

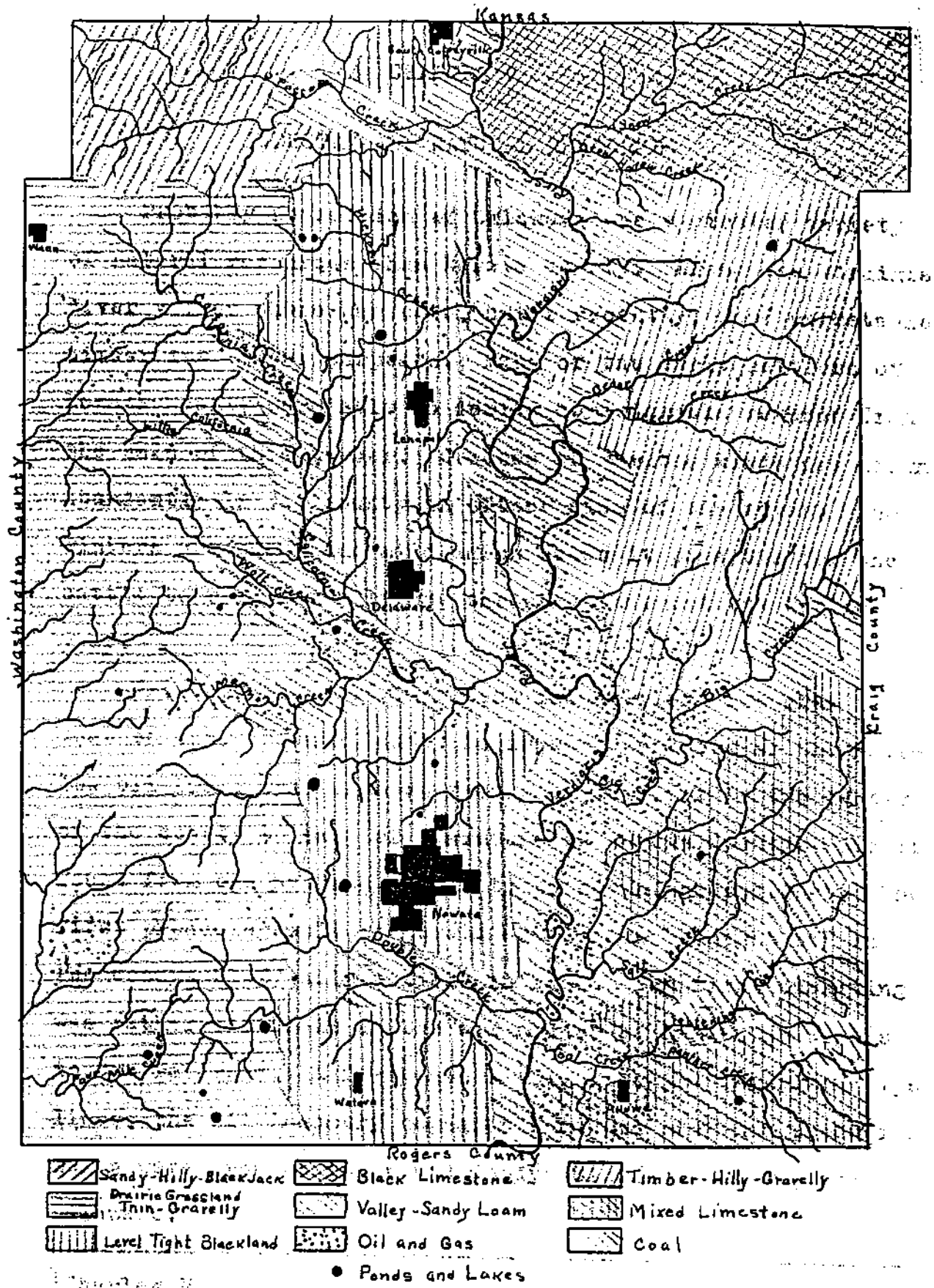
chartered government prevailed and the town of Nowata became relatively peaceful (2).

Natural Resources

The timber along the Verdigris River and its tributaries was of good quality at the time of Nowata's settlement [Fig. 6]. Many carloads of walnut logs were cut and shipped by rail to northern furniture factories after the railroad was extended to Nowata. Cottonwood logs, also from the Verdigris valley, were of high quality and suitable for building purposes. Thus a good grade of locally-produced lumber was available for the construction of the town's early wood-frame buildings (3).

The area around Nowata was and still is a major coal producer, especially to the southeast of the city. The coal is located near the surface, therefore, strip, or surface, mining is the common method employed in securing the coal. Most of the early coal production was used locally for heating purposes; however, in recent years, the Peabody Coal Company, a St. Louis-based firm, has shipped to out-of-state markets [Fig. 7] (4).

The principal impetus for the early growth of Nowata was provided by the opening of the oil and gas fields. The first producing oil well in the Nowata vicinity was drilled in the Coodys Bluff-Alluwe Field, southeast of the city, in 1904. The first activity in the Delaware-Childers Pool, northeast of Nowata, was in 1905. It was followed by the



Nowata County

FIG. 6. NATURAL RESOURCES IN NOWATA COUNTY
 Source: Gay, F. M., "History of Nowata County" (1937)

famous Hog Shooter discovery in western Nowata County in 1906.

The Coodys Bluff-Alluwe-Chelsea District was one of the most active pools in Oklahoma in 1905-06. A total of 1,490 wells were drilled, all of which produced various quantities of crude. The Delaware-Childers Pool, by 1911, was producing from approximately 475 wells with an initial output of 120 barrels per day.

The Lenapah District, almost due north of Nowata, was opened in 1904 by the Bearea Oil and Gas Company. It flowed at 500 barrels per day at a depth of 980 feet. Additional pools opened in Nowata County including Elliott (1909), north of the Lenapah District; and the Adair (1911) and South Coffeyville (1915) were opened in the northern portion of the county (5).

Four major companies operated in and around Nowata including Prairie Sinclair, Harmon-Whitehill, Delaware Consolidated, and Forest Petroleum. Most of these wells, drilled at shallow depths, produced steadily until the 1930s. During the oil boom period, oil well supplies were shipped into Nowata by rail and freighted out to the wells by wagon. It was reported that every morning 150 to 300 teams left the city of Nowata for the oil fields, loaded with supplies (6). One oil well drilled in Nowata struck "radium" water at a depth of 1,500 feet. A promotional pamphlet published in 1906 by the Nowata Commercial Club extolled the healing power of this water. And eventually a

radium water bathhouse of eighty-five rooms was added to one of Nowata's hotels, the still extant Savoy (7).

In addition to oil, significant quantities of natural gas were discovered in the Nowata region. It was first used as a heating fuel for homes, businesses, and industries in the city. Later, surplus natural gas was shipped via a pipeline to Coffeyville, Kansas and other communities in the area. A number of natural gas companies were based in and around Nowata. The Henderson Gasoline Company, for example, was headquartered in Nowata. It became one of the largest manufacturers of casinghead gas in the 1920s (8).

By the 1930s, most of these oil and gas wells were in a state of decline. But the early discoveries in and around Nowata had greatly enhanced its position as a center for the county's oil district, and provided major stimulus for the blossoming of the city during the first twenty-five years of its existence.

During the Great Depression, petroleum engineers advised operators in the Nowata area to recondition oil and gas wells by cleaning and repairing pipe casings and deepening selected wells to lower oil-bearing sand.

The Coodys Bluff-Alluwe-Chelsea District was one of the first in the nation to demonstrate the effectiveness of "water flooding" as a conservation technique to secure maximum recovery of the petroleum remaining in the individual wells. Nowata's role as a petroleum center was enhanced during World War II because of oil supplies needed

in the wartime effort. This event allowed Nowata to regain some of its petroleum activity lost in the Great Depression years of the 1930s (9).

Agriculture

Along the Verdigris River were some of the richest alluvial soils in northeastern Oklahoma, sometimes the bottom land extending up to 2-3 miles wide [Fig. 6]. Although some cotton was grown along the river and creek bottoms, it was corn that became the major crop. It was not only a staple crop used locally by farmers for feeding livestock, but also a crop for which there was usually a market at some price (10).

In terms of livestock, the pioneer farmers around Nowata possessed at minimum a team of horses and/or mules, a milk cow, and some hogs and chickens. Horse and mule production for the earliest agriculturalists was important because these animals served as the primary source for travel other than railroads. More important, they were the principal source of power in preparation of the soil for planting, cultivation of the crops, and eventual harvesting of the produce.

Dairying was also an important component of the farm economy around Nowata. It served as a food supply source for farm families as well as for cash income. Raw milk was sold at milk depots in Nowata, but the major use of milk was in the production of cream and butter. These by-products

were either sold by the farmers themselves or marketed at local creameries in Nowata.

Poultry provided a complementary produce to dairying. "Butter and egg" cash was a significant source of income for local farmers, who used the income derived from these products to purchase goods and services in downtown Nowata, or traded the produce with local merchants for "store-bought" goods (11).

Unfortunately, the agricultural economy around Nowata fell on hard times in the 1930s, like so many other communities in Oklahoma. Farmers had not conserved the soil adequately. The rich soil was quickly reaching a depleted stage. With the help of the county extension service, farmers turned to crop rotation, cover crops such as legumes, and the use of farm manure to restore nutrients to the exhausted soil. The New Deal of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's administration offered a variety of programs to aid the depression-ridden farmer. The triple A (Agricultural Adjustment Act) set aside acreage to curb overproduction, the R.E.A. (Rural Electrical Administration) brought electricity to farm families, and the C.C.C. (Civilian Conservation Corps) introduced new techniques in soil and water conservation. A C.C.C. camp was located in Nowata in the 1930s. The C.C.C. operation in Nowata supervised a land survey of the county and introduced terracing to local farmers to help with soil conservation (12).

Rural farm population in Nowata County had decreased by almost 50 percent in 1950. This was primarily because of the combining of farm units and mechanization of farms in the 1930s and 1940s. Agriculture, however, remained the largest source of income in the county by 1950 with beef cattle and dairying the major activities. The main crops in the county by 1950 were hay, wheat, corn, sorghum, and alfalfa. This reflected a more diversified farming plan employed by Nowata County farmers during the 1930s and 1940s. Beef cattle were shipped to markets in Kansas City, Joplin, Tulsa, and Parsons. Production of hogs, poultry, and sheep added more variety to farming operations in the diversification process (13).

Commercial Establishments

To serve the farmers and petroleum workers of the surrounding countryside, Nowata developed a vigorous central business district. For construction of such buildings as homes, barns, outbuildings, and oil derricks, Nowata boasted of four lumberyards by the 1920s. Three banks with resources totaling \$2.5 million and deposits amounting to \$1.7 million provided adequate loans for merchants, farmers, and petroleum producers as well as a safe depository for their incomes. Three seed houses and two grain elevators were necessary facilities in order for the area farmers to produce and store their crops (14).

Three hotels by the 1920s indicated a growth in business and industrial activity. Two of these remain

extant--Savoy and Campbell. These were used to house visiting petroleum company officials, lease buyers, and other businessmen visiting the city. In addition to these commercial establishments, Nowata boasted a variety of other stores which catered to city residents and visitors including groceries, dry goods, hardwares, millineries and haberdasheries, drug stores, cafes and restaurants, saloons and billiard parlors, machine and blacksmith shops, garages and automobile agencies, barber shops, and an undertaking business (15).

The first building in Nowata was the railroad depot erected in 1889. The first structure to house a business was J.E. Campbell's general store, which was followed by Nowata's first hotel constructed by W.V. Carey. Both of these wood-frame buildings were destroyed by fire shortly after the town was founded. Campbell later rebuilt his store in 1894 which was Nowata's second brick building and remains extant today. It had been preceded by another brick structure, Henry Armstrong's Farmers Supply Company. The post office building was the third permanent brick building in the downtown area (16).

By 1950, Nowata's position as a trade center for the county remained intact with two banks serving the agricultural and petroleum sectors of the local economy. The Savoy Hotel, only one remaining, operated in the downtown area, but two new motels accommodated visitors and travelers along U.S. Highway 160. The Rex Theater in the

central business district retained its role as a major entertainment center for the community; however, Nowata boasted a drive-in by this time. Additional commercial establishments by 1950 included nine cafes, five nursing homes, bus station, bowling alley, and roller skating rink (17).

Schools and Churches

Other than commercial buildings, among the first to be constructed were schools and churches which reflected Nowata's interest in education and religion. Under Cherokee rule at the outset, there was no provision for public taxation to support public schools in Nowata. The residents, therefore, pooled their resources to build a wood-frame school house and the first term opened in 1892. The first permanent high school building was not erected until 1918 followed by an elementary school building a year later (18). By 1920 total enrollment in Nowata's schools were 1,406 with the following distribution of the biracial composition of the student population and accommodation for separate schools: white elementary, 874; white high school, 318; black elementary, 161; and black high school, 53 (19).

At the first auction of lots for Nowata, a number were purchased for churches. Initially, a small, wood-frame structure was erected on one of these lots which was used by all the existing religious denominations. In 1919 the original wood structure was replaced with a brick building which became the Baptist church. The Presbyterian Church,

constructed in 1908 at 202 West Delaware, was the first denomination to have a permanent facility (OLI 1993). Other denominations quickly followed in the construction of church buildings including the Methodists (1910), Christian (1911), Episcopal (1912), and Catholics (1919). By the 1920s, Nowata had seven churches with an estimated membership of 1,500. Of these seven churches, only the Presbyterian building remains intact and it has several additions (20).

Politics and Government

The city of Nowata was included in 1905 in the proposed Indian state of Sequoyah in the county of Lenapah [Fig. 8]. This proposed county contained approximately one-fourth of Washington County in addition to the present area of Nowata County. Following the determination by the Federal government that Oklahoma would be one state rather than two, the Oklahoma state constitutional convention met in Guthrie in 1907. At this time, Nowata was selected as the temporary county seat of Nowata County. In 1908, when the permanent county seat was decided by a popular vote, Nowata won the heated contest over Delaware (21).

During the Indian Territorial era, the United States Congress established courts in several towns throughout the territory. Nowata was selected as one of those sites in 1904. The third story of the First National Bank of Nowata served as meeting space for the Federal courtroom (22).

Nowata was one of the first communities in Oklahoma to adopt the commission form of municipal government in 1913.

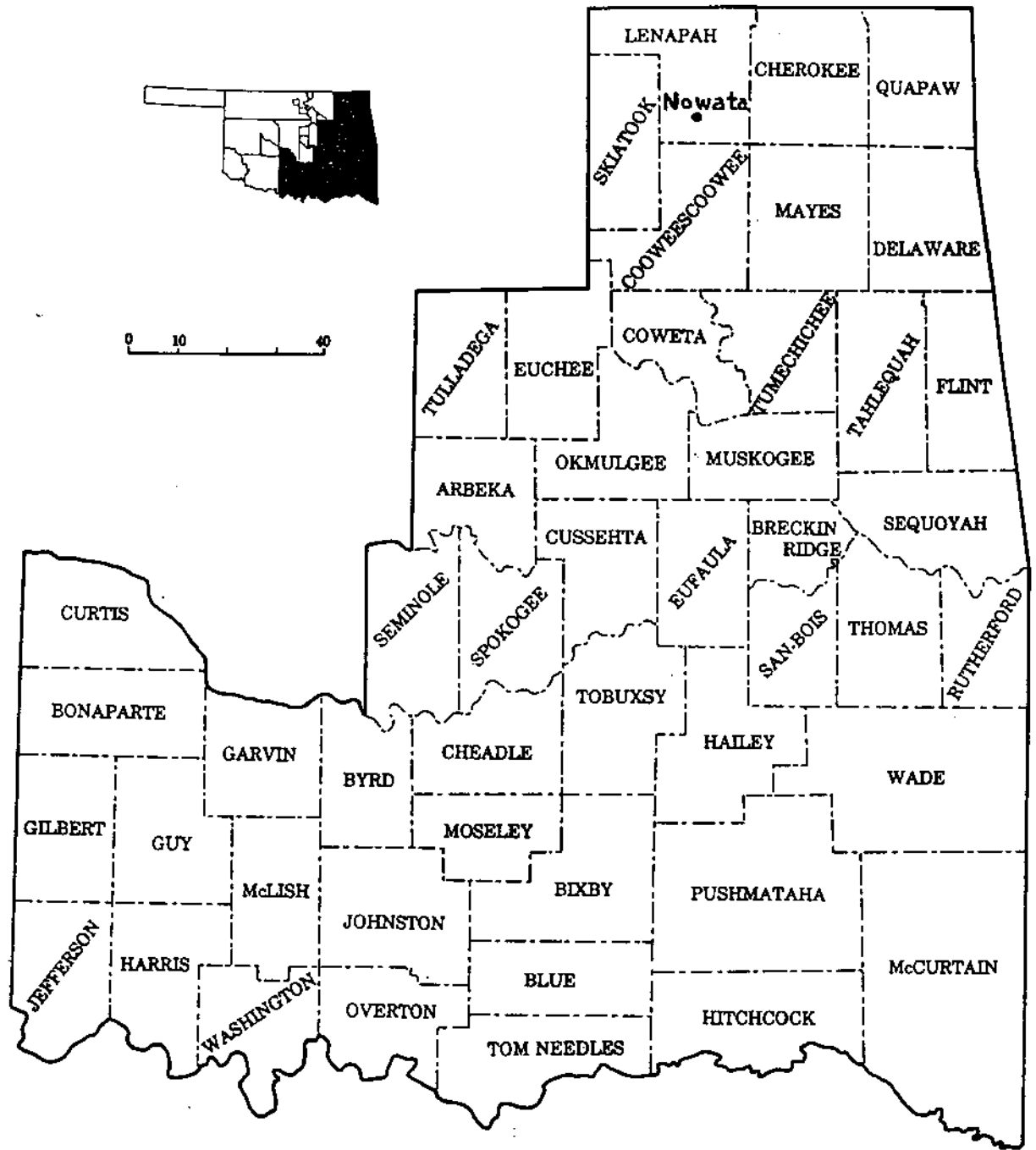


FIG. 8. NOWATA IN PROPOSED STATE OF SEQUOYAH
 Source: Morris et al, Historical Atlas of Oklahoma (1986), 56.

By the 1930s, the city was guided by a city manager-commission type of local government (23) [Fig. 9].

By 1950, Nowata retained its position as the county seat of Nowata County. This served as a local focal point for county legal and political activities, and enabled the town to attract county residents who needed to engage in political matters. The city remained guided by the city manager-commission form of municipal government with the mayor elected to the commission and serving as a dignitary for city promotional events (24).

Cultural Events and Social Clubs

The city of Nowata was not without its sociocultural history. One of the earliest social clubs to promote literary readings and musical performances was the La-Kee-Kon Women's Club organized in 1903. It was an award-winning member of the Oklahoma State Federation of Womens Clubs. In addition to the Women's Club, a Nowata Music Club, organized in 1905, was influential in bringing to Nowata "many treats in the way of music, art, and lectures; and is encouraging the development and love for things artistic in Nowata" (25). In another source, Nowata residents were described to have a keen interest in cultural events and said to have been "very much interested in music and art" with outstanding musical talent cultivated under the leadership of Mrs. E.B. Lawson, Mrs. J. Wood Glass, and Mrs. T.R. McSpadden (26). The Chamber of Commerce was reported to have membership in practically every household in Nowata,

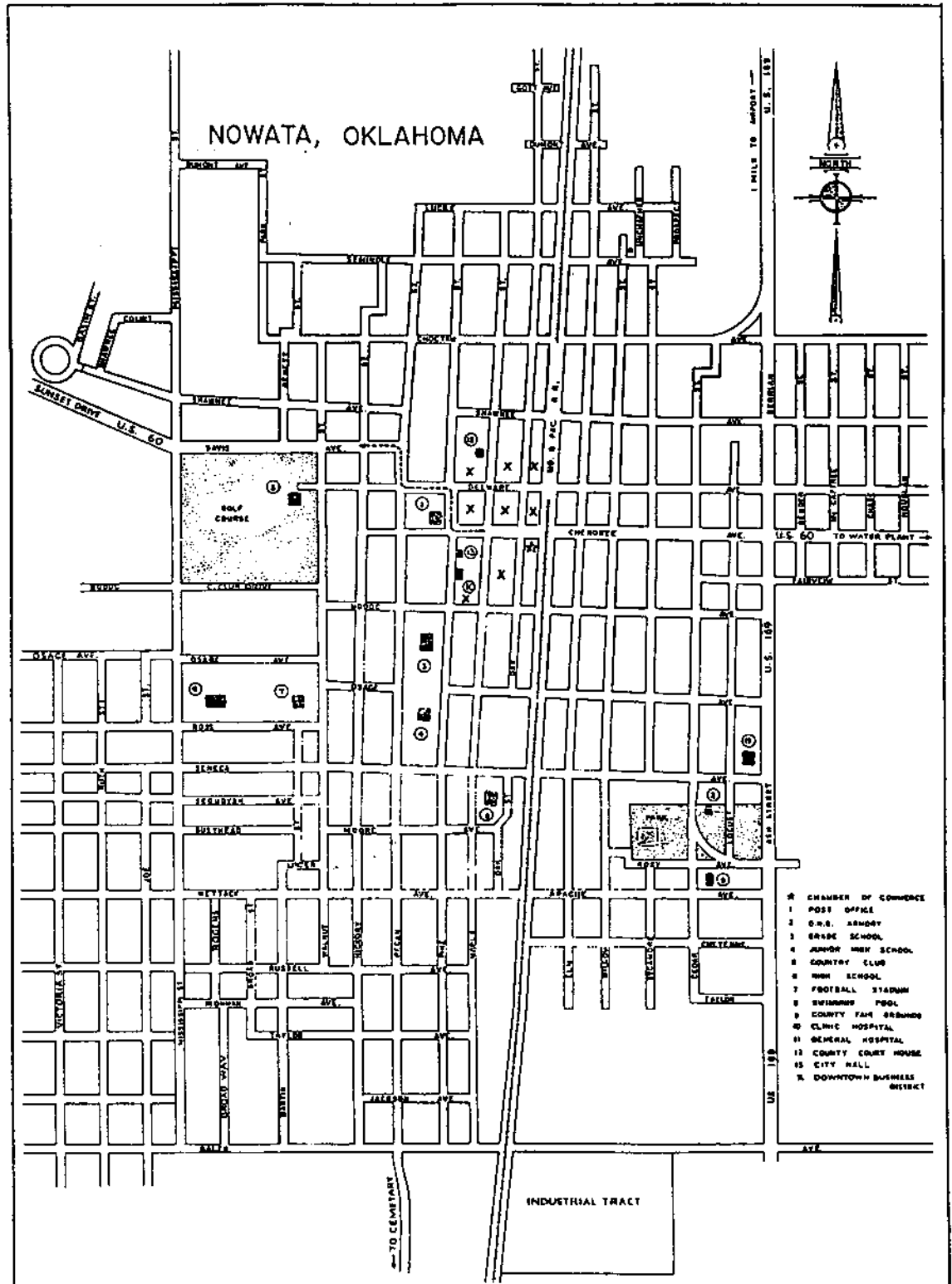


FIG. 9. NOWATA: STREETS AND LANDMARKS
 Source: Economic Base Report: Nowata Oklahoma Employment Securities Commission (1966)

and was responsible for raising donations to pave 50 blocks in the residential section by 1925. Finally, civic clubs were first organized by 1920 with the Rotary and Lions among the first (27).

Social and cultural activities in Nowata during the 1930s and 1940s focused on its country club and golf course, public swimming pool, and two city parks. Nearby Oologah Reservoir provided fishing and hunting for the local recreationists. Civic clubs, e.g., Rotary and Lions, the Nowata Daily Star, and the Nowata Public Library also served as sources of social interaction for the town's residents.

CUSHING

Founding and Naming

New treaties completed in 1866 in Washington, D.C. with each of the Five Civilized Tribes provided land in the western part of Indian Territory for the settlement of tribes from other parts of the United States. One of these tribes was the Sac and Fox which was allotted land in the Creek Nation. Their reservation was a twenty mile area between the Cimarron River on the north, North Canadian River on the south, Creek Nation on the east, and the Iowa and Kickapoo reservations to the west (28).

The Organic Act of May 2, 1890 provided allotments of 160 acres of land to each of the 549 Sac and Fox Indians. This left many quarter sections of land available to the first who made proper claim in the second land run of September 22, 1891. Some 85,000 acres were declared open at this time [Fig. 10].

William Rae Little, an Indian trader, was familiar with the Sac and Fox land as he had secured a government trading license in the Sac and Fox Nation in 1882. His objective was to obtain a suitable homestead in a good location that would become a townsite. He claimed the NE 1/4 of Section 4 T17-N-R-5-E at the Guthrie land office on September 28, 1891. Here "Billy" Little built a 14X28 frame house in the center of his 160-acre claim with all the materials hauled by team and wagon from Guthrie (29) [Photo 1].

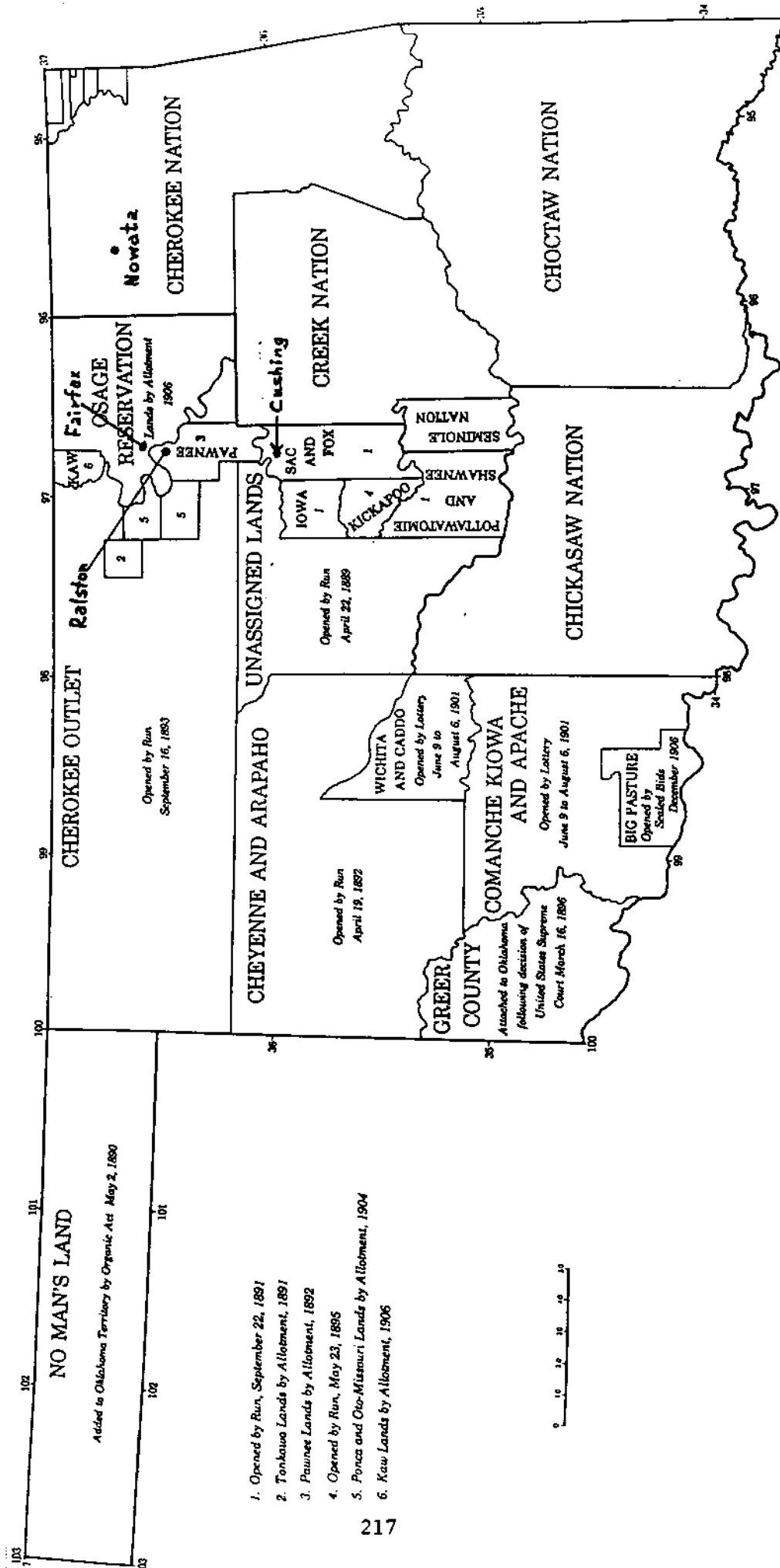
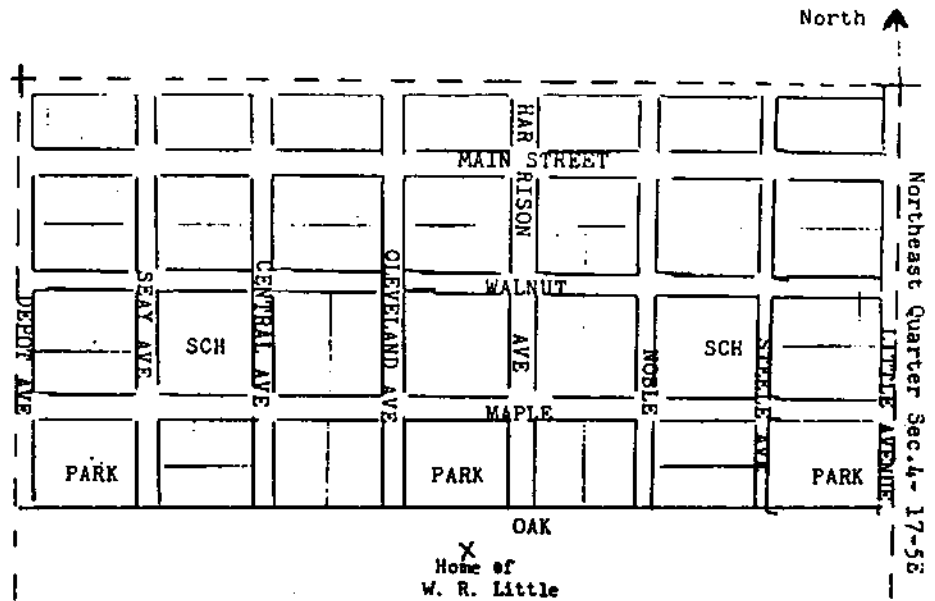


FIG. 10. SAC AND FOX RESERVATION-LAND RUN OF 1891
 Source: Morris et al, Historical Atlas of Oklahoma (1986), 48.



C. W. Carpenter & Co. Store, Cushing's first general store

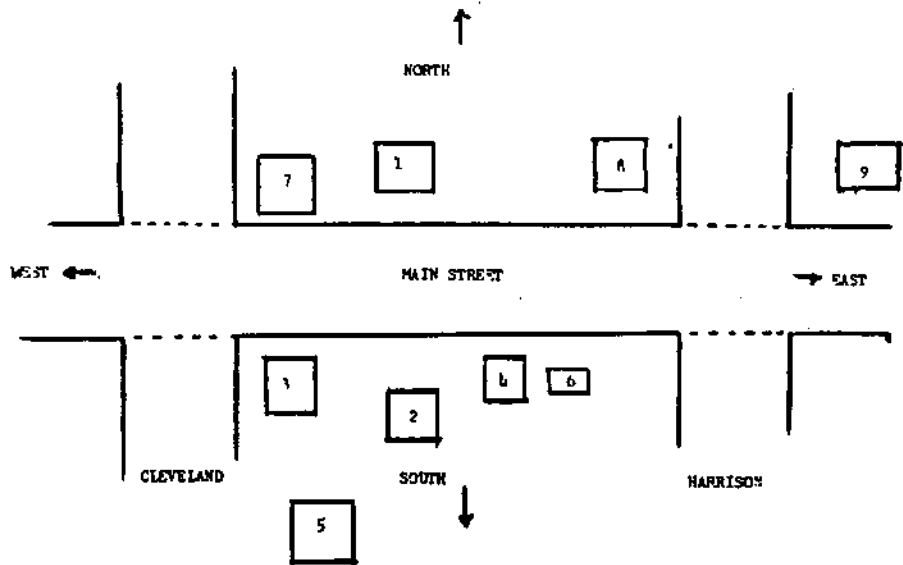
PHOTO 1. LOCATION OF LITTLE HOME AND C. W. CARPENTER STORE-CUSHING
 Source: Wells, L. L., Young Cushing in Oklahoma Territory (1975), 12 and 101.

On January 18, 1892 Billy Little filed an application with the Guthrie land office to commit 80 acres of his land for a townsite. A surveyed plat was filed with the application and on August 9, 1892 the sale of lots on the townsite was launched. Ten acres were set aside for parks, schools, and other public purposes. On November 1, 1894 the town was organized as a municipality [Fig. 11].

Securing a United States Post Office was also one of Little's goals. Several names were suggested including "Littleton" (after Little), "Keokuk," and "Center." Territorial Congressman Dennis Flynn wisely suggested to Little that the post office be named for the man who would be directly responsible for approving the post office application. Marshall Cushing, private secretary to John Wanamaker, Postmaster General in President Benjamin Harrison's cabinet, was sent a wire with the message: "Give us a post office 43 miles northeast of Guthrie and it will bear your name." The application for the post office was approved on November 10, 1891, less than two months after the Land Run of 1891, and Cushing was the name (30).

Natural Resources

Following Tom Slick's strike on the Frank Wheeler farm, approximately twelve miles east of Cushing, Cushing became the focal point of the new oil field because it was the principal town in the area and the closest railroad outlet [Fig. 12]. The new oil field was named "Cushing," and the Tulsa World called it the "Queen of the Oil Field." When



**FIRST TOWNSITE September 1892
of Cushing, Oklahoma Territory**

- 1 Wynfield Hull moved store from west hill, July 1892
- 2 T. B. Brown moved small store building from east of town, July 1892
- 3 Home-Harness Shop of George Robertson built July, 1892
- 4 Saloon owned by James G. "Jay" Greenlee
- 5 Branstetter's Blacksmith Shop
- 6 Marion Eaton's Barber Shop
- 7 Small store; Postoffice moved here from McGuffin's home
- 8 Mrs. Fox's Hotel and Restaurant
- 9 L. B. "Doc" Hay's Drugstore

Main Street was only a trail; although Cleveland and Harrison Avenues were platted, they were not opened as thoroughfares.

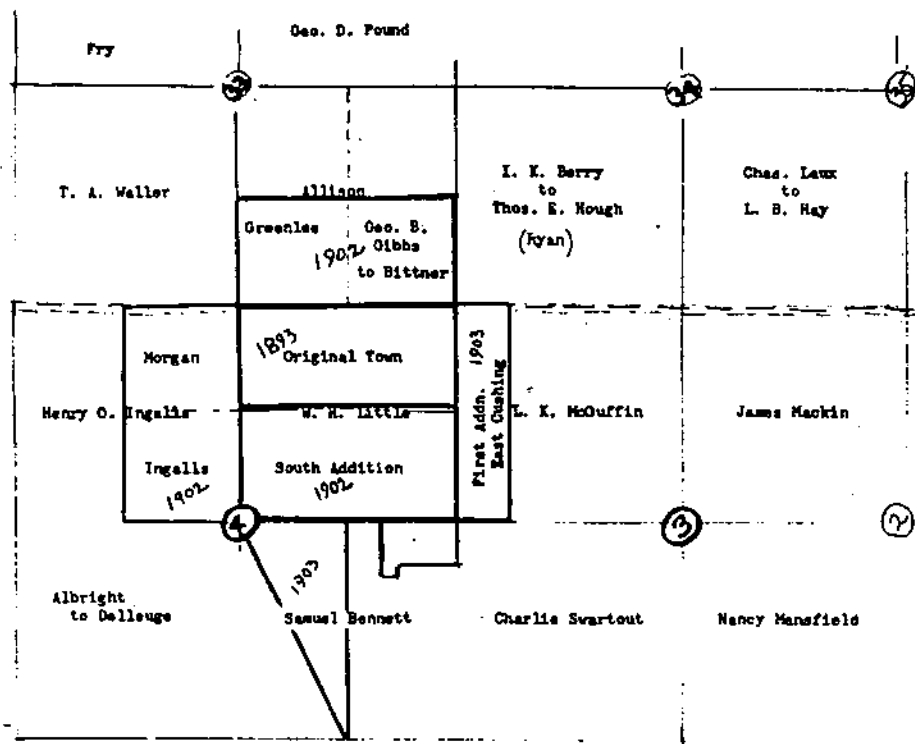
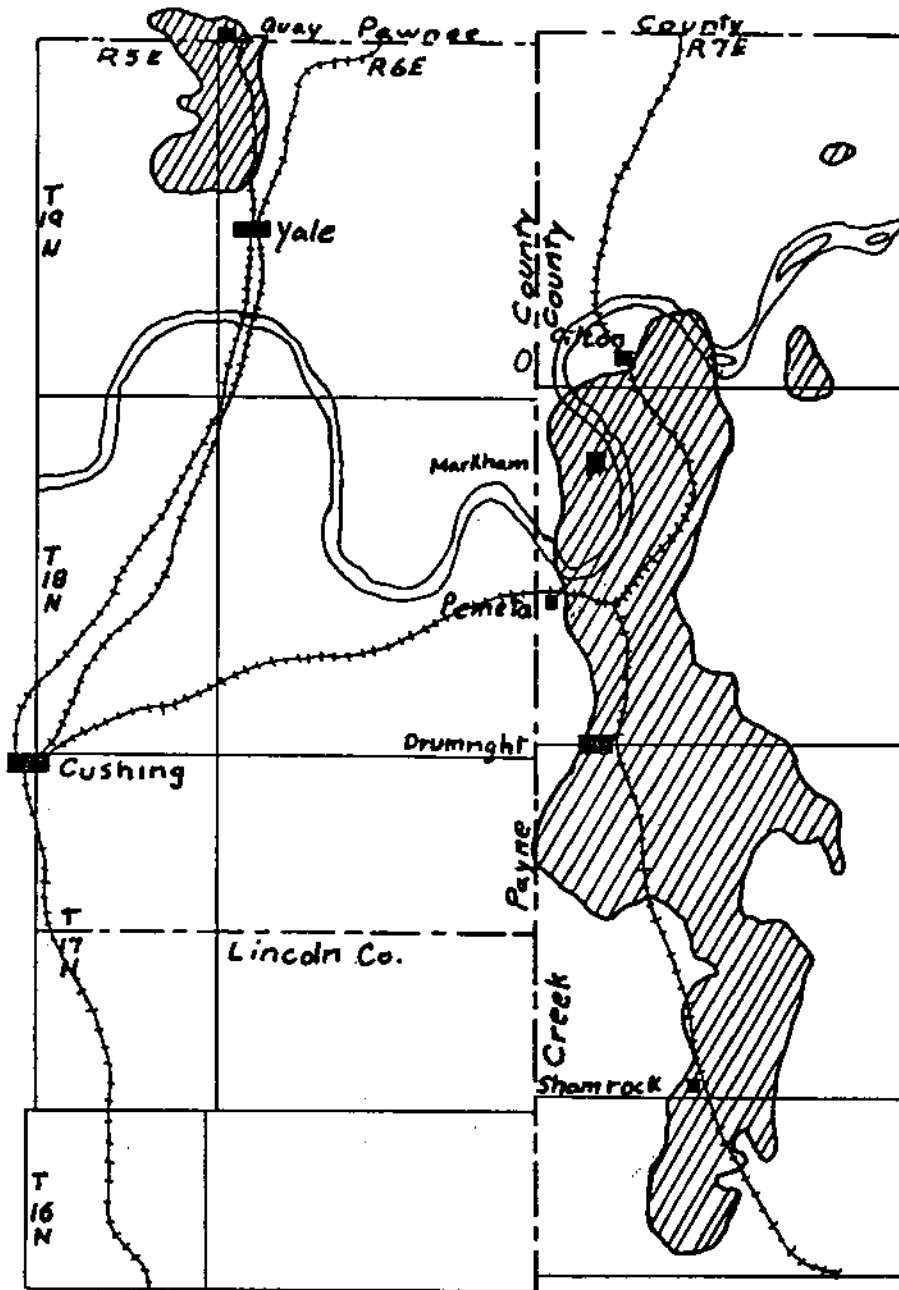


FIG. 11. CUSHING TOWNSITE (1892) AND ADDITIONS (1903)
Source: Wells, L. L., Young Cushing in Oklahoma Territory (1975), 11 and 25.



Source: Luther C. Snider, Oil and Gas in the Mid-Continent Fields (Oklahoma City, 1920), p. 216.

Map of Cushing Oil Field

production peaked at over 300,000 barrels per day in 1915, the population of Cushing was estimated at 7,500, a dramatic increase over its 800 when oil was discovered. Harlow's Weekly noted that if Tulsa was ever to have a rival for oil supremacy in the Mid-Continent Fields, it was likely to be Cushing (31).

Cushing was the chief center for the petroleum business in the Cushing Field. Nine refineries had been erected by 1915, and some 30 operated at one time or another during the boom period from 1912 to 1920. Five major oil field supply companies established distribution warehouses in Cushing including Jarecki, Continental, Nation, Frick-Reid, and Oil Well. Cushing became known as the "Pipeline Capital of the United States" with lines running to Missouri (Kansas City and St. Louis), Texas (Port Arthur, Gainesville, and Beaumont), Louisiana (Baton Rouge), Indiana (Whiting), Illinois (Chicago and East St. Louis), and West Tulsa. Storage facilities were needed because of the surplus production and to store oil while awaiting higher prices. In 1915, the tank building payroll exceeded \$200,000 a month and provided significant employment for Cushing's economy. The largest tank farm in the world was constructed by White and Sinclair just outside of Cushing. It covered 160 acres and contained four-hundred 55,000 barrel tanks with an estimated storage capacity of approximately 60 million barrels (32).

Cushing was the hub of transportation activity for the oil field. In 1913 it was estimated that about 350 teams of horses, mules, and wagons left Cushing each morning loaded with supplies for work in the field. Cushing's Katy Depot (remains extant) ranked second only to the one in St. Louis in freight receipts, while its Santa Fe Depot ranked first in Oklahoma in its company's receipts. The Santa Fe extended in four directions from Cushing. The line from Newkirk to Pauls Valley placed Cushing on the Santa Fe main line from Kansas City to the Gulf Coast, and branches of the Santa Fe extended into the oil field to Pemeta and Drumright, boom towns to the east of Cushing (33).

Of the refineries, the largest was the Consumers. Built in 1912 by Charles Shaffer, who financed the first drilling by Slick in the Cushing Oil Field, it had an initial capacity of 3,000 barrels of refined oil and gasoline per day with a storage capacity of 140,000 barrels and 150 tank cars to carry oil to distant markets. Located on a 200-acre tract northeast of Cushing, the Consumer's Refinery was handling 5,000 barrels of crude daily by 1918. Shaffer sold his operations in 1919 to the Deep Rock Corporation which continued refining oil and gas until 1955 when Kerr-McGee corporation bought the plant. The refinery at this time maintained a capacity of 19,000 barrels a day and employed 575 workers. In 1971, Kerr-McGee closed operations of the refinery. The equipment was sold and removed in July, 1972 (34).

Although the boom period lasted only about eight years, the Cushing Field was producing at one time an amount that surpassed all the oil then being produced in North, Central, and South America. It dramatically changed the economy and landscape of Cushing for more than sixty years.

By 1940, Cushing's population had declined from the 1930 figure of 9,301 to 7,703. This decrease of 1,598 residents (roughly 17 percent) was due to a number of economic factors, primarily as a result of the Great Depression of the 1930s. During this decade, petroleum engineers recommended to operators that wells be reconditioned and selected wells deepened to lower oil-bearing sand. The Cushing Field output, however, continued to diminish, and by 1937, daily production had dropped to 10,500 barrels (35).

During the 1940s, the population of Cushing rebounded so that by 1950 it had gained 711 residents. Much of this growth was attributed to a boost in the local petroleum economy because of World War II. Cushing's tank farm stored approximately 15,000,000 barrels of oil and two of the original twelve refineries maintained crude oil processing facilities--Deep Rock and Hudson--both of which employed 300-500 workers. Cushing thus retained its role as the "Pipeline Crossroads of the World" throughout the 1940s as it boasted a dozen major pipeline companies and six pumping stations (36).

Agriculture

Cushing was located in a transitional zone between the wheat and cotton zones of Oklahoma. While no crop was dominant in the area around Cushing, cotton was the most important cash crop grown until the 1930s. It was followed by corn, sorghum, oats and hay in relative importance. Wheat was raised only on the larger farms. Farms around Cushing ranged in size from 40 to 160 acres with the most common combination of crops on a 160-acre farm consisting of the following: 35 acres of cotton, 25 acres of sorghum, 20 acres of oats, 15 acres of wheat, 10 acres of corn, 10 acres of hay, and 45 acres of pasture (37).

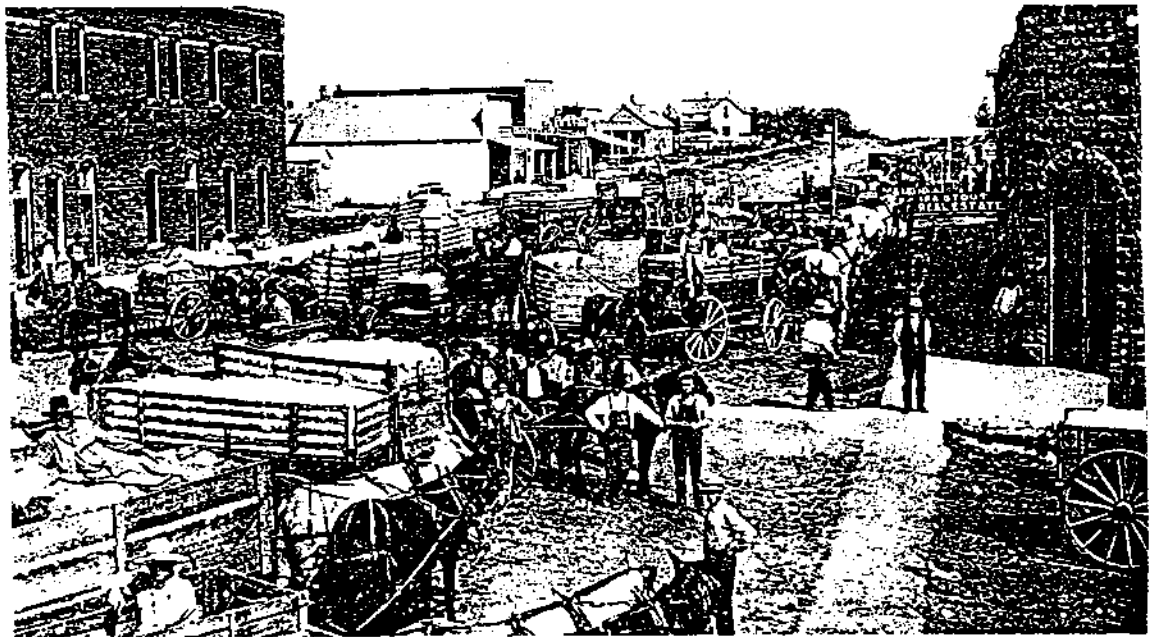
With two railroads by 1903, thousands of bales of cotton and cotton byproducts were shipped from Cushing each year. Several new cotton companies were established including the Farmer's Cotton Cooperative, Cushing Cotton Company, People's Compress Company, and the Johnston Cotton Gin. The streets of Cushing held between 500 to 600 farmers daily with wagon loads of cotton to be sold [Photo 2].

The Commonwealth Cotton Company later incorporated some of the smaller companies as it expanded operations in the west part of Cushing near the Santa Fe railroad tracks. On sixty acres of land, the company constructed a number of brick buildings valued at roughly \$150,000. Here cotton oil was produced and sold to manufacturers of Cottonlene, Snowdrift, and Crisco which soon replaced pure lard for cooking purposes. Cottonseed feed was also produced at the



Farmer's Cotton Gin

Four cotton gins in operation baling 6,000 bales of cotton during 1905 to 1914 brought between 500 to 600 farmers to Cushing daily with loads of cotton for processing.



Looking north from Broadway and Cleveland, 1906

PHOTO 2. CUSHING AS COTTON CENTER
Source: Wells, L. L., Young Cushing in Oklahoma Territory (1975), 88.

plant. Used for feeding livestock, the Commonwealth Company built a feed lot near the mill where up to 2,000 cattle were fed. The so-called "cotton era" in Cushing lasted for about a decade (c. 1903-1912) during which time four cotton gins baled 6,000 bales of cotton. These agricultural-based industries in Cushing provided the nucleus for the town's business transactions (38) [Photo 3].

By the 1930s, farmers faced the Great Depression. Because of overproduction in the 1920s, they experienced declining market prices. Coupled with the economic downturn was the drought of the 1930s which forced farmers to leave the land. In particular, cotton production, a mainstay of the local economy in Cushing, declined because of several factors including a decrease in market prices, invasion of the boll weevil, and deterioration of farmlands, especially from erosion in the upland areas. During the decade, the tendency was to consolidate farm units, reduce production, and convert the former cotton land into pasturage for dairy and beef cattle. The triple A (Agricultural Adjustment Act) of the New Deal administration of President Franklin D. Roosevelt forced farmers to curb production in order to improve market prices.

Those farmers which remained on the land in the 1940s moved toward diversification and cotton was virtually nonexistent. Production of dairy and beef cattle, hogs, poultry, and sheep increased and crop farmers turned to pasture, especially alfalfa, for their cattle.

Commercial Establishments

The first businesses in Cushing included Branstetter's Blacksmith Shop, Hull's General Store, Robertson's Home and Harness Shop, Greenlee's Saloon, and Hay's Drug Store [Fig. 11]. Soon to become the most important business in the town was the C.W. Carpenter and Company, a general mercantile and trade store constructed in 1893 on the northwest corner of Noble and Main streets. It handled groceries, dry goods, hardware, lumber, boots, saddles, furniture, coffins, and even served as a bank [Photo 1].

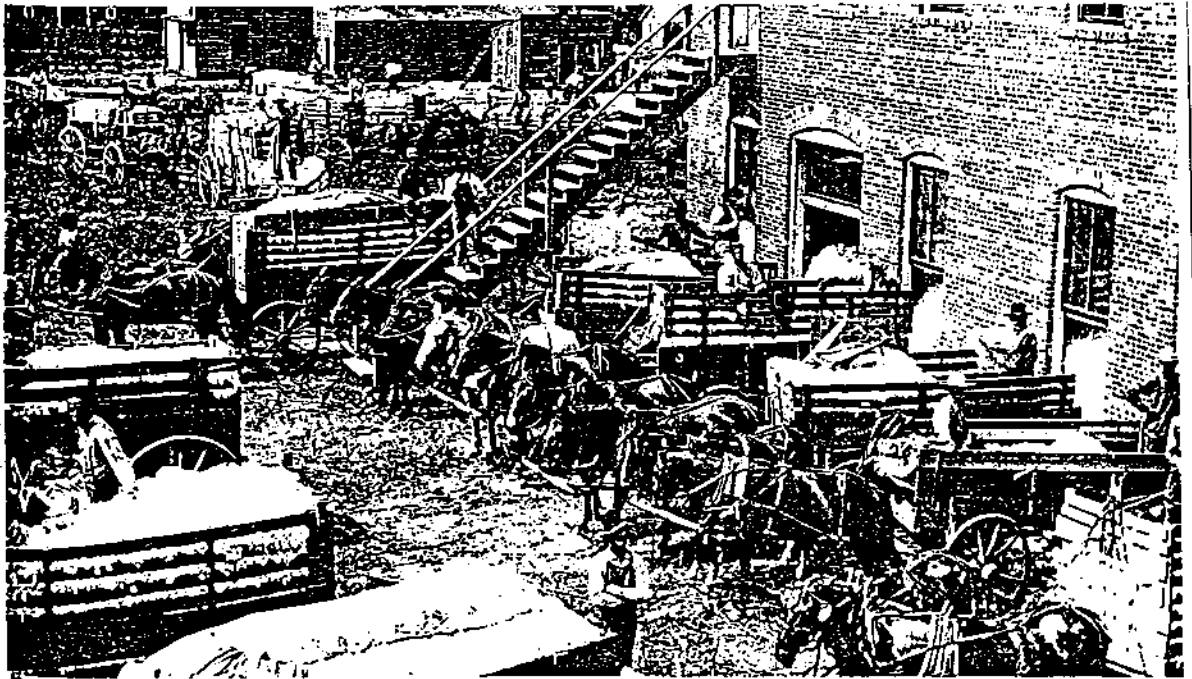
As trade expanded and the town's population increased, the Carpenter Company built three more buildings along Main Street where a variety of merchandise was sold including implements, buggies, hardware, furniture, and coffins. The Carpenter Company enterprise added considerably to the Main Street business district during the following decade (39).

The first business district was located in the two blocks between Noble and Cleveland avenues on Main Street. In addition to the aforementioned, numerous other businesses sprang up in the 1890s. Included were four hotels (City, Star, Union, and Commercial), three banks (Farmers and Merchants, Bank of Cushing, and Farmers State Bank), a tonsorial parlor, two racket stores, a saloon, two livery barns, and two general merchandise stores (40).

In 1902, Will Little's remaining 80 acres of land, south of the original townsite was sold. It was called the South Addition to Cushing and included a restricted business



View of 100 West Broadway, north side of street, west to Depot about 1905: Charles Hotel; John Good's Store; Pool Hall; Quaker Dry Goods; Bank of Commerce; B. J. Catt, Real Estate & Ins.; Grocery Store; Cushing Hwde. Co.; Fuson-Walters Furniture, Undertaking. Commercial Hotel, corner Central and Broadway.



Cotton Being Stored in Vacant Building on Main Street

PHOTO 3. COTTON MARKETING ON MAIN AND BROADWAY IN CUSHING
 Source: Wells, L. L., Young Cushing in Oklahoma Territory
 (1975), 189.

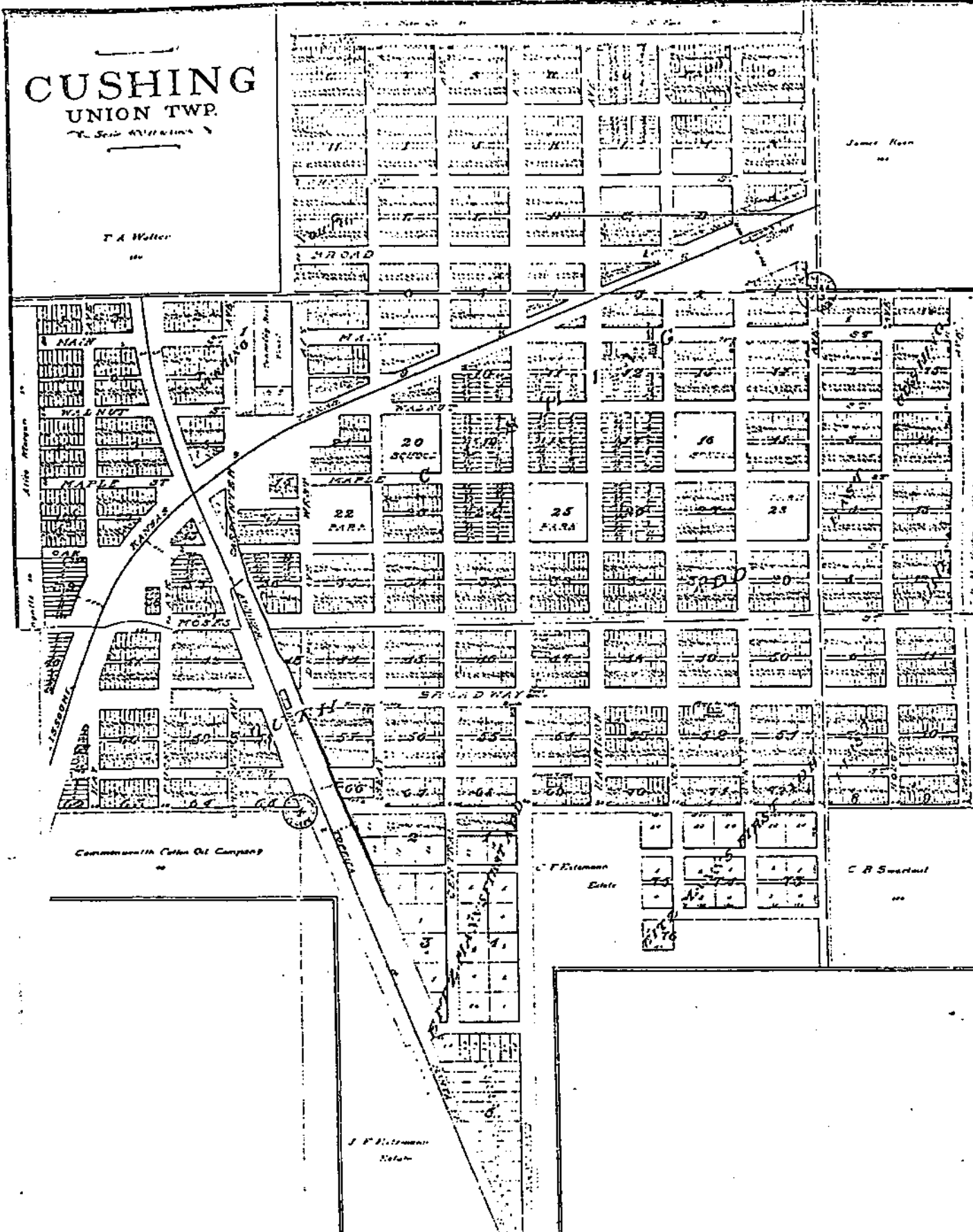


FIG. 13. PLAT MAP OF CUSHING (c. 1920)
Source: Payne County Clerk

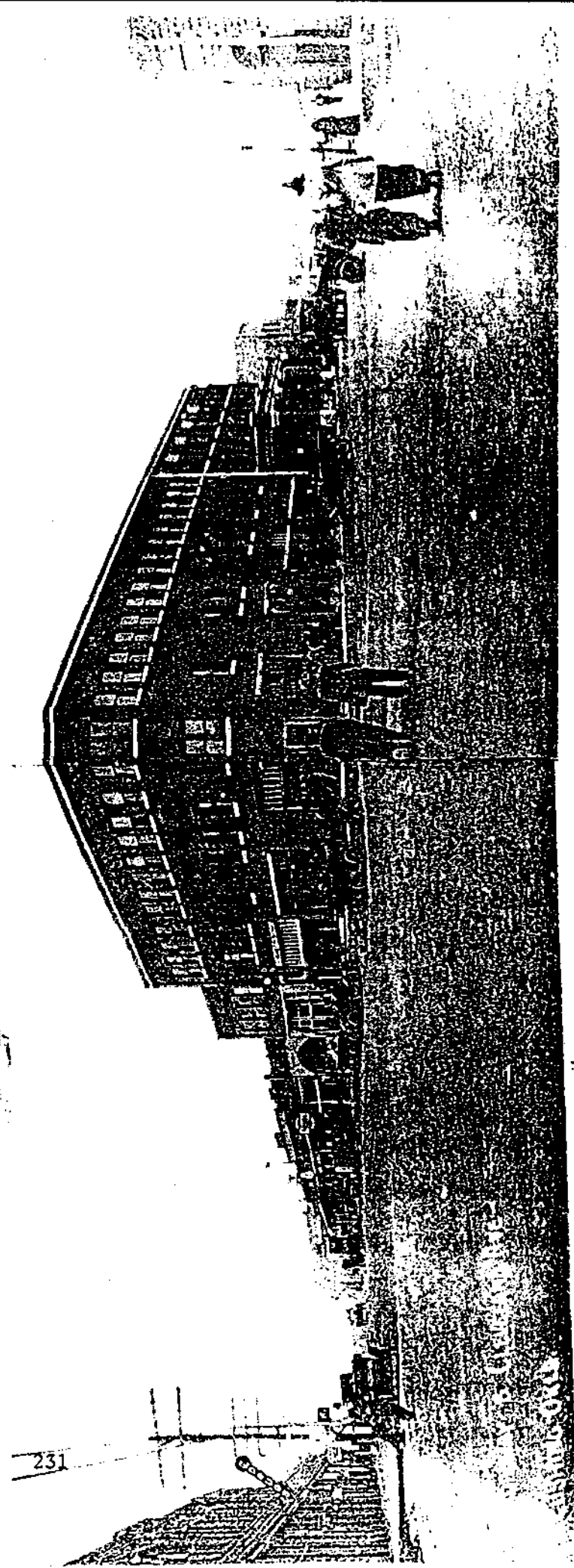


PHOTO 4. BROADWAY STREET IN CUSHING (c. 1903)
Source: Wells, L. L., Young Cushing in Oklahoma Territory
(1975), 166-67.

section in the plat [Fig. 13]. The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company acquired right-of-way through this addition and the Santa Fe depot was built at the western edge of the new business district with Broadway Street serving as the major corridor. The "Old Jericho" (Main Street) and "New Jerusalem" (Broadway Street) controversy created a great deal of consternation among business leaders and residents of Cushing. The town's two newspapers took opposite sides with The Independent promoting the new business district and The Herald sympathizing with the existing Main Street businesses (41).

The inevitable occurred when many of the Main Street businesses moved to the Broadway district and plans were made to construct an entire block of new buildings along Broadway, Cushing's first paved street [Photo 4]. The twelve buildings on the south side of Broadway were constructed of locally-quarried native sandstone. Known as the "Stone Block," the buildings in the 100 block of West Broadway between Central and Cleveland Avenues housed a variety of commercial enterprises including the Cushing Trading Company, First State Bank, Oder's Drug Store, Hughes Brothers Hardware, Suman Drug, and the Opera House. The north side of Broadway consisted of nine commercial buildings constructed approximately a year after the "Stone Block." The "Brick Block" buildings were all of red brick and were occupied by a myriad of businesses including hardwares, dry goods, groceries, and drugs (42). The 100

block of West Broadway has remained the central business district of Cushing for more than 90 years (OLI 1981) [Photo 5].

Cushing experienced a dramatic change in its commercial landscape with the coming of the oil boom. The town's only hotel, the Thompson, in 1912 underwent renovation and reopened in June 1913 with ninety rooms [Photo 6]. By 1915, three more hotels were built to accommodate oil field traffic. During the period from 1912 through the 1930s, Cushing had seven lumber yards, five drug stores, four banks, three furniture stores, three large department stores, and three theaters. The price of business lots increased from \$100 to \$1,200 within six months (43).

By 1950, the central business district remained focused on Broadway Street and had captured the bulk of business activity from Main Street, the original CBD of the earlier townsite. The Broadway central business district had expanded toward the east as well as north and south along Cleveland and Central Avenues. Cushing emerged as a "main street" town (Broadway rather than Main) typifying the late nineteenth century model of Western towns connected to the railroad. In Cushing's case, the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe line was located immediately to the west of the central business district.

Schools and Churches

Cushing's first school was a result of the Sac and Fox land having been surveyed into tracts of land six miles

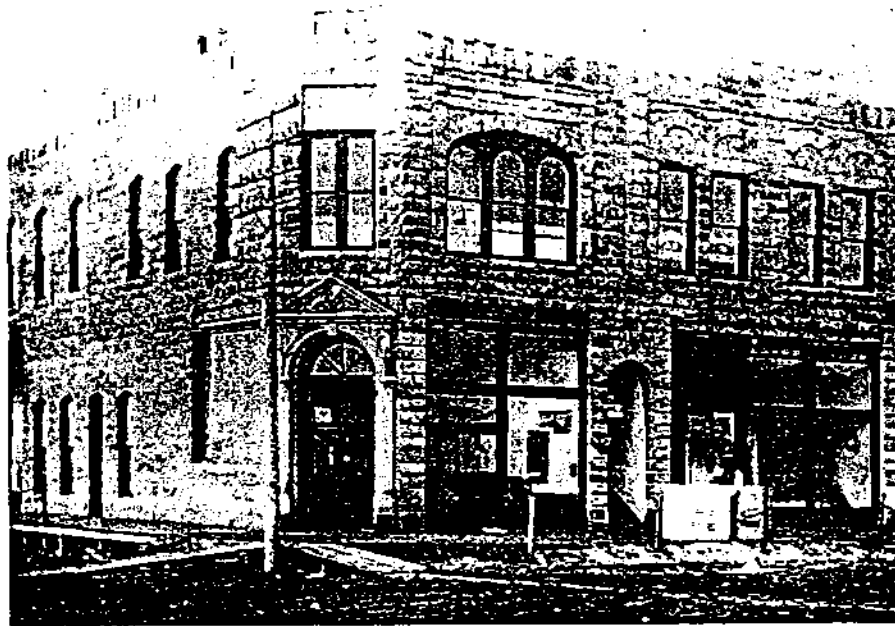


100 Block West Broadway

PHOTO 5. 100 BLOCK OF WEST BROADWAY (c. 1905)
Source: Wells, L. L., Young Cushing in Oklahoma Territor



Photo taken when streets were paved with brick in September of 1914. Thompson Hotel was built onto the Charles Hotel in 1913.



THE STONE BLOCK

100 Block of West Broadway housing The First National Bank. To the rear (south) facing Cleveland Ave. was the grocery portion of CUSHING TRADING CO. A basement underneath housed produce and eggs and butter which was kept cool here. Adjoining the bank on the west was the trading company's Dry-Goods Store, Hughes Brothers' Hardware, Oder's Drug Store, Suman Drug and other businesses. Over the bank and stores were offices while Cushing's OPERA HOUSE, a portion of the building 40' x 100' along the southeast portion of the building was used for church services, dances, meeting hall and auditorium for movies.

PHOTO 6. THOMPSON HOTEL (1914) AND STONE BLOCK (c. 1905)
 Source: Wells, L. L., Young Cushing in Oklahoma Territory
 (1975), 161 and 203.

square called townships. Each township included 36 sections with a section comprised of 640 acres divided into four 160 acre tracts. These were available for homesteading during the Land Run of 1891. Of the 36 sections, however, two were set aside for school lands (Sections 16 and 36). By 1895, Cushing had its first permanent schoolhouse built on the Old Central block in the Union Township (44).

Prior to this, classes were held in Jay Greenlee's empty saloon building. After Greenlee had abandoned the building in 1893, it was used for various social activities, but could only hold about fifteen to twenty people. The first regular town school was taught here beginning in the winter of 1894 with 29 pupils. Classes were held in the loft of the building with an outside stairwell built to accommodate the students. Then classes were held in the Methodist church before the new school building was completed in 1895.

In June 1903, a special school bond election was held for the construction of a \$6,000 building. The bond passed and an imposing two-story, four-room native sandstone structure was completed in time for classes in the fall of 1905 (45).

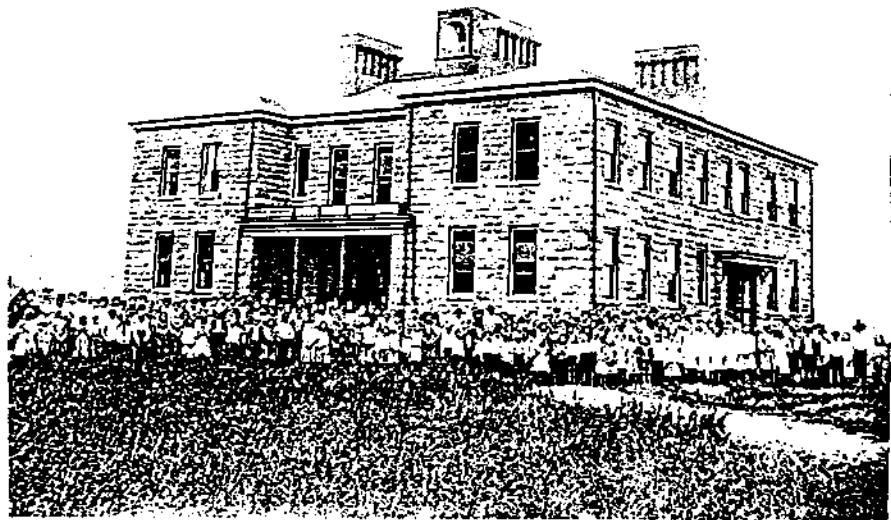
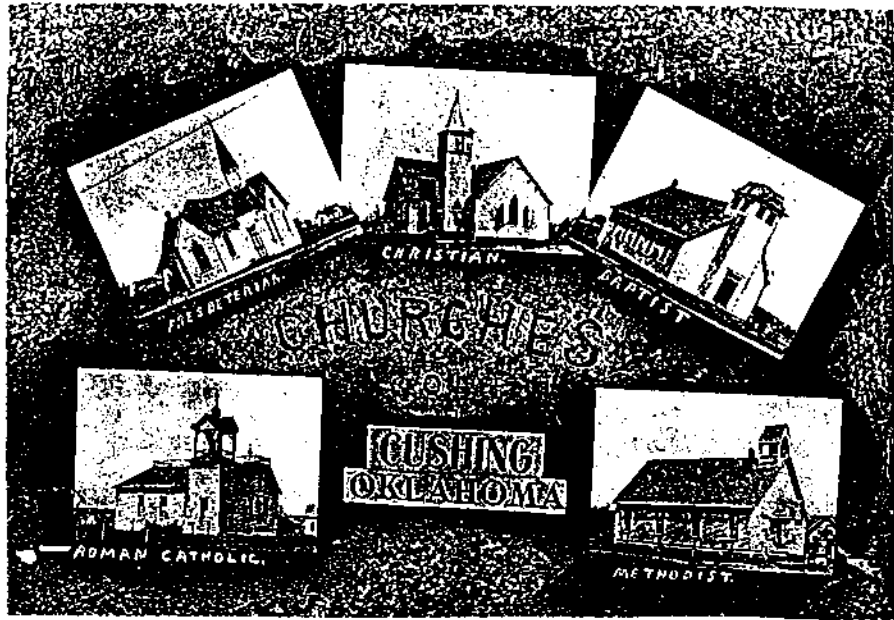
With the oil boom from 1912 to the 1930s, Cushing was forced to build more schools. By 1915, two more schools had been erected giving the town three ward schools and a high school with a teaching staff of 36 (46).

Cushing's Board of Education had established a separate school for thirty-five black students in 1909. Known originally as "Greasy Creek School," its name was later changed to Booker T. Washington and it remained a segregated school until the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court decision in the Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education (47).

The first religious services in Cushing were held in homes and under brush arbors. Branstetter's Blacksmith Shop was the first commercial building used by various denominations. The Methodists were the first to have their own building. Constructed in 1895, it was used by all other denominations until they had buildings of their own. The Baptists built their church in 1897 at the northwest corner of Walnut and Harrison. The Christians and Presbyterians worshipped together in the new Opera House after it was constructed in 1902. The Presbyterians then erected their church in 1904 followed by the Christians in 1905. Catholics organized in 1899 and built their church in 1901 (48) [Photo 7]. By 1950, Cushing had one high school, seven elementary schools, a parochial school, and the Washington School for blacks.

Politics and Government

Several unusual political events transpired in Cushing during its early years. A campaign to prevent saloons was begun in the town with a petition circulated to bring the issue to a vote of the people. The election results showed that saloons were to be retained. In 1902 the post office



Cushing's first high school—Central School

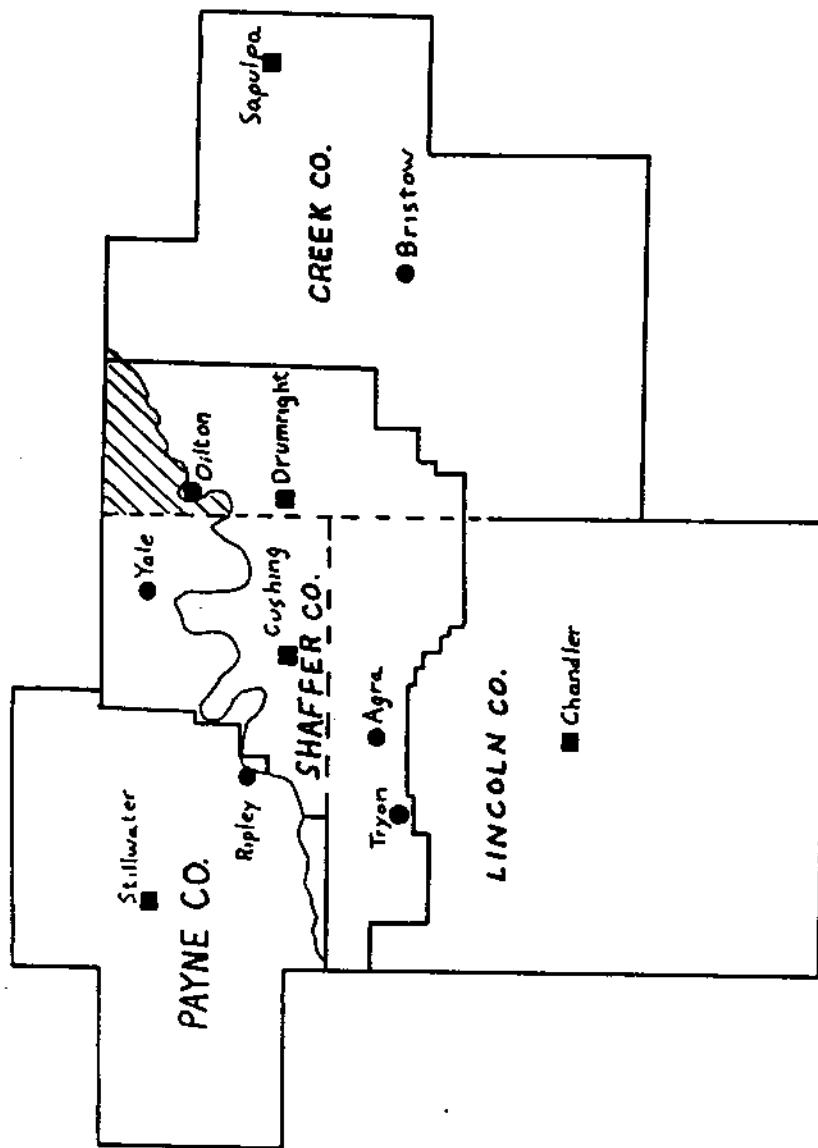
PHOTO 7. EARLY CHURCHES AND FIRST HIGH SCHOOL
Source: Wells, L. L., Young Cushing in Oklahoma Territory
(1975), 85 and 176.

was "stolen" or removed from its Main Street location to Broadway. This took place in the middle of the night and the building was moved on skids from "Old Jericho" to "New Jerusalem." The two newspapers once again took opposite views--The Independent favored the move, while The Herald opposed it. Residents of "Old Jericho" refused to pick up their mail on Broadway and demanded it be brought to a designated place on Main; however, the new post office remained in the Broadway Street district (49).

Prior to statehood, Cushing promoted the creation of a new county with Cushing as county seat. During the Territorial Era, Stillwater had been selected as county seat of Payne County where Cushing was located. Cushing advanced a new county plan which included all of Payne south of the Cimarron, a strip nine miles wide from the north side of Lincoln County, and a strip 12 miles wide from the west side of Indian Territory. The new county would cover 800 square miles and consist of 15,000 inhabitants. Nevertheless, the Payne County boundaries of 1906 remained intact at the state constitutional convention with Stillwater as county seat (50).

Cushing attempted another county formation in 1914 with the carving out of eastern Payne County to become "Shaffer" County [Fig. 14]. Again Cushing's endeavors at gaining county seat status were foiled when the proposal failed to receive the required 60 percent vote (51).

Cultural Events/Social Clubs



Source: Harlow's Weekly, IX (December 18, 1915), p. 447.

Map of Shaffer County, 1915/1916



The G. A. R. Pavilion built in 1901



*CUSHING'S FIRST BAND
1896-1897*

PHOTO 8. G.A.R. PAVILION (1901) and CUSHING'S FIRST BAND
Source: Wells, L. L., Young Cushing in Oklahoma Territory
(1975), 73 and 78.

During the early years, Cushing took great pride in its community band formed in 1894. It represented Cushing in parades at Stroud, Perkins, Ripley, and the 101 Ranch. Second hand instruments were purchased from the music store in Guthrie. Cushing also supported a cornet band for boys (52).

The early center for social activities in Cushing was the G.A.R. Pavilion constructed in 1901 [Photo 8]. Here the annual 4th of July Celebration was held which had begun in 1897. The community band performed, a "bar-be-que" was served, and horse races were conducted in an 800-yard circle with "good purses" advertised. Will Rendall, editor of The Herald and his sister, Anna, sang duets of popular ballads to banjo accompaniment at many social occasions (53).

The major focal point of Cushing's social scene after December 13, 1902 was the Opera House. It was located above the Farmers and Merchants Bank on West Broadway. Motion pictures, traveling road shows, dances, and school drama productions were held here. Reserved seats for movies went for 25 cents. Movies, such as "Three Jolly Nights," were silent, but were accompanied by a phonograph record to provide sound (54).

The social and cultural landscape of Cushing in the 1930s benefited from the New Deal era. Federal government assistance was secured through a variety of public works projects financed by the Works Progress Administration (WPA). Among these were the Cushing High School Stadium

(1935), and Rotary and Memorial Parks (1935). An 1800-seat municipal auditorium, a new public library, and a new gymnasium for Washington School were completed with matching bonds and federal funds. Moreover, the WPA employed local labor in the construction projects. Finally, Cushing boasted an 18-hole golf course as well as one daily and two weekly newspapers (55).

FAIRFAX

Founding and Naming

Fairfax is located 22 miles southeast of Ponca City, 24 miles southwest of Pawhuska, 55 miles northeast of Perry, and 50 miles southeast of Arkansas City, Kansas. It is situated on an elevation overlooking Salt Creek Valley, a tributary of the Arkansas River to the south. Although controversy surrounds the town's name and different accounts are given as to its origin, the name "Fairfax" is probably in honor of Lord Fairfax of Virginia (56).

L.A. Wismeyer, often referred to as the "Father of Fairfax," was born in Ohio in 1852. He migrated to Kansas in 1878. Later that year, Wismeyer moved to the Osage reservation where he was Chief Clerk in the Indian agency at Pawhuska. Six years later, he secured a trader's license and became a merchant in Pawhuska. In 1889, Wismeyer moved his store to Greyhorse, an Indian trading post in the southwest portion of the reservation [Fig. 15]. The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company in 1902 decided to erect a bridge across the Arkansas River at Ralston and lay track to connect Arkansas City, Kansas to Pawnee, Oklahoma. Upon hearing the news that the railroad would bypass the Greyhorse trading post, Wismeyer was determined that a new townsite should be platted near the railroad. He, therefore, procured a 40-acre lease from an Osage Indian named Kah-Wah-C, or "Yellow Horse." He then negotiated with the railroad company to secure a station on

his lease near its right-of-way. Railroad officials agreed to his proposal if he could convince other Greyhorse merchants and residents to move. During the next year, Wismeyer lobbied in Washington, D.C. for the townsite application which he eventually obtained. Moreover, he was able to secure a 10-acre tract for a town cemetery which would adjoin the 40-acre tract. Shortly thereafter, Wismeyer gained approval for a United States post office and Fairfax was on the map. Additionally, he was able to convince most residents of Greyhorse to move to the new townsite because they wanted to be near the railroad (57) [Fig. 16].

Natural Resources

Because of its location in the Osage reservation, Fairfax benefited immensely from the opening of the giant Burbank Oil Field in Osage country. Drilling operations on the Osage reservation began as early as 1896 when Edwin P. Foster secured a blanket lease on the region. Some exploration and production occurred in the 1890s prior to the establishment of Fairfax. The Indian Territory Illuminating Oil Company and the Barnsdall Oil Company had made initial discoveries in the eastern part of the reservation. By 1901, a well producing 50 barrels of crude was opened by the I.T.I.O.C. Over the next two years, thirty wells were drilled on the reservation. Additional pools were discovered in 1904-05; all of which flowed at a rate of 25 barrels per day (58).

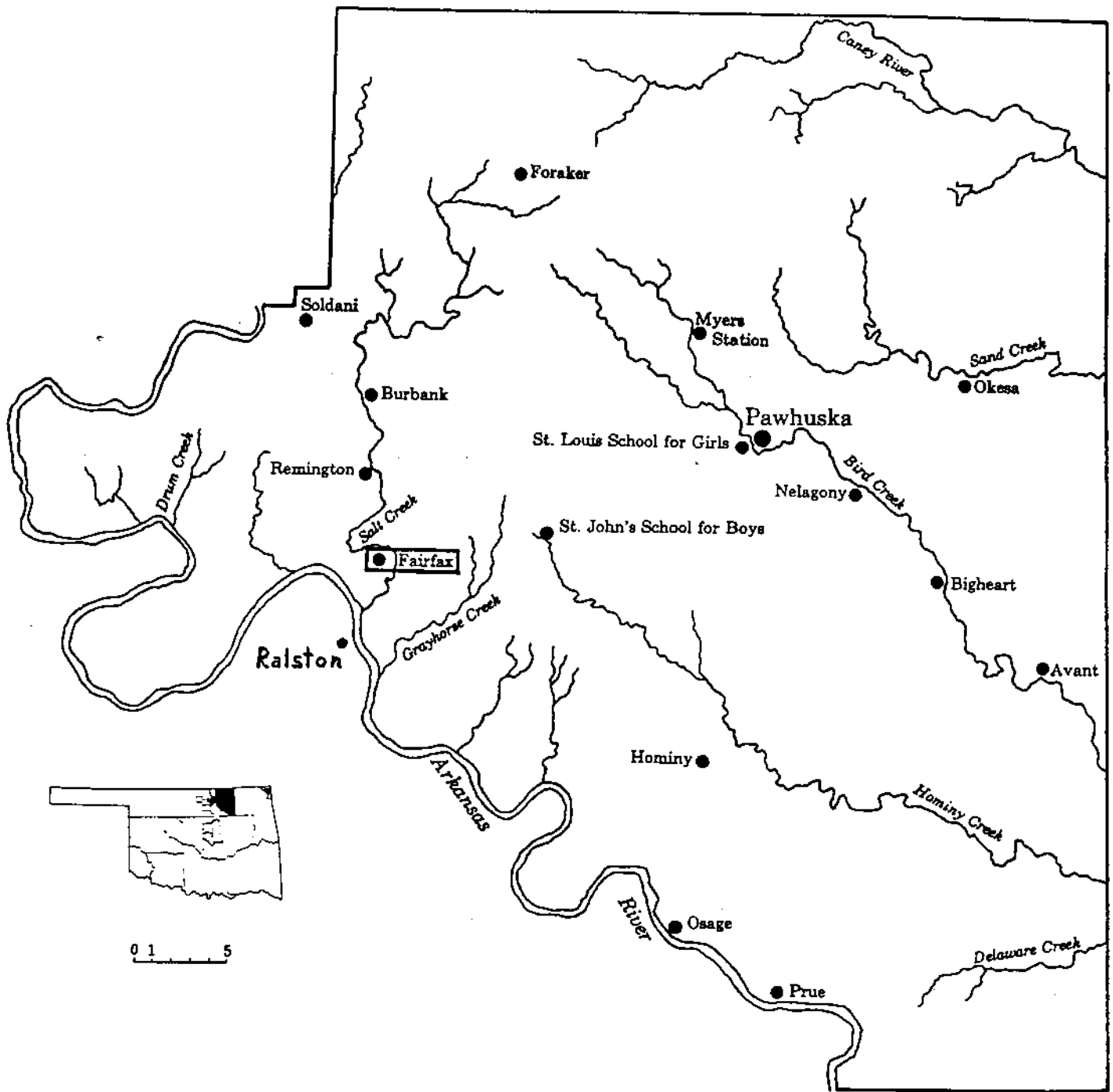


FIG. 15. OSAGE NATION (1900-06)-FAIRFAX AND RALSTON
 Source: Morris et al, Historical Atlas of Oklahoma (1986), 53.

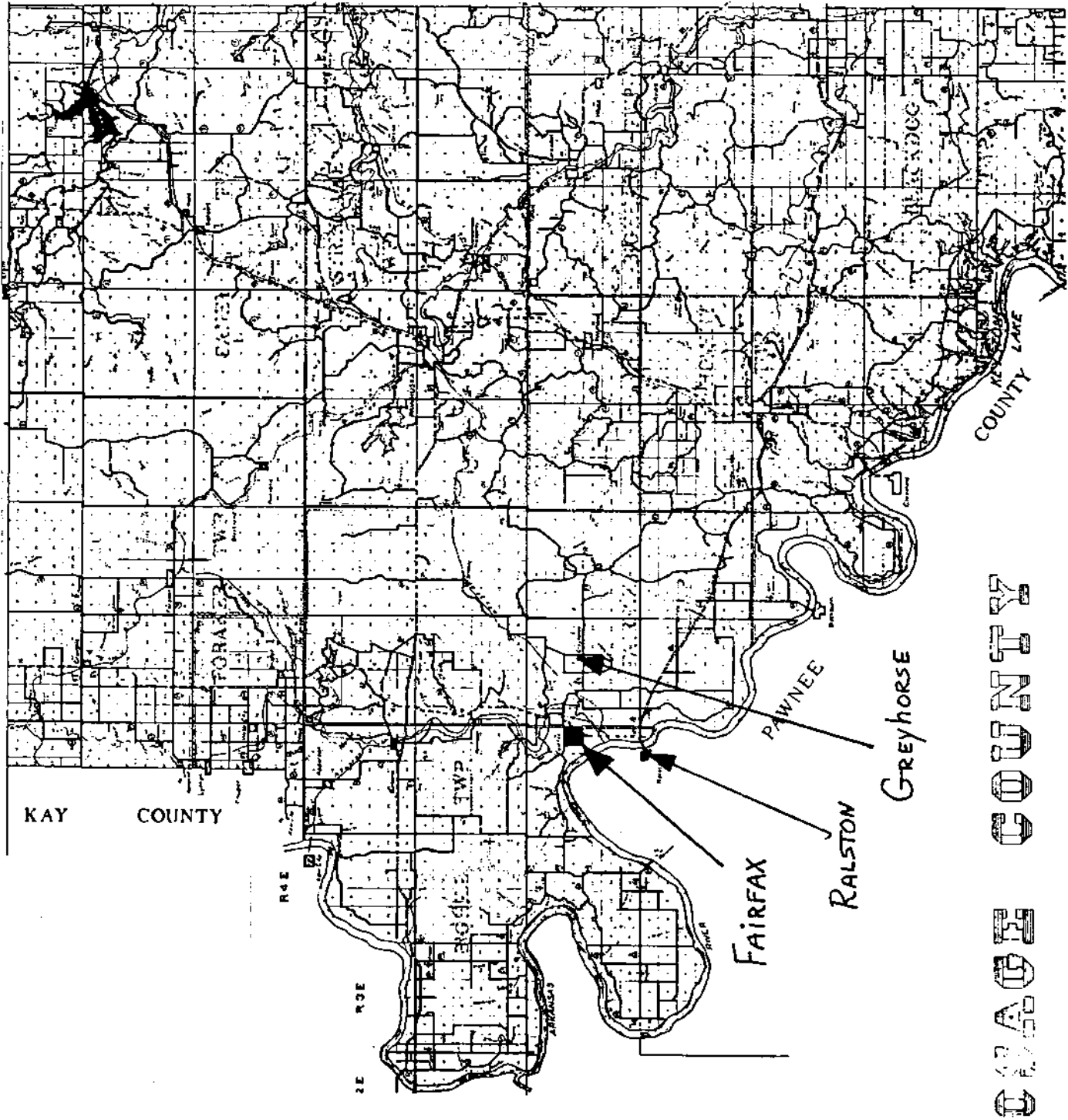


FIG. 16. FAIRFAX, GREYHORSE, AND RALSTON-OSAGE COUNTY
 Source: Osage County Profiles (1978)

The major stimulus for the development of the Osage/Burbank Field came with the entrance of the United States into World War I and the tremendous growth in popularity of the automobile. The western portion of Osage County began to yield production in 1918. These were the discoveries that were to impact Fairfax as an oil boom community. Gypsy, Carter, and Marland, all major petroleum firms, secured drilling rights to tracts of land in the western part of the county. In 1918, Marland Oil brought in the first well in the area at a depth of 3,000 feet which later proved to be the highly productive Bartlesville sand layer.

Drilling operations spread in every direction from Marland's discovery which resulted in a total of 102,192 acres of land placed under lease in western Osage County in 1921-22. Within a year, crude oil production dramatically increased from 134,408 to 4,986,340 barrels and, by 1922, annual production totaled 24,230,563 barrels. The Osage/Burbank Field peaked in 1923 with an annual production of 26,206,241 barrels (59). As a result, Fairfax became a natural trading and shipping center for oil field supplies and equipment because no other town of importance existed within a 25-mile radius. Furthermore, its significance as an oil field center was enhanced by its location on the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe whereby oil field supplies and equipment could be shipped into the town by rail.

The Osage/Burbank Field entered a period of decline by 1930. Production dropped slowly at first, but by the end of the 1930s, it had fallen to a daily output of 43,000 barrels (60). During the Great Depression, petroleum producers around Fairfax as well as the rest of the state realized that the only means of raising the price of crude was to curb production until demand caught up with output. In attempt to raise the price of crude, Governor William H. Murray ordered the Oklahoma National Guard into the state's oil fields to enforce a cutback in production. This resulted in the Oklahoma legislature enacting a new petroleum conservation law which gave the state corporation commission the power to enforce it (61).

World War II brought new life to the Burbank/Osage Field and rejuvenated the petroleum business in and around Fairfax. Petroleum was a vital commodity in the war effort. The state's output increased by 1,500,000 barrels from 1943 to 1944, but wartime regulations kept the price of crude at around \$1.60 per barrel. When peace was restored, the price jumped to \$2.44 a barrel in 1947. Drilling activity in the nearby fields renewed in the postwar period. More wells were drilled in 1949 than any other year in the state's history (62). But the revival of the Burbank/Osage Field was short lived and Fairfax once more settled into the status of an agricultural trade center.

Agriculture

that the winters in Osage country were sufficiently cold to kill ticks, while the native grasses were ideal for fattening their animals before being weighed for sale at the Kansas railheads. Because the cattle business was so profitable during the 1870s and 1880s, Osage Indians became ranchers and soon large herds were grazing the native bluestem grasses in the summer and hay was being harvested from the grass for the winter season feeding.

The native bluestem proved to be a valuable crop for Fairfax ranchers because of its deep root system and its resilience to drought. Moreover, it retained a high protein content which was equal in feeding value to corn. Thus, it fattened cattle quickly and economically, both necessary items for a profitable return. Fairfax was an ideal shipping point for marketing cattle because it was near or within a few hours by rail from such large markets as Oklahoma City, Tulsa, Wichita, and Kansas City (65).

During the 1930s and 1940s, the position of Fairfax as an agricultural trade center was enhanced because of declining oil prices. Farmers steadily turned toward diversification as the beef cattle industry, fed by the excellent pasturage around Fairfax, showed growth. By 1950, hay and beef cattle were the major sources of agricultural income in the county.

Commercial Establishments

To accommodate agricultural crop production in the area, Fairfax boasted two grain elevators, the first of

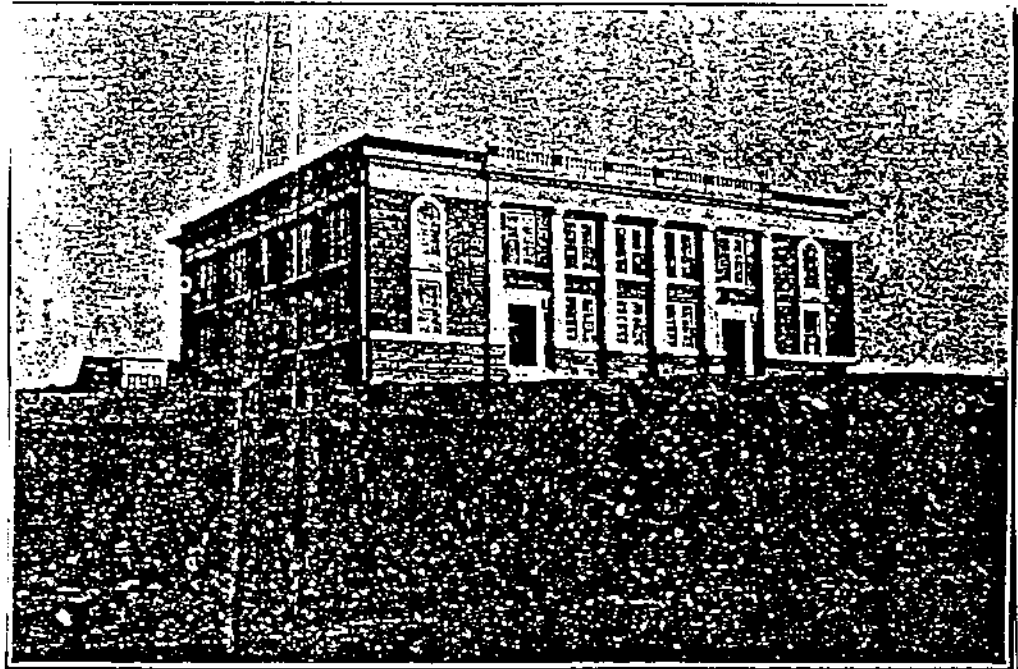
which was erected in 1904 by the McGraw Brothers, Tom and Harry. Upon arriving from nearby Ponca City, the McGraws formed the Fairfax Grain and Elevator Company. With increased production of small grain, the McGraws sold their operations to Badger-Hudson Elevator Company and built a second elevator in Fairfax. This was eventually purchased by the Badger-Hudson Company. Each elevator had a capacity of 20,000 bushels, and it was reported in 1910 that the two elevators handled approximately 100,000 bushels of corn. In 1910, Santa Fe railroad records indicated that 200 cars of corn were shipped from Fairfax (66).

Two early lumber yards furnished rough and finished lumber, shingles, doors, cement, and brick for the town's growth and development. Building supplies were readily available for construction of homes and businesses in town and the surrounding countryside. The first was the Rohr Lumber yard, built in 1903 by L.A. Wismeyer, the town's founder. The second was the Osage Lumber Yard organized in 1907 by Carl Riley (67).

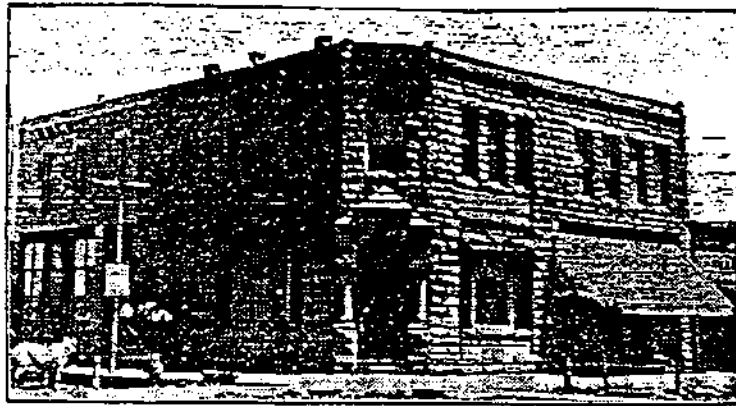
The Fairfax business district centered around two banks, both of which remain intact. The Osage, or Pioneer Bank, was organized in Greyhorse in 1902. It moved to Fairfax in April, 1903; and later that year, a contract was let to construct a native sandstone building at 250 North Main Street which was completed in 1904 (NR 1984). The building housed the Osage Bank, Quarles Hardware, and the Pure Food Grocery in the first floor, while the second

provided space for the county courtroom branch, Masons, Odd Fellows, Modern Woodmen of America, and Christian Science meetings. It later housed the United States Post Office in Fairfax. The bank remained in operation until the 1930s when the depression forced its closure. Known as the bank of farmers and merchants, the Osage Bank is architecturally significant because of its Richardsonian Romanesque vocabulary which features a round arched entryway topped by a stepped triangular-shaped pediment (68).

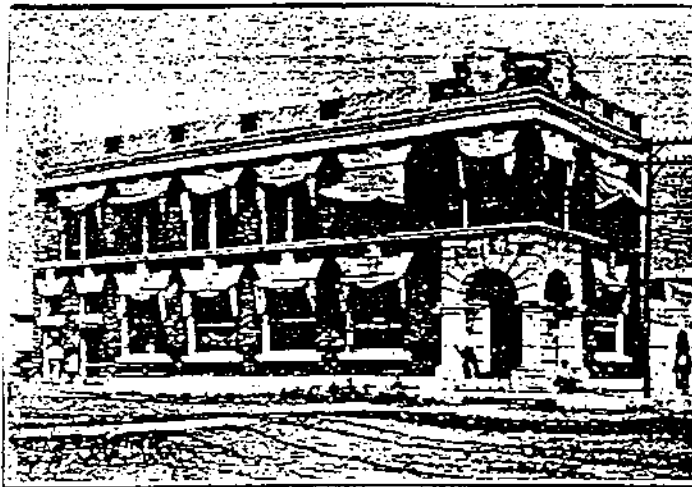
The First National Bank (NR 1984) at 301 North Main Street was constructed in 1906. It specialized in cattle loans and Indian business from its beginning to 1932 when it was forced to close due to the depression. Two years later, the First State Bank occupied the building and remained there until 1983 when a new bank building was constructed across the street. In 1924, the Greyhorse Masonic Lodge, which had previously met in the second floor of the Osage Bank after moving from Greyhorse, built an addition to the First National Bank. The Masons continue to own and occupy this portion of the building, a period of 70 years. Currently, the Masons use the second floor for meetings while the first floor space is leased to various merchants. The building is highlighted by its Georgian Revival architecture including a cutaway entry flanked by columns and pilasters, a modillioned cornice, scrolled pediments, and decorative urn (69). The three banks served the town



New \$45,000 Public School Building at Fairfax



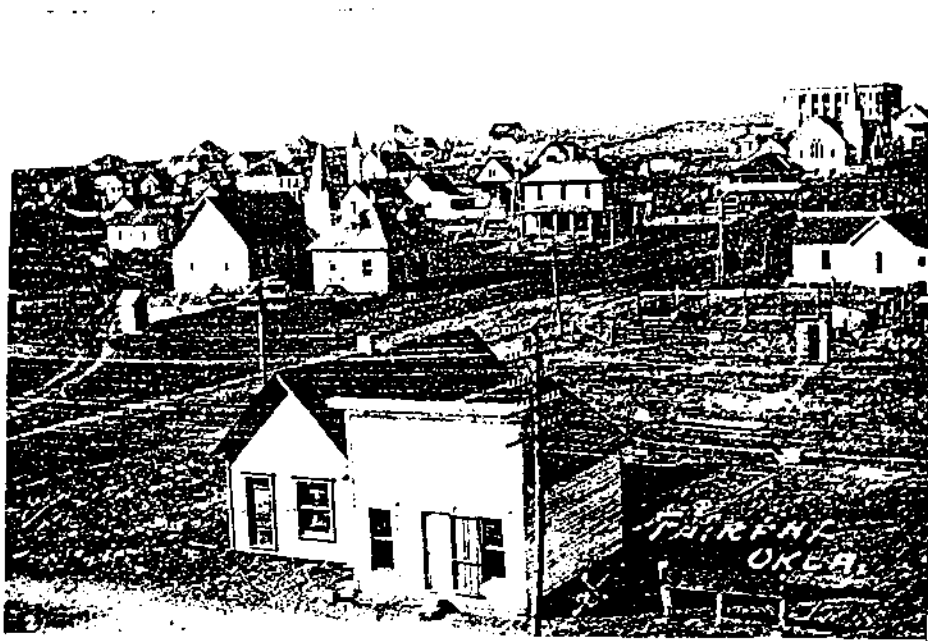
The Osage Bank.



The First National Bank.

PHOTO 9. OSAGE AND FIRST NATIONAL BANKS AND NEW HIGH SCHOOL (1910)

Source: The Osage Chief (June 24, 1910)



Early day photo of Fairfax—picture dated March 2, 1910.

Fairfax Main St. looking north—brick buildings, still wagons and buggies.



PHOTO 10. FAIRFAX (1910) AND MAIN STREET
Source: Osage County Profiles (1978), 464 and 466.

well over the years by providing loans and a safe depository [Photo 9].

During the pre-statehood era, Fairfax maintained a thriving business district in addition to the banks. Among the most prominent businesses were the Osage Livery and Sale Barn; Bolton's Quality Market, featuring fresh and cured meats, fish, and poultry; two blacksmith shops, started in 1904 and 1906; Hunsaker's Hardware, Furniture, and Undertaking, opened in 1903; Holiday's Pure Food Grocery; O'Neil's Bakery and Confectionery; Sherrill's Barber Shop; Vansant's Millinery and Haberdashery; Gibbs' Restaurant; Dickey's Tonsorial Parlor for haircuts and shaves; Girard's Drug Store; and the Fairfax Garage (70) [Photo 10].

Two of the earliest commercial establishments were Sam Ponton's milk depot, sale barn, and feed business which moved from Greyhorse to Fairfax when the latter was founded. At the same time, L.S. Wismeyer moved his general store from Greyhorse to Fairfax. Known as Wismeyer's Mercantile Company, it was located on the Wismeyer Block which included the Wismeyer Building at 317 North Main (OLI n.d.). Also during the pre-statehood era, R.C. Nash launched the first newspaper in 1904, The Osage Chief, later renamed The Fairfax Chief (71).

Two later businesses that deserve mention were the Rexall Drug and the A.C. Harrington Auto Agency and Garage. The latter sold the popular Maxwell automobile when cars were introduced to Fairfax. Harrington selected the Maxwell

line because he said it was designed for the rough terrain of the West. M.E. Park, proprietor of the Rexall Drug, came to Fairfax in 1908 to open his popular drug store. It carried a full line of goods including drugs, toiletries, fancy china, cigars, stationery and post cards, Kodaks, school books and supplies, baseball equipment, and sheet music. It was also staffed by a registered pharmacist and featured the ever-popular soda fountain which locals reported prepared the best marshmallow sundaes and champagne phosphates in the county. Park's drug also sponsored the town's baseball team and baseball day in Fairfax which is covered in more detail under social and cultural events (72).

During the 1930s and 1940s, Fairfax remained a "main street" town. Commercial establishments lined the corridor of North and South Main Street, but the Great Depression forced the closure of the Fairfax banks in 1929. The local economy suffered from residents out of work and falling retail prices. The New Deal of the Franklin Roosevelt administration, however, pumped new funds into the community and allowed workers to find employment. Several Works Progress Administration projects, such as the Fairfax School Stadium and Athletic Field (1936) and the Osage County Garage (1939), played a significant part in the revival of the local economy.

By 1950, the post-World War II period brought a dose of prosperity to the central business district. The Williams

Hotel (now in danger of being razed), Tallchief Theater, and Osage Bank (both currently vacant) were flourishing businesses which remained intact until the 1960s. One of the major commercial buildings, Johnson Building, housed an auto agency (first floor) and attorney and dentist offices (second floor) into the 1950s. It, too, is currently unoccupied.

Schools and Churches

Under the townsite application, no provision was made for a public school. R.C. Nash, editor of the local newspaper, and other prominent town leaders developed a plan to raise funds to purchase a city block for a new school building. Each lot owner in Fairfax was assessed a certain amount to create a school site fund. Fairfax school officials consolidated much of the territory to the north and east of town without opposition from Pawhuska (approximately 15 miles in each direction). With this consolidation, it became one of the largest school districts in Oklahoma prior to statehood. Three school buildings were eventually constructed to accommodate both city and rural children from this large district. L.A. Wismeyer, town founder and owner of the first lumber yard, graciously furnished the building material for the first school building. Sam Berry served as the first manager of the school district, and Charles A. Haggat, a University of Michigan law student who had come to Fairfax to establish a practice, was hired as the first teacher. By 1910, a bond

election was held to construct a new \$45,000 brick high school building. It passed without a dissenting vote and construction was completed within the next year (73) [Photo 9].

The Baptists, Methodists, and Catholics were the first religious denominations to organize in Fairfax, all by 1903. They were followed by the Presbyterians in 1905, Christians in 1908, and the Christian Scientists in 1910. The first to erect a building in which to hold services was the Presbyterians in 1907. It was a wood-frame structure built at a cost of \$4,200. The Methodists and Christians completed buildings in 1909 followed by the Baptists and Catholics in 1910 (74).

The original small, wood-framed Catholic church located in the 100 block of South Fourth Street has been converted into a residence. Their second church on South Eighth Street was a stucco Spanish Eclectic style building which has been replaced by a new structure constructed on the same site.

The Christian Scientists eventually constructed a small building in the 100 block of South Fourth (near the original Catholic church). They disbanded in the 1960s and the church building was sold (75).

Politics and Government

Political history on Fairfax is sparse. Two intriguing political developments affected Fairfax during its early period. First, because of its location on the Osage

reservation, Fairfax was without a city government prior to statehood in 1907. Instead, the town was governed by the laws and regulations of the United States Department of the Interior. Second, because of the inconvenience of traveling 24 miles to Pawhuska, the county seat following statehood, a branch of the Osage County Court was established in Fairfax. It convened on the second floor of the Osage Bank (76). The branch of the Osage County Court continued to hold sessions in Fairfax until about five years ago. Because the Osage Bank had closed, the county judges held court in the Fairfax City Hall.

Cultural Events/Social Clubs

Built by 1910, the new \$50,000 high school building was equipped with a gymnasium and auditorium where various cultural and social events could be staged including lyceum courses and dramatic productions. Fairfax had a variety of venues for entertainment and amusement including the Rex Theater (still extant) on Main Street where Universal Films flashed on the screen each night; four pool and billiard parlors, one of which featured a shooting gallery for members of the Fairfax Gun Club; and a bowling alley. One of the billiard parlors advertised as its motto: "A Gentlemen's Game, Conducted for Gentlemen Only"(77).

Baseball was not only the "national pastime," it was the pastime of Fairfax. The Fairfax High School baseball team won the Oklahoma Inter-Scholastic Baseball Championship in 1914 played in Stillwater, and the team played at the

Fairfax baseball park which featured amphitheater seating. Also playing there was the Rexall Drug-sponsored Fairfax town team. M.W. Park, owner of the drug store, was an ex-professional baseball player who organized the town team and sponsored "Rexall June Baseball Day." He solicited donations at the Rexall fountain and promoted the sale of tickets to the games. Entertainment for this function was provided by the Fairfax Orchestra, according to a 1910 issue of The Osage Chief. Fairfax took great pride in its baseball teams. During the immediate post-statehood era, the Rexall team defeated the Wichita White Sox, a traveling club of semiprofessional players. Reported in The Osage Chief, the locals outlasted the White Sox 2-1 in seventeen innings, an event that "delighted the heart of every baseball fan" in the Fairfax area (78).

Fraternal lodges were organized in Fairfax early including the I.O.O.F. (1904), Masons (1905), and Modern Woodmen of America (1908). All met regularly and the Masonic order assumed an active role in community affairs in the downtown area after their addition to the First National Bank in 1924 (79).

Additionally, there was an "unusual array of musical talent" in Fairfax according to newspaper reports in 1913. The town boasted of a brass band, the aforementioned orchestra, and a studio of vocal and instrumental music. In a 1910 piece in The Osage Chief, the editor admonished

readers to cultivate music in the home and provided the following quote:

The songs of childhood awaken memories of bygone years, and many times in the very whirlwind of business, or in the shadows of adversities, a fragment of a merry ditty of other days breaks in upon the ugly train of thoughts and the next instant visions of the old home are before us (80).

RALSTON

Founding and Naming

At the time of the opening of the Cherokee Outlet in 1893, Walter McCague and T.M. Finney were employed at the J.N. Florer Indian trading store in Greyhorse on the Osage Indian reservation. The two men purchased an 80-acre tract of land from a homesteader who had made the run. The land was located on the south side of the Arkansas River, approximately eight miles southwest of Greyhorse in "Q" county in Oklahoma Territory. As counties were added after the various land runs, they were designated by letters until names could be officially adopted. Counties "K" through "Q" were those established in the Cherokee Outlet after the Run of 1893. By 1900, County "Q" had become Pawnee County with the city of Pawnee as county seat [Fig. 17].

McCague and Finney had the land surveyed and were issued a townsite patent by the United States government on June 11, 1894. The town was named Riverside because of its location on the banks of the Arkansas. However, when McCague applied for a post office at Riverside, he was informed that the town would have to be renamed as there was already a post office in Oklahoma Territory by the same name. McCague, therefore, changed the name to Ralston in honor of Colonel J.H. Ralston, a geologist who has prospected for coal in the area and had surveyed the townsite (81) [Fig. 18].

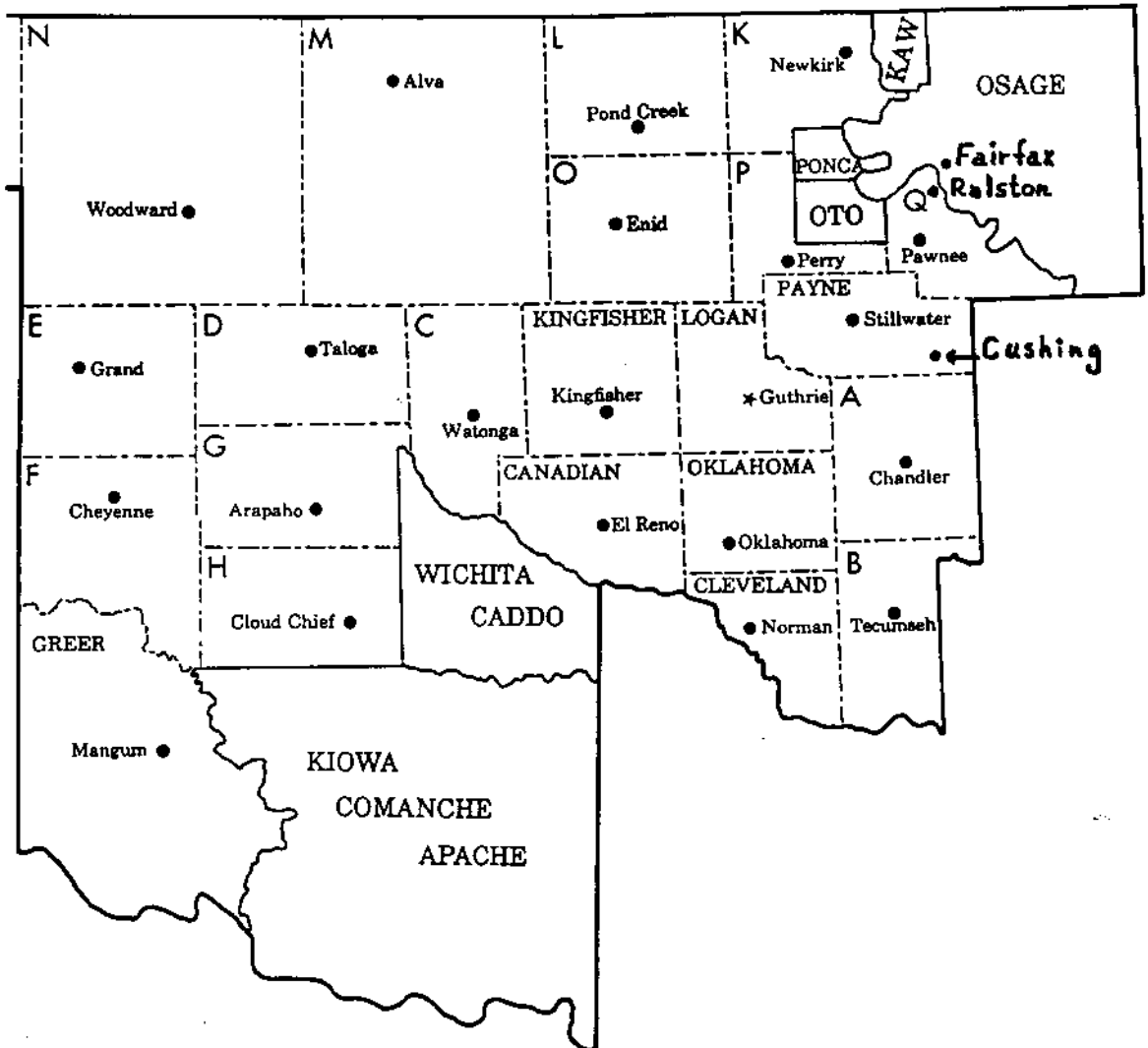
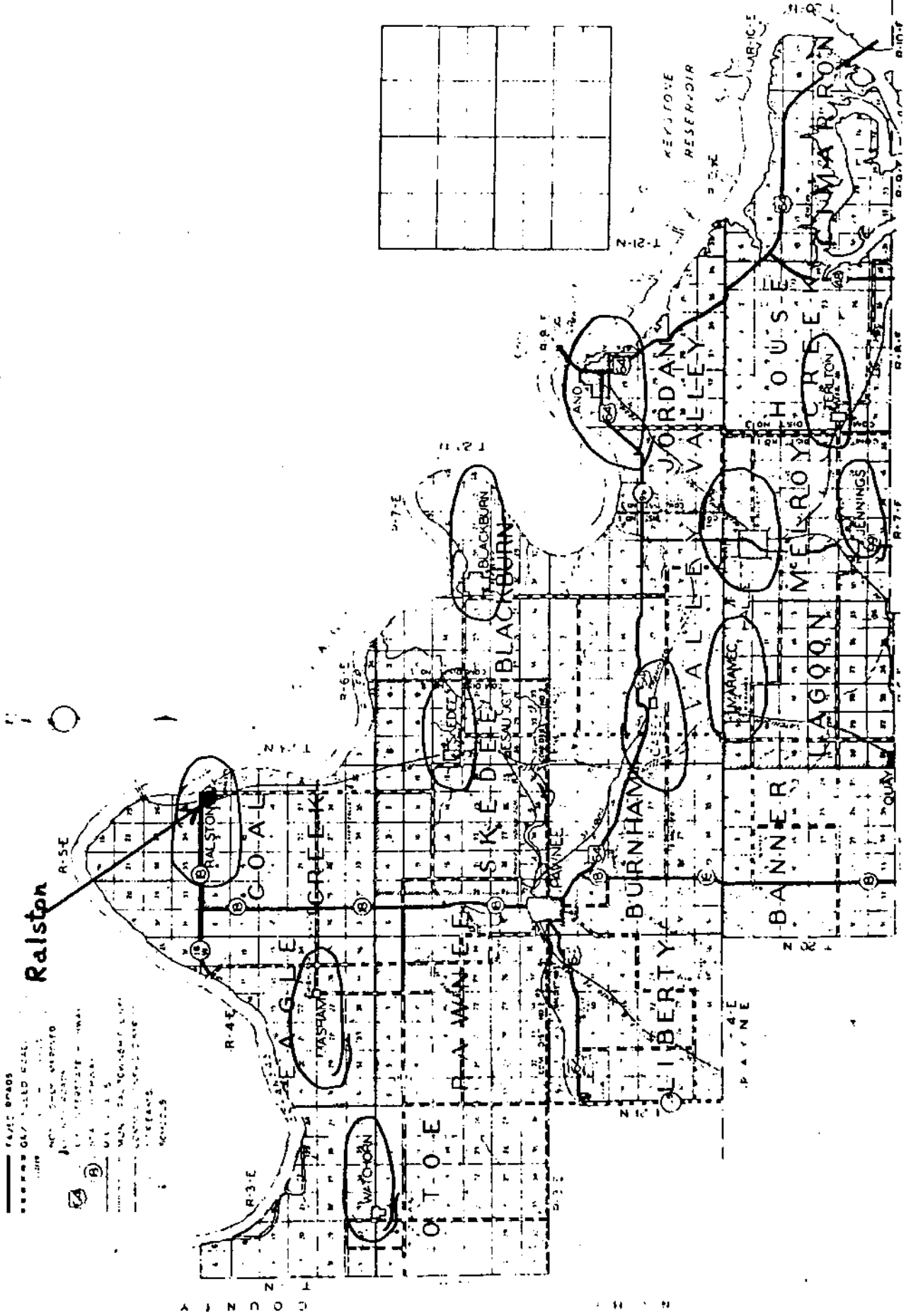


FIG. 17. OKLAHOMA TERRITORY (1890s)-RALSTON IN COUNTY Q
 Source: Morris et al, Historical Atlas of Oklahoma (1986, 54).

FIG. 18. LOCATION OF RALSTON IN PAWNEE COUNTY
 Source: Meurer Abstract and Title (n.d.)



Natural Resources

One of the reasons for the establishment of Ralston appears to have centered on the possibility of coal production in the area. Colonel J.H. Ralston, a geologist, had prospected for coal near the townsite of Ralston in the early 1890s. Ralston and two assistants, J.L. Lease and J.M. Lamberson, sank several shafts in the area. They reported an 8' vein of coal in the vicinity of Eagle Creek which empties into the Arkansas River. Records indicate that the mines were worked profitably for several years with Lease mining the coal. He used wagons and teams to haul the coal to Ralston, Perry, and other nearby towns, where it was used for heating purposes. Some of the shafts were deepened and walled for wells which served as a source of water for nearby residents in Ralston and surrounding farms (82).

Ralston profited from its proximity to the giant Burbank Oil Field in Osage County as well as the development of the Ralston Pool in northern Pawnee County [Fig. 19]. The Osage Nation lands had been explored and some production occurred in the 1890s. The Indian Territory Illuminating Oil Company and the Barnsdall Oil Company had made initial discoveries in the eastern part of the Osage reservation. Drilling operations continued on the Osage reservation in the 1890s when Edwin B. Foster secured a blanket lease on the region.

In 1901 the Indian Territory Illuminating Oil Company began extensive exploration in the area and a well producing

PAWNEE COUNTY
OIL & GAS FIELDS

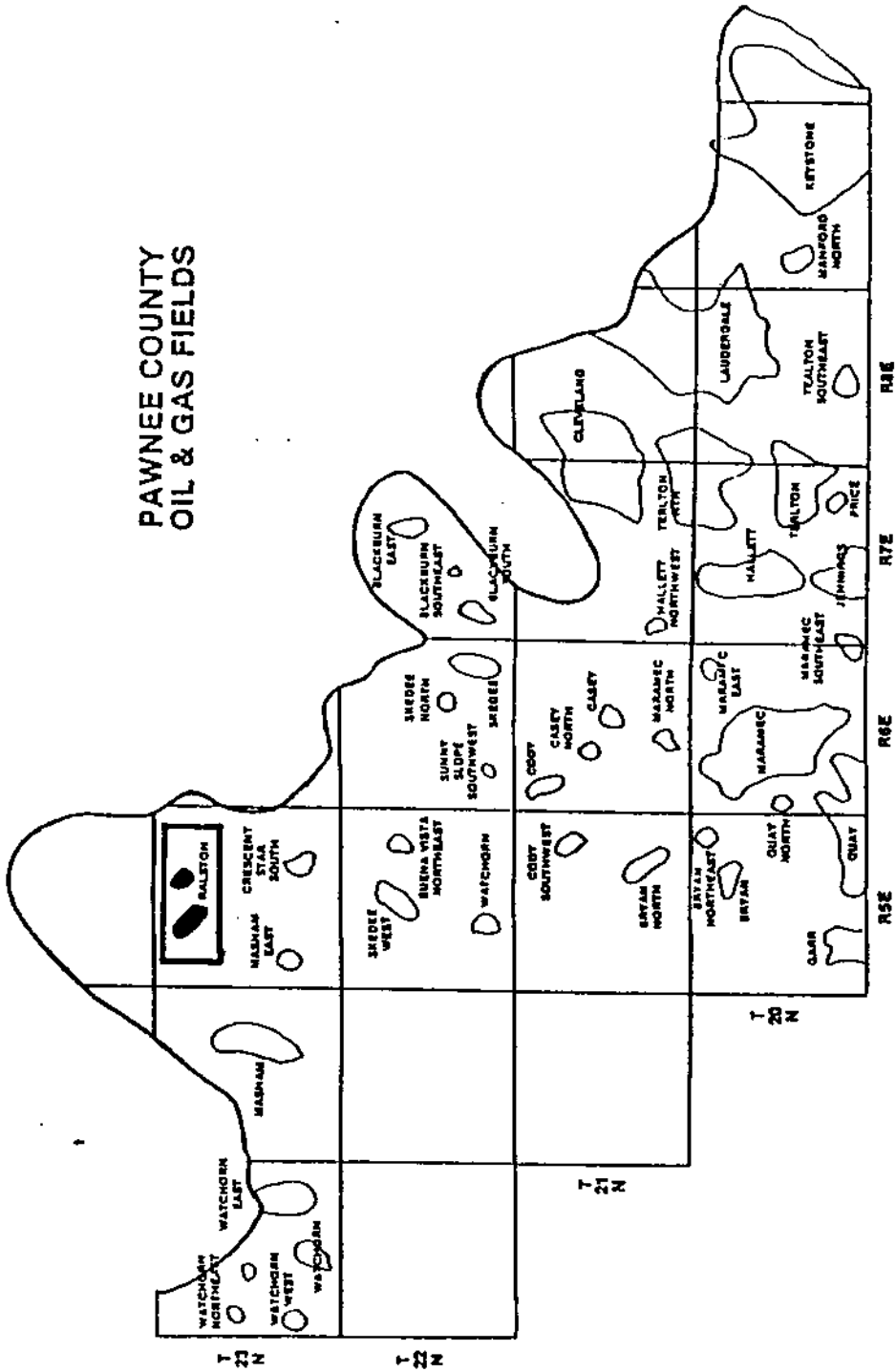


FIG. 19. RALSTON OIL POOL-PAWNEE COUNTY OIL AND GAS FIELDS
Source: Carney, G. O., Historic Context for Energy-Region 3
(1987)

50 barrels of crude per day was opened. By the end of 1903, thirty wells had been drilled on the reservation.

Additional pools were discovered in 1904-05 including the Okesa, Avant, and Wiser Fields; all of which flowed at a rate of approximately twenty-five barrels per day (83).

The real impetus for the Osage/Burbank Field did not come until World War I and the augmentation of the automobile. In 1918 the western portion of Osage County in general and the Burbank Field in particular, almost due north of Ralston, began to yield production of significant quantities of crude. Gypsy, Carter, and Marland, all major petroleum companies, secured drilling rights to tracts of land in the western part of Osage County. The Marland Oil Company in 1918 brought in a producing well in the SE 1/4 of Section 36-T27W-R5E. This well was drilled at approximately 3,000 feet which proved to be the profitable Bartlesville sand. Drilling operations spread in every direction from Marland's discovery extending into northern Pawnee County to the Ralston Pool. Lease buyers rushed to the area and, by 1922, a total of 102,192 acres of land had been leased in western Osage and northern Pawnee counties. Within a year, crude oil production in the Burbank Field jumped from 134,408 barrels (1920) to 4,986,340 barrels (1921). In 1922, annual production reached 24,230,563 barrels of oil with peak production totaling 26,206,741 barrels in 1923 (84). Ralston, located immediately across the Arkansas River from the Burbank pools, boomed in the 1920s as a

result of production from its own field, but also because of its accessibility to the rich fields to the north. The oil boom period in Ralston greatly influenced new construction of businesses and residences as well as expanding the local economy at that time.

During the 1930s, the Burbank and Ralston pools were affected by overproduction coupled with the economic impact of the Great Depression. The average price of Oklahoma crude plummeted from \$1.43 in 1929 to a low of 66 cents in 1933. As a result, petroleum producers near Ralston as well as in the rest of the state realized that the only means of raising crude prices was to decrease production until demand caught up with output. From the peak year of 1923, the fields around Ralston began a steady decline in production and never regained their importance. With the New Deal programs priming the economic pump, the price of crude did stabilize at \$1.04 per barrel by 1940 (85).

The advent of World War II somewhat rejuvenated the Ralston and Burbank pools during the years of 1943 and 1944 as petroleum became a vital component of the wartime efforts. But the Ralston boom years of the 1920s were never again realized. By 1950, Ralston had lost all of its petroleum-related businesses and its population spiraled downward to 400 residents. During the 1930-1950 period, the town lost nearly one-third of its population (86).

Agriculture

Ralston called itself the "Heart of the Great Corn Belt" during the early part of the twentieth century. Rightly so because corn was a major crop in the nearby bottom land of the Arkansas River valley. The Arkansas bottoms consisted of rich alluvial soil that was conducive for growing corn as well as other crops. Corn was a crop that served threefold purposes including use for domestic consumption, feed for livestock fattening, or sale directly from the field to a local or distant market. According to one source, Ralston's corn production was of such excellent quality that it had won "national prizes" (87). Although not much information is given on the facilities as to ownership or capacity, Ralston possessed two grain elevators in its early history. This indicated a need for grain storage and processing facilities near the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railroad which was completed through Ralston in 1902.

Along with corn, some cotton was raised in the Arkansas River valley. Again data on production amounts are nonexistent, but the fact that Ralston maintained a cotton gin during its early history reflects that production was sufficient to support such a facility. One other crop that was produced in the area was broom corn. This fact is revealed in an examination of local industries in Ralston which included a broom factory. Finally, dairying in the vicinity of Ralston was significant enough for Ralston to have a cheese factory.

During the 1930s, farmers in the Ralston area faced several economic hardships including a decline in cotton prices, invasion of the boll weevil, and deterioration of soil fertility caused by a lack of conservation methods. Additionally, the drought of the 1930s forced many farmers to abandon the land. By 1950, the Farmer's Union Cotton Gin Company in Ralston had ceased operations.

Farmers in the Ralston area tended to move toward diversified farming after the phasing out of cotton. Beef cattle, hay, and pasture became increasingly more important. In addition to corn, other row crops were planted. During the 1940s, a group of local farmers formed the Ralston Farmer's Coop in an effort to improve the agricultural sector of the local economy; however, the coop disbanded some time after 1950 and the elevator closed (88).

Commercial Establishments

In addition to local industries based on agriculture, Ralston, during its heyday of 1,000-1,500 population, took great pride in its central business district. The first business establishments in Ralston centered on the sale of liquor. During the early days of Oklahoma Territory, no laws existed to regulate the use or trade of whiskey by the white population to Indians. One of the most accessible towns along the Arkansas River for the Osages was Ralston which bordered the Osage reservation. Whiskey dealers first operated out of tents in Ralston. Later whiskey businesses were housed in crudely constructed buildings made of

unseasoned lumber cut by a horse-powered sawmill on the Eagle Creek bottom. It is reported that seven saloons were built in Ralston during the pre-statehood period. High board fences enclosed yards at the rear of the saloons where the Indians congregated to purchase the liquor (89).

McCague and Finney, co-founders of Ralston, erected the first commercial building in the town, a two-story mercantile store. The first floor was used for general merchandise sale and the second for living quarters and a small hotel. This building was destroyed by fire in 1931. By the end of 1894, Ralston's business district consisted of a general store and seven saloons. By statehood in 1907, Ralston boasted of two hotels (a third was added during the oil boom on the 1920s), Jake's Cafe and Confectionery, Mitch Lamberson's Boarding House, a blacksmith shop, ice plant, lumber yard, and barber shop. The two hotels were the Shamrock and the Riverside. The Shamrock was a two-story structure operated by the Ben Jones family, while the Riverside, also a two-story building, housed the telephone exchange in the upper story (90).

The first permanent (stone) building in the downtown area was Harry Brothers Hardware and Clothing Store, constructed in 1902. It was operated by A.M. (hardware) and Bill (clothing) Harry. Other commercial establishments by statehood included a drug store and shoe store (91).

Prior to the oil boom of the 1920s, Ralston experienced its first growth period with the coming of the Atchison,

Topeka and Santa Fe railroad in 1902. It was the nearest point from which people from the Osage Nation could travel to Pawnee and Guthrie where government and territorial business was transacted (92).

Ralston maintained three banks during the peak of the 1920s oil boom. The first of these was the First National Bank organized in 1900 by E.A. Bullock, H.E. Thompson, and William Berry. One of the three banks remains in Ralston today, the Bank of Ralston at 520 Main Street (OLI 1984).

Schools and Churches

By 1894, Ralston residents had constructed a one-room, wood-frame school building, located on Main Street, just across the street from a saloon. The students used the street as a playground during recess period. It was estimated that eighty-five children crowded into this one-room structure during the first term in operation in 1894. Fall term included the months from October to January and the spring term extended from February through May. Teacher salaries ranged from \$30-35 per month (93).

Scant information exists on the religious nature of Ralston other than at one time the town had seven churches and a hillside cemetery west of town. The only church mentioned was the Federated Church, apparently a nondenominational congregation.

Ralston maintained schools for grades 1-12 until the 1980s when consolidation occurred with Fairfax. At present (1995), a new middle school houses pupils from Ralston and

Fairfax located in Ralston, while all the elementary, junior high, and high school age children of Ralston attend those grades in Fairfax.

Ralston churches have varied in number. The total has declined in number from seven to two due to a decline in the town's population. The First Baptist and Bible Church are the only ones remaining. The Bible Church currently occupies the former Ralston Christian Church at 201 Sixth Street. Built in 1913, this Romanesque style building is included in the list of nine National Register eligible properties.

Politics and Government

The first post office in Ralston was established on August 3, 1895. McCague, one of the townsite developers, was appointed first postmaster by the U.S. Postmaster General, and served until his death in 1916. The post office was headquartered in the McCague-Finney general store from 1895 to 1916 (94).

On April 17, 1900, the town of Ralston was incorporated and the first census was taken. One hundred seventy-two people lived within the boundaries of the town. Population figures have varied over the years with as many as 1,500 residents in the 1920s and today's figure at approximately 400. On May 19, 1900, the first city election was held. Walter McCague was elected City Clerk; T.H. Holmes, Treasurer; R.J. Jones, City Marshal; and Jonathan Whiles, Justice of the Peace (95).

Ralston has maintained a local tag agency since the 1940s. It occupies one of the native sandstone Commercial style buildings at 607 Main Avenue, one of the nine National Register eligible buildings in Ralston. By 1950, the town was governed by a mayor/council form of municipal government (96).

Cultural Events/Social Clubs

The focal point of Ralston's cultural history is the Ralston Opera House built in 1902 at 501-503 Main Street (NR 1987). A.M. and Bill Harry, who owned the Harry Brothers Hardware and Clothing Store, operated their retail businesses out of the first floor while the second served as the opera house. These live performance theaters were generally along railroad lines where they could attract touring plays and musicals. Moreover, they served as public meeting spaces for regionally or nationally-known lectures. Later, vaudeville acts were featured and often shared billing with silent movies. Local talent, such as Ralston High School drama productions, were staged at the Opera House (97). Other activities included dances, school banquets, and performances by the Ralston Brass Band reported to be "one of the best brass bands in the state" (98). The Opera House functioned until the mid-1920s. Housed in the first stone building in Ralston, it is today one of the most significant architectural features of the town, having been restored in recent years.

Fraternal organizations played an important role in Ralston's social history. The Masons and Rebekah lodges were located on the second floor of the old post office building on Main Street. The I.O.O.F. building remains extant on Main Street. The American Legion and Legion Ladies Auxiliary have for years sponsored a free dinner on Thanksgiving day which attracts large crowds from Ralston and the surrounding countryside. Finally, the annual Labor Day "Homecoming Celebration" features a parade, carnival, and street dance; and is attended by large numbers from throughout the region (99). The event, begun in 1945, will hold its 50th anniversary in 1995.

As of 1950, all civic organizations and fraternal groups had disbanded due to a lack of membership and interest. Only the American Legion and Legion Ladies Auxiliary remained intact by 1950; however, they have been discontinued in recent years.

At one time or another, Ralston has been served by seven different newspapers (News, Independent, Magnet, Free Press, Reflector, Tribune, and Ralstonian). By 1950, the Ralston News, a weekly, was still in existence, but was forced to close its presses in 1957 due to a decline in subscriptions (100).

CONCLUSIONS

Through their histories, the four towns have retained a small town atmosphere. None have ever achieved a population of more than 15,000, and today all are less than 8,000. Cushing is the largest (7,700) followed by Nowata (4,300), Fairfax (1,950), and Ralston (495) [Fig. 20]. They were and continue as "Main Street" towns, i.e., their commercial business districts center on one main street rather than a town square, typical of many Midwestern and Southern small towns. Even Nowata's county courthouse is located on a side street to its main street (Delaware) rather than in a central courthouse square plan.

Perhaps the most significant fact that all four towns have in common is that they have survived as places in Oklahoma. Each has retained its post office, at least one school, a number of churches, and a small, but active business district consisting of a bank, grocery store, filling stations, and a variety of other small businesses. These government, social, and economic institutions are the lifeblood of small towns and, if ever lost, cause a disintegrating effect on them. Throughout their histories, each town has experienced economic downturns and "bust" periods. Despite these problems, the four towns have been a persevering and resilient group that have endured over time--all for at least 90 years. And they have maintained a uniqueness about them--a character that has set them apart from each other despite their commonalities. It is perhaps

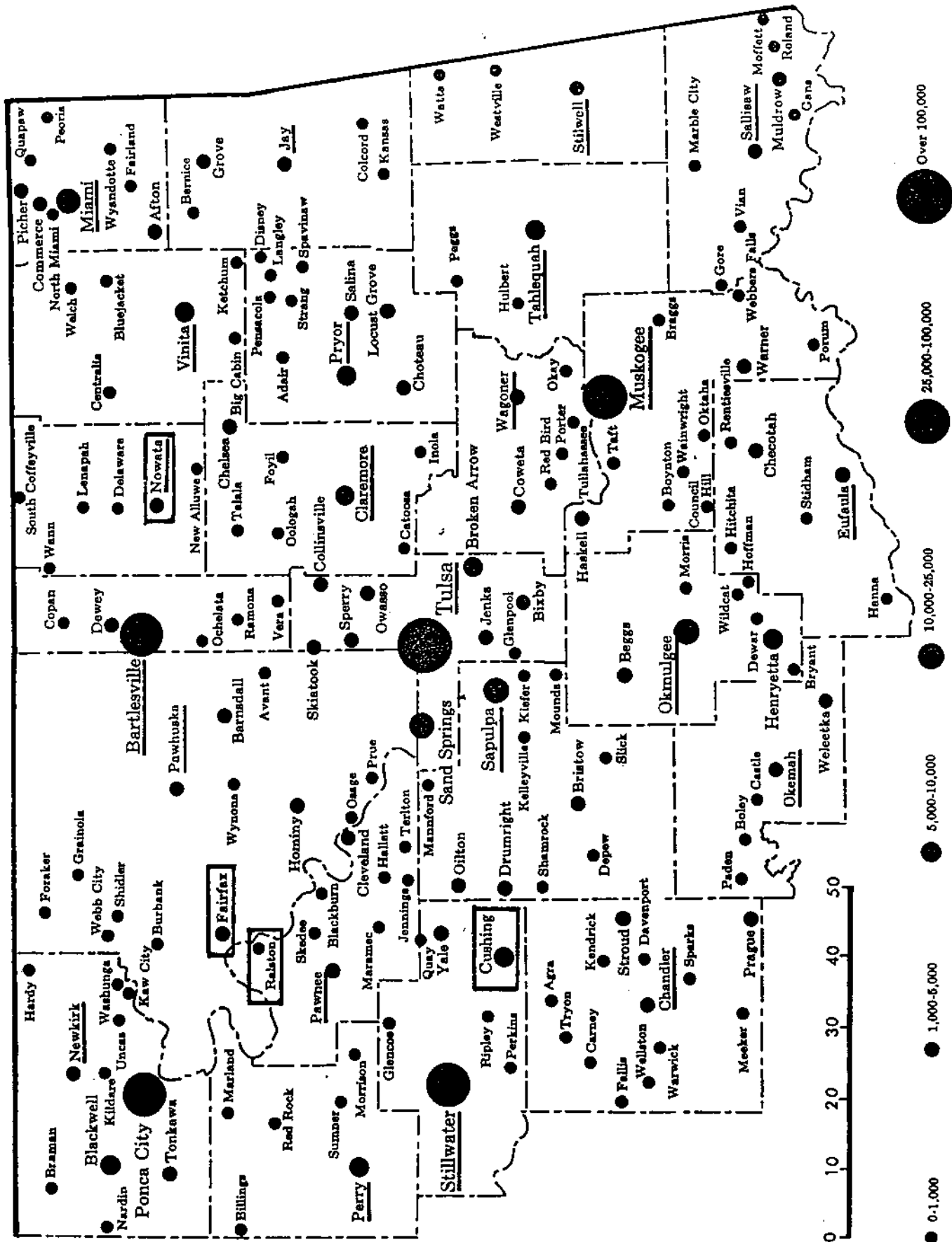


FIG. 20. NORTHEAST OKLAHOMA: FOUR TOWNS/POPULATION SIZE
 Source: Morris et al, *Historical Atlas of Oklahoma* (1986), 78.

the individual qualities of each town that have made them liveable and attractive enough for people to remain in them and sustain them from becoming ghost towns, a common occurrence in the last half of the twentieth century among small towns throughout America's heartland.

Although none of the four towns has ever organized a preservation society or legislated a preservation ordinance, local residents individually and local historical societies collectively have maintained a caring attitude and invested historical interest in saving their built heritage. This has resulted in a collection of historic properties of which each town can be proud. These properties represent different slices of time in each community's history and they reflect a concern for different aspects of the community from churches and schools to commercial and industrial buildings.

With the assistance of OK/SHPO and consultants from Oklahoma State University, University of Oklahoma, and other state agencies, all four communities contain National Register of Historic Places properties (Fairfax has two while Cushing, Ralston, and Nowata have one each). Additionally, all four towns have properties listed on the O.L.I. including Cushing [13], Fairfax [3], Nowata [3], and Ralston [1] (Table I).

These National Register and Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory nominations are a result of several preservation planning surveys sponsored by OK/SHPO, including the Cushing

Oil Field (1980-81), County Courthouses of Oklahoma (1984), and WPA Buildings of 1935-43 (1988) Thematic Resources projects as well as Resurveys of Three North Central Counties (1983-84) and Resurveys of Six North Central Oklahoma Counties (1983-84) grants. The focus of these surveys, however, was of a broader nature and did not specifically center on any one of the four individual towns. Thus, it is hoped that this reconnaissance level survey will provide preliminary information and data for an intensive level survey and eventual nomination of those properties in the four towns that merit consideration.

Table I

Individual Properties and Districts

(National Register/Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory Listing -
1995)

CUSHING: INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES

- (1) Dunkin Theater (1926)-207 East Broadway (OLI 1980)
- (2) R.C. Jones Mansion (1927-29)-100 Jones Avenue (OLI
1980)
- (3) C.R. Anthony Store (1922)-118 East Broadway (OLI
1980)
- (4) Burkey Creamery (1927)-205 West Cherry (OLI 1980)
- (5) Hiram Dunkin Home (c. 1923)-309 East Broadway (OLI
1980)
- (6) Mathias Home (1929)-745 East Moses (OLI n.d.)
- (7) Cushing High School Stadium (1935 WPA)-1700 East
Walnut (OLI 1987)
- (8) Rotary Park (1935 WPA)-Highland and East 9th (OLI
1987)
- (9) Cushing Airport Hanger (1941 WPA)-South Little
(OLI 1987)
- (10) Memorial Park (1935 WPA)-Little and 2nd Street
(OLI 1987)
- (11) Cushing Armory (1935 WPA)-218 South Little (NR
1994)
- (12) Santa Fe Depot (c. 1911)-400 West Broadway (OLI
n.d.)

- (13) Hotel Cushing (1928-29)- 206-214 East Broadway
(OLI n.d.)

CUSHING: DISTRICTS

- (1) Stone and Brick Block (1903-04)-100 Block of West Broadway (OLI 1980)
- (2) Old Jericho (1896-1904)-300 Block of East Main (OLI 1980)
- (3) Thematic Resources of Shotgun Houses (OLI 1980)
(Ten Shotgun Houses in Various Blocks)

FAIRFAX: INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES

- (1) Osage Bank (1904)-250 North Main (NR 1984)
- (2) First National Bank and Masonic Lodge (1906/1924)-
301 North Main (NR 1984)
- (3) Wismeyer Building (1902)-317 North Main (OLI n.d.)
- (4) Osage County Garage (1939 WPA)-First and Mulberry
(OLI 1988)
- (5) Fairfax School Stadium and Athletic Fields (1936
WPA)-North edge of Fairfax (OLI 1988)

NOWATA: INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES

- (1) Nowata County Courthouse-229 North Maple Street
(NR 1984)
- (2) First Presbyterian Church (1908)-202 West Delaware
(OLI 1993)
- (3) First National Bank of Nowata (1908)-101 North
Maple (OLI n.d.)
- (4) Nowata Bus Garage (1936-37 WPA)-Osage and Walnut
Street (OLI n.d.)

RALSTON: INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES

- (1) Ralston Opera House (1902-03)-501-503 Main Street
(NR 1987)
- (2) Bank of Ralston (1900)-520 Main Street (OLI n.d.)

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XII. ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Department of Geography, Oklahoma State University.
Report located at State Historic Preservation Office,
Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City, OK.

This report covers three of the four counties where the four towns are located (Nowata-Nowata/Ralston-Pawnee/Fairfax-Osage). The historic narrative (pp. 16-65) and the property type analysis (pp. 90-160) are most useful.

Agriculture: Historic Context for Management Region #6:
1839-1930. Prepared in 1988 by George O. Carney,
Department of Geography, Oklahoma State University.
Report located at State Historic Preservation Office,
Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City, OK.

Includes Payne County where Cushing is located.

Benedict, John D. Muskogee and Northeastern Oklahoma.
Chicago: S.J. Clarke Company, 1922.

An entire chapter is devoted to Nowata County with particular emphasis on the City of Nowata as county seat. Presents a 1920 picture of Nowata with census data, commercial functions, and social activities. It contains several excellent photographs of 1920 buildings including churches and schools of that era.

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This report is based on a survey of the communities of the Cushing Oil Field including Quay, Yale, Pemeta, Markham, Oilton, Drumright, Shamrock, and Cushing. Chronicles the various towns and their development during the oil boom years from 1912 to 1920. It gives a list of O.L.I. and National Register properties in each of the towns. A short history of Cushing is presented with descriptions of the historic properties in the town such as the R.C. Jones Mansion, Dunkin Theater, Stone and Brick Blocks, and Shotgun Houses.

Cushing, Independent, March 6, 1902 (Vol. 1, No. 16).

This addition of one of two Cushing newspapers at the turn of the century presents important historical information on early businesses and the controversy over the two business districts--Main Street and Broadway.

Cushing, Herald, January 10, 1902.

This issue of one of two local newspapers in Cushing at the turn of the century indicates that the local newspapers took opposite sides on the business district location controversy.

Daily Reminder and Civic Directory of Fairfax. Chicago: Women's Clubs Publishing Company, n.d.

A five-page history of Fairfax is outlined. It covers the founding of the town up to the 1920.

DeBerry, Drue Lemuel. "The Ethos of the Oklahoma Oil Boom Frontier, 1905-1929." Unpublished Master's Thesis, University of Oklahoma, 1970.

This thesis covers activities in the Cushing Oil Field.

Debo, Angie. Oklahoma: Footloose and Fancy-Free. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1949.

Authored by one of the most knowledgeable scholars on the Oklahoma story, this book chronicles more than mere political history. It gives insight to the character of Oklahomans, especially their social and cultural history.

Dickerson, Philip. History of the Osage Nation. Pawhuska, OK: Chamber of Commerce, c. 1910.

Contains a fruitful chapter on Fairfax, O.T. history with numerous photographs including the Osage Bank, First National Bank, Wismeyer Building, and the residences of J.B. Wilson, F.D. Waugh, and L.A. Wismeyer.

Doran, Michael Frank. "Origins of Culture Areas in Oklahoma, 1830-1930." Unpublished Ph.D. Dissertation, University of Oregon, 1974.

This dissertation by a geographer is an exhaustive treatment of migration sources into Oklahoma and how these migrants affected the culture regionalization of Oklahoma.

Ellsworth, J.O. and Elliott, F. F., "Types of Farming in Oklahoma." Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin No. 181 (June 1929).

This is an invaluable analysis of the state's agricultural regions up to c. 1930. Divides the state into corn and cotton belts.

Energy: Historic Context for Management Region #3: 1897-1930. Prepared by George O. Carney, Department of Geography, Oklahoma State University, 1986-87. Report located at State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City, OK.

This report covers three of the four counties where three of the study towns are located. Historical narrative (pp. 4-31) and property type analysis (pp. 32-56) are useful.

Estill, Emma A. "The Openings of Oklahoma." Unpublished Master's Thesis, University of Oklahoma, 1923.

This graduate level thesis is an invaluable source for the Land Runs of 1889, 1891, 1893, and 1895; and their affect on the four study area towns.

"Fairfax, Oklahoma, The Coming Metropolis of the Osage Empire." The Osage Chief (Fairfax, OK), Vol. 6 (June 24 1910) (Booster Edition).

An eight-page special edition of the local newspaper outlining the status of Fairfax in 1910. Contains useful and detailed descriptions of several businesses including the Fairfax Ice Factory, Fairfax Mercantile Company, Ponton Meat Market, Rohr Lumber Company, Badger-Hudson Grain Company, Harrington Garage and Automobile Agency, and both First National and Osage Banks. Photographs highlight the \$45,000 public school building, Methodist Episcopal Church, Presbyterian Church, and the homes of L.B. Morledge, S.E. Tate, and N.H. Hoss.

Finney, Frank F., "Ralston." Unpublished Manuscript, October 1954. File Located in Fairfax Public Library, 3 pp.

Useful account of Ralston's founding and its relationship to the Osage Nation, just across the Arkansas River.

"First National Bank and Masonic Lodge of Fairfax," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form (1984), Oklahoma Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma City, OK.

This building (NR listed in 1984) remains extant and the form outlines valuable historical data on the founding of the bank and lodge.

Forbes, Charles Gerald. "The Origin and Early Development of the Oil Industry in Oklahoma." Unpublished Ph.D. Dissertation, University of Oklahoma, 1939.

Later converted into book form, the author traces the major oil fields in Oklahoma from 1905 to 1935 including Cushing, Osage, and Burbank Fields which are pertinent to this study.

Forbes, Gerald, "History of the Osage Blanket Lease," The Chronicles of Oklahoma 19 (March 1941), 70-81.

Important source explaining the arrangements made between petroleum companies and the Osage Nation on leases and royalties. Helpful on Fairfax.

Foreman, Grant. A History of Oklahoma. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1942.

A standardized account of the state written by one of the most prolific authors on Oklahoma history.

Franks, Kenny A. The Oklahoma Petroleum Industry. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1980.

This is the best overview of petroleum history in Oklahoma. Covers the oil fields that affected Cushing, Ralston, Fairfax, and Nowata (Cushing, Burbank, and Osage Fields).

Fugate, Francis L. and Roberta B. Roadside History of Oklahoma. Missoula, Montana: Mountain Press, 1991.

One of the most recent travelogues of Oklahoma. It contains information on each of the four northeastern towns included in the study. Nowata is covered on pp. 18 and 216-19 with a photograph of the Savoy Hotel; Ralston is included on pp. 231 and 233 with explanation of early steamboat activity from Tulsa; Cushing is highlighted on pp. 18 and 185-86; and Fairfax is covered on pp. 232-33.

Gay, Felix M. "History of Nowata County." Unpublished Master's Thesis, Oklahoma A & M College, 1937.

An analysis of Nowata County including Indian tribes, natural resources, importance of oil fields to the founding of the city of Nowata, and economic and political activities throughout the area.

_____. History of Nowata County. Stillwater: Redlands Press, 1957.

An updated version in book form of the author's 1937 thesis on Nowata County.

Gibson, Arrell. Oklahoma: A History of Five Centuries. Norman: Harlow Publishing, 1965.

This book became the most widely-used textbook for Oklahoma history classes in the state's school system. Authored by a University of Oklahoma history professor who became the state's leading historian until his recent death.

Gittinger, Roy. The Formation of the State of Oklahoma, 1803-1906. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1939.

A scholarly history of events leading up to the creation of the state.

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

This handsome collection of photographs plus introductory text categorizes Oklahoma homes by chronological period. Covers three houses in the study area--Turney Home in Nowata (1920) on p. 197; the Tallchief House in Fairfax (1925) on p. 198; and the Jones Mansion in Cushing (c. 1915) on p. 223.

Gould, Charles N. Oklahoma Place Names. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1933.

Before the Shirk book, this was the only book-length treatment of the origin of names of cities, rivers, towns, and mountains in Oklahoma.

_____. Travels Through Oklahoma. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1930.

This source authored by a University of Oklahoma professor gives excellent physical geography information, especially topography, soils, and vegetation. Useful for the counties where the four towns are located.

Green, Donald E. (ed.) Rural Oklahoma. Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Historical Society, 1977.

This collection of readings edited by one of the state's most reputable historians consists of articles on specific crops and livestock that played an important role in Oklahoma's agricultural history. Especially valuable are the chapters on cotton and wheat.

Hatfield, E.E. "Economic Survey of Osage County, Oklahoma with Historical and Geographical Background." Unpublished Master's Thesis, University of Oklahoma, 1936.

Helpful thesis on economic activities of the state's largest county which includes Fairfax, one of the study towns.

Henderson, Arn, Frank Parman, and Dortha Henderson. Architecture in Oklahoma: Landmark and Vernacular. Norman, OK: Point Riders Press, 1978.

This book includes a collection of excellent photographs on a wide array of buildings and structures taken throughout the state. It is organized by chronological periods. Unfortunately, it contains nothing from the four northeastern towns in this study.

Hill, Luther B. History of the State of Oklahoma. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1908.

An early attempt to tell the story of Oklahoma from the date of the Louisiana Purchase through the formation of the state.

Hofsommer, Donovan L. (ed.) Railroads in Oklahoma. Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Historical Society, 1977.

This author probably knows more about Oklahoma railroad history than any other student of the subject. This anthology provides general information as to dates of construction of the railways that influenced the development of the four northeastern Oklahoma towns.

Holt, John. Ralston Oklahoma: 1894 to 1994. Ralston, OK: Historical Society, 1994.

A compilation of newspaper articles and local historical accounts of the founding and development of Ralston. A map and description of early day buildings is quite helpful for survey purposes.

Johnson, Kenneth et al. Geology and Earth Resources of Oklahoma. Norman: Oklahoma Geological Survey, 1972.

A handsome booklet laced with numerous maps, charts, and graphs developed by the leading geologist of the state.

Lloyd, Heather J. "Oklahoma's Cushing Oil Field." Unpublished Master's Thesis, Oklahoma State University, 1976.

This thesis focuses on the discovery and development of the Cushing Oil Field with specific emphasis on economic aspects, social conditions, and political influences. Excellent material on the town of Cushing as an "oil patch" community from 1912 to 1920.

McReynolds, Edwin C. Oklahoma: A History of the Sooner State. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1954.

A detailed political history of the state written by an Oklahoma State University history professor, it became a college textbook for Oklahoma history courses.

Meredith, Howard L. and Meredith, Mary Ellen. Of the Earth: Oklahoma Architectural History. Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Historical Society, 1980.

This collection of readings covers a myriad of house types, building materials, and renowned architects in the state. Especially useful is the coverage on native stone buildings constructed with materials from the Hopkins Brothers quarry near Cushing.

Morgan, H. Wayne and Morgan, Ann Hodges. Oklahoma: A Bicentennial History. New York: W.W. Norton, 1977.

This was the commissioned bicentennial history of Oklahoma in 1976. Authored by a husband-wife team, it is an outstanding overview of the state with some new interpretations.

Morris, John W. (ed.) Cities of Oklahoma. Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Historical Society, 1979.

A useful anthology that includes some information on three of the four northeastern towns--Nowata (pp. 11 and 21), Fairfax (p. 100), and Cushing (pp. 68, 72, 74, and 82).

Morris, John W. et al. Historical Atlas of Oklahoma. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1986.

This is the best atlas on Oklahoma. It covers a variety of topics from cattle trails to railroads. The textual material accompanying the maps is brief, but informative.

Nash, R.C. The Overland, Vol. 1 (No. 1)-Special Edition on Oklahoma History. No date or publisher. Located in Fairfax, Oklahoma Public Library.

This newspaper edition features a special section on Fairfax--her resources, prospects, and achievements. Organized by topics which include amusements/sports, banks, telephone system, roads and bridges, oil and gas, churches, homes, and prominent individuals.

Nowata Daily Star, October 18, 1957 (Semi-Centennial Edition)

This issue of the Nowata newspaper gives background on the founding of the town and the different accounts of its name.

Oklahoma Almanac. 2 vols. Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Publishing Company, 1930-31.

Now dated, this is a storehouse of statistics on Oklahoma during the period from statehood through the 1920s.

Oklahoma Employment Security Commission. Economic Base Report: Nowata County. Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Employment Security Commission, 1966.

This lengthy report deals with population, labor force, employment factors, industrial development, education, transportation, and market areas for communities in Nowata County. It is based on a manpower survey conducted in 1966.

Oklahoma Employment Security Commission. Economic Base Report: Pawnee County. Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Employment Security Commission, 1967.

A similar report to the one on Nowata County based on a manpower survey completed in 1966. Presents economic outlook for Pawnee County in 1967 and makes recommendations for industrial development, tourism, upgrading public facilities, and modernization of commercial and residential sections of the county.

"Oldest Buildings Standing in Cushing Number Eleven," Cushing Daily Citizen, October 28, 1934.

This article in the Cushing newspaper focuses on the Broadway Street commercial buildings which remained intact at the time. Information given on the Stone Block of 100 West Broadway.

Osage County Historical Society. Osage County Profiles. Pawhuska, OK: Osage County Historical Society, 1964.

The closest account to a county history. It gives an early history of Fairfax with three photographs accompanying the text. Earliest photo is 1910.

Osborn, Donald G. "The Sac and Fox Indians: Reservation Years in Indian Territory, 1869-1891." Unpublished Master's Thesis, University of Oklahoma, 1960.

The Native American tribe that preceded settlement in and around Cushing, one of the four study towns.

"Ralston Opera House," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form (1987), Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma City, OK.

This form contains useful information on the opera house in Ralston and its role in the social history of the town as well as other buildings in the central business district.

Ralston News, August 28, 1952.

A brief, but useful account on the beginnings of Ralston. Located in the Fairfax Public Library.

"Richardsonian Romanesque Banks of Osage County," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form (1984), Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma City, OK.

This nomination gives valuable historical and architectural information on the Osage Bank in Fairfax, one of the four banks included in this National Register form. Listed in 1984.

Roark, Michael. "Searching for the Hearth: Culture Areas of Oklahoma." The Chronicles of Oklahoma, LXX (Winter, 1992-93), 416-31.

A useful article on settlement patterns in Oklahoma by a geographer who gives source areas for migrants into the state and how they shaped its political and religious history.

Roark, Michael. "Oklahoma Territory: Frontier Development, Migration, and Culture Areas." Unpublished Ph.D. Dissertation, Syracuse University, 1979.

Excellent analysis of migration, settlement patterns, and cultural regionalization of Oklahoma Territory.

Roberts, Joe Don. "An Economic and Geographic History of Cushing, Oklahoma From Its Origins Through the Oil Boom Years 1912-1917." Unpublished Ph.D. Dissertation, University of Minnesota, 1976.

A thorough and exhaustive treatment of Cushing's early years. It covers early European contact, Washington Irving Expedition, Sac and Fox era, early cotton milling activities, and exploration and development of the oil industry. Coverage of the oil boom years is organized by year from 1912 to 1917. This is an excellent, well-documented source.

Rister, Carl Coke. Oil! Titan of the Southwest. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1949.

This scholarly account of petroleum history in Oklahoma details production in the Burbank/Osage fields near Fairfax and Ralston.

Ruth, Kent. Oklahoma Travel Handbook. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1977.

Compiled by one of Oklahoma's most noted historians, this is a travelogue of the state, but contains brief histories of each community including the four northeastern towns of this study.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Maps-Cushing, Nowata, Fairfax, and Ralston, Oklahoma.

These are valuable primary sources for construction materials, types of commercial establishments, lot and block numbers, plat name, and dates of construction. A must for conducting historic property surveys.

Shirk, George H. Oklahoma Place Names. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1974.

This is the most recent study on the origins of city and county names in Oklahoma.

Snider, L.C. Geography of Oklahoma. Norman: Oklahoma Geological Survey, 1917.

This study provides some excellent physical geography information on the state.

Starr, Emmet. Encyclopedia of Oklahoma. Oklahoma City: Private Printing, 1912.

The first statistical handbook on Oklahoma following statehood.

Stiles, George W. "Early Days in Sac and Fox Country," The Chronicles of Oklahoma (Autumn 1955), 316-38.

This article is useful on Cushing's early history, especially organization of churches and schools in and around the town.

Stillwater Daily Democrat February 16, 1904 (Vol. 2, No. 119).

This issue of the Stillwater newspaper gives information on the county seat location in Payne County. Cushing and Stillwater competed over this issue before statehood and later in the Shaffer County proposal in 1913/14.

Thoburn, Joseph B. and Wright, Muriel H. Oklahoma: A History of the State and Its People. New York: Lewis Publishing Company, 1929.

A four-volume set gives a detailed story on Oklahoma to the 1920s.

Wells, Laura Lou. Young Cushing in Oklahoma Territory. Stillwater, OK: Frontier Printers, 1975.

For a local history compiled by a Cushing resident, this is a well-researched and thorough examination of Cushing prior to the oil boom of 1912. Gives excellent information on Cushing as a cotton-processing center and railroad town from the Land Run of 1891 to 1907. Contains several excellent photographs.

Withers, Vicki Dale. "A Check List of Theses and Dissertations Relating to Oklahoma History Completed at the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University Through 1972." Unpublished Master's Thesis, Oklahoma State University, 1974.

Although needs updating, this is a valuable source. Other disciplines need to follow this model. First part is organized by topic and second section is arranged by county and city names. Contains titles on Cushing, Osage County, and Nowata County. Unfortunately, nothing on Pawnee County.

WPA Guide to 1930s Oklahoma. Lawrence, KS: University Press of Kansas, 1986.

With a new introduction by Anne Hodges Morgan, this is an updated version of the 1941 edition compiled by the Writers' Program of the Works Progress Administration. Contains brief material on all four study towns (Cushing, pp. 39 and 254; Nowata, pp. 287 and 351; Fairfax, p. 292; and Ralston, p. 292).

XIII. SUMMARY

The Reconnaissance Level Survey of Portions of Four Northeastern Oklahoma Towns included the four communities of Ralston, Fairfax, Cushing, and Nowata. A total of 168 properties in the study areas specified by OK/SHPO were surveyed with minimum level documentation.

- (1) Nine individual properties were recommended for National Register consideration (Ralston [1], Nowata [2], and Cushing [6]).
- (2) One hundred fourteen individual properties were suggested for additional study.
- (3) Thumbnail sketches for seven proposed districts were outlined with tentative boundaries and justifications for intensive level surveys (Ralston [1], Fairfax [2], Cushing [2], and Nowata [2]).
- (4) A group of eighteen shotgun houses in Cushing was proposed for an intensive level survey for a multiple property nomination to the National Register.
- (5) Approximately twenty to twenty-five individual properties that were surveyed did not qualify for additional investigation.
- (6) Eight thumbnail sketches of areas (two in each town) did not meet qualifications for intensive level surveys.

- (7) Approximately seventy of the individual properties surveyed were residential (single or multiple). This was by far the dominant kind of property surveyed in the four towns.
- (8) An estimated thirty commercial properties were surveyed in the four towns--the second leading kind of property.
- (9) A total of sixteen religious properties were documented with six of the churches associated with the African-American ethnic group.
- (10) Additional kinds of properties represented in the four towns included transportation (6), government (3), social/cultural (4), educational (4), and industrial (2).
- (11) Residential areas in the four study towns are characterized by an exceptional variety in architecture including both vernacular and high styles. Among these were shotguns, pyramidal, folk Victorian, classic bungalows, airplane bungalows, hall-and-parlor, Queen Anne, Classical Revival, Colonial Revival, Spanish Eclectic, Prairie School, and Italian Renaissance. Two general architectural movements, however, appear to dominate the vocabulary of the houses surveyed: Craftsman Era and Eclectic Period.
- (12) Commercial areas in the four study towns are characterized by one to three story buildings (the

only one reaching skyscraper height was the Hotel Cushing); constructed of native sandstone (Ralston), red brick (Nowata), or a mixture of the two (Cushing and Fairfax); and manifesting minimal decorative elements, primarily at the second story level.

Overall, the four towns possess numerous cultural resources that meet age eligibility requirements and retain some degree of architectural integrity or historic significance. Thus, an intensive level survey of each of the four towns is endorsed for the near future. Several individual properties that retain a high degree of historic and architectural integrity deserve immediate attention and early nomination to the National Register, whereas other individual properties and proposed districts are in need of rehabilitation. Cushing, in particular, should be given top priority for an intensive level survey when funding is available because of its intact resources that meet age and integrity requirements and its lack of National Register listings compared to the other three towns. Emphasis should also be placed on the central business district commercial buildings in Ralston, Fairfax, and Nowata before further deterioration and razing of properties occurs.

Each town has preserved a myriad of cultural resources representing different time periods in its history as well as reflecting different segments of its community ranging from residences and schools to commercial and industrial

properties. Therefore, community leaders and citizens of the towns should be encouraged to emphasize properties that are representative of these slices of time and serve as historic reminders of various aspects of their communities. Finally, citizens interested in preservation should be encouraged to form preservation groups, or as a committee within the local historical society, Chamber of Commerce, or other local organization; and to seek support and assistance from the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office of the Oklahoma Historical Society.

**ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW OF THE
RECONNAISSANCE LEVEL SURVEY OF
FOUR NORTHEASTERN OKLAHOMA TOWNS**
for Dr. George O. Carney, Professor of Geography
Oklahoma State University

by Jeffrey K. Williams, AIA, Associate Professor of Architecture
Oklahoma State University

October 9, 1995

Ralston:

By far the smallest of the communities in this reconnaissance survey, Ralston is also architecturally the least sophisticated of the communities surveyed. The best architectural examples reside in the downtown area. The Bank of Ralston is a two-story corner structure in the downtown area which is built primarily of large, roughly dressed stone with a Romanesque flair to its detailing. This is by far the most impressive, most costly and most permanent structure in the town. At the opposite end of this same block is another very nice two-part commercial building with the same roughly dressed stone and arched windows on the second story. The IOOF Lodge is an unsophisticated version of the same architectural vocabulary. The most interesting residential example within the study area is the vernacular residence constructed of native stone which is located at 501 Main Street.

Fairfax:

Fairfax is a good example of a typical small town in early twentieth century Oklahoma. Its downtown is composed of average quality one and two-part commercial buildings (primarily of brick). There are a few buildings which stand out from the rest. In general, however, the church architecture is some of the best in town, with the Baptist and Presbyterian Churches the best among them. Its residential architecture is composed of primarily lower middle class residences which are typically constructed of wood frame with painted wood siding.

While most of the downtown core is composed of nondescript designs, there are a few exceptions. As in Ralston, one of the most significant structures is a bank (in this case it is the Osage Bank of Fairfax, with its rusticated stone and articulated corner entry in the Romanesque style). By far the most elaborate design in town is at a downtown corner location (address unknown -- Fairfax roll 2/ frames 3-4) and is an exuberant brick and stone Beaux Arts structure. Its appearance suggests it may have once been a bank structure as well.

The public architecture of Fairfax is rather mediocre in design quality. The Fairfax City Hall has some nice simple stone detailing at the top of its facade but it also has very poor proportions and detailing at the ground level. The Fairfax School Auditorium is the largest and best example of this building type, with its primary use of brick and simple stone accents.

The residential architecture of Fairfax is best represented by the elaborate Craftsman Style bungalow located at 160 North Sixth Street and the Italianate brick and stone design located at 201 South Sixth Street.

As indicated previously, the church architecture is some of the best in town. The First Osage Baptist Church freely interprets the Georgian style in its brick and stone design and the First Presbyterian Church is an enthusiastic eclectic collection of Gothic elements in a brick and wood frame construction. The presence of architectural quality in the religious structures of Fairfax indicates that the expression of their religious faith was a primary concern of Fairfax residents.

Cushing:

The Cushing downtown area is typically composed of two-part commercial buildings at the corners with one-part commercial buildings infilling between these corner structures. The corner buildings, almost always private business ventures, are typically the best architectural examples of the downtown core. Examples of these are: (1) the Cushing State Bank, clearly one of the earliest structures in Cushing, with its large, coarsely dressed stone implying both permanence and security for this early town; (2) 204 North Harrison Avenue, a well-proportioned and detailed building utilizing brick and a contrasting light colored stone; (3) the C.C. Walter Building at 201 East Broadway Street, a brick two-part commercial building with modest stone detailing (the remodeling by Bill Evans Furniture, while fortunately not irreversible, does not do the original architecture justice); and (4) the A.L. Treese Building, a brick three-part commercial building with a very strong rhythm and narrow footprint.

By far the largest, most handsome and most sophisticated structure downtown is the Cushing Hotel. The articulated facade of its seven stories and the pleasant manipulation of its massing indicate an importance to this community which date back to its early days. This building, coupled with the Dunkin Theater (executed in a controlled Art Deco style) leads one to believe that there must have been a need for quality transient living and entertainment of a comparable level.

Curiously, the architectural character of the public buildings in Cushing are rather average in quality. The Cushing Public Library, while investing in the permanence of

brick, is a rather mediocre design which presents an image more like a school than a library. The Cushing Armory has a fortress-like character which is somewhat typical of the WPA structures of this era. The parks in the study area present a collection of individual, unrelated objects which are more utilitarian in nature than examples of inspired design.

There are a few buildings which are related to the railroad and/or industrial areas which have interesting aspects to them. First, the Santa Fe Depot, with its Mission Style architecture executed primarily out of brick, must have presented a respectable image to the first-time visitor to Cushing. The utilitarian bracketing of the Katy Freight Depot lends a well proportioned respectability to this modest wood frame structure, and the powerful sculptural forms of the Cushing Coal Loading Chute presents a very dynamic silhouette to the Cushing skyline.

Typically the religious structures in a community of this era are some of the best architecture in the community, suggesting that religion was an important aspect of their lives. Curiously, the churches identified by this study, with the exception of the Neo-Classical original structure for the First Presbyterian Church, present a very simple, unsophisticated architectural presence.

While there are several examples of good architectural design in the downtown area, the most interesting architectural aspects of Cushing are clearly located in the residential areas. There is a concentration of these structures on East Broadway Street and on East Moses Street. A few examples are: (1) 1019 East Broadway Street, a

residence with Prairie Style influences which has only average proportions but some very interesting detailing; (2) 833 East Broadway Street and 621 East Broadway Street, both Italianate residences constructed of masonry materials; (3) 513 East Broadway Street, one of the town's better examples of the Craftsman Style bungalow; (4) 309 East Broadway Street (the Hiram Dunkin Home), a Craftsman Style bungalow which is currently in rather poor condition; (5) 321 East Moses Street, a masonry residence with Prairie Style influences; (6) the Mathias House at 745 East Moses Street, is a brick structure which freely interprets the Georgian Style; (7) 807 East Moses Street, another Italianate residence; and (8) 945 East Moses Street, an elaborate Craftsman Style residence with very dominant wood bracketing.

While these streets represent the concentration of the best residential architecture of Cushing, the premier residential architectural edifice of Cushing is the R.C. Jones Mansion at 100 Jones Avenue. This stately Italianate design is constructed of light colored brick with slight colored stone details. It is well proportioned with some very good detailing and a very unsympathetic later addition.

Nowata:

As in Cushing, there are two areas where the significant architecture of Nowata is concentrated: (1) the residential areas west of downtown and (2) the downtown area itself. In contrast to Cushing, it is the commercial architecture which stands out in Nowata. While there are similarities to Cushing, the quality of the best housing is much lower than that of Cushing.

Nowata's residential area west of downtown is primarily composed of two types of architectural styles, the Craftsmen Style bungalow and a very simple version of the Georgian Revival. Of these, the Georgian Revival is the higher in quality. More often than not the structures are wood frame structures with painted wood siding. When the owner opted for the more expensive, more permanent brick facade it was always done in a simple unsophisticated way. The Georgian Revival structures are typically two stories, have regular punched openings which are oriented vertically, and celebrate the entry as the most dominant element of the facade. The best examples of this occur at 100 North Hickory, 324 West Delaware, 313 West Delaware (brick), and 408 West Delaware (brick). The Craftsman Style bungalow is typically constructed of wood frame and painted wood siding and is best illustrated by the residences at 106 South Hickory, 235 North Pecan and 422 West Delaware.

A couple of other interesting examples of residential architecture are the eclectic wood framed Cobb House at 321 West Cherokee and the Stick Style residence at 721 South Elm, which is reminiscent of many pattern book designs of the late nineteenth century.

The downtown area of Nowata is characterized by two and three-part commercial structures, typically of brick. While the downtown core itself appears smaller than that of Cushing, the buildings within that core are typically larger than those of Cushing.

The most refined structure in the downtown core is the original portion of the First National Bank at 105 North Maple, a Neo-Classical design composed entirely of stone.