

## MID CENTURY MODERN SURVEY OF NORTHEAST ENID



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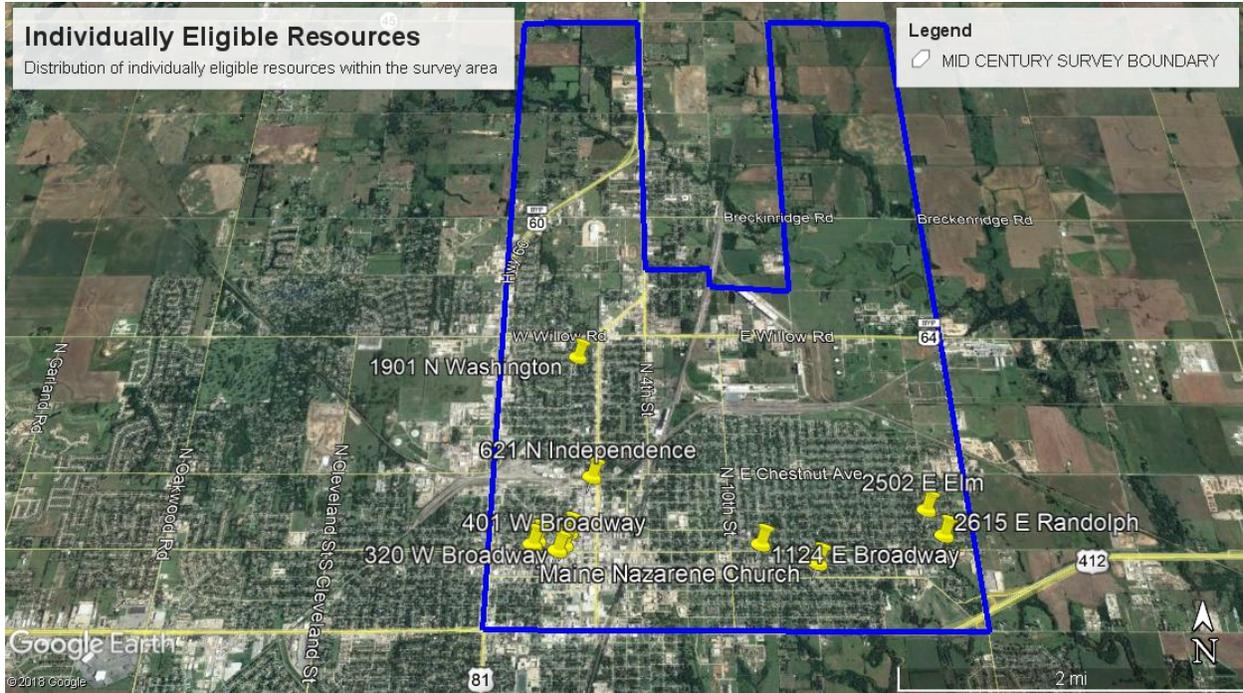
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Abstract

This thematic survey of mid-century properties in northeast Enid, Oklahoma was conducted between December 2017 and March 2018. The study area includes most of northeast Enid in Garfield County, Oklahoma, an area covering approximately eight thousand acres. The period of study for this project was 1945-1975. Although the definition of what qualifies as “Mid-Century” is somewhat fluid, the time period used in this particular survey follows precedent set in similar surveys in Oklahoma and elsewhere across the country, while also allowing reasonable time for nominating more recent properties as they approach the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) fifty-year mark. A total of one hundred fifty (150) resources within the boundaries of the survey area were documented at the minimum level and subsequently evaluated based on NRHP criteria.

This project began with a review of existing architectural surveys for Enid as well as similar modern surveys from Oklahoma City, Payne County and other communities across the country. This particular survey varies somewhat from other recent mid-century surveys in Oklahoma in that it is not exclusively focused on one property type such as commercial, public, or residential buildings. Properties documented as part of this project reflect every property type.

## Introduction

The City of Enid participates in the National Park Service's Certified Local Governments (CLG) program, established by the National Historic Preservation Act's 1980 amendment. This program assists municipalities in identifying, evaluating and protecting important pre-historic, historic and archeological resources at the local level.<sup>1</sup> This program requires that participant communities enact and enforce preservation zoning, as well as other preservation related activities in return for a share of the state's federal preservation funds. In addition to its participation in the CLG program, the City of Enid is also an active Main Street Community (the Main Street program provides architectural guidance, as well as façade grants for member businesses) working to revitalize Enid by "preserving and promoting our historic district as the economic and cultural heart of our city."<sup>2</sup>

Currently, there are twelve registered CLG communities across the State of Oklahoma. Enid has been an active CLG community, conducting multiple survey projects of both residential and commercial areas. These included surveys of residential areas in 1993, 1994, 1995-1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, and 2000. These early surveys resulted in the listing of Enid's historic downtown in 2007 as well as the listing of multiple residential districts, including Kenwood Historic District (2004) and Waverly Historic District (2016). Enid has also instigated individual listings for multiple buildings across the city, including a variety of property types of varying styles. These include single family residences (Kisner House), multi-family housing near downtown as well as on the campus of the former Phillips University (Cherokee Terrace Apartments and Clay Hall), schools, rail related resources, and other commercial buildings.

In 2017, the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office (OKSHPO) and the City of Enid provided funding for this thematic survey of mid-century architecture in a portion of the City of Enid. In Enid, inventorying mid-century resources began in 2016, with the intensive level survey of the Indian Hills Subdivision, a residential area located south of downtown that contains a high number of mid-century residential resources, many designed by prominent local architects.<sup>3</sup> This survey project indicated public growing interest in this aging modern style.

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<sup>1</sup> For more information see: <http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/clg.htm>.

<sup>2</sup> "About Us," Main Street Enid, <http://www.mainstreetenid.org/about-us.html>, accessed March 2018.

<sup>3</sup> See Sherry N. DeGreece Emery, "Reconnaissance Survey of the Indian Hills Subdivision Enid, Garfield County, Oklahoma," available online at <http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/architsurveys/RLSofIndianHills.pdf>, accessed February 2018.

## Research Design

A **survey** is the systematic process of identifying and recording historic buildings, structures, objects, districts, and sites. Surveys may be organized to look at all of the resources within a fairly small geographical area, such as a residential neighborhood, the incorporated limits of a city, or a section of land. Surveys may also identify resources relating to a specific theme within a county, region, or state.

The principal purpose of a survey is to gather the information needed to plan for the wise use of a community's resources. The historic resources in a community or neighborhood give it special character and cultural depth. To use those resources effectively, to respect their value, and to extend their lives, it is necessary to integrate historic preservation into community planning. Survey information can be used to prepare a preservation plan that helps the community establish policies, procedures, and strategies for maintaining and enhancing those resources that make the community special. Survey data can also facilitate the review of federally funded or permitted projects that are subject to compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

Survey information is used for a variety of purposes:

- To identify and to document individual properties and districts eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places;
- To identify districts, individual properties, or archeological sites that warrant further study;
- To identify areas that are **not** eligible for the National Register and warrant no further study at the time of the survey;
- To document the existence and distribution of specific property types;
- To provide a context for evaluating properties nominated to the National Register; and
- To assist in long-range planning for the protection of significant resources;

In an **intensive level** survey, the goal is to document all historic buildings, structures, sites, objects, and potential districts in the study area. Detailed research is conducted on each individual property, sufficient to enable an evaluation of the property's eligibility for listing in the National Register.

The goal of a **reconnaissance level** survey is to estimate the distribution of historic properties in an area and to identify individual properties and areas that warrant further study. As such, it becomes the foundation for future survey and research efforts. Reconnaissance surveys generally fall into two categories: windshield survey and sample survey. In a windshield survey, researchers drive the streets and roads of a defined geographical area. The basic purpose of the windshield survey is to get a general picture of the distribution of different types and styles of properties, and of the character of different neighborhoods. Representative streetscape photographs that characterize the area are then taken and ultimately, a short description is written describing the character of the study unit. The purpose of the

sample survey is to record minimum-level documentation on all properties that appear to be eligible for listing in the National Register and on representative properties within the study unit. Minimum-level documentation includes a survey form and photographs. Included photographs were taken by the surveyor and are on file at the SHPO unless otherwise noted. In Oklahoma, a reconnaissance level survey generally includes elements of both the windshield and sample survey.

**Thematic** surveys combine elements of other types of surveys. Generally, thematic surveys focus solely on a specific type of property, such as barns, or in the case of this project, resources from a specific time period. Most times, thematic surveys are intensive level, documenting, for example, every WPA related resource in a county. For the purposes of this survey, however, the total number of properties surveyed was contractually limited to one hundred fifty (150). As with a windshield survey, properties selected for inclusion in this thematic survey are a sampling of properties built during the prescribed time period. They represent exceptional, good, bad, and average examples of properties meeting the general requirements for inclusion. In a thematic survey, each individual property is evaluated for listing in the NRHP. There can be "thematic" historic districts, but such eligible districts are nominated as "multiple properties," and each property included within the nomination must be individually eligible for National Register listing.

## Project Objectives

Architectural surveys in Oklahoma have focused primarily on older resources, associated with the territorial, early statehood and depression period in Oklahoma history. Most survey projects have focused on large metropolitan areas and regional centers, with no systematic, statewide county by county survey. Besides architectural surveys of downtowns and residential areas, some surveys have focused on particular themes such as energy related resources or Route 66 related resources. As a result, a number of resources across the state have been inventoried and listed in the National Register of Historic Places. But until the mid-2000s, resources from the recent past were generally considered too new, even as they approached the NRHP fifty-year mark. This was partly because some of the buildings were contemporary to the preservationists doing the work but also partly because many properties from the recent period are less aesthetically pleasing than obviously historic buildings from earlier periods. The work of historians such as Jeanne Lambin and Richard Longstreth, however, began to look at mid-century buildings in the proper context, pointing out the significance that their very differences (in terms of materials and ornamentation) were related. Subsequently, buildings from this period have been reassessed and instead of being simply dismissed as dated, the elements of the style are now appreciated and even emulated.

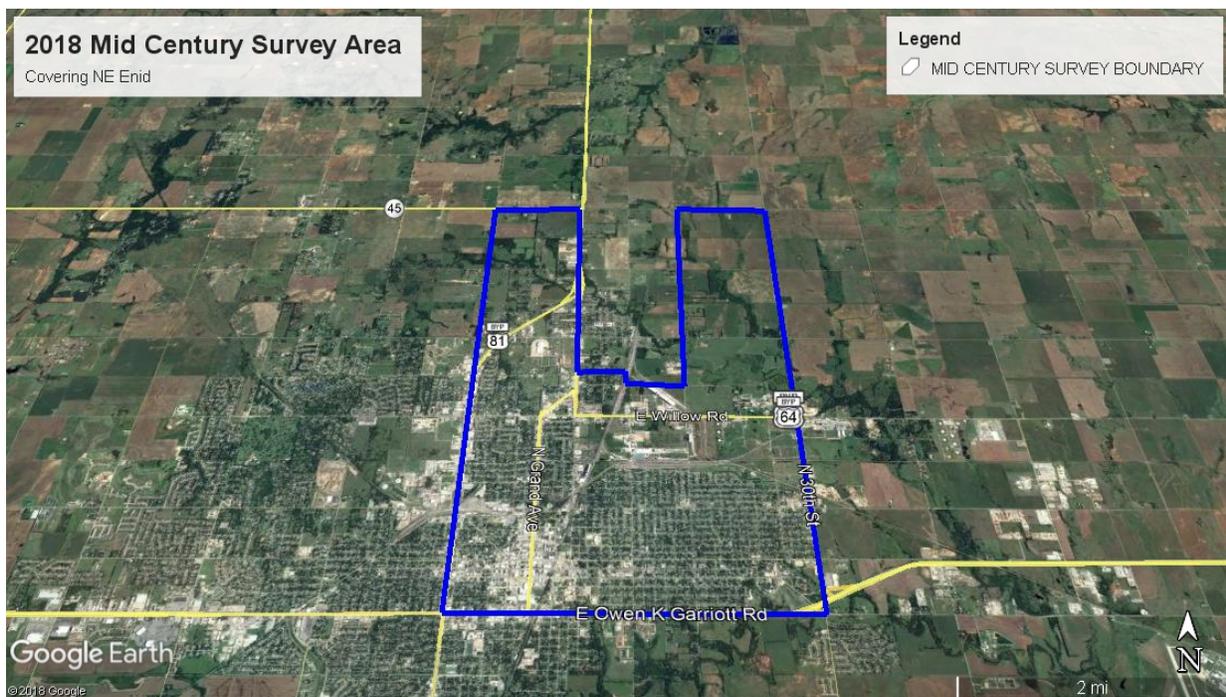
The purpose of this survey was to locate, identify, and document one hundred fifty (150) buildings, sites, structures, objects, and districts within the survey area that were built between 1945 and 1975. The results of this project will provide a basis for nominating eligible properties to the NRHP and will assist the city with long range planning and preservation. Some of the documented buildings are average examples of the prevailing types and styles from that period. Others are notable local examples of a particular type/style and some are outstanding examples of the type/style.

Each surveyed resource was documented at a minimum level, regardless of alterations or condition. Minimum level documentation includes the completion of a Historic Preservation Resource Identification Form (HPRI) form and two photographs. The properties were also keyed to a survey map. The collected information was subsequently used to determine the property's eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), as either an individual property or as part of a historic district.

## Area Surveyed

The survey area can roughly be described as the northeast quadrant of the City of Enid. This area is bounded on the west by Van Buren Street, on the south by Owen K. Garriott Road, and on the east by 30<sup>th</sup> Street. The northern boundary is more complicated, with the boundary generally being Carrier Road. However, a center section of the NE quadrant, extending from 4<sup>th</sup> Street on the west to 16<sup>th</sup> on the east and roughly from Cornell Street in the south to Carrier Road on the north was excluded from the survey area. That section of town is very sparsely populated and is mostly vacant land. The survey area covers roughly eight thousand acres and varies from residential subdivisions to light and heavy industry to open pasture. It is a broad and varied survey area.

**MAP 1: SURVEY AREA**



## Methodology

The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the nation's most historic places. It was established with the passage of the Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Properties listed in the National Register must be significant for their association with a historic event or notable person or be architecturally or archaeologically significant. Properties meeting one or more of these criteria must then be further evaluated to ensure that the property's historic integrity is intact. Historic integrity is related to a building, site, structure, object, or district's ability to convey its historic significance. In laymen's terms, the historic elements of a property should continue to be recognizable. Integrity is assessed based on a property's location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Prior to beginning fieldwork, the surveyor reviewed documentary and archival sources relating to Enid and Garfield County, as well as sources related to the mid-century modern style and similar survey projects in other parts of Oklahoma and/or the country. The previous city surveys and existing National Register nominations were helpful in providing a starting point for the research process. A spreadsheet of all properties constructed in Enid during the period from 1945-1975 was generated using Realist tax software. The number of results generated was too large to be helpful, and unfortunately, it was not possible to refine the search using a specified map area or property type. The Garfield County Assessor's online property search tools (<http://www.qpublic.net/ok/garfield/>) were more helpful in determining approximate dates of construction, as well as legal descriptions and other relevant property information. Resources utilized include Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, oral history collections housed in the Research Division at the Oklahoma History Center, local histories, newspapers, and historic photographs.

Buildings, sites, structures, and objects appearing to date from the time period (1945-1975) were photographed during field work. Notes were also taken about materials and other notable features for each property. Then, county property information was reviewed for each recorded resource. Some properties, particularly those belonging to the school district or to non-profit groups such as churches, did not have date of construction information in the county system. Other dates of construction were incorrect, given the style and materials present. In the downtown area, it was possible to use Sanborn Fire Insurance maps to compare with available information regarding dates of construction, but the majority of the survey area was located outside of the Sanborn Fire Insurance map coverage area or buildings were constructed after the last Sanborn update for Enid. For properties with conflicting information about date of construction or no available sources of information for a date of construction, a circa date was selected based on surrounding development, materials, and style. Subsequently, an HPRI form was completed for each documented property and each property was assessed for NRHP eligibility based on the standards provided in the National Register Criteria for Evaluation.

## Overview of the Survey Area

The survey area is broad, covering over 8000 acres. It contains the majority of development in Enid from its earliest period. Development in the area is a combination of commercial, light industrial, public, urban residential, multi-family, suburban residential, distant suburban residential, and more. Commercial development is concentrated along the major north to south street, Van Buren, as well as the major east to west street, Owen K. Garriott, as well as in the historic downtown area. The downtown area is roughly located along West Maine, West Randolph, and West Broadway between Van Buren on the west and the north to south railroad tracks on the east side. Light industrial development is scattered with concentrations along the railroad tracks east of downtown and the intersecting east to west railroad tracks north of Walnut Avenue, as well as along Willow Avenue and 30<sup>th</sup> Street on the eastern edge of the survey area. Urban residential, with scattered multi-family development, can be found throughout most of the survey area outside of downtown. There is distant suburban residential located on the far northern side of the survey area, with a mixture of institutional housing at the former North Central Complex (Willow and N 30<sup>th</sup>) and the former site of Phillips University (S 30<sup>th</sup> and Owen K. Garriott). The newest residential and commercial development in Enid is located north, west and south of the survey area, primarily along Owen K. Garriott and south along Van Buren leading to Vance Air Force Base.

The 2007 Downtown Enid Historic District indicated the number of modern resources in the downtown district that at the time had to be considered non-contributing due to their age. Subsequent NRHP nominations for the Public Library of Enid and Garfield County (2015), an outstanding example of the New Formalism subtype of modern architecture, as well as nominations for the Briggs Auditorium on the campus of the former Phillips University and for Babe's Package Store (2017) brought to light information about local architects who designed in the modern style. Articles on OKCMOD<sup>4</sup> and in other local and regional publications praised both public and private examples of the style found in Enid. Property tours of private homes as well public buildings and businesses alike drew architectural enthusiasts to Enid to see modern buildings. In 2017, Enid undertook an intensive level survey of the Indian Hills subdivision, known for its association with architect Tom Rogers, one of Enid's most well known and most prolific practitioners of the modern style. This 2018 thematic survey of modern resources is a natural next step in the process to document modern style resources in every corner of the community. Although the most prominent local architects, such as Tom Rogers, Wheeler and Wheeler, and Dow Gumerson, are well known, the exact number of buildings they were responsible for designing appears to be unknown.

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<sup>4</sup> OKCMOD is the Okie Mod Squad, a group formed in 2009 to promote mid-century design and to showcase examples across Oklahoma. For more information see: <http://okcmmod.com/>.

## Kinds of Properties Observed

Ultimately, however, there were many more examples of modern buildings, both large and small, public and private than expected. Enid possesses an extraordinary collection of modern resources, which seems out of character for this relatively small community, best known as the “wheat capital of Oklahoma”<sup>5</sup> Enid is located approximately ninety miles from Oklahoma City, approximately thirty miles west of Interstate 35. Yet this remote city, with a population of just less than 50,000 according to the 2010 federal census, is home to one of the state’s best collections of modern architecture. Unlike its closest rivals in terms of size and number of modern examples, Norman and Bartlesville, Enid is not located on a major highway nor is it home to a large school of architecture. Its location was not ideal, but what Enid did have, however, was relative prosperity and significant population growth in the same period when the modern style was in its heyday.

In the first decades of the twentieth century, builders in Enid, as in towns small and large across the country, utilized architectural styles and materials from previous historical periods. Such styles evoked a sense of permanence and stability in a period of otherwise rapid transformation. Tudor Revival, Arts and Crafts, and Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival were some of the most popular styles for residential construction while neoclassical, Romanesque, and Beaux Arts were popular for public and commercial projects. Ornamentation was added as far as the budget would allow.

Modernistic theories existed before World War II but were not widely adopted. After the tumult, depredation and destruction of World War II, things changed. There was pent up consumer demand and a severe housing shortage. Exposure to more modern styles and building practices occurred when people from Enid and across the country were sent to Europe, to Asia. After World War II, construction based on “historic precedent” was “largely abandoned in favor of new variations of the modern styles that had only begun to flourish in the pre-war years.”<sup>6</sup> Traditional and historical was out, in favor of stylish and new.

The stylish and new building types and styles collectively became known as the **Modern Movement**. It is a broad stylistic category that is often difficult to define. According to the 2009 “Reconnaissance-Level Survey of Modern Architecture in Oklahoma City, this term “encompasses many structures that express modernism but lack further definition because the Modern Movement put such a strong emphasis on simplicity and minimalism.”<sup>7</sup> Most popular forms of Modern architecture evolved from the International Style, with its focus on the past, with exteriors and interiors devoid of decoration. Classification of modern buildings can be very difficult. While some buildings clearly and undeniably belong to one stylistic category, others are eclectic mixtures of more than one. In some, there is a mixture of styles but one dominates. Characterizations are very subjective. For the purposes of this survey, properties were categorized utilizing the terminology and classifications set forth in the in the 2007 Oklahoma City Modern survey, with some input from other surveys for difficult to categorize resources or where the definition seemed too broad for this survey project. A brief discussion of the stylistic categories utilized

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<sup>5</sup>Joe Malan, “Local grain storage capacity one of largest in United States,” *Enid News and Eagle*, 2 March 2011.

<sup>6</sup> Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, (New York: Knopf, 1984), 469-477.

<sup>7</sup>“Reconnaissance-Level Survey of Modern Architecture in Oklahoma City,” Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 2009.

for the survey project and found in Enid can be found below, along with a photographic example of a building/structure/object from the survey area classified as that particular style.

### **International**

The modern movement began with the so called international style, emanating in Europe with the works of Le Corbusier, Walter Gropius and others in between World War I and World War II. In general, "The style reflected a lack of reference to vernacular or traditional building forms with its characteristic simplification of form and rejection of ornament."<sup>8</sup> Buildings constructed in this style are generally either square or rectangular in shape, have a flat roof, and are identifiable by their horizontal bands of windows. In terms of materials, International style buildings utilize a combination of stucco, concrete, brick and glass.

### **Moderne**

Moderne or art modern is it is often referred to as is, was one of the earliest examples of the modern movement styles to achieve popularity in the United states. Buildings designed in this style were sleek and stylish, featuring cubic and cylindrical forms with a horizontal emphasis, lots of curves and little ornamentation.

### **Miesian**

Named in honor of Mies van der Rohe, the most famous architect of this style, Miesian style buildings possess "a strong emphasis on rectangular forms and straight lines." In keeping with their simplicity, Miesian buildings typically featured exteriors clad in metal and glass.

### **Ranch**

The ranch style developed first in the American southwest. Designers, such as Clifford May, looked to traditional working ranch headquarters in California and Arizona as inspiration. These homes were sited on larger pieces of land and seemed to fit into the natural landscape. The space and pastoral setting of early ranch homes appealed to individuals who had been living in cramped accommodations. Subsequent ranch houses featured sprawling designs on larger lots. Many times, a Spanish colonial influence was evident, but elements from other historical periods are also found on ranch homes, although many have no decorative details. In terms of plan, asymmetrical one-story shapes dominate ranch examples. Most have a hipped, cross-gabled or side gabled roof with a moderate to wide roof overhang. One of the other defining characteristics is the use of large picture windows. The very size of ranch homes, as well as the ever-increasing popularity and availability of the automobile, helped spawn the suburb. As such, an integrated garage also became central to the ranch style. Although asymmetrical shapes are common, ranch homes in a variety of shapes (such as linear, l-shaped, complex, massed, t, u, v, and Y), can be found in Enid and across the country. The most common subtype of the ranch style is the linear ranch, literally a rectangular box. As their name implies, the "T" ranch is shaped like the letter t, as is the "L" ranch and the "V" ranch. The complex ranch is a combination of wings and other ranch shapes and is highly irregular in plan. The massed ranch is usually

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<sup>8</sup>Planning Resource Associates, Inc., "mid-century Modernism Historic Context," prepared for the City of Fresno, Planning and Development Department, Fresno, California, 2008, 69.

rectangular but is deeper than a standard linear ranch.<sup>9</sup> The ranch style became the most popular architectural style for residential construction in the United States from the end of World War II to the oil crisis of the mid-1970s. The biggest period of construction for the ranch was in the 1950s (70% of homes built in the 1950s were ranch in style), but the style continued to dominate into the 1960s and the early 1970s.<sup>10</sup>

### **Contemporary**

The contemporary style of the 1970s and 1980s offered homeowners a stark contrast to the wildly popular ranch. Rejecting applied details, contemporary style design focused instead on function, causing homes to be designed "from the inside out, with the attention not on details visible as one approaches the house but rather on the functionality of the interior space and the integration of outdoor views."<sup>11</sup>

### **Brutalism**

Brutalism was popular for construction of large civic and other public buildings from the 1950s to 1970s. Most buildings constructed in this style were built of concrete, with a limited number of brick or stucco examples. Brutalism emphasized the exposure of structural materials and is "characterized by a heavy mass and scale."<sup>12</sup> Buildings were often "highly sculptural blocky shapes."<sup>13</sup>

### **Exaggerated Modern**

Unlike the simplicity of the International style, Exaggerated Modern style buildings embraced ornamentation in excess. This style was used for both commercial and public projects and featured elements such as "dynamic rooflines, curvaceous geometric shapes and large sheet glass windows . . ." <sup>14</sup>

### **Neo-Expressionism**

Similar to Brutalism, Neo-Expressionist buildings utilized massive shapes. They also featured distorted shapes and fragmented lines and were usually built from concrete or brick.

### **New Formalism**

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<sup>9</sup> McAlester, 479-480; for more information see David Bricker, "Ranch Houses Are Not All the Same," available online at <https://www.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/suburbs/Bricker.pdf> and Cathy Ambler, National Register Nomination for Ranch Acres Historic District, Tulsa County, Oklahoma.

<sup>10</sup>Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office, "Louisiana Architecture: 1945-1965 Post-War Subdivisions and the Ranch House," Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office, available online at [http://www.crt.state.la.us/hp/nationalregister/historic\\_contexts/ranchhousefinalrevised.pdf](http://www.crt.state.la.us/hp/nationalregister/historic_contexts/ranchhousefinalrevised.pdf), accessed February 2018.

<sup>11</sup> McAlester, 630.

<sup>12</sup>"Reconnaissance-Level Survey of Modern Architecture in Oklahoma City," 16.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.; see also <https://www.wmf.org/project/british-brutalism>.

<sup>14</sup>"Reconnaissance-Level Survey of Modern Architecture in Oklahoma City," 16.

New Formalism was an architectural style that emerged in the late 1950s and 1960s in response to the austerity of the International and other modern styles of architecture. Instead of being devoid of ornamentation, New Formalist buildings use modified versions of classical forms. But in the mid-1960s, one reaction to the austerity of the International Style a design style known as New Formalism. According to the 2009 “Reconnaissance-Level Survey of Modern Architecture in Oklahoma City,” New Formalism (also referred to as neo-formalism) embraced, “Classical precedents such as building proportion, scale, and classical columns” essentially giving designers the option to restore “long-exiled beauty to architecture.”<sup>15</sup> This style was typically used on larger, urban projects and “used symmetry and grand axis to achieve monumentality.”<sup>16</sup> Most New Formalist buildings are clad in concrete, brick, and metal.<sup>17</sup> Despite the use of heavy materials, New Formalist buildings attempt to appear “delicate” as opposed to the heaviness apparent in Brutalist designs of the same period. The most notable architects associated with this style are Edward Durell Stone, Minoru Yamasaki, and Phillip Johnson.<sup>18</sup> The style was extremely popular for governmental, civic, and university buildings during the 1960s.

### **Populuxe/Googie**

The 2009 “Reconnaissance-level Survey of Modern Architecture in Oklahoma City” included the Populuxe category, but several recent nominations from Oklahoma use the term “Googie.”<sup>19</sup> In various sources, these styles are used almost interchangeably with very little to differentiate buildings of the two styles. For the purposes of this survey, “Googie” has been used to describe buildings in this style, with this additional definition that these buildings could also be called Populuxe. The 2009 “Reconnaissance-Level Survey of Modern Architecture in Oklahoma City” described Populuxe buildings as having “canopies that rise at sharp angles, visual fronts and large sheet glass windows.”<sup>20</sup> Populuxe buildings utilized steel, glass, concrete and even plastics for construction purposes. Similarly, Googie buildings utilized concrete, steel, and glass, but also “incorporated any new material available on the market, including plywood and plastic.”<sup>21</sup> According to a modern survey in Ohio, Googie could be defined by three basic principles. Its futuristic design motifs:

- could be an organic shape as long as it was abstract or geometric,
- had to appear to defy gravity, and
- had to use at least two structural systems for variety<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> Reconnaissance Level Survey of Modern Architecture in Oklahoma City,” 18; Marcus Whiffen and Frederick Koeper, *American Architecture Volume 2: 1860-1976* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 2001), 384.

<sup>16</sup> “Reconnaissance Level Survey of Modern Architecture in Oklahoma City,” 18.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

<sup>18</sup> Whiffen and Koeper, 384.

<sup>19</sup> For example, see Dianna Everett’s National Register of Historic Places Nomination for Babe’s Package Store, available online at [http://nr2\\_shpo.okstate.edu/pdfs/100001589.pdf](http://nr2_shpo.okstate.edu/pdfs/100001589.pdf), accessed February 2018.

<sup>20</sup> Reconnaissance Level Survey of Modern Architecture in Oklahoma City,” 18.

<sup>21</sup> Ohio State Historic Preservation Office, “Ohio Modern Dayton Area Survey Report,” 203, available online at <https://www.ohiohistory.org/preserve/state-historic-preservation-office/hpsurvey/ohio-modern-preserving-our-recent-past/dayton-area-survey-report>, accessed February 2018.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

## Post Modern

Popular at the end of the Modern Movement, post-modern utilized modern materials and ideas while incorporating elements of classical design and classical decorative elements.

## Mid-Century Practitioners in Enid

Tom Rogers was a native of Avant, Oklahoma. Born in 1920, he graduated with a degree in Architecture from the University of Oklahoma in 1947. He was greatly influenced by Bruce Goff, who became a member of the OU faculty during Rogers's final year on campus. Rogers greatly admired Goff's work as well as his philosophy of design. Rogers established Rogers and Associates in Enid. He subsequently designed commercial, public and residential buildings across the city, establishing the standard for modern design in Enid after World War II. Some of his works are the most iconic examples of mid-century modern in the community.<sup>23</sup>

The firm of Wheeler and Wheeler was closely associated with early twentieth century Enid architect, Robert Shaw. Marion N. Wheeler began his career as a railroad draftsman before moving to Enid and going into practice with Shaw. Wheeler's two sons, Glen and Elbert both served in the military before pursuing Architecture degrees from Oklahoma State University. Glen joined the firm in 1946 and Elbert joined in the 1950s, while also pursuing a master's from Oklahoma State. The elder Wheeler died in 1958, after which the firm became known as Wheeler and Wheeler. The two brothers subsequently designed multiple mid-century projects across Enid, including Briggs Auditorium, private residences, churches, and commercial buildings.

Other less prolific architects practicing in Enid during the period include Dow Gumerson, Frank Davies, Dan Harris, Roy Easley, and Smith-Day. Unfortunately, very little detail is known about these architects or the legacy they left, except that they practiced during the time period covered by the survey and designed in the mid-century style.

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<sup>23</sup> "Tom Rogers," OkieModSquad, available online at [okcmo.com/firms/rogers-tom/](http://okcmo.com/firms/rogers-tom/), accessed February 2018.

## List of Individually Eligible Properties

Property Address	Architectural Style	Date of Construction	Architect/Builder
320 W Broadway	Neo-Expressionism	1971	Unknown
621 N Independence	Googie	1956	Tom Rogers
1600 E Maine	Neo-Expressionism	1970	Unknown
1124 E Broadway	Googie	1965	Unknown
2615 E Randolph	Exaggerated Modern	1969	Tom Rogers
110 N Madison	Neo-Expressionism	Ca 1970	Unknown
210 Kenwood*	Neo-Expressionism	1965	Elbert Wheeler
401 W Broadway	Brutalism	1965	Tom Rogers
1901 N Washington	Neo-Expressionism	1975	Unknown
2502 E Elm	Googie	1960	Tom Rogers
St. Joseph's Catholic School Building on W Broadway	Modern Movement	Ca 1970	Unknown

\*Denotes that a property is also located in a listed historic district

List of Individual Mid-Century Properties within the Survey Area Previously Listed in  
the NRHP

Property Address	Architectural Style	Date of Construction	Architect/Builder
Babe’s Package Store 200 S 3 <sup>rd</sup> Street	Googie	1959/1960	Tom Rogers
Public Library of Enid and Garfield County 120 W Maine	New Formalism	1963/1964	Smith-Day
Eugene S. Briggs Auditorium 100 S University	Modern Movement/Neo Expressionism	1957/1958	Wheeler and Wheeler
Security National Bank 201 W Broadway	International	1961/1962	Dura A. Smith

## List of Mid-Century Properties within Boundaries of Proposed Expanded Downtown District

Property Address	Architectural Style	Date of Construction	Contributing Resource?
210 Kenwood	Neo-Expressionism	1965	Contributing
215 Kenwood	Modern Movement	1960	Contributing
300 W Cherokee	International	1955	Contributing
301 W Maine	Modern Movement	1960	Contributing
320 W Broadway	Neo-Expressionism	1971	Contributing
101-103 N Grand	International	1907/1964	Non-contributing
108 S Independence	Modern Movement	1920/1970	Non-contributing
114 S Independence	Modern Movement	Ca 1950	Contributing
116 S Washington	Modern Movement	1927/1970	Non-contributing
120 N Independence	Modern Movement	1932/1970	Contributing
217 N Independence	Modern Movement	1950	Non-contributing
219-229 W Broadway	Modern Movement	1972	Contributing
202 E Broadway	Modern Movement	1928/1970	Non-contributing
121 E Randolph	Modern Movement	1947/1980	Non-contributing
125 E Randolph	Modern Movement	1947/1980	Non-contributing
127-131 E Randolph	Modern Movement	1947/1980	Non-contributing
119 S Grand	International	1935/1972	Non-contributing
121 S Grand	No Style	1910/1970	Non-contributing
123 N Grand	Modern Movement	1910/1975	Non-contributing
125 N Grand	Modern Movement	1910/1975	Non-contributing

126 E Randolph	No Style	1922/1971	Non-contributing
202-202 W Randolph	Modern Movement	1952	Contributing
201 W Maine	Modern Movement	Ca 1970	Contributing
109 N Grand	Modern Movement	1920/1980	Non-Contributing
111 N Grand	Modern Movement	1910/1970	Contributing

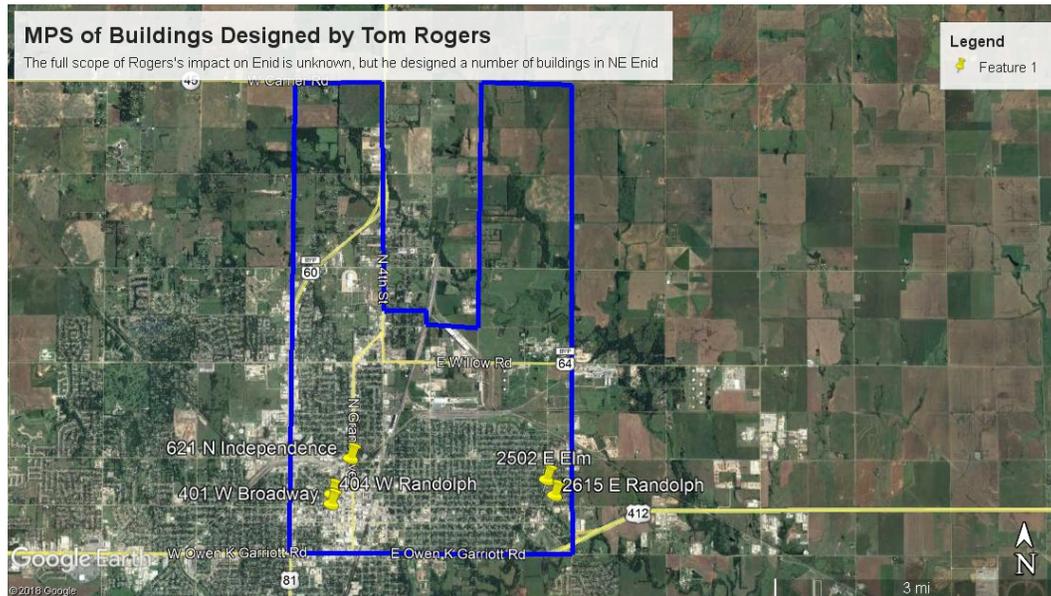
## Eligible District(s):

### 1. Multiple Property Submission (MPS) of Buildings Designed by Architect Tom Rogers

Tom Rogers was one of the most prolific designers of mid-century modern in Enid between 1945 and 1975. A number of residential properties designed by Rogers were already inventoried in 2016 in the Indian Hills Subdivision. Additional Rogers properties were identified in this survey and there are likely many more. Rogers passed away in 2004. Additional research into the life and works of Tom Rogers would be helpful in preparing an MPS and in nominating Rogers related resources to the NRHP.

Property Address	Architectural Style	Date of Construction
401 W Broadway	Brutalism	1965
401 W Randolph (ramp)	Modern Movement	1970
621 N Independence	Googie	1956
2502 E Elm	Googie	Ca 1960
2615 E Randolph	Exaggerated Modern	1969

**MAP 2: TOM ROGERS DESIGNED BUILDINGS**



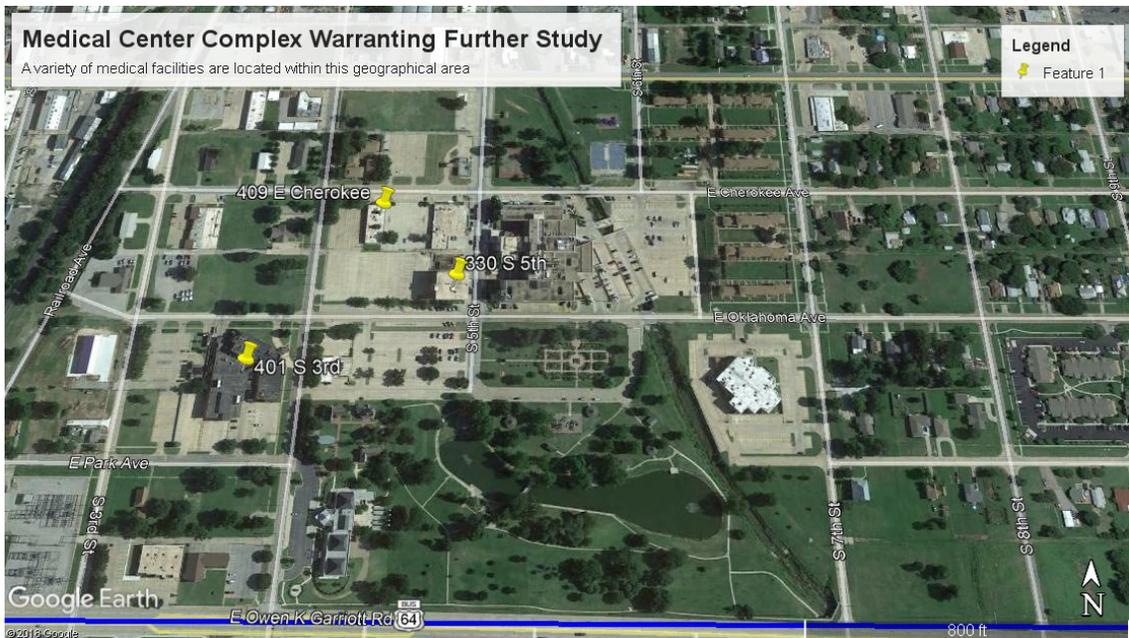
## Areas Warranting Additional Study for a Possible Historic District:

### 1. Medical Center Complex

Enid’s first hospital was founded as a sanitarium in 1915. That early facility continued to grow, eventually becoming St. Mary’s Regional Medical Center. In the vicinity of the current hospital, there are a number of medical related buildings constructed during the period between 1945 and 1975. These buildings reflect several of the most prominent styles of the modern movement. The buildings retain a high degree of architectural integrity and warrant further study for a possible medical related district. Below are a sampling of the mid century resources in the hospital area that were included in the survey.

Property Address	Architectural Style	Date of Construction
330 S 5 <sup>th</sup>	Modern Movement	1968
401 S 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Modern Movement	1967
409 E Cherokee	New Formalism	1968
428 E Cherokee	No style	1948

**MAP 3: POTENTIAL MEDICAL CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT**



## 2. Oklahoma Institution for the Feeble Minded/Enid State School/Northern Oklahoma Resource Center

Located at 2600 E Willow, there is a large residential and medical complex on Enid's NE side. Largely sealed off from public access, the complex was home to the Oklahoma Institution for the Feeble Minded as early as 1910. The campus continued to grow to meet the needs of increasing numbers of patients. In 1947, it was re-named the Enid State School<sup>24</sup>, and at the time of its closure, it was known as the Northern Oklahoma Resource Center, a facility designed to house and treat Oklahomans with developmental and other mental disabilities. The complex covers over one hundred acres and is home to over 30 buildings, many of which appear to have been constructed during the period between 1945 to 1975. Information about the complex from the county is scarce, as it is an exempt property still owned by the State of Oklahoma. There are no sketch maps, with dates of construction for only a handful of the extant buildings, ranging from the 1950s to the 1980s. Some are obviously older. There are Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps with detailed information on the facility thru 1947. The facility closed in Fall 2014 as a result of state budget cuts but in its 100 plus years of existence, it had a significant impact on the local community as well as the region, serving families of children and adults with severe disabilities.<sup>25</sup>

### MAP 4: POTENTIAL OKLAHOMA INSTITUTION FOR THE FEEBLE MINDED HISTORIC DISTRICT



<sup>24</sup> See "Oklahoma Institution for Feeble Minded," [www.asylumprojects.org](http://www.asylumprojects.org), [http://www.asylumprojects.org/index.php?title=Oklahoma\\_Institution\\_for\\_Feeble\\_Minded](http://www.asylumprojects.org/index.php?title=Oklahoma_Institution_for_Feeble_Minded), May 2018.

<sup>25</sup> See Jessica Miller, "Closed: NORCE is no More," *Enid Daily News*, November 19, 2014.

3. Webster Park Historic District

Located in approximately a two-block area north of the Phillips University/Northern Oklahoma College Campus in Northeast Enid, there is a small, unique collection of mid-century houses surrounded by older, non-descript vernacular homes. Located within several separate blocks of the Webster Park Addition, the potential district is home to one of the best Tom Rogers designed residences, 2502 E Elm, as well as a round house and a geodesic dome. This area is fairly heavily wooded and with additional research, it might be possible to find additional modern style residences in the vicinity.

Property Address	Architectural Style	Date of Construction
2402 E Maple	Modern Movement	Ca 1965
2502 E Cypress	Contemporary	Ca 1970
2502 E Elm	Googie	1960
2505 E Elm	Contemporary	1960
2517 E Elm	Contemporary	1965
2524 E Elm	Contemporary	1965

**MAP 5: POTENTIAL WEBSTER PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT**



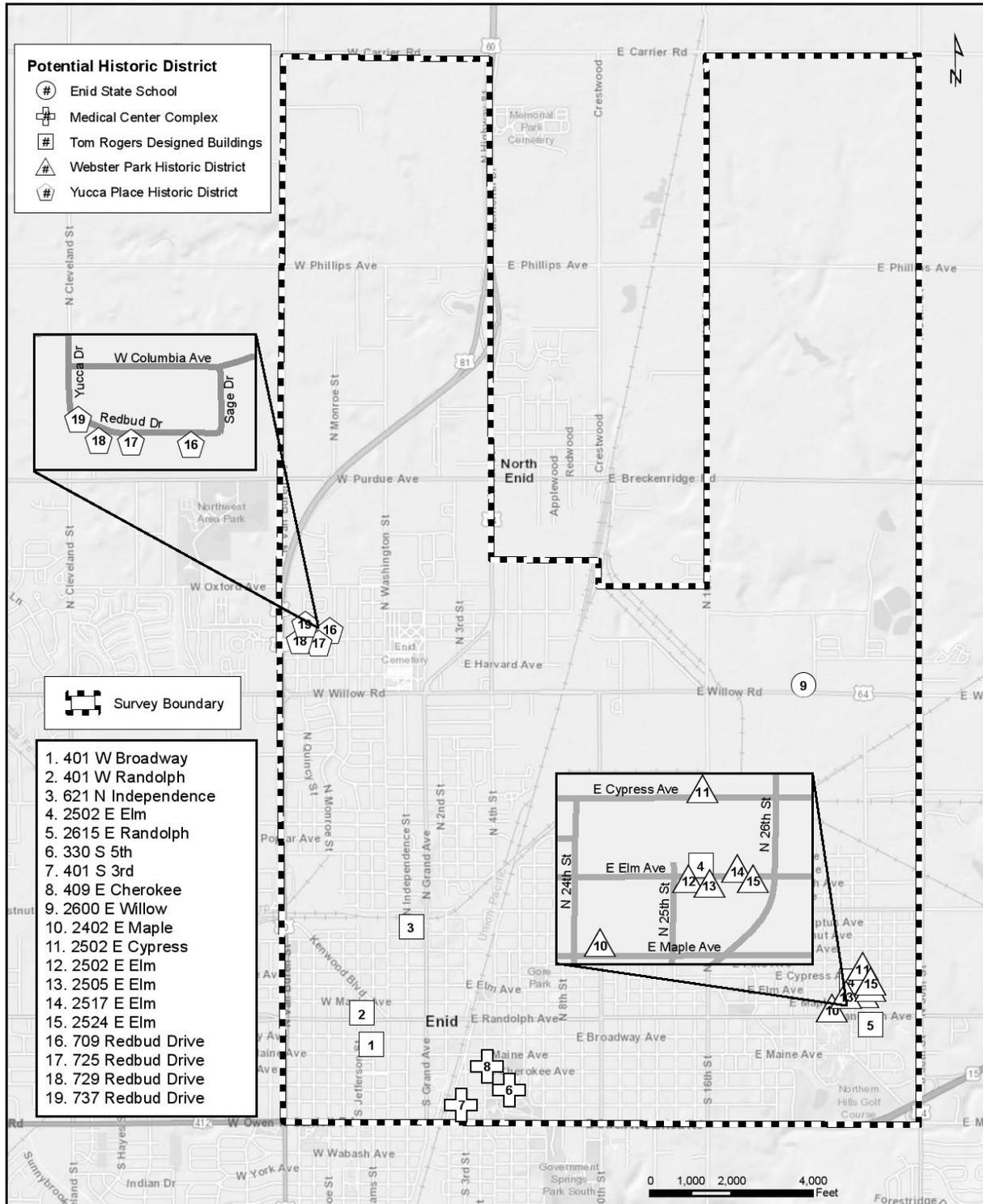
4. *Yucca Place Historic District*

Located just east of North Van Buren/Highway 60 on the northwestern edge of Enid, Yucca Place is a small residential subdivision with houses built in the early 1960s. This is a typical 1960s era residential subdivision, with modest rectangular ranch style homes, most with a single car garage. But on the southwestern side of this neighborhood, in block 6 in particular, the houses suddenly and dramatically change. The roof shapes are irregular (mixture of multiple roof types) and the materials used in unique ways (instead of brick being the exterior wall cladding, it becomes a low fence that runs from the entry to the edge of the property line). The houses on Redbud Drive are unique and overall, well preserved. There are more modern examples in this neighborhood than were recorded for this survey. Additional research into the platting of this subdivision and the designers/builders active in this neighborhood would be helpful in moving forward with a nomination for these examples of the modern movement.

**MAP 6: POTENTIAL YUCCA PLACE HISTORIC DISTRICT**



## Distribution of Potential Historic Districts in Survey Area



## List of Recorded Properties That Do Not Meet the NRHP Criteria

Property Address	Architectural Style	Date of Construction
103-113 S Van Buren	Modern Movement	Ca 1960
115 S Jackson	Modern Movement	1955
200 S 20 <sup>th</sup>	Modern Movement	1965
214 N 19 <sup>th</sup>	Contemporary	1967
215 S Van Buren	International	1965
217 E Pine	International	1945
220-226 W Pine	Modern Movement	1971
217 W Cherokee	Modern Movement	1953
230 W Maple	Modern Movement	1927/1970
304 E Broadway	Modern Movement	Ca 1975
314 N 17 <sup>th</sup>	Contemporary	1940/1977
316 E Oxford	Modern Movement	Ca 1970
309 W Cherokee	Modern Movement	Ca 1965
317-319 W Cherokee	Modern Movement	1960
323 W Cherokee	Modern Movement	1960
323 N Independence	Modern Movement	Ca 1975
400 W Cherokee	Modern Movement	1962
400 E Willow	Modern Movement	1960
408 W Willow	Modern Movement	1967
412 W Randolph	Modern Movement	1973
420 W Maine	Modern Movement	Ca 1950
465 N 19 <sup>th</sup>	Contemporary	1950
501 N Independence	Modern Movement	1950
501-531 E Broadway	Modern Movement	Ca 1960
502 E Maine	Modern Movement	Ca 1945

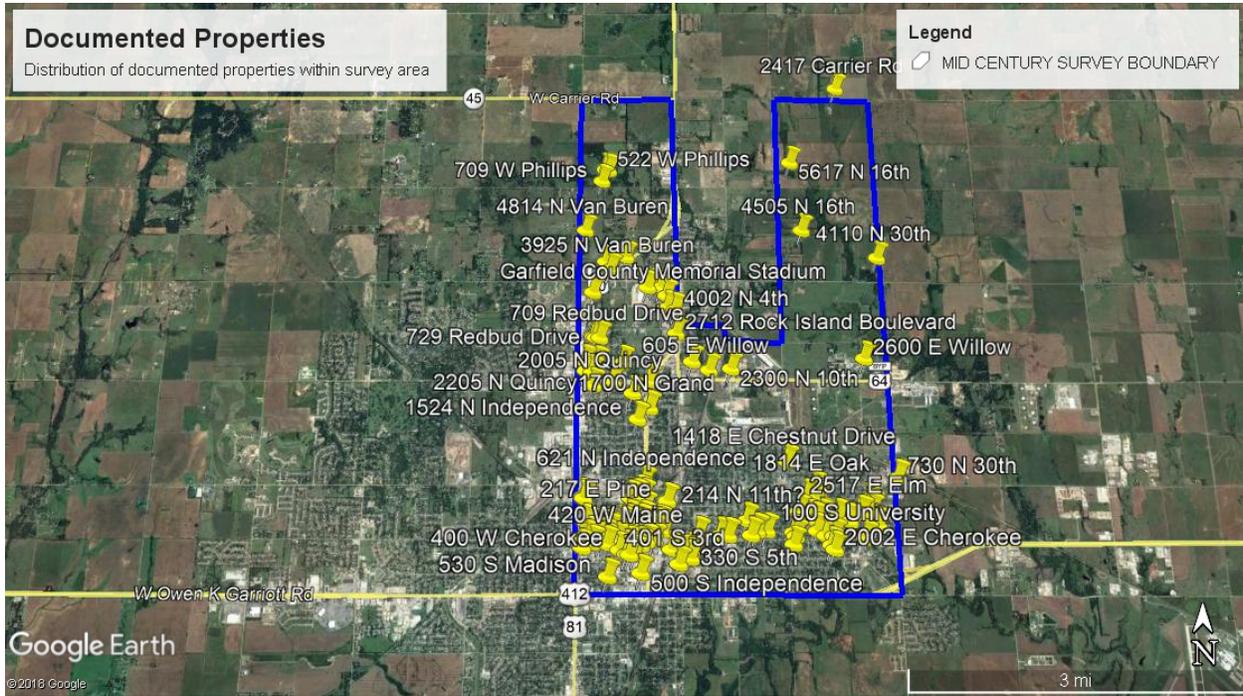
502-510 N Washington	Ranch	1966
504-510 N Independence	Modern Movement	Ca 1970
517 N Van Buren	Modern Movement	1964
519 N Van Buren	Modern Movement	1964
516 N Independence	Modern Movement	Ca 1970
502-522 W Broadway	Brutalism	Ca 1960
522 W Phillips	Ranch	1971
530 S Madison	Modern Movement	1973
605 E Willow	New Formalism	1950
611 W Maine	Modern Movement	1955
618 W Maine	Modern Movement	1960
623 W Broadway	Modern Movement	1964
701 W Broadway	Modern Movement	1970
702 W Phillips	Split Level	1960
702 W Willow	Modern Movement	1962
704 W Maine	New Formalism	1960
709 W Phillips	Split level	1979
712 W Willow	Neo-Expressionism	1966
729 E Maine	Modern Movement/International	Ca 1960/1970
731 E Broadway	Modern Movement	Ca 1965
Enid Public Schools Special Services Center 500 S Independence	New Formalism	Ca 1965
801 W Broadway	Modern Movement	1965
802 W Purdue Building A	Contemporary	1969
802 W Purdue Building B	Contemporary	1969

805 Chisholm Trail	Modern Movement	1977
805 W Maine	Modern Movement	1967
815 W Broadway	Modern Movement	Ca 1955
831 E Broadway	Eclectic	Ca 1950/1970
902 W Randolph	Modern Movement	1960
916-924 W Willow	Modern Movement	1965
1101-1105 E Broadway	Modern Movement	1950
1228 E Broadway	Modern Movement	1966
1418 E Chestnut	No Style	1970
1524 E Broadway	International	Ca 1950
1524 N Independence	Modern Movement	1960
1601 E Broadway	Modern Movement	1968
1700 N Grand	Modern Movement	Ca 1950
1725 E Pine	Contemporary	1950
1805 E Maple	Ranch	1950
1810 E Broadway	Modern Movement	Ca 1965
1814 E Oak	Contemporary	1956
1902 E Maple	Contemporary	1950
1905 E Pine	Shed	1950
1907 E Broadway	Contemporary	1965
1909 E Maple	Contemporary	1962
2002 E Cherokee	Ranch	1950
2005 E Broadway	Contemporary	Ca 1970
2205 N Quincy	Ranch	1960
2018 Meadowbrook	Ranch	Ca 1955
2110 N Grand	Modern Movement	1960
2200 E Randolph (addition)	Modern Movement	Ca 1975

2300 N 10 <sup>th</sup>	Modern Movement	1960
2321 N Van Buren	Modern Movement	1970
2417 E Carrier Rd	Quonset Hut	1950
2919 E Eucalyptus	Contemporary	1955
2712 Rock Island	Modern Movement	1960
3601 N Van Buren	Modern Movement	Ca 1975
3925 N Van Buren	Commercial Style	1966
4002 N 4 <sup>th</sup>	Modern movement	1950
4110 N 30 <sup>th</sup>	Modern Movement/Earth Shelter	Ca 1970
4121 US 81	Commercial Style	1969
4505 N 16 <sup>th</sup>	Ranch	1950
5617 N 16 <sup>th</sup>	Quonset Hut	1945
Garfield County Memorial Stadium	Art Deco	1948
Expo Center Building 1	No Distinctive Style	Ca 1950
Expo Center Building 4	Modern Movement	Ca 1950
Expo Center Building 7	Modern Movement	Ca 1950
Expo Center Shop Building	Modern Movement	Ca 1970

# Map Showing the Distribution of the Property Type within the Study Area

**MAP 7: MID-CENTURY MODERN PROPERTIES SCATTERED ACROSS NE ENID**





## Historic Context

Founded just prior to the Cherokee Outlet opening in September 1893, the city of Enid quickly became a regional center for business, transportation, agriculture, and education. After the dust of the land run settled, approximately two thousand people remained, determined to carve out a new community on the prairie. Enid's early prosperity was tied to agriculture, but the discovery of oil at the nearby Garber-Covington Field in 1916 forever changed the city's future. By 1920, the population of Enid was approximately 17,000.

Each of Oklahoma's significant oil towns seems to have its most prominent figure and in the early days of Enid's oil boom, that figure was Herbert H. Champlin. Not content to just drill wells, Champlin drilled wells, built pipeline, and established a successful refining operation in Enid. The established rail system in Enid allowed Champlin to quickly and efficiently move his refined products to nearby markets. Within a matter of years, Champlin was operating gas stations in up to twenty nearby states. By 1930, Enid's population had grown to approximately 26,000 persons. Growth remained virtually flat through the 1930s.

The expanding war effort in Europe and preparations on the home front resulted in tremendous demand for petroleum and petroleum products in the late 1930s and early 1940s. This led to increased exploration and drilling around Enid and elsewhere across the state. In 1940, a well drilled outside town set the state record for initial production, filling 27,000 barrels per day. In 1941, a pilot training school for the Army Air Corps was established south of town. This training facility was home to basic flying school for the Air Corps during World War II, bringing an influx of men and materials to the community. By 1944, Champlin Refining employed eight hundred people in Enid alone, with a number of other, smaller petroleum companies also in operation.<sup>26</sup>

The Enid community experienced steady economic and population growth following World War II. By 1960, the population stood at right under 39,000. The local oil and gas industry boomed during the 1960s, as did grain production and storage. After the war, operations at the air field in Enid ceased temporarily before Vance Air Force Base came into existence in 1948, as part of the newly formed United States Air Force.<sup>27</sup> Named for local Medal of Honor recipient Leon Robert Vance, Vance AFB specialized in advanced training for pilots and became the city's largest employer.<sup>28</sup> In the oil fields, the 1950s saw "the rate of depletion" exceed the number of local discoveries.<sup>29</sup> As a result, local oil

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<sup>26</sup> Gary L. Brown, "Enid," *Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, [www.okhistory.org](http://www.okhistory.org) (accessed February 2018); Bobby D. Weaver, "Champlin Refining Company," *Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, [www.okhistory.org](http://www.okhistory.org) (accessed February 2018); Kenny A. Franks, "Petroleum Industry," *Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, [www.okhistory.org](http://www.okhistory.org) (accessed February 2018); Dianna Everett, "Garber," *Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, [www.okhistory.org](http://www.okhistory.org) (accessed February 2018).

<sup>27</sup> "Fact Sheet," Vance Air Force Base, available online at <http://www.vance.af.mil/Portals/61/Docs/Fact%20Sheets/Vance%20Fact%20Sheet--2017%20Update--tls.pdf?ver=2017-02-28-091814-167>, accessed February 2018.

<sup>28</sup> Brown, "Enid."

<sup>29</sup> Kenny A. Franks, "Petroleum Industry."

companies looked beyond Oklahoma, to other states and even to overseas areas, always looking for the next great field. But Oklahoma companies experienced tremendous success internationally, often maintaining their local corporate presence and benefitting their home communities.<sup>30</sup> In 1967, Enid resident Harold Hamm formed Shelley Dean Oil Company. A native of Lexington, Oklahoma, Hamm finished high school in Enid where he first became interested in the oil and gas industry. Hamm began his career driving supply trucks before saving enough to drill his first well. Hamm drilled his first successful well in Alfalfa County in 1971, setting up his corporate headquarters in his adopted hometown of Enid.<sup>31</sup>

The oil and gas prospects of Enid and the rest of the state changed significantly in the late 1970s, when international events, especially in the middle east, negatively affected the availability of foreign oil in the United States. Around the same time, regulatory changes were made that affected how drillers could drill and how deep they could drill for natural gas. Within a short span of time, there was a new boom in the state and operations in Enid and across the state ramped up yet again. Population growth in Enid continued through the 1970s, with the population reaching 44,986 by the end of the decade and into the early 1980s when the population peaked at just over 50,000.<sup>32</sup>

Shortly thereafter, the boom and bust cycle of the Oklahoma oil and gas industry manifested itself yet again, resulting in an economic downturn that affected most all Oklahoma industries. Oil and gas prices fell, banks closed, businesses failed and even the price of land dropped significantly. Even Enid's Phillips University suffered, requiring a local bailout in 1987 before it ultimately closed in 1998. Enid's population fell from its high of 50,363 to 45,309 in 1990. In the 1990s, Harold Hamm struck oil just outside of Enid. In 1995, Shelley Dean Oil Company became Continental Resources. While maintaining his growing corporate presence in Enid, Hamm subsequently made millions in Colorado. Despite setbacks as the price of oil collapsed at the end of the 1990s, Hamm persisted, utilizing new technology to tap reserves in Montana and the Dakotas. Harold Hamm had become Enid's new oil baron. Oil and gas prosperity and activities at the Vance Air Force Base helped the population rebound to 47,045 by 2000. It had reached 49,522 by 2010.<sup>33</sup>

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<sup>30</sup> Kenny A. Franks, "Petroleum Industry."

<sup>31</sup> Nathan Vardi, "The Last American Wildcatter," *Forbes*, 15 January 2009, available online at <https://www.forbes.com/forbes/2009/0202/066.html#117d5e3e3681>, accessed February 2018.

<sup>32</sup> Kenny A. Franks, "Petroleum Industry;" Nathan Vardi, "The Last American Wildcatter."

<sup>33</sup> Gary L. Brown, "Enid;" Nathan Vardi, "The Last American Wildcatter."

## Summary

Despite its isolated location, the City of Enid has been blessed with abundant natural resources, helping the community to achieve economic prosperity through agriculture and oil and gas related activities. Its economic good fortune allowed Enid to take advantage of the creativity of well trained Oklahoma architects in the decades following the Second World War. Subsequently, this hand full of modern architects left their mark on this small Oklahoma town.

Building upon earlier surveys, this thematic survey of mid-century architectural resources in a portion of Northeast Enid identified additional individual properties as well as potential districts with modern resources. Hopefully, this information will be utilized to nominated individually eligible properties and/or districts in the future, as well as to further investigate certain clusters of mid-century resources, particularly those centered in the Medical Center complex and at the Enid State School.

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