborhoods.
- d) The West Central Mixed Commercial and Residential Area does not warrant further study at this time. Reasons for this include the high number of alterations to homes, the intrusion of vacant and overgrown lots and contemporary commercial development, as well as the presence of several properties that are in need of rehabilitation.
- e) The Northwest Residential Area lacks the cohesion in context as well as in architectural integrity. Also, it possesses relatively few historic properties that warrant further study. Therefore this area does not qualify for additional study at this time.
- f) The Southwest Residential Area fails to qualify for additional study at this time because of the uneven character and density of settlement. Although six properties in this area warrant further study and one

property is National Register eligible (the Anton Shirmer Home at 223 West Seminole Avenue), the area does not possess many properties that have retained the architectural integrity necessary for further research.

- g) The Southeast Mixed Residential and Commercial Area is not recommended for further study because of significant intrusions such as four-lane, higher speed roads that serve as north-south and east-west arteries across the area. In addition, substantial recent commercial development along these roads has worked to erode the historic character and feel of the area. Furthermore, there are some sections within this area where the building stock is of insufficient age.
- h) The Northeast Mixed Residential and Commercial Area does not warrant further study because of the high percentage of contemporary commercial development, especially near its northern and western borders. In addition, the properties along several streets near the western border of this area are run-down and in need of rehabilitation. A major concern is that a majority of properties here have not retained their historic or architectural integrity.

#### General Results:

This project has resulted in the survey of 133 properties in the McAlester area. For each of these properties minimum-level recording, including the completion of the Historic Preservation Resource Inventory Form and photographs showing three elevations, was conducted. This is an important first step in the process of identifying

areas that warrant intensive-level surveys, locating properties that are National Register eligible, and identifying individual properties and areas that do not warrant further study. Also, this project has helped establish those cultural resources and properties for which we have satisfactory information and those for which we do not.

The information resulting from this project can now provide a database useful for city planners, preservationists, historians, and others. This project has helped increase the number of surveyed properties within Oklahoma. Indeed, this has long been a goal of the Oklahoma Historic Preservation Comprehensive Plan.

## VIII. KINDS OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES PRESENT IN THE SURVEYED AREA

This section uses a thematic approach to discuss the different types of historic properties surveyed in McAlester.

### Commercial Properties:

The nature of McAlester's early growth was such that a number of commercial properties were constructed before the town was platted. Although McAlester acquired its first post office in 1890, the town was not officially platted until 1900. Much of the early commercial construction was confined to Choctaw Avenue, Carl Albert Parkway (then Grand Avenue), Cherokee Avenue, Chickasaw Avenue and Main Street. Sandstone, found locally in the area, was a common building material and most of the commercial establishments had sandstone cladding. In time, brick supplanted sandstone as the material of choice.

The oldest extant building on Choctaw Avenue is likely the Cornish Building, a one-bay structure built in 1890. While its façade illustrates the use of sandstone cladding another building provides an even better feel for the historic architecture of the downtown. That property is the South McAlester/Eufala Telephone Company Building at 100-106 East Carl Albert Parkway. Built circa 1905 in the Romanesque Revival style it exemplifies the typical two-story construction and full sandstone cladding with moderate architectural detailing. Two other buildings that help illustrate the character of this early commercial architecture are the R. K. McAdams Building at 315 East Choctaw Avenue and the McMurray Building at 202-204 East Choctaw Avenue. These properties date

from 1896 and 1897, respectively, but they have had some modifications to their first floors.

McAlester's downtown commercial buildings seem to have only occasionally ventured beyond two stories in height. At one time, however, McAlester possessed two five-story buildings. One of these was the Kali-Inla building at Second Street and Choctaw Avenue, and the other was the Diamond Hardware Company at Second Street and Cherokee Avenue. Both of those structures have since been razed, and today the downtown possesses only a few buildings with three or more stories. The theater at 18-22 East Choctaw Avenue is an early example of a three-story structure built about 1910. However, at a later date it was given an Art Deco façade. An earlier example of a three-story building is the brick-clad Knights Templar Building at 124-126 East Carl Albert Parkway. It was built circa 1900 and illustrates the very minimal architectural detailing common at the time.

Prior to statehood the commercial-style buildings tended to display minimal architectural detailing. Parapeted front facades, corbeled cornices, and arched windows with decorative molding were common. These characteristics are visible in the pre-statehood properties discussed above, and in several other pre-statehood structures. These include: the J. J. McAlester Building at 123 East Choctaw Avenue, the Busby Office Building at 113 East Carl Albert Parkway (in the National Register), and the S. G. Deibler Building at 21-23 East Carl Albert Parkway.

A few extant buildings in the downtown date from the 1910 to 1930 period. Although this was a time when architectural detailing became more elaborate, these changes are primarily reflected in the design of McAlester's religious structures. For

example, the First Christian Church (300 East Carl Albert Parkway) and the Grand Avenue Methodist Church (223 East Carl Albert Parkway) were built in the 1920s and illustrate the Tudor Revival style and Classical Revival style, respectively. Their architectural detailing is quite impressive and includes such features as towers, pedimented porticos, classical columns, dentils, crenellated parapets, and tracery windows. The building occupied by the courthouse (115 East Carl Albert Parkway) dates from 1926 and provides a good example of the Beaux Arts style. It is listed in the National Register.

#### Industrial Properties:

The city of McAlester attracted industrial properties from the outset. Very early on, for example, McAlester had a macaroni factory, a cotton compress, and meat packing plants. These properties no longer exist, but the site where the cotton compress was located has become the location of the Charles Komar & Sons Seamprufe Company, which manufactures women's lingerie (400 West Chickasaw Avenue).

One important industry to be established in McAlester was the Southern Ice and Cold Storage Company. It was built circa 1900 adjacent to the railroad tracks at 338 East Choctaw Avenue. This property was listed in the National Register in 1979. Since that time, however, it has been significantly altered. The main part of the building appears to have been razed, leaving just one portion of the original structure. What remains may have been a part of the building that was used primarily as storage space. Also, the part of the property that does remain has been converted into a microbrewery and bar. As a

result, this property has been substantially altered to the extent that it may not justify listing in the National Register.

Just beyond the eastern boundary of the study area, at 1410 East Washington Avenue, stands the Choctaw Cottonseed Oil Mill Company. It has been continuously operating since it was built in 1912. It has also been very closely connected with McAlester's agricultural economy in that it has processed not only cottonseed but also peanuts and soybeans. For these reasons, and because of its physical and locational integrity, this property warrants further study.

#### Government Properties:

McAlester is the seat of Pittsburg County as well as the seat of the Central District of Federal Court. Despite the centrality of its government-related functions; however, the city did not possess a county courthouse until 1926. For many years courthouse functions were conducted in offices dispersed along Choctaw Avenue. In 1924 a fire at the Busby Hotel changed this. Rather than rebuild the hotel, voters approved a bond to build a courthouse from the remains of the Busby Hotel. The Pittsburg County Courthouse, at 115 East Carl Albert Parkway, is now listed in the National Register.

In addition to the courthouse, McAlester is home to the Mine-Rescue Station Building. This building served as a coordinating center for mine rescues and as a place for instruction in mine rescue techniques and procedures. Meetings, discussions, and negotiations concerning labor issues were also held here. Constructed in 1910, this property was listed in the National Register in 1980. The U.S. Department of Labor-Mine Safety and Health Administration presently occupies the building.

McAlester possesses another government-related property that is potentially eligible for the National Register. This property is the Carl Albert Federal Building at 301 East Carl Albert Parkway. Built in 1914, this property originally housed the McAlester post office. Since that time it has provided office space for the Federal Court, the Indian Agency, and the military. This building is an excellent example of the Classical Revival style and includes elaborate ornamentation such as an arcaded entry, second-story portico, in antis Corinthian columns, cartouches, keyed arches, and a dentiled cornice.

#### Educational Properties:

McAlester has two education-related properties that are potentially National Register eligible. The first to be discussed here, L'Ouverture Auditorium, might also be classified as a government-related structure because it was built in 1934 by the WPA. L'Ouverture Auditorium was designed as a gymnasium and was built to serve McAlester's black community. More specifically, the gymnasium was part of an all-black high school that existed at Fourteenth Street and Chickasaw Avenue. L'Ouverture Auditorium is the only building that remains from that complex. It not only illustrates the WPA Standardized Style, but also has been a significant structure within McAlester's black community. For these reasons, L'Ouverture is potentially National Register eligible.

In addition to L'Ouverture Auditorium, McAlester's old high school provides an excellent example of the Collegiate Gothic style. Located at 200 East Adams Avenue, the old high school now serves as a local museum and provides office space for the school superintendent. The old high school is not actually the first structure to occupy this site.



The first high school was built on these grounds in 1908. However, it burned in 1919 and that same year the present structure was built. Together, these two properties provide important insights on the character and development of education in McAlester.

### Recreation-Related Properties

As early as 1908 McAlester had a theater downtown on Choctaw Avenue. That same year the Busby Theater/Opera House was to have its grand opening. The Busby Theater was listed in the National Register in 1979. Since that time, however, it has been razed.

Another historic theater that developed in the downtown was the Yale Theater. Built in 1910, it occupied a three-story structure that still stands at 18-22 East Choctaw Avenue. This theater is still in use and warrants further study though at some time in its past it seems to have been updated with an Art Deco façade.

In McAlester, the WPA played a role in the construction of recreation-related facilities. One such facility is already listed in the National Register. It is the Jeff Lee Park, Bath House and Pool built in 1935 on East Polk Avenue. This facility is designed in the WPA Standardized Style and has sandstone cladding. Another recreation-related property that deserves mentioning is the Michael J. Hunter Park and Pool. This complex is located at the corner of East Chickasaw Avenue and Fourteenth Street. It was built at approximately the same time that the Jeff Lee Park, Bath House and Pool were built. The significance of the Michael J. Hunter Park and Pool relates to the way in which it contrasts with the Jeff Lee facility. The Hunter Pool is only a wading pool and it was specifically built to accommodate McAlester's black community. The disparity between

these facilities illustrates the impact of segregation. Furthermore, the Michael J. Hunter Park and Pool is potentially eligible for the National Register.

#### Social Properties:

Masonic lodges got their start in North McAlester in 1877. In that year the A.F. & A.M. Lodge #9 began. The brick-clad building that was used as their meeting hall was constructed circa 1896. This building still stands (2645-2647 North Main Street), and is outside the study area boundary for this project. Nevertheless, it warrants further study because of its age, architectural style, and association with the social development of McAlester.

As South McAlester grew it too became an important center of freemasonry. As early as 1907 the Masons had moved into their second temple, which occupied the grounds at Second Street and Adams Avenue. In the 1920s plans were created for the construction of a new temple, and by 1930 construction on that structure was complete. This Scottish Rite Temple illustrates the Beaux Arts style, has become a recognized local landmark, and is listed in the National Register.

Other fraternal organizations which had meeting halls in McAlester include the Knights Templar and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.). The Knights Templar Building was constructed circa 1900 downtown at 124-126 East Carl Albert Parkway. Like many early buildings it was multipurpose. That is, in addition to providing meeting space for the Knights Templar this building also housed the headquarters for the Dow Coal Company as well as other businesses. Though very modest in architectural detailing, the Knights Templar Building is one of the few remaining three-story structures

in McAlester. It is a contributing resource to the Downtown Commercial District and warrants further study.

Not far from the Knights Templar Building the I.O.O.F had its meeting hall. This building is located at 326 ½-328 East Choctaw Avenue and was built circa 1910. For some time now this property has also served as a meeting place for the Rebekah Lodge as well. Architecturally, it too is a modest structure with only minimal detailing. Though it shows the effects of some alterations, it is intact enough to also be a contributing resource to the Downtown Commercial District and to warrant further study.

Finally, McAlester gained another social club/service organization in 1922 with the establishment of the Order of the Rainbow for Girls. In that year Mark Sexson, a minister at the First Christian Church in McAlester, developed the ritual for the organization. McAlester has since become the headquarters for this organization, and in 1951 it built a structure at 313 East Carl Albert Parkway. This building provides the only example of the Moderne architectural style in McAlester, and it also warrants further study.

#### Religious Properties:

In McAlester religious structures and properties are fairly abundant, giving a visible reminder to the fact that the city is situated in the Bible Belt. Most of the religious properties that were identified as warranting further study are located in the vicinity of Second and Third Streets between Carl Albert Parkway and Washington Avenue.

McAlester possesses only one church that still occupies its original structure and original site of establishment. This is the First Presbyterian Church that is located at 101

East Washington Avenue. Today the building is occupied by the Christian Science Society. This property was listed in the National Register in 1979. It remains one of the best examples of the Shingle Style in McAlester.

The reason that the First Presbyterian Church (mentioned above) can be said to occupy its original structure is because in the 1920s many of the church congregations constructed new church buildings. For example, the Methodists worshiped at churches on West Grand Avenue and at Second Street and Washington Avenue before building their present Classical Revival style church at 223 East Carl Albert Parkway. Similarly, the First Christian Church built a new Tudor Revival style building, sited diagonally across the intersection from the Methodist Church, at 300 East Carl Albert Parkway. Likewise, the First Presbyterian Church moved out of its original structure (mentioned above) and into a new Tudor Revival style building at the corner of Third Street and Washington Avenue.<sup>1</sup> Less than a block away, on East Washington Avenue, the Episcopalian congregation built a new church in the Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival style, also in the 1920s. The one church building in this area that does not fit this pattern is St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church, located at 302 East Washington Avenue. The structure that presently occupies the site was erected in 1948 and illustrates the Late Gothic Revival style.

These churches are all very good examples of their respective architectural styles, especially the All Saints Episcopal Church at 325 East Washington Avenue. It is the best example of the Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival style in McAlester. Furthermore, both the First Christian Church and the Grand Avenue Methodist Church are contributing

resources to the Downtown Commercial District. St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church, the All Saints Episcopal Church, and the First Presbyterian Church (at the corner of North Third Street and East Washington Avenue) constitute contributing resources to the Uptown Residential District.

In McAlester the black community has had its preferred places of worship as well. The Beebee Chapel Christian Methodist Episcopal Church is one of these places. This property is located at Tenth Street and Chickasaw Avenue. Though it does not display any distinctive architectural style it has been an important component of the built environment of the black community since 1939. It is a good example of vernacular architecture, with very modest detailing such as a corner tower, and triple and single round arched windows. This property warrants further study because of its association with the black community and because of its architectural integrity.

#### Health Care Properties:

Since the 1970s McAlester has emerged as a regional health center. As a result, there are a number of health-care related properties in the McAlester area; however, many of them are of insufficient age and/or are outside the study area boundary and do not warrant further study at this time.

One important exception to this is the All Saints Hospital (Episcopal) at 600 West Carl Albert Parkway. Constructed in 1895 this building was the first hospital erected in McAlester, which was then a part of Indian Territory. This property may constitute the first hospital built in Oklahoma, but additional research is needed to substantiate this. The

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<sup>1</sup>It is important to point out that two properties in McAlester have the same property name: the First Presbyterian Church (home of the Christian Science Society today) at 101 East Washington Avenue, and the First Presbyterian Church on the southwest corner of North Third Street and East Washington Avenue.

origins of this hospital can be traced to a mine disaster in Krebs in 1892. Over 100 people were killed in that accident and many others were wounded. At the time, there was no hospital facility to care for the injured. A man by the name of Francis Key Brooke, a missionary with the Episcopal Church, was motivated by this mine disaster to return to Philadelphia and raise the level of awareness of the health-care situation in Indian Territory. Shortly thereafter the Episcopal Church received an anonymous contribution of \$10,000, and this enabled the construction of the All Saints Hospital, a facility that had a capacity of 60 patients.<sup>2</sup> Over the years this facility has been used as an apartment complex and, more recently in the 1960s, it served as a nursing home. While it has not been well maintained in recent decades, this structure possesses great significance not only for the city of McAlester but also for the state of Oklahoma. It most definitely warrants further study.

Another health care property within the study area is The Oaks Rehabilitative Services Center at South Seventh Street and East Creek Avenue. The original property on this site was the home of Melvin Cornish, a lawyer whose office was downtown. He donated his house to charity in 1914, and it became St. Mary's Hospital. This hospital served the south part of the city and functioned as a hospital through the 1960s. Importantly, the property has been modified and expanded to the extent that it has lost its architectural integrity. For this reason it presently constitutes an intrusion in the South McAlester Residential District.

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<sup>2</sup> Much of the information about the hospital derives from this source: Pittsburg County Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc. 1996. *Pittsburg County Oklahoma: People and Places*. Wolfe City, TX: Henington Industries, Inc., p. 518.

### Transportation Properties:

In spite of its strong historical ties to the railroad industry McAlester possesses few transportation-related properties. In the urban renewal episode of the 1960s and 1970s, McAlester tore down the old Union Depot, once famous for its architectural design and large, elegant restaurant on the second story. In the early part of the century McAlester also had an interurban rail network that connected it to the outlying coal communities of Krebs, Alderson, and Busby. However, there is little on the landscape that remains as evidence of that. Even the McAlester DX, a gas station located at Fifth Street and Carl Albert Parkway and listed in the National Register in 1980, has been razed.

### Residential (Domestic) Properties:

Single-family dwellings outnumber all other buildings in McAlester. In addition, some of these dwellings provide very good examples of the different architectural styles. The purpose of this section is to provide a discussion of these representative structures.

#### (1) Single Dwellings

This survey revealed that at least nine different architectural styles, including numerous variations, are represented by the domestic properties of McAlester. These properties span both the high styles and the more vernacular forms.

Of the various high architectural styles, the Tudor Revival style is most common in McAlester. Over 15 different examples of this style were documented. Among those, several provide very good examples of this building form. The best examples of this style include the Cartwright Home at 501 East Adams Avenue, a contributing resource to the

Uptown Residential District, the Hubert Smith home at 301 West Seminole Avenue, and the properties at 321 East Seminole Avenue, 400 East Osage Avenue, 420 East Seneca Avenue (a contributing resource to the South McAlester Residential District), and 922 South Sixth Street.

Another high architectural style that is surprisingly well-represented in McAlester is the Colonial Revival style. The best examples of this style are found at 202 East Miami Avenue, 420 South Avenue, 401 West Jackson Avenue, and 300 East Miami Avenue. Other good examples exist at 601, 611, and 625 East Creek Avenue, and at 64 West Seminole Avenue. All of these properties warrant further study, and those properties on Miami Avenue and Creek Avenue constitute contributing resources to the South McAlester Residential District.

Several residences in McAlester also illustrate the Classical Revival style. Representative examples of this style include the properties at 318 East Miami Avenue and 537 East Adams Avenue. One subtype of the Classical Revival style is the Neoclassical Cottage. McAlester has two good examples of this at 425 West Adams Avenue and at 639 East Harrison Avenue.

The Queen Anne style is another high style of architecture found in McAlester. Two of McAlester's Queen Anne homes are potentially National Register eligible. These include the Anton Shirmer Home at 223 West Seminole Avenue and the Conway Castle at 914 South Second Street. Other good examples of this style can also be found at 337 East Washington Avenue, and at 621 East Washington Avenue. Both of these properties are contributing resources to the Uptown Residential District. The McGinnity House at



702 East Seneca Avenue also illustrates the Queen Anne style and is a contributing resource to the South McAlester Residential District, but needs some rehabilitation.

The Prairie School finds expression in several properties in McAlester. Often structures built in the Prairie School style exhibit some Craftsman influences, including exposed roof rafters. The best examples of the Prairie School style have been built at 349 East Washington Avenue, 337 East Adams Avenue, and at 500 East Creek Avenue. The first two of these are contributing resources to the Uptown Residential District, while the other is a contributing resource to the South McAlester Residential District. Other good examples of the Prairie School style that warrant further study stand at 519 East Comanche Avenue, 610 and 527 East Seneca Avenue, 411 and 412 East Miami Avenue, and 1320 South Sixth Street

The most prevalent architectural form in McAlester is the Bungalow/Craftsman style. It is also one of the most altered forms and this makes it difficult to find very good examples of it. Nevertheless, representative examples that warrant further study include the properties at 525 East Seminole Avenue, 608 East Comanche Avenue, and 328 West Madison Avenue, 428 East Creek Avenue, 62 West Ottawa Avenue, and 602 East Seneca Avenue, and 312 and 400 West Carl Albert Parkway. Outstanding examples of the Airplane Bungalow, a subtype of this style, stand at 516 East Comanche Avenue and at 401 East Miami Avenue. This last property is also a contributing resource to the South McAlester Residential District.

In contrast to the styles discussed above, some architectural styles do not occur very frequently in McAlester. For example, there is a surprising absence of single-family residences constructed in the Folk Victorian style. One of the few examples of this style

stands at 1006 South Second Street and is a contributing resource to the South McAlester Residential District. Likewise, this survey sampled only one residence designed in the Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival style. It stands at 501 East Osage Avenue and warrants further study. Similarly, a very good example of the Shingle Style can be found at 501 East Creek Avenue.

A comparable situation exists for some of the subtypes of National Folk style dwellings. The pyramidal subtype is more common, and good examples stand at 520 South Eighth Street, 602 East Adams Avenue, and 1018 East Comanche Avenue. However, this survey sampled only one representative example of an I-house (at 602 East Comanche Avenue) and one representative example of a Shotgun house (at 121 East Madison Avenue). Both of these properties warrant further study.

## (2) Multiple Dwellings: Apartments/Hotels

McAlester has very few surviving examples of multiple dwellings. Although hotels were once a prevalent building type in the early years of the town's establishment, most of these properties no longer exist. An important exception is the Aldridge Hotel, which was built in the late 1920s and was listed in the National Register in 1995. As for apartment buildings, one property stands out as warranting further study. This is the property at 302 East Comanche Avenue. Constructed about 1930, this building continues to provide apartment-style accommodation.

A more common trend in McAlester seems to have been the construction of properties that served as boarding houses. For example, at 401 East Osage Avenue stands a property that is built in the Prairie School style. Importantly, this property is consistently labeled on Sanborn maps as "apartments." The same is true for the property

built in the Bungalow/Craftsman style at 603 South A Street. Both of these properties provide excellent illustrations of the Eclectic Period in American architecture, and both warrant further study.

## IX. SPECIFIC PROPERTIES IDENTIFIED AND TECHNIQUES OF INFORMATION COLLECTION

This reconnaissance level survey has provided documentation for 133 properties. This section of the report briefly discusses some of the methods of information collection, then moves to a discussion of the different architectural styles encountered in McAlester. The section closes with a complete list of the properties surveyed and information regarding the property's significance.

Information on the surveyed properties was culled from a wide range of sources. Among the most useful were the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. These maps initiated coverage of McAlester in 1886, when it was still called "McAllister." Updates to this map were subsequently produced in 1894, in 1896, and again in 1901. The town that becomes South McAlester gains Sanborn coverage in 1908. Updates to this coverage were conducted in 1913, 1918, 1927, 1945, and 1965. Unfortunately, no Sanborn map produced for McAlester ever provided complete coverage of the city. For example, it was not until 1927 that the map coverage included streets such as Seminole Avenue, Miami Avenue, Seneca Avenue, and Creek Avenue in the vicinity of the proposed South McAlester Residential District. Similarly, no coverage of Adams Avenue west of Third Street exists. In short, there are really quite sizable portions of McAlester that lack Sanborn coverage.

Other sources of information consulted in the course of this project include city directories, archives at the Oklahoma Historical Society, and materials at both the Pittsburg County Genealogical and Historical Society and McAlester Public Library. The Pittsburg County Genealogical and Historical Society houses the most complete

collection of city directories with coverage dating from the early 1900s into the 1970s. In addition, records at the Pittsburg County Courthouse (Tax Assessor and County Clerk's Offices) were consulted. Finally, on-site fieldwork and, in some cases, personal interviews provided additional information.

### Styles of Commercial Buildings:

#### (1) Commercial Style

For properties in McAlester whose main function was to transact business, the Commercial Style became a dominant architectural style. In the downtown this style was especially popular from about the middle of the 1870s to about 1920. Shop fronts generally consisted of a parapeted front façade, large fixed pane display windows, and often possessed recessed entrances. The buildings were also characterized by a flat roof, and were ordinarily two-story structures from one to three bays wide. Clapboard cladding was used initially but soon gave way to sandstone, which prevailed as the most popular wall material. In time brick cladding supplanted sandstone as the wall material of choice. The architectural decorations on these buildings tended to be fairly modest, including such features as corbeled cornices or other decorative corbeling, the use of pilaster strips, and some artistic embellishing of name and date plates. Examples of the Commercial Style include the Knights-Templar Building at 124-126 East Carl Albert Parkway, the Cornish Building at 111 East Choctaw Avenue, and the J. J. McAlester Building at 123 East Choctaw Avenue.

(2) Romanesque Revival

The Romanesque Revival style became popular between the middle and end of the nineteenth century. In terms of building details it represented a more decorative style, but it also gave the feeling of considerable heaviness. Romanesque Commercial buildings were substantial buildings enhanced by construction in sandstone or other rough textured finish. Bands of windows, often deeply set and the use of round arches commonly marked building elevations. The best example of this style is the South McAlester/Eufala Telephone Company Building at 100-106 East Carl Albert Parkway. Other expressions of this style include the McMurray Building at 202-204 East Choctaw, and the McAdams Building at 315 East Choctaw Avenue.

(3) Art Deco

Features of this style, which prevailed between 1920 and 1940, include smooth wall surfaces and architectural detailing that accentuates verticality. Such detailing might include vertical striations or possibly a stepped parapet. In addition, the application of decorative geometric patterns such as chevrons, zigzags, and parallel straight lines was common. This architectural style was almost exclusively used for commercial buildings. McAlester possesses two examples of the Art Deco style. One example is the theater at 18-22 East Choctaw Avenue, and the other example is the F. W. Woolworth Company Building at 110-112 East Choctaw Avenue.

(4) Moderne

Like the Art Deco style, the Moderne or Art Moderne style enjoyed popularity from about 1935 to 1950. Elements of this style include curved or rounded corners, curved windows, smooth wall surfaces, and roof-line copings. This was a streamlined style possessing few decorative details in order to express horizontality and movement. Unlike the Art Deco style, however, the Moderne style is found on both commercial and residential properties. McAlester's only building in the Moderne style is the Order of the Rainbow for Girls Building at 313 East Carl Albert Parkway.

Styles of Dwellings and Churches:

(1) Queen Anne

The Queen Anne style was most commonly built during the 30-year period between 1880 and 1910. Some of the characteristic features of this style include an irregularly shaped and steeply pitched roof that typically contains a front-facing gable. This form frequently exhibits an asymmetrical façade, often marked by a round or polygonal tower either one or two stories in height. Another feature of this style is the contrasting use of different wall materials and textures—sometimes including mixtures of shingles, stucco, and polychromatic brickwork. Patterned shingles and Queen Anne sash windows often provide additional decorative details. The best examples of the Queen Anne style include Conway Castle at 914 South Second Street, and the Anton Shirmer Home at 223 West Seminole Avenue.

(2) Beaux Arts Classicism

Beaux Arts is a characteristically expressive and decorative architectural style that prevailed from 1885 to 1930 and represented an extreme form of classicism. These attributes helped the style gain popularity among wealthy capitalists who, in the early part of the nineteenth century, used Beaux Arts as a form of display. Other characteristics of this style include paired classical columns in the Ionic or Corinthian Order and balustraded windows. Walls are typically decorated with garlands or other stylistic details. Two examples of the Beaux Arts style in McAlester appear on properties already listed in the National Register. These include the Scottish Rite Masonic Temple at Second Street and East Adams Avenue, and the Pittsburg County Courthouse at 115 East Carl Albert Parkway.

(3) Folk Victorian

Typical dates of construction for the Folk Victorian style range from about 1830 to 1910. The term "Folk Victorian" encompasses the use of popular stylistic elements on vernacular housing forms. The style derived from the availability of machine-made architectural elements used in folk housing. Folk Victorian houses most commonly had a symmetrical façade that included considerable porch decoration such as spindlework. A McAlester example of this style is the property at 1006 South Second Street.

(4) Colonial Revival

Most of the single dwellings in this style were built during the years between 1880 and 1955. In fact, this style traces its roots to the 1876 Centennial and the 1892



World's Columbian Exposition. Houses in this style commonly have a pedimented portico or entry, and the façade is typically symmetrical. Double-hung windows with multi-pane sashes are common and tend to reinforce the symmetry of the front façade. The doors are often framed with decorative sidelights and a transom. There are many variations of this style, and some examples include the properties at 401 West Jackson, 420 South Avenue, 202 and 300 East Miami Avenue, 64 West Seminole, and 601, 611 and 625 East Creek Avenue.

(5) Classical Revival/Neoclassical

In American architecture the Classical Revival period, referred to as the Neoclassical period in *The Field Guide to American Houses* by Virginia and Lee McAlester, dates to the 55-year period between 1895 and 1950. Like the Colonial Revival style, interest in classical forms was revived by the 1892 World's Columbian Exposition, which was organized around a classical theme. Architectural details associated with this style include symmetrical facades dominated by full-height (two-story) porches. Porch supports are typically columns in either the Ionic or Corinthian Order. The Grand Avenue Methodist Church at 223 East Carl Albert Parkway and the house at 318 East Miami illustrate this style.

Despite certain similarities it is important to point out that the Classical Revival and Neoclassical styles really connote different interpretations of classicism. The one-story Neoclassical Cottage provides a good illustration of this. For example, a hipped roof with prominent central dormers characterizes the Neoclassical Cottage. These cottages also have colonnaded porches that are often integral (included under the main

roof). Examples of the Neoclassical Cottage in McAlester include the properties at 425 West Adams Avenue and at 639 East Harrison Avenue.

(6) Tudor Revival

Dates for this style tend to range from 1890 to 1940. Tudor Revival style architecture commonly features a steeply pitched, cross-gabled roof with overlapping gables. Decorative elements associated with this style include false-timbering in the gable ends, large chimneys topped with chimney pots, and patterned stonework or brickwork. The Tudor Revival style is quite common in McAlester and examples include the Cartwright Home at 501 East Adams Avenue, the Hubert Smith Home at 301 West Seminole Avenue, and the properties at 321 East Seminole Avenue and 420 East Seneca Avenue.

(7) Prairie School

This style of architecture was popularized in the first two decades of the twentieth century. It features a distinctively low-pitched, hipped roof with wide boxed eaves. One of the effects of this architectural style was to emphasize horizontality. As a result, horizontal rows of windows are quite common, as are one-story wings or porches. Porch supports also tend to be large rectangular or square piers. Examples of the Prairie School style in McAlester include the properties at 527 and 610 East Seneca Avenue, 500 East Creek Avenue, and 349 East Washington Avenue. One subtype of the Prairie School style includes the Prairie Box or American Foursquare. This subtype is characterized by its square plan with four rooms, a low-pitched hipped roof, and symmetrical façade.

Good examples of the Prairie Box can be found at 519 East Comanche Avenue and 500 North Fifth Street.

(8) Bungalow/Craftsman

The Bungalow/Craftsman style prevailed between 1905 and 1930. Like the Prairie School style, it also features a low-pitched roof. In contrast, however, roofs on Bungalow/Craftsman dwellings are more commonly gabled and front gable types are especially popular. Architectural details associated with this style include exposed rafter tails and knee braces placed under the gables. Porches are integral to this style and the porch supports tend to consist of square columns raised on battered piers.

Bungalow/Craftsman examples in McAlester include the residences at 525 East Seminole Avenue and 328 West Madison Avenue.

One subtype of the Bungalow/Craftsman style is the Airplane Bungalow. This subtype takes its name from the visual effect of the low-pitched, overhanging roof eaves that give the impression of a biplane. McAlester has at least two very good examples of Airplane Bungalows, one located at 516 East Comanche Avenue and another at 401 East Miami Avenue.

(9) National Folk

Houses were built in the National Folk style from the early 1800s through the 1920s. This style includes several subtypes that are notably different from one another. The subtypes include the gable front house, the gable-front and wing house, the hall and parlor house, the I-house, and the pyramidal house. This survey identified examples of

the pyramidal, I-house, shotgun, and hall-parlor subtypes. Of these, pyramidal houses are the most common in McAlester. Examples of the pyramidal house include properties at 520 South Eighth Street, 602 East Adams Avenue, and 1018 East Comanche Avenue. The dominant features of this house type include its square form and hipped roof that resembles a pyramid.

The I-house subtype is a two-story dwelling that is one room deep and two rooms wide. Detailing on these structures was originally quite simple but later tended to reflect influences of other styles. The only example of an I-house sampled in this survey is the property at 602 East Comanche Avenue.

The Shotgun subtype is a one-story dwelling that is just one room wide and usually three rooms deep. These are front-gabled dwellings with small porches. The best example of a Shotgun house in McAlester stands at 121 East Madison Avenue.

Finally, the hall-parlor subtype is also a single story dwelling with a double-pen plan. These dwellings are side-gabled and particularly simple, often including a rearward extending shed. The only example of the hall-parlor subtype is of a property that is outside the study area: the Tobucksy County Courthouse at 315 East Krebs Avenue. As an aside, the book *A Field Guide to American Houses* by Virginia and Lee McAlester features a picture of the Tobucksy County Courthouse on page 94.

#### (10) Shingle Style

This style, popular during the 20-year period at the close of the nineteenth century (1880-1900), is characterized by the use of natural materials including wood shingle wall cladding and roofing. Sometimes the shingle wall cladding is confined to the second

story. This style generally appears quite solid, and possesses an asymmetrical façade. The roof tends to be steeply pitched and expansive, with an irregular profile. Two examples of the Shingle style can be found in McAlester. One is the First Presbyterian Church at 101 East Washington Avenue (N. R. listed 1979), and the other is at 501 East Creek Avenue.

#### (11) Late Gothic Revival

The Gothic Revival Period in American architecture is generally understood to have spanned the four decades between 1840 and 1880. However, this architectural style underwent a resurgence in the early part of the twentieth century and is usually associated with ecclesiastical buildings. The Late Gothic Revival style is characterized by pointed arches, steeply pitched roofs, and wall surfaces that extend into the gables without breaks. The single example of this style, and specifically the parapeted subtype, is St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church at 300 East Washington Avenue.

An important subtype of the Late Gothic Revival style is "Collegiate Gothic." This style gained popularity on college campuses in the early twentieth century and was promoted by architect Ralph Adams Cram. A specific characteristic of this subtype was emulating the style common to the old colleges in England. The only example of the Collegiate Gothic style in McAlester--but an excellent example, nonetheless--is the old McAlester High School at Second Street and Adams Avenue.

#### (12) Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival

This style traces its origins to California in the final decade of the nineteenth century. It remained popular as an architectural style until approximately 1920. The

shaped Mission-style parapet or dormer and a red tile roof are identifying features of this style. Walls most commonly consist of stucco, and some buildings in this style possess Mission-style bell towers. In McAlester, the All Saints Episcopal Church at 325 East Washington Avenue provides a good illustration of this style. A single-family dwelling that lacks Mission influences but was built in the Spanish Colonial Revival style occurs at 501 East Osage Avenue.

**Reconnaissance Level Survey of a Portion of McAlester  
Report on All Properties Surveyed**

<b>Name (if available) and Address</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Significance</b>
1. Scottish Rite Masonic Temple 327 North Second Street	B	N. R. Listed 1980
2. 905 South Second Street	B	Warrants Further Study
3. Conway Castle 914 South Second Street	B	National Register Eligible
4. 1006 South Second Street	B	Warrants Further Study
5. Jeff Lee Park, Bath House and Pool Third Street and Fillmore Avenue	B	N. R. Listed 1988
6. Mine Rescue Station Building 507-509 South Third Street	B	N. R. Listed 1980
7. John Haygood Home 727 South Fourth Street	B	Does Not Warrant Further Study
8. P. M. Enloe Residence 1101 South Fourth Street	B	Warrants Further Study
9. N. D. Alexander Home 1105 South Fourth Street	B	Warrants Further Study
10. 500 North Fifth Street	B	Warrants Further Study
11. 601 North Fifth Street	B	Does Not Warrant Further Study
12. 703 South Fifth Street	B	Does Not Warrant Further Study

<b>Name (if available) and Address</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Significance</b>
13. 922 South Sixth Street	B	Warrants Further Study
14. Q. C. Boyd Home 1320 South Sixth Street	B	Warrants Further Study
15. L. A. Sims Home 520 South Eighth Street	B	Warrants Further Study
16. Old McAlester High School 200 East Adams Avenue	B	National Register Eligible
17. Frank B. Drew House 337 East Adams Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
18. Cartwright Home 501 East Adams Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
19. W. P. Freeman Home 537 East Adams Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
20. Arthur G. Peck Home 602 East Adams Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
21. 615 East Adams Avenue	B	Noncontributing Resource to Uptown Residential District
22. 217 West Adams Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
23. J. H. Tucker Home 425 West Adams Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
24. 239 West Cherokee Avenue	B	Does Not Warrant Further Study
25. Beebee Chapel Christian Methodist Episcopal Church 925 East Chickasaw Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
26. L'Ouverture Auditorium 1412 East Chickasaw Avenue	B	National Register Eligible



<b>Name (if available) and Address</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Significance</b>
27. Michael J. Hunter Park and Pool NE Corner of East Chickasaw Avenue and Fourteenth Street	B	National Register Eligible
28. 18-22 East Choctaw Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
29. F. W. Woolworth Company 110-112 East Choctaw Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
30. Cornish Building 111 East Choctaw Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
31. J. J. McAlester Building 123 East Choctaw Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
32. McMurray Building 202-204 East Choctaw Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
33. First National Bank 235 East Choctaw Avenue	B	Noncontributing Resource to Downtown Commercial District
34. R. K. McAdams Building 315 East Choctaw Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
35. International Order of Odd Fellows Lodge No. 388 326 ½-328 East Choctaw Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
36. Southern Ice and Cold Storage Company 338 East Choctaw Avenue	B	N. R. Listed 1979
37. Jim Settle Magnolia Station 343 East Choctaw Avenue	B	Noncontributing Resource to the Downtown Commercial District
38. Cooney Apartments 302 East Comanche Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
39. E. P. Jones Home 516 East Comanche Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study

Name (if available) and Address	Type	Significance
40. 519 East Comanche Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
41. W. E. Meador Home 602 East Comanche Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
42. Joseph Hyman Home 608 East Comanche Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
43. Vance P. Bigger Home 1018 East Comanche Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
44. 428 East Creek Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
45. Robert Bingham Home 500 East Creek Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
46. R. R. Hall House 501 East Creek Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
47. 525 East Creek Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
48. C. V. Kieser Home 601 East Creek Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
49. H. E. Coffield Home 611 East Creek Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
50. V. P. Buell Residence 617 East Creek Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
51. 625 East Creek Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
52. St. Mary's Hospital 628 East Creek Avenue	B	Noncontributing Resource to the South McAlester Residential District

<b>Name (if available) and Address</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Significance</b>
53. C. M. Grover Home 639 East Harrison Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
54. Busby House 401 West Jackson Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
55. Old Tobucksy County Courthouse, Choctaw Nation, Indian Territory 315 East Krebs Avenue	B	National Register Eligible
56. 121 East Madison Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
57. 328 West Madison Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
58. George C. Cochran Residence 202 East Miami Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
59. 300 East Miami Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
60. George A. Mansfield Home 318 East Miami Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
61. F. C. Russell Home 401 East Miami Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
62. C. T. Hardeman Home 411 East Miami Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
63. E. E. McInnis Home 412 East Miami Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
64. 215 East Monroe Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
65. 301 East Monroe Avenue	B	Does Not Warrant Further Study

<b>Name (if available) and Address</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Significance</b>
66. Dow Smalley Home 320 East Osage Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
67. 326 East Osage Avenue	B	Does Not Warrant Further Study
68. 400 East Osage Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
69. 401 East Osage Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
70. Fred G. Cowles Home 501 East Osage Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
71. Overton J. Parr Home 65 West Osage Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
72. J. R. Hammond Home 62 West Ottawa Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
73. 204 West Ottawa Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
74. Mine Superintendent's House 8 West Park Avenue	B	Does Not Warrant Further Study
75. Osage Coal and Mining Company House 201 West Park Avenue	B	Does Not Warrant Further Study
76. McAlester Armory 309 East Polk Avenue	B	N. R. Listed 1988
77. 321 East Seminole Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
78. 502 East Seminole Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
79. 506 East Seminole Avenue	B	Does Not Warrant Further Study

<b>Name (if available) and Address</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Significance</b>
80. 508 East Seminole Avenue	B	Does Not Warrant Further Study
81. W. G. Fagan Home 525 East Seminole Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
82. Max Heirich Home 64 West Seminole Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
83. Anton Shirmer Home 223 West Seminole Avenue	B	National Register Eligible
84. Hubert Smith House 301 West Seminole Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
85. 302 East Seneca Avenue	B	Noncontributing Resource to the South McAlester Residential District
86. 306 East Seneca Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
87. 401 East Seneca Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
88. 420 East Seneca Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
89. Milton J. Smith Residence 527 East Seneca Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
90. O. J. Finley Home 602 East Seneca Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
91. J. A. Smith Home 610 East Seneca Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
92. McGinnity House 702 East Seneca Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study

<b>Name (if available) and Address</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Significance</b>
93. Charles Marshall House 404 West Seneca Avenue	B	Does Not Warrant Further Study
94. J. J. McAlester House 14 East Smith Avenue	B	N. R. Listed 1980
95. Smith Crawl House 420 South Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
96. A. H. Preston Home 213 East Van Buren Avenue	B	Does Not Warrant Further Study
97. First Presbyterian Church/Christian Science Society 101 East Washington Avenue	B	N. R. Listed 1979
98. St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church and Rectory 302 East Washington Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
99. All Saints Episcopal Church 325 East Washington Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
100. John Wilson Residence 337 East Washington Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
101. 349 East Washington Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
102. 355 East Washington Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
103. 524 East Washington Avenue	B	Noncontributing Resource to Uptown Residential District
104. George H. Deibler Residence 621 East Washington Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
105. Choctaw Cottonseed Oil Mill Company 1410 East Washington Avenue	U	Warrants Further Study

<b>Name (if available) and Address</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Significance</b>
106. Mass Grave of the Mexican Miners Mount Calvary Cemetery East Washington Avenue and North Thirteenth Street	S	N. R. Listed 1980
107. Busby Theater SW Corner of East Washington Avenue and North Second Street	B	N. R. Listed 1979
108. First Presbyterian Church SW Corner of East Washington Avenue and North Third Street	B	Warrants Further Study
109. William M. P. Rippey Home 220 West Washington Avenue	B	Warrants Further Study
110. John W. Rooks Home 603 South A Street	B	Warrants Further Study
111. 101 South D Street	B	Warrants Further Study
112. McAlester Lodge #9 A.F. & A.M. 2645-2647 North Main Street	B	Warrants Further Study
113. J. J. McAlester Building 2700 North Main Street	B	Warrants Further Study
114. J. J. McAlester Mercantile Company 2701-2707 North Main Street	B	Warrants Further Study
115. 2716 North Main Street	B	Does Not Warrant Further Study
116. Hale-Halsell Grocery Company 111-115 South Main Street	B	Does Not Warrant Further Study
117. S. G. Deibler Building 21-23 East Carl Albert Parkway	B	Warrants Further Study
118. South McAlester/Eufala Telephone Company Building 100-106 East Carl Albert Parkway	B	Warrants Further Study

<b>Name (if available) and Address</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Significance</b>
119. 101 East Carl Albert Parkway	B	Warrants Further Study
120. Busby Office Building 113 East Carl Albert Parkway	B	N. R. Listed 1979
121. Pittsburg County Courthouse 115 East Carl Albert Parkway	B	N. R. Listed 1984
122. J. B. McAlester Building 120-122 ½ East Carl Albert Parkway	B	Warrants Further Study
123. Knights Templar Building 124-126 East Carl Albert Parkway	B	Warrants Further Study
124. Grand Avenue Methodist Church 223 East Carl Albert Parkway	B	Warrants Further Study
125. First Christian Church 300 East Carl Albert Parkway	B	Warrants Further Study
126. Carl Albert Federal Building 301 East Carl Albert Parkway	B	National Register Eligible
127. Order of the Rainbow for Girls 313 East Carl Albert Parkway	B	Warrants Further Study
128. McAlester DX Station 343 East Carl Albert Parkway	B	N. R. Listed 1980
129. R. L. Landes Residence 300 West Carl Albert Parkway	B	Does Not Warrant Further Study
130. 308-310 West Carl Albert Parkway	B	Does Not Warrant Further Study
131. Rudolph Arn Home 312 West Carl Albert Parkway	B	Warrants Further Study



Name (if available) and Address	Type	Significance
132. 400 West Carl Albert Parkway	B	Warrants Further Study
133. All Saints Hospital-Episcopal 600 West Carl Albert Parkway	B	Warrants Further Study

X. THUMBNAIL SKETCH OF INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES THAT WARRANT NATIONAL REGISTER CONSIDERATION

(1) **Anton Shirmer Home** (223 West Seminole Avenue). Built circa 1905.

This is a two and one-half-story sandstone clad, hipped roof Queen Anne style dwelling with basement. It was originally designed and used as a single dwelling but the present owner uses it a bed and breakfast. This property features a two-story round tower with a domed tin roof and wraparound porch. Fourteen freestanding fluted classical columns with composite capitals support the porch. The porch supports are made from poured concrete and are raised on sandstone pedestals. The roof has three wood shingle clad gable dormers that have decorative cresting and finials. Two of the gable dormers also contain Palladian windows. There is a transom above the door, and the yard has a place for a pond. Anton Shirmer, a stonemason and immigrant from France built this structure. This is a sizeable property that covers some 6,000 square feet and has a 28-foot x 16-foot screened back porch. The exterior walls are reputedly 20 inches thick. The property was has been dubbed the “Taj Mahal of Indian Territory,” and “Shirmer Castle.” It is National Register eligible because of its architectural integrity, and because it is one of the best examples of the Queen Anne style of architecture in McAlester.

(2) **Conway Castle** (914 South Second Street). Built in 1898.

This is a two and one-half-story, brick-clad, hipped and cross-gabled Queen Anne style single dwelling. It possesses a two-story round turret with finial and conical roof. The front façade includes a partial-width, two-tiered, pedimented portico. The portico is supported by two sets of paired brick pillars on both levels. This

property exhibits numerous decorative details including an eyebrow dormer, three balustraded balconies with turned posts, sandstone quoining, segmental arched windows with sandstone keystones, and soldier brick voussoirs. In addition, both of the chimneys have corbeled shafts, and the gable ends contain a mosaic decoration consisting of glass and tile shards. This property is National Register eligible because of its architectural integrity, because it is a contributing resource to the South McAlester Residential District, and because it is an excellent example of the Queen Anne style in McAlester.

(3) **L'Ouverture Auditorium** (1412 East Chickasaw Avenue). Built in 1934.

This property was listed in the Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory in the 1980s. It was the gymnasium for an all-black high school that stood nearby. It is the only building from that complex that remains. At the time of this research the building did not appear to be in use. Constructed in the W.P.A. Standardized Style, this property has two stories and a basement. It is sandstone clad and has a barrel roof. The walls consist of coursed rock-faced range work with beaded mortar. A stepped parapet marks the north façade of the building, and a concrete lintel course stretches around the north and east elevations. Modest wall buttresses decorate the north and south elevations, and hexagonal wood shingles decorate the wall surface between the top of the wall and the roof on the south side. Although the entrance has sandstone in-fill and the windows are boarded up, this building is still intact. L'Ouverture Auditorium is National Register eligible because of its historic association with the black community of McAlester. It is

likely the largest facility of its kind in Oklahoma, and is the oldest building associated with McAlester's black community.

- (4) **Michael J. Hunter Park and Pool** (NE Corner of East Chickasaw Avenue and South Fourteenth Street). Built circa 1940.

This property consists of a one-story building and wading pool. The building has a gable roof and the wall material consists of concrete blocks, but displays no distinctive architectural style. This facility appears to be in fair condition, although the doors are boarded shut and it is not presently being used. The significance of this facility stems more from its connection with McAlester's black community than from its architectural significance. This park and pool facility formed the counterpart to the Jeff Lee Park, Bath House and Pool facility. The former served the black community and the latter the white community. The Michael J. Hunter Park and Pool is National Register eligible because of its historical ties to McAlester and the city's experience with segregation.

- (5) **Old McAlester High School** (200 East Adams Avenue). Built in 1919.

This was the first high school built in McAlester. Today it functions as a museum and continues its association with education in that it houses the office of the superintendent of schools. This is a two-story building with basement, and is designed in the Collegiate Gothic style. This property has stone and brick cladding and a flat roof. It features a castellated parapet and recessed semi-elliptical arched entry with pediment. A pair of two-story towers with decorative stone quoins frames the entry. Other decorative details include carved multifoil panels that separate the windows on the first and second floors. Also, stone

watershoots with gablets provide vertical separation of the windows on the north, east, and west sides. Corbeled oriels decorate the second story on both the east and west elevations. The property was originally constructed in 1908, burned in 1919, and rebuilt that same year. This property is eligible for the National Register because of its association with education in the city and because it is an excellent example--in fact the only example--of the Collegiate Gothic style in McAlester.

- (6) **Carl Albert Federal Building** (301 East Carl Albert Parkway). Built in 1914. This is a three-story, buff-brick clad Classical Revival style government office building with a hipped roof. It features a second story portico supported by four freestanding in antis Corinthian columns and seven engaged pilasters with Corinthian capitals. The portico also has French doors and a metal balustrade. Six oval cartouches decorate the wall around the portico. The first story features an arcaded entry with keyed round arches. Decorative brickwork on the first story consists of the American bond alternating with three or five courses of corbeled stretchers to each course of headers. Flemish bond marks the top two stories. The window style becomes more simplified from the lower to the upper stories. The first floor has round arched windows with keystones in a scroll design, and the windows have brackets with the same scroll design. The second floor has flat arched windows marked by stone lintels, and the third floor has only a simple keystone above the windows. A continuous stone belt course and dentiled cornice encircle the building. A pedimented parapet also decorates the front façade. The

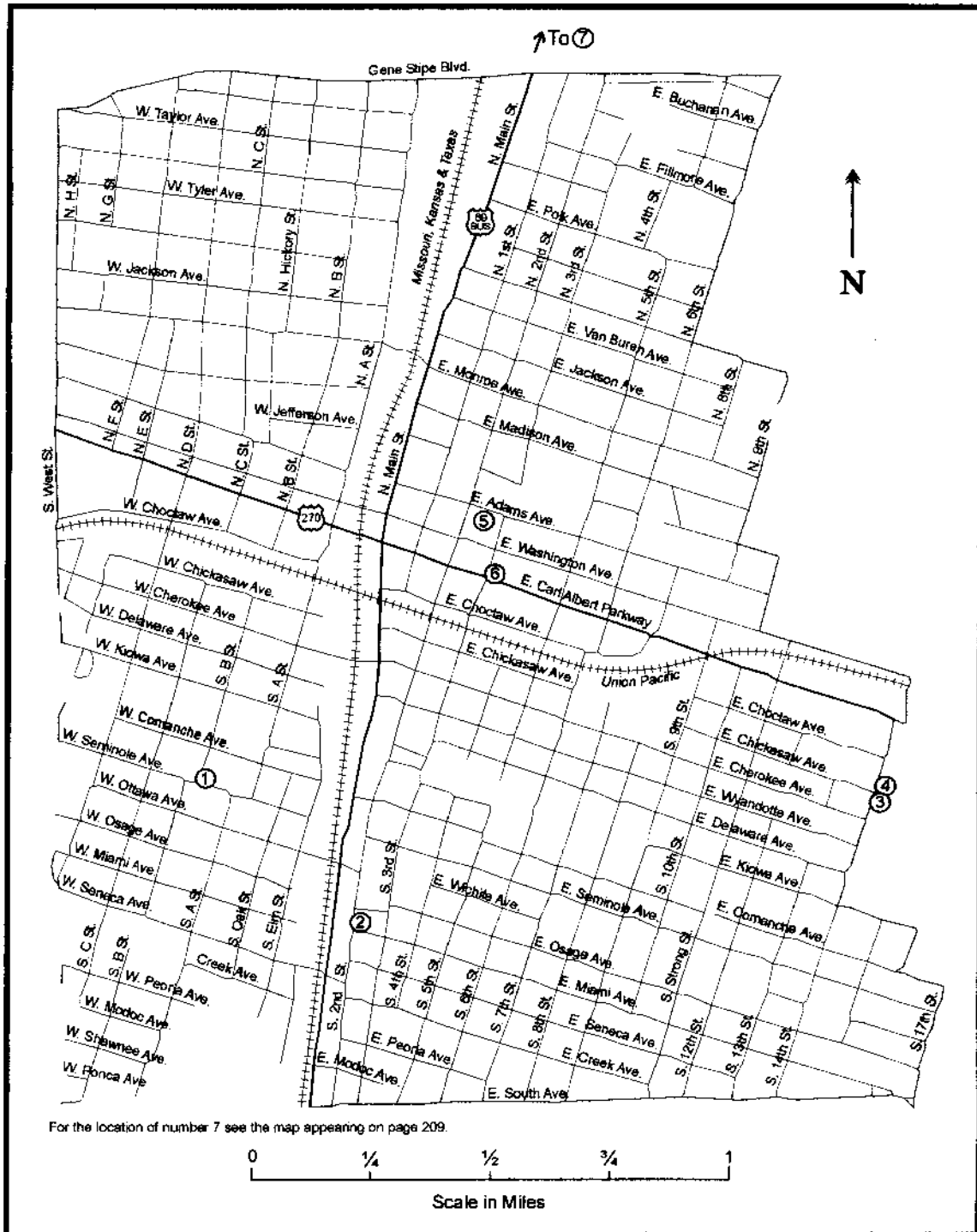
Carl Albert Federal Building is National Register eligible because of its architectural style and integrity.

- (7) **Old Tobucksy County Courthouse, Choctaw Nation, Indian Territory** (315 East Krebs Avenue). Built in 1896.

A one-story National Folk (hall and parlor style) single dwelling that served as a county court in the Choctaw Nation. It features a gable roof covered with shakes. A shed roof covers the front porch and there is a rearward extension of the roof on the back. All walls have vertical board and batten cladding. This property is outside the McAlester study area and has been moved; however, it is eligible for the National Register because of its architectural integrity and its association with the legal history of Indian Territory.

# Individual Properties That Warrant Consideration for the National Register of Historic Places

Reconnaissance Level Survey of McAlester, 1999



XI. THUMBNAIL SKETCH OF INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES THAT WARRANT FURTHER STUDY

(1) **C. M. Grover Home** (639 East Harrison Avenue). Built circa 1910.

This is a one-story, weatherboard clad single dwelling built in the Classical Revival style with a hipped roof. More specifically, it is a Neoclassical Cottage. Exterior features include three prominent hipped dormers and a wraparound porch. Six square brick pillars with stone capitals support the porch. Decorative details are rather minimal, but include sidelights and transoms around the door. In addition, the chimney has a corbeled cap. Although this property is in fair condition, it warrants further study because of its architectural significance.

(2) **Busby House** (401 West Jackson Avenue). Built in 1900.

Colonel William Busby, a prominent McAlester businessman is said to have built this house for his son. Of note, however, is that the 1925 City Directory shows that J.B. McAlester, the son of J.J. McAlester, then resided here. This is a two and one-half-story with basement, weatherboard clad, hipped roof single dwelling built in the Colonial Revival style. Paired hipped roof dormers with bracketed eaves overlook the front façade. A single-story pedimented portico with dentiled cornice marks the entry. Six freestanding classical columns support the portico. Other decorative features include two-story bay windows on both the south and west facades. Also, both the frieze and the columns have decorative swags. The east elevation has a colonnaded side portico with a plain frieze and dentiled cornice. Six additional freestanding classical columns support this portico. The house, like the dormers, has bracketed eaves, and the chimneys have corbeled caps. Finally, the top sashes in the windows above the front portico have



geometric patterns on the glazing. This property warrants further study because of its association with Colonel Busby, a prominent figure in the economic and social development of McAlester. Furthermore, it deserves additional study because of its architectural significance.

(3) **328 West Madison Avenue.** Built in 1931.

This is a one-story Bungalow/Craftsman style single dwelling with basement. It has brick cladding and a hipped and side-gabled roof. A full-width porch stretches below the side-gabled portion of the roof. Porch supports consist of seven square, tapered wood porch supports set on brick pedestals. The roof has exposed rafter tails and wood shingles in the gable ends. Other decorative features include soldier brick lintels and decorative brickwork on the stack of the exterior chimney. This property warrants further study because of its architectural significance.

(4) **121 East Madison Avenue.** Built circa 1950.

This is a one-story weatherboard clad and gable roofed single dwelling in the Shotgun style. Other than exposed rafter tails it possesses few decorative details. The front window and awning may not be original. Nevertheless, it warrants further study because McAlester has surprisingly few Shotgun-style houses and this is one of the better examples of this style.

(5) **215 East Monroe Avenue.** Built circa 1920.

This is a relatively modest one-story weatherboard clad and cross-gabled Colonial Revival style house. It has a pedimented portico supported by two square wood columns. Sidelights frame the door while double hung windows mark the south

and east elevations. This property merits further study because of its architectural style.

(6) **500 North Fifth Street.** Built circa 1910.

This is a one-story Prairie School style house with basement. It is a good illustration of the American Foursquare or Prairie Box subtype although its façade is not fully symmetrical. The wall material consists primarily of wood shingles, however there is some stucco at the tops of the walls below the eaves. Eaves are decorated with exposed roof beams. One hipped roof dormer, also with decorative roof beams, projects from the west roof slope. The front door of the house is slightly recessed. This property warrants further study because of its architectural style.

(7) **J. H. Tucker Home** (425 West Adams Avenue). Built circa 1900.

The Tucker Home is a one and a half-story Classical Revival style house or, specifically, a Neoclassical Cottage. This single dwelling has weatherboard cladding and a cross-gabled roof. One detail that helps identify the style is a wraparound porch supported by ten freestanding fluted classical columns. The roof dormers are another identifying feature. Three sides of the roof have prominent hipped dormers that resemble cutaway bay windows. A transom decorates the front door. This property deserves additional study because of its architectural significance.

(8) **217 West Adams Avenue.** Built circa 1900.

This is a two-story brick clad single dwelling with cross-gabled roof and basement. It is a good example of the National Folk architectural style. Decorative

features include open gables with dentils along the corner cornices. It also possesses sandstone windowsills and a continuous sandstone belt course that encircles the house. Soldier brick lintels and corbeled brick bands mark the window tops. Three of the four chimneys have corbeled caps. The other chimney cap is missing numerous bricks. The porch is full-width and has a shed roof. The front façade has both centered and off-centered entrances with transom lights above both. This property is in poor condition but warrants further study because it is one of the older residential dwellings in McAlester and because of its architectural significance.

(9) **William M. P. Rippey Home** (220 West Washington Avenue). Built circa 1900.

This is a one-story sandstone clad multiple dwelling with a hipped and cross-gabled roof. It illustrates a modest example of the Folk Victorian style. This residence now functions as a multiple dwelling and has two partial-width porches. Each porch has one square tapered porch support that is raised on a stone pedestal. The gable ends have decorative wood shingles including hexagonal shingles in the north gable end, fish scale shingles in the west gable end, and square shingles in the south gable end. A pent roof encloses the gables. The south side of the structure has had a part of the original sandstone wall replaced with concrete blocks. This property warrants further study because of its age and its architectural significance.

(10) **John W. Rooks Home** (603 South A Street). Built circa 1905.

This is a two-story Bungalow/Craftsman style multiple dwelling with basement. The roof is hipped and the wall material appears to be a type of pre-cast concrete.

It features two roof dormers and one wall dormer. All of the dormers are gabled, have exposed rafter tails, and a stucco or wood wall surface in the gable peak. The south dormer is unusual in that it is supported by decorative triangular knee-brackets. It has an integral full-width balustraded porch with open gable ends. The porch supports consist of short square columns with stylized capitals. The porch supports rest on brick pedestals, some of which are full-height. There is some wood in-fill between the porch supports on the basement level on the north elevation. This property warrants further study because of its architectural style and because it has long served as a boarding house or multiple dwelling.

- (11) **Choctaw Cottonseed Oil Mill Company** (1410 East Washington Avenue). Built in 1912.

This oil mill company consists of a brick clad two-story Commercial style structure with a parapet gable roof. The building stretches from east to west and the east section of it appear to be the older, original part. The west section, and particularly its second story, appears to have been added as an enlargement at a later, unknown date. Double-ranked windows span the north elevation. Those on the east section have semi-elliptical arches while the windows on the second story of the west section are flat-headed. Several windows have wood in-fill. This property falls just outside the boundary of the study area for the reconnaissance level survey. Nevertheless, it merits further study because of its age—this property has been in use for 87 years—and because of its association with the agricultural component of McAlester's historical development.

- (12) **All Saints Hospital-Episcopal** (600 West Carl Albert Parkway). Built in 1895.

The All Saints Hospital consists of two sections. The one-story sandstone clad portion on the west side may be part of the original structure. Subsequently, a second story consisting of concrete blocks, a shed roof, and a brick clad façade were added. A two-story flat-roofed brick clad structure with a basement also represents an addition. Architecturally, the hospital displays no distinctive style. The building has few decorative details aside from the soldier bricks used to mark the cornice, the lintels, and the continuous belt courses. Windows on the north and east elevations alternate between single windows and paired windows. Most of the windows in the wing addition are broken. Although the hospital is in poor condition it warrants further study because this was the first hospital established in McAlester.

- (13) **400 West Carl Albert Parkway**. Built circa 1928.

This property now houses a specialty store but was built as a single dwelling. Architecturally, it is a single-story Bungalow/Craftsman style residence with a basement. It has weatherboard cladding and a cross-gabled roof. The roof has exposed rafter tails, as does a shed-roofed addition at the back of the structure. Other features include a full-width porch supported with four square, tapered, wood porch supports raised on brick pedestals. There has been some wood in-fill of windows on the east, west, and south elevations. Nevertheless, this property warrants further study because of its architectural significance.

- (14) **Rudolph Arn Home** (312 West Carl Albert Parkway). Built circa 1927.

This property now houses a specialty store but was originally built to serve as a multiple dwelling such as a duplex. Built in the Bungalow/Craftsman style, this single-story structure includes a basement. The roof is cross-gabled and is distinctive in that the ends of the cross gable, on the east and west sides, are cantilevered. A partial-width, gabled porch marks the front façade. Both the porch and the roof have exposed rafter tails, though some appear to be missing from the eave on the northwest side. Two tapered square wood posts set on brick pedestals support the porch. Decorative stickwork decorates the porch gable, while wood shingles mark the front gable. This property deserves additional study because of its architectural significance.

- (15) **S. G. Deibler Building** (21-23 East Carl Albert Parkway). Built in 1906.

This is a two-story brick clad Commercial style building with a flat, parapeted roof. Most of the decorative details on this structure involve corbeling. The lintels of the second story windows, the cornice, and the impost of the round arch entry are all corbeled. A continuous concrete sill underlines the seven second story windows. Three windows have wood in-fill, and there is wood in-fill above the door. One of the signboards has corrugated metal in-fill, and an awning has been applied to part of the front façade. This property deserves further study because of its architectural significance.

- (16) **Beebee Chapel Christian Methodist Episcopal Church** (925 East Chickasaw Avenue). Built in 1939.

The Beebee Chapel is a one and a half-story church with a raised basement, brick cladding, and cross-gabled roof. The church displays no distinctive architectural style; however, a number of details deserve mentioning. A small apse projects from the north elevation, and entry to the church is through a corner tower on the southeast. This tower includes a four-sided spire, exposed rafter tails, and a double door entrance with a fanlight above. Windows are round arched, are decorated with a fanlight pattern in the arch, and have lug sills. The south elevation contains a large triple window. The Beebee Chapel merits further study because of its association with the black community of McAlester and because of its architectural significance.

- (17) **101 South D Street**. Built circa 1935.

This is a one and a half-story Tudor Revival style single dwelling with stone cladding. It has a cross-gabled roof and has functioned as a multiple dwelling in the past. The east elevation has a round arch entryway and tapered front wall chimney with chimney pots. Other decorative features include a small gable over the door on the north elevation. Stylized brackets support this gable. A wing wall incorporating a flared eave and round arch cutout extends from the gable on the east side of the dwelling. This property warrants further study because of its architectural significance.

- (18) **Cooney Apartments** (302 East Comanche Avenue). Built circa 1930.

This flat-roofed multiple dwelling has two stories and brick cladding. Although it displays no distinctive architectural style it has a number of details that deserve mentioning. The roof has a stepped parapet, and both the entrance and the second story windows on the front side have wood awnings with exposed rafter tails. The awnings are supported with triangular knee-brace brackets. Sidelights frame the door. A two-story addition with asbestos siding has been added on the west, but this does not affect the integrity of the structure. This property deserves further study because it is a good example of an early apartment building in McAlester.

- (19) **E. P. Jones Home** (516 East Comanche Avenue). Built in 1918.

This is a one-story single dwelling that was built in the Bungalow/Craftsman style. More specifically, it is an airplane bungalow with a cross-gable roof and weatherboard cladding. A single room rising from the center of the roof forms a partial second story. The property has a partial-width porch supported by square wood tapered columns set on cobblestone pedestals. Decorative features include exposed roof brackets under the gables and some trellising on the porch. The chimney has high, small windows on both sides, and the chimney itself is stone with a battered foundation. This property warrants further study because it is one of the best examples of an airplane bungalow in McAlester.

- (20) **519 East Comanche Avenue**. Built in 1930.

This is a two-story, brick clad, single dwelling with a pyramidal roof of ceramic tile. It illustrates the Prairie School, and specifically the Prairie Box or American Foursquare subtype. Decorative details include unenclosed eave overhangs and,



on the north side only, exposed rafter tails. The front façade has a modest full-width awning and geometric patterning on both the upper and lower window sashes. Several windows appear to have had their original brick sills replaced with wood. This property warrants further study because of its architectural significance.

(21) **W. E. Meador Home** (602 East Comanche Avenue). Built circa 1925.

This single dwelling is two rooms wide, one room deep, has a gable roof, and a full second story. This floor plan makes it an I-house, a subtype of the National Folk style. The wall material is stucco, and the chimney, which has a sandstone shaft, may have had its stucco recently applied. The front façade has a pedimented entry supported with triangular knee-brace brackets. Also, a pent roof extends across the front façade between the two stories. This property deserves additional study because it is the best example of an I-house in McAlester.

(22) **Joseph Hyman Home** (608 East Comanche Avenue). Built circa 1925.

This one-story, brick clad, gable roofed single dwelling illustrates the Bungalow/Craftsman style. It has a front gable and partial-width porch that has its own separate gable element. Porch supports consist of tapered square wood columns on brick pedestals. The pedestals have basket-weave brickwork at their bases. Windows have soldier brick lintels, and a continuous soldier brick course marks the sill of the house. Other decorative features include wood shingles in the gable ends, an eave wall chimney with rectangular chimney pots, and exposed rafter tails on the eaves. This property merits further study because of its architectural significance.

- (23) **Vance P. Bigger Home** (1018 East Comanche Avenue). Built circa 1930.

This is a one-story, brick clad, hipped roof single dwelling in the pyramidal family of the National Folk style. Decorative features include a hipped roof dormer with paired Queen Anne windows and flared roof eaves. It has a full-width porch that extends on two sides. Porch supports consist of square wood columns on brick piers. It has two front doors with transoms above both. This property deserves further study because of its architectural significance.

- (24) **L. A. Sims Home** (520 South Eighth Street). Built circa 1920.

This single dwelling is one-story, brick clad, and has a hipped roof. It also illustrates the pyramidal family of the National Folk style. The apex of the roof is raised slightly for decorative effect. The front façade has a gabled wall dormer with a round arched window and a full-width porch supported with four brick pillars with corbeled capitals. The pillars are raised on brick pedestals, and the porch roof is a shed roof. Windows on the north and south elevations have segmental arched lintels. This property merits further study because of its architectural significance.

- (25) **Hubert Smith House** (301 West Seminole Avenue). Built in 1938.

This is a one and a half-story, brick clad, cross-gabled single dwelling constructed in the Tudor Revival style. False half-timbering decorates the gable ends. It has a front wall chimney that is buttressed and has a place for a round arch niche or window. Wood in-fill presently marks this niche, however. A corbeled cap and round chimney pots decorate the chimney. The entryway is slightly recessed and the house is surrounded by a continuous rowlock belt course. Lintels consist of

either wood, as on the front façade, or soldier bricks. This property merits additional study because of its architectural significance.

- (26) **Max Heirich Home** (64 West Seminole Avenue). Built circa 1910.

The first house on this site burned (date unknown), and this house was built as a replica of the first. This is a two-story, weatherboard clad, gable roofed single dwelling. It is constructed in the Colonial Revival style and is a side-gabled example with an asymmetrical façade. The entry consists of a single-story and partial-width pedimented portico supported by square pillars. The glazing on the door has a sunburst motif. All the windows on the north elevation have shutters. A two-story addition to the east gable end has aluminum siding, and the west one-third of the house appears to be an addition. These additions do not affect the integrity of the structure. This property warrants additional study because of its architectural integrity.

- (27) **321 East Seminole Avenue**. Built circa 1930.

This one and a half-story single dwelling illustrates the Tudor Revival style. It has brick cladding, and a cross-gabled wood shingle roof with flared eaves. Other decorative features include corner buttresses in native stone. The property has a side portico on the east elevation with flared eaves and decorative brick corbeling below them. Flat arches, also in native stone, decorate the portico. The front wall chimney attractively blends brick and native stone for added decoration. This property merits additional study because of its architectural significance.

- (28) **502 East Seminole Avenue**. Built circa 1918.

This is a one-story single dwelling constructed in the National Folk style. It has

weatherboard cladding and a hipped roof. A prominent gabled dormer projects from the west roof slope, and a cross-gabled dormer projects from the south roof slope. The dwelling has a partial-width porch with a separate hipped roof element. Slender wood classical columns raised on square brick piers support the porch. A canted bay window decorates the front façade. This property warrants further study because of its architectural significance.

(29) **W. G. Fagan Home** (525 East Seminole Avenue). Built circa 1925.

This one-story weatherboard clad single dwelling reflects the Bungalow/Craftsman style. It has a cross-gabled roof with exposed rafter tails. The front gables have decorative wood shingles. A separate gable covers the partial-width porch, and a small pent roof, also with exposed rafter tails, covers the remainder of the front façade. The porch is supported with two brick piers, each of which is topped with three square wood columns. This property deserves further study because of its architectural significance and because it is a good example of the Bungalow/Craftsman style.

(30) **204 West Ottawa Avenue**. Built circa 1920.

This is a one and a half-story single dwelling built in the Tudor Revival style. Its walls have native stone cladding, and it has a hipped and cross-gabled roof.

Decorative features include a recessed, round arch entryway, asymmetrical eaves with extreme flaring on one side, and round arch openings cut into the flared wall extensions. There is a gable roof dormer with louvers on the east side. A round arch lattice window with shutters marks the peak on the front-facing gable. This property warrants further study because of its architectural significance.

- (31) **J. R. Hammond Home** (62 West Ottawa Avenue). Built circa 1920.

This is a one-story single dwelling with a cross-gabled roof and weatherboard cladding. Built in the Bungalow/Craftsman style, this property includes a full-width porch supported by tapered square posts on sandstone pedestals. The low pedestal has had a porch support, in a different style, added to it. Eaves on the gable ends of the property have triangular knee-brace brackets. This property warrants additional study because of its architectural significance.

- (32) **Overton J. Parr Home** (65 West Osage Avenue). Built in 1907.

This is a two-story single dwelling that illustrates both Queen Anne and Craftsman influences. Its cladding consists primarily of weatherboard (clapboard), but most of the second story and the frieze are stucco. It has a cross-gabled roof with wide eaves, exposed roof beams, and roof brackets. The south gable has decorative wood shingles. The other gable ends have narrow louvered openings. A corbeled cap decorates the chimney. The room under the shed roof on the southeast corner of the structure may have originally been a porch. This property warrants further study because of its architectural significance.

- (33) **905 South Second Street**. Built circa 1940.

This is a one-story, brick and stucco clad, Tudor Revival style single dwelling with cross-gabled roof. The front wall chimney contains a decorative brick band near the top of the stack. The lower portion of the chimney shaft contains a blind round arch, as does the gable end window on the east elevation. Round arches in an arcade-like arrangement frame an integral, partial-width porch. The entrance to the house is via another round arch topped with its own gable element. The ends

of the cross gable contain stucco. This property merits further study because of its architectural style.

(34) **Dow Smalley Home** (320 East Osage Avenue). Built circa 1915.

This is a two-story, brick clad, single dwelling built in the Tudor Revival style. Exterior features include a tapered gable wall chimney. Also, the house almost has a saltbox roof profile created by a roof slope that extends over an integral single-story shed on the south side. There is also a shed dormer on the south roof slope. By contrast, two gable dormers contribute to the symmetry of the front façade. There is some wood in-fill in the window in the west gable peak. Also, all dormers are clad with vinyl siding, but this does not affect the integrity of the property. Windows have soldier brick lintels, and the front entry is covered with a small metal awning. This property merits additional study because of its architectural significance.

(35) **400 East Osage Avenue**. Built circa 1936.

This one and a half-story Tudor Revival style single dwelling has brick cladding and a hipped roof with front gable. The front gable forms part of a one-story gabled wing on the west side of the house. There is also a two-story wing with wood shingle cladding on the east side of the house. The roof has two shed dormers, one on the west and another on the south slope. The roof is wood shingle as are the dormer walls. Roof eaves on both the hipped and gabled portions are flared. The exterior eave chimney on the west end has a tapered base. All first story windows have soldier brick lintels, except for the front gable which has a

blind round arch window. This property deserves additional study because of its architectural significance.

(36) **401 East Osage Avenue.** Built circa 1915.

This property is a multiple dwelling built in the Prairie School style. It is a one-story structure with basement, a hipped roof, and weatherboard cladding. Both the south and west roof slopes possess prominent shed dormers. The west elevation has a prominent gabled dormer with a broken pediment that evokes the classical style. On the same roof slope (west) there is also a much smaller gabled dormer near the ridge of the roof. This property has a full-width porch that extends on the south and west sides. This is not a wraparound porch because the porch roof is discontinuous at the southwest corner. The dwelling has two porticos. The south portico is pedimented and has decorative dentils. A large flattened arch, by contrast, marks the west portico. Both porticos are supported with two large square pillars. The rest of the porch is supported with slender columns raised on brick pedestals. Roof eaves have decorative beams. A transom and sidelights frame the main door. Two windows, one on the north side and another on the south side, have weatherboard in-fill. This property merits additional study because of its architectural significance.

(37) **Fred G. Cowles Home** (501 East Osage Avenue). Built circa 1925.

This single dwelling is one-story and has a gabled roof. It provides a very simplified example of the Spanish Colonial Revival architectural style. It features stucco cladding, and a tapered, gable end chimney with small round arch windows on both sides of it. Eaves on the front façade have decorative brackets. There is a

partial-width porch that has wrought iron porch supports that are probably not original. Also, several windows have metal awnings. This property deserves additional study because it is one of the few instances in which this architectural style has been used for a residential dwelling in McAlester.

(38) **922 South Sixth Street.** Built in 1949.

This is a one-story Tudor Revival style single dwelling with a cross-gabled roof. It features sandstone cladding enhanced with decorative brickwork including brick quoining, brick round arches over doors, and brick windowsills. Gable ends are stucco, and one of the gables (west side) has decorative trusses. The exterior eave chimney has circular chimney pots, and there is a fanlight over the door. This property merits further study because of its architectural significance.

(39) **Smith Crowl House** (420 South Avenue). Built 1922-1923.

This is a two-story brick clad single dwelling that illustrates the Colonial Revival style. The property has a gable roof, interior gable end chimneys, and a flat-roofed single-story wing on the east side. The front façade has a one-story entry portico supported by two freestanding classical columns and two engaged columns. Sidelights frame the door. Several tall narrow lattice windows span three sides of the wing on the east end of the house. These windows have soldier brick lintels, as do other windows on the first and second floors. Decorative scroll brackets mark the eaves. This property deserves further study because of its architectural significance.



- (40) **Q. C. Boyd Home** (1320 South Sixth Street). Built in 1928.

This is a two-story Prairie School style single dwelling. It has a hipped roof, stucco cladding, and a front wall chimney with a decorative design. Metal awnings cover most of the second floor windows. A gabled porte-cochere stands adjacent to the house and is supported by wrought iron posts. An arched entry leads to a slightly recessed door framed by sidelights. The south side has a one-room brick addition with sliding windows, however this does not affect the integrity of the structure. This property warrants further study because of its architectural significance.

- (41) **McAlester Lodge #9 A.F. & A.M.** (2645-2647 North Main Street). Built circa 1896.

This is a two-story, flat-roofed, brick-clad Commercial style building that possesses some Neoclassical elements. For example, the front façade includes a pediment supported by four pilasters, and decorative horizontal banding across the frieze. An additional two pilasters mark the northeast and southeast corners of the building, but on the first story only. Second story windows have label molds, and all second story windows have wood in-fill. Supports for a sign that is now broken extend from the front façade. This property is located outside the boundaries of the McAlester study area, but it warrants further study because it was the first Masonic Temple built in the McAlester area.

- (42) **J. J. McAlester Building** (2700 North Main Street). Built in 1893.

This is a two-story Commercial style building with stucco and sandstone cladding. It has a flat roof and parapeted front façade with a very plain cornice.

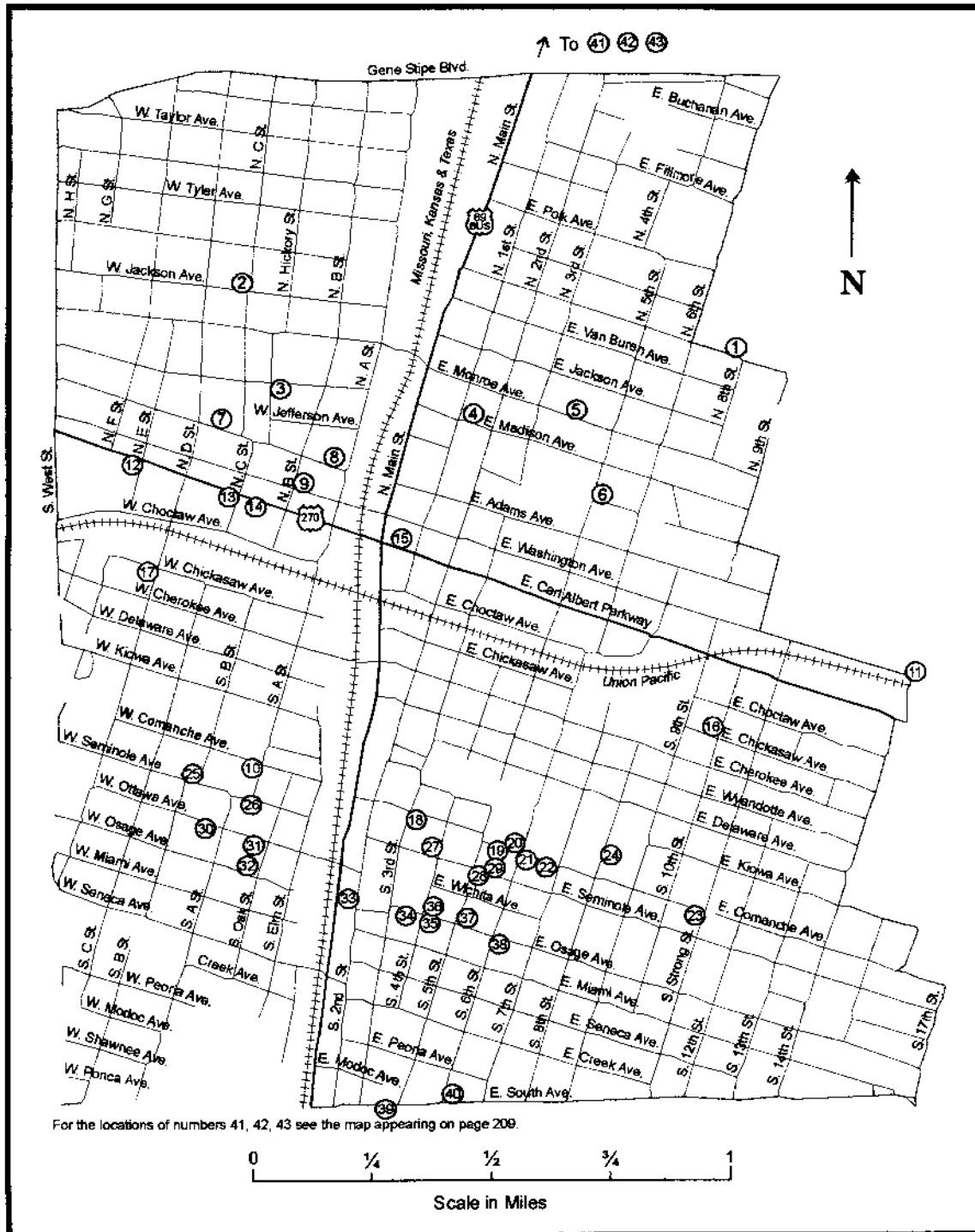
Six large enframed windows span the second story. There is some wood in-fill in top portion of those windows. Five simple porch supports rest on stone pedestals. This property is outside the boundaries of the study area, but warrants further study because of its close association with the establishment of McAlester. This was J. J. McAlester's store and it was among the first of the structures built in the town.

- (43) **J. J. McAlester Mercantile Company** (2701-2707 North Main Street). Built in 1912.

This is a brick clad flat roofed Commercial style building. It features a stepped parapet with false chimney caps on the north (side) wall. Label molds decorate the four windows on the second story. The one and a half-story addition, which really constitutes a second building, has a corbeled cornice, and an attached full-width porch. The porch has a decorative wrought iron frieze, brackets with scroll design, and wrought iron supports. This property merits further study because of its association with J. J. McAlester, founder of McAlester.

# Individual Properties That Warrant Further Study and are Outside Proposed Districts

Reconnaissance Level Survey of McAlester, 1999



## XII. THUMBNAIL SKETCH OF DISTRICTS WARRANTING FURTHER STUDY

### **Uptown Residential District**

#### History:

The Uptown Residential District warrants further study because it was one of the first single-family residential areas to develop in McAlester. It also became a neighborhood associated with some of McAlester's prominent citizens. One of the early residences built in the area (circa 1900) was at 524 East Washington Avenue. W. P. Freeman, a clerk for the U.S. Court of Appeals, resided there in 1904. Freeman eventually became the vice president of the First National Bank in McAlester and, sometime in the 1920s, had moved to a much larger and more conspicuous home at 537 East Adams Avenue. This home was built in the Classical Revival style. Similarly, the property at 621 East Washington was also built about 1900. G. H. Deibler, who served as the president of the McAlester Building and Loan Association in the 1920s, lived there.

Another individual closely associated with McAlester's economic development is J. G. Puterbaugh, who also built a house in this district. In 1902 Puterbaugh became the vice-president and general manager of the Consolidated McAlester Coal Company. In this capacity he served as a marketing representative for the various coal companies. Puterbaugh eventually became the owner of this company, which he called the McAlester Fuel Company. The Puterbaugh home still stands, although it has been altered, and is part of the Puterbaugh Memorial Center at 345 East Adams Avenue.

Other prominent businessmen who lived in this area, as recorded in the 1909 City Directory, include: J. H. Fields, manager of Atlas Powder Company who lived at 615

East Adams Avenue; John Wilson, the commissioner of the Okla Coal Operators' Association and later the general manager of the Osage Coal Company who lived at 337 East Washington Avenue; Eugene Mock, manager of the Oklahoma Coal Operators' Association who lived at 325 East Adams Avenue; Elmer C. Million who served as Alderman of the First Ward, president of the American National Bank and president of the Bank of McAlester who lived at 340 East Washington Avenue; Arthur G. Peck the general agent for the MKT Railroad who lived at 602 East Adams Avenue; and Frank B. Drew the manager of the McAlester-Edwards Coal Company who lived at 337 East Adams Avenue. Soon after the town's establishment the Uptown District had attracted a notable concentration of bank presidents and coal company officials.

Description:

The boundary of the Uptown Residential District forms roughly a rectangular shape along East Adams Avenue and East Washington Avenues between North Third and North Eighth Streets. Specifically, the northern boundary includes both sides of Adams Avenue between Third Street and Eighth Street. The boundary includes only the west side of Eighth Street between Adams and Washington. The southern boundary includes both sides of Washington between Eighth and Third Streets. The boundary then turns north on Third Street and includes the east side of the street as well as the property on the southwest corner of Third and Washington. Beyond these boundaries the character of development changes. For example, north of Adams steep slopes and wooded areas have deterred continuous residential development. East of Eighth Street the nature of the residential development also changes with the density of residential settlement declining

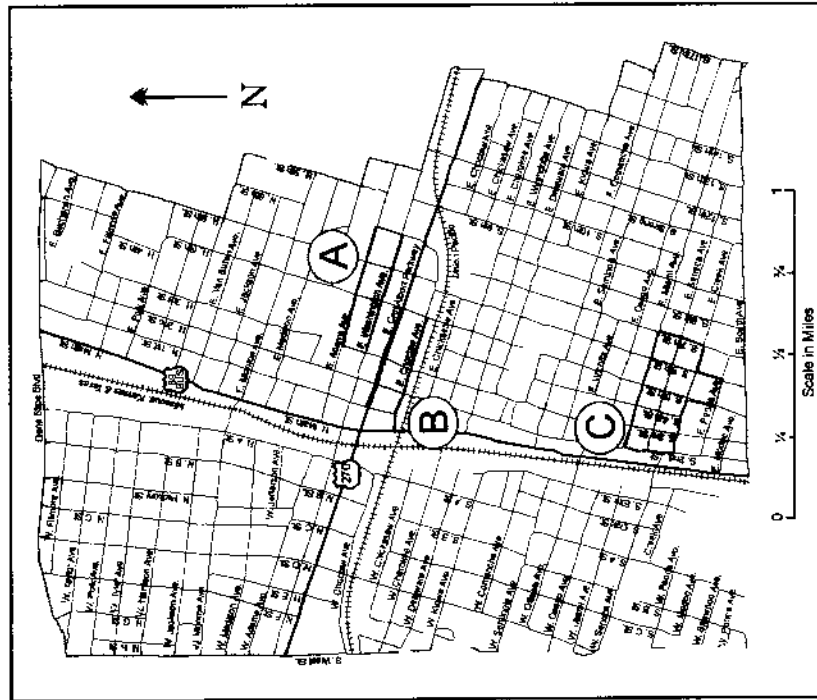
and newer residences encroaching. South of Washington Avenue contemporary commercial development prevails on Carl Albert Parkway, especially on the portion of it that is east of Fifth Street. To the west of Third Street there are some large parking lots, a drive-through bank, and other commercial development that does not contribute to the cohesion of the residential district.

The Uptown Residential District occupies a hill location. In fact, Adams Avenue nearly coincides with the top of a prominent ridge. The terrain in the district itself is relatively flat, but approaching this district from any direction requires ascending a fairly sharp incline. Approximately 80 percent of the district consists of well-maintained single-family dwellings set on medium-sized lots. The lots are generally well-maintained, often abundantly supplied with shade trees, and the houses set back from the streets. The remaining 20 percent includes a mixture of professional and governmental properties such as dentists and doctors offices, and a post office. There are also two religious buildings, a gymnasium, and some apartments for retired persons. This district also contains a small garden walk located on the grounds of the Puterbaugh Memorial Center at 345 East Adams Avenue.

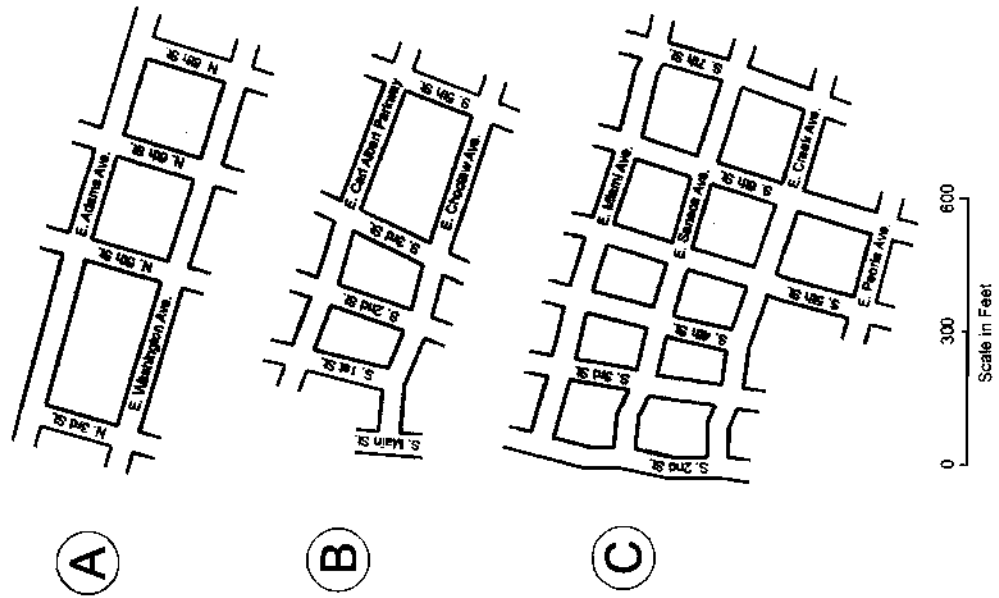
#### Architecture:

The Uptown Residential District contains approximately 75 properties. About 80 percent of those have maintained their architectural integrity. The Eclectic Period (1880-1940) accounts for the prevailing architectural styles found in the district. These styles include Tudor Revival, Classical Revival, Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival, Prairie School, and Bungalow/Craftsman. The best example of the Tudor Revival style is found

# Proposed Districts in McAlester Study Area That Warrant Further Study Reconnaissance Level Survey of McAlester, 1999



- A - Uptown Residential District**
- B - Downtown Commercial District**
- C - South McAlester Residential District**



at 501 East Adams Avenue. A good example of a Classical Revival style house is located at 537 East Adams Avenue. An excellent example of the Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival style is the Episcopal Church at 325 East Washington Avenue. In addition to the Eclectic Period, properties representing a revival of the Romantic Period (1820-1880) and Victorian Period (1860-1900) also dot the area. For example, the Catholic Church at 302 East Washington Avenue provides a good example of the Late Gothic Revival, a style that evoked the Romantic Period. Also, the residence at 337 East Washington Avenue provides a good example of the Queen Anne style, a style within the Victorian Period. In general there are a variety of architectural styles in the district, but together the Bungalow/Craftsman and Prairie School styles are represented by nearly 70 percent of the properties.

#### Noncontributing Properties:

No more than 20 percent of the properties in the Uptown Residential District constitute noncontributing properties. There are only two or three vacant lots, and these are parking lots associated with intrusions in the district. A list of noncontributing properties in the district would include the post office at 500 East Washington Avenue, the three professional offices along the south side of East Washington Avenue between Fifth and Sixth Streets, and a retirement center/living center at 301 East Washington Avenue. In addition, the Bob Brumley Gymnasium spans a portion of the block on the northeast corner of East Adams Avenue and North Third Street. In the Uptown Residential District, most of the housing stock is in good condition. Two small exceptions to this trend include a few properties on the north side of East Washington



Avenue (in the 500 block), and a few on the south side of East Adams Avenue (in the 300 block) that need rehabilitation.

Recommendation:

The Uptown Residential District is potentially National Register eligible because of the density of homes that have maintained their architectural integrity and because approximately 80 percent of the properties in the district constitute contributing resources. This district contains very good examples of different architectural styles including the Tudor Revival style, Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival style, and Classical Revival style. On this basis is recommended that the Uptown Residential District be given strong consideration for an intensive level survey. The following list reviews the properties that have been identified as contributing resources to the Uptown Residential District:

- (1) **First Presbyterian Church** (Southwest corner of East Washington Avenue and North Third Street). Built in 1924.

This is a two-story with basement, brick clad, Tudor Revival style religious structure. A prominent three-story square tower marks the northeast corner, and a smaller square tower stands on the west side. Pedimented and battlemented parapets, as well as large tracery windows mark the gable ends on the north and east sides. Other decorative features include wall and corner buttresses with dripstones. Windows are outlined with label moldings and, in some cases, the sills are extended to create a molding along the bottom of the windows as well. Both paired and ribbon

lancet windows dominate the north and east facades, while flat-headed windows are common elsewhere. Broad Tudor arches grace the entry.

- (2) **St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church and Rectory** (302 East Washington Avenue). Built in 1948.

St. John's Catholic Church is a two-story brick clad building in the Late Gothic Revival style. It has a parapeted gable roof and two hexagonal towers that are approximately 70 feet in height. The entry is recessed, arched, and decorated with a transom. The east and west elevations have niches with religious statues, wall buttresses with concrete caps, and tall, narrow Gothic-arched windows with blunt points. The windows are outlined with concrete moldings and the building is encircled by a continuous concrete belt course. The front façade includes three large Gothic-arched windows.

- (3) **All Saints Episcopal Church** (325 East Washington Avenue). Built in 1926.

All Saints Church is a stone clad, cross gable, one-story religious structure. Designed in the Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival style, it features a parapeted red ceramic tile roof and a pedimented Gothic-arched door with decorative sconces. A mission-like bell tower with crenellations and a large Gothic-arched window dominate the front gable. Four blind round arch windows span the east and west sides of the church and between them stand modest wall buttresses. Wing additions in a contemporary style have been connected to the transept. There is also

some brick in-fill in one of the doorways. Nevertheless, this is an excellent example of the Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival style.

(4) **John Wilson Residence** (337 East Washington Avenue). Built circa 1910.

This is a two-story Queen Anne style single dwelling with weatherboard and wood shingle cladding. It has a cross gable roof and a one-story polygonal tower that rises from the southwest corner of the second story.

The front façade includes a single-story, partial-width porch. Porch supports consist of tapered square piers clad with wooden shingles and raised on stone pedestals. The front gable has a bargeboard though it is rather modest. Also, two sets of paired double hung windows decorate the front façade, and the upper sashes of these windows have geometric patterning on the glazing.

(5) **349 East Washington Avenue**. Built circa 1910.

This is a two-story Prairie School style single dwelling with weatherboard and stucco cladding. It features a hipped roof with two hipped roof dormers that have wood shingle cladding on the walls. The dormer on the front (south) includes glazed and louvered windows. Other decorative features include geometric patterns on the glazing on the second story windows on the front façade. In addition, two large square pillars and six classical columns support the porch. The porch includes a wide stucco frieze. Wrought iron brackets support decorative light columns. The door includes a transom and false sidelights. Pilasters in the same style as the

square porch supports frame the exterior wall on the east elevation. Also, the west elevation has a one-story bay window.

(6) **355 East Washington Avenue.** Built circa 1925.

This is a two-story, weatherboard clad, Tudor Revival style single dwelling. It has a cross gable, wood shingle roof. This property also has a one-story wing with a flat roof and bell-cast eave on the front (south). The windows on the wing have small transoms above them. Round louvers occupy the top part of the gable ends. A small gabled porch marks the entry but has altered porch supports. An unusual type of board and batten siding has been used on the east elevation. A random rope design decorates the chimney, the wall surface around the garage, as well as the east gable end.

(7) **George H. Deibler Residence** (621 East Washington Avenue). Built circa 1900.

This is a two-story, weatherboard clad, Queen Anne style single dwelling. Exterior features include a cross gable pressed tin roof, an interior chimney with corbeled cap, and a full-width porch supported by four classical columns raised on pedestals consisting of stone and concrete. The second story features a small balcony surrounded by a wood balustrade. Gables are enclosed, have decorative bargeboards, a stucco tympanum, and finials. A bracketed gable marks the door on the west side. The front façade includes a two-story cut-away bay window with corner detailing. There has been some modification of the east end of the house on the

second story including the addition of some siding. Also, the concrete portions of the porch pedestals appear to be recent replacements.

- (8) **Frank B. Drew House** (337 East Adams Avenue). Built circa 1905.

This is a two and one-half-story, weatherboard clad, single dwelling in the Prairie School style. It has a hipped roof and a hipped roof dormer that has exposed roof beams. There is a bay window on the first story of the west elevation and a bracketed bay window on the second story of the south elevation. Nine classical wood columns with composite capitals support the porch and are raised on sandstone pedestals. Each pedestal supports three columns.

- (9) **Cartwright Home** (501 East Adams Avenue). Built circa 1930.

This is a two-story, sandstone clad, single dwelling built in the Tudor Revival style. It features a slate, cross gable roof with four gabled roof dormers. Other decorative elements include two octagonal porthole windows on the front gable, and a front wall chimney with rectangular chimney pots. Two decorative bends in the chimney are highlighted by stretches of red brick in common bond. A round keyed arched entryway leads to a small porch. The windows are topped with soldier brick lintels.

- (10) **W. P. Freeman Home** (537 East Adams Avenue). Built circa 1915.

This is a two and one-half story single dwelling with vinyl siding that is built in the Classical Revival style and exhibits a gable front and wings. A full-height entry porch and pediment dominate the front façade. Four fluted Ionic columns and two pilasters support the pediment, which

contains a round window. The pediment and cornice are dentiled as are the cornices on the first story of both of the wings. Ten fluted columns, also in the Ionic order, support each wing. The door has sidelights, a transom, and is crowned with a broken pediment.

(11) **Arthur G. Peck Home** (602 East Adams Avenue). Built circa 1905.

This single dwelling has one and a half-stories and is built in the National Folk style. It has a pyramidal roof and four gabled dormers, two of which are wall dormers. The dormers have wood fish scale and square shingles. The roof eaves and gable eaves on the dormers have exposed rafter tails. The door to the house has sidelights but the transom has wood in-fill. The porch is nearly full-width, has a shed roof, and is supported with four freestanding square columns and two small wood posts that are back against the house. The shed roof does not appear to be original to the structure; however this does not affect the integrity of the property.

# Uptown Residential District:

Properties That Warrant Further Study and are Contributing Resources

