National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property
   Historic name: Mine Rescue Station (Additional Documentation)
   Other names/site number: _____________________________
   Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
   (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location
   Street & number: 509 South 3rd Street
   City or town: McAlester
   State: OK
   County: Pittsburg
   Not For Publication: [ ]
   Vicinity: [ ]

3. State/Federal Agency Certification
   As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
   I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
   In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:
   ___ national  X statewide  ___ local
   Applicable National Register Criteria:
   X A  ___ B  ___ C  ___ D

Signature of certifying official/Title: ____________________________ Date ____________

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official: ____________________________ Date ____________

Title: ____________________________ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government
4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:) ____________________

____________________________________
Signature of the Keeper   Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:   

Public – Local   

Public – State   

Public – Federal   X

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

Building(s)   X

District   

Site   

Structure   

Object   
Mine Rescue Station (Additional Documentation)  

Number of Resources within Property  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

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Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT/government office

__________________________
__________________________
__________________________
__________________________

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

__________________________
__________________________
__________________________
__________________________
7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCIAL STYLE

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a summary paragraph that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Mine Rescue Station (NRIS #80004290), located at 509 South Third Street, McAlester, Pittsburg County, Oklahoma, is a brick, two-story building with a one-story wing and basement. The Mine Rescue Station was continuously addressed at 509 South Third Street since at least 1913; it is unknown why the 1979 nomination utilized 507-509 South Third Street. The Mine Rescue Station in McAlester was constructed in 1910 for use by the federal Bureau of Mines to train miners in use of mine rescue apparatuses. While the one-story wing, which originally served as the “training gallery,” or as described in the previous nomination the “mock mine,” was estimated to have been added in 1914 when the federal government took over the building, the wing was in fact an original element of the building. The flat-roofed, Commercial style with Classical Revival style influences, building has a concrete foundation and a flat roof with a single brick chimney on the south side. The one-story wing on the north has a flat-topped, three-quarter hipped, asphalt-clad roof that was originally clad with ceramic tiles. The building is ornamented with restrained decorative stonework primarily on the façade. Except for the parapet and chimney coping which are precast stone, the stonework on the building is natural stone. The foundation and the originally red brick walls were painted multiple times since about the 1960s. In 2008, the previous exterior paint coating was removed, including the brown paint on the stonework, the masonry pointed and sealant applied due to damage to the brick that was apparently sandblasted in about 1975. The brick currently has a salmon pink finish. The original,
wood, double hung windows were a combination of vertical, six-over-one on the front and one-over-one on the sides and back. In the 1970s, the wood windows were replaced by fixed, single pane, aluminum windows. In 2008, the windows on the sides and front were replaced again by more sensitive, vertical, six-over-one and one-over-one, hung, wood windows with metal screens. The replacement windows are slightly smaller than the previous windows, necessitating an additional wood frame to fill the original opening. The fixed, aluminum, 1970s windows remain on the back elevation. Additionally, the two windows on the second floor and one basement window on the rear of the building have been boarded for decades and remain so. Also in the 1970s, the wood exterior doors throughout the building were modified to commercial type, aluminum-framed, glazed slab doors. Despite the changes in materials, most of the original fenestration pattern remains evident with one back door being infilled with brick but still discernible and multiple changes to the front opening in the one-story wing that are discussed in more detail below. Other elements on the building include the simple, metal, industrial type, caged fire escape on the rear elevation that replaced the wood porches that had been added to the building over time from the 1910s through about the 1940s. In about 1926, a brick, three-car garage with a hipped, ceramic tile roof, was constructed to the west of the Mine Rescue Station. Although not identified as such in the 1979 registration form because the terminology had not yet been developed, the garage was a contributing resource to the building. Unfortunately, the garage was destroyed in April 1996 by a tornado that swept through the area with only the remnants of the garage’s foundation remaining evident under a heavy layer of asphalt that currently covers the parking lot behind the building (photograph 6). Overall, the Mine Rescue Station retains a good degree of historic integrity, including the characteristics of location, design, workmanship, feeling and association. As the proposed period of significance for the Mine Rescue Station extends to 2016, representing the years the building served as the federal government’s local representative on mine safety, the changes over time occurred within the building’s period of significance and, thus, do not compromise the building’s integrity. The Mine Rescue Station’s integrity of materials has been diminished by the replacement of the windows and doors, changing of the ceramic tile roof to asphalt shingle on the one-story wing, and painting of the brick. The integrity of setting has also been diminished by the loss of the historic garage and modern commercial encroachment to the previous dominant, historical, residential character of the 500 block of South Third Street. Despite these changes, the Mine Rescue Station ably conveys its historic significance in improving mine safety in Oklahoma.

**Narrative Description**

The Mine Rescue Station is a painted, brick, two-story, Commercial style with Classical Revival style influences building that fronts east onto South Third Street (photographs 1 and 2). The building is located about six blocks south of historic downtown McAlester and across the street west from Chadick Park. The park originally developed in the mid-1910s but has been significantly modernized. A noteworthy addition to the park is the city’s *Coal Miner’s Memorial*. The memorial, located towards the north side of the park and, therefore, northeast of the Mine Rescue Station, includes a wall that lists the mine disasters in southeastern Oklahoma from 1885 to 1945, as well as the names of the multitude of miners lost in mining accidents. Although the
granite memorial is modern, it is a notable testament to the need and purpose of the Mine Rescue Station.

With the 500 block of South Third Street historically predominately residential in nature, the Mine Rescue Station was a Commercial style outlier in the area, although for about twenty years from 1910 to 1930, the Mine Rescue foreman resided on the second floor of the building. After 1945, a Mid-Century Modern style, brick, one-story building was constructed to the direct south of the Mine Rescue Station and a large, brick building for The McAlester News-Capital was constructed across the alley west of the Mine Rescue Station. With modern changes to Chadick Park east of the building, including construction of a modern swimming pool and recreation buildings, the broader environs of the Mine Rescue Station have noticeably evolved over the more than one hundred years since its construction, although the two, approximately, mid-1920s houses directly north of the building remain in recognizable form.

The Mine Rescue Station is set back from the street with a grassy area divided by a sidewalk between the building and South Third Street (photographs 1 and 2). There is limited diagonal parking on Third Street north of the Mine Rescue Station which cuts into the grassy area between the sidewalk and street. The grassy area west of the sidewalk in front of the building is separated into two sections by the central concrete walk that extends between the sidewalk and the building’s concrete steps. In the south portion of the grassy area, there is a metal flagpole set in concrete and a metal sign that reads “United States Department of Labor/MSHA/Mine Safety and Health Administration.” The sign and flagpole were in place when the building was listed on the National Register in 1980; although neither appear in available historical photographs of the building. Based on historical photographs, the flagpole was previously located on the roof behind the front parapet wall. Due to the small scale of both the sign and flagpole, they are not counted separately.

Immediately off the south side of the building, a concrete curb separates the building from the concrete drive that extends to the parking lot behind the adjacent mid-century commercial building (photographs 1 and 4-5). The placement of the drive so close to the building was due to the Mine Rescue Station being located near the south edge of its portion of Lot 2. As seen in historical photographs, the south side of the building was historically a grassy area. In constructing the mid-century building, the area was raised so instead of the basement of the Mine Rescue Station being slightly above grade as seen in historical photographs, the south side basement windows are now right at grade with the west two windows even slightly below grade.

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1 Historical photographs of the Mine Rescue Station are available in a photocopy of an unpublished manuscript contained in the property’s Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory file, located at the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and the 2007 Mine Safety and Health Administration Building Historic Structures Report by Hardlines Design Company. There is also one exterior photograph of the Mine Rescue Station (Negative #287) in the Oklahoma Geological Society collection at the Western History Collections, University of Oklahoma Libraries, Norman, Oklahoma. Also in the Oklahoma Geological Society Collection, there is an interior view of a “smoke room.” This is possibly the Mine Rescue Station at McAlester, however, no town or other location is provided on the photograph.
The Mine Rescue Station has a brick foundation with a cosmetic stone water table. The stone water table has a subtle horizontal texture. The foundation on the front of the building has been obscured by two large shrubs on either side of the entry. On the other elevations, the water table remains readily visible.

The two-story section of the building has a flat roof with parapet walls on the north, east and south sides. Along the top of the parapet walls is a precast coping that has been covered with metal flashing, apparently related to the replacement of the roof in the late 2000s. The one-story wing has a flat-topped, three-quarter, hipped roof that was originally clad with ceramic tiles. It is unknown exactly when the tiles were replaced by the asphalt shingles, although it was likely in the 1970s when the windows were changed. The change was in place in the 1979 photograph that was part of the original nomination package. Atop the flat roof of the one-story wing are two large metal vents that helped clear the “smoke-room” when the wing was in use as an imitation mine. The vents appear in historical photographs. The one-story wing’s roof is ornamented with exposed wood rafters that remain in place.

Front (East) Elevation

The façade of the Mine Rescue Station is divided into two sections: the main two-story section and the one-story wing (photographs 1, 2 and 5). The main two-story section has a symmetrical fenestration pattern that consists of two windows and a pedestrian door on the first floor and three windows on the second floor. As part of the Classical Revival style influence, the windows on the façade and the section of brick wall separating the first and second floor windows are slightly recessed, creating the impression that there are vertical columns between the windows. The replacement, wood, vertical, six-over-one, hung windows with metal screens currently in the building are much more sympathetic to the original, wood, vertical, six-over-one, double hung windows than the previous, shorter, 1970s, aluminum, fixed, single pane windows that includes an opaque panel on the top of the window. The new windows, however, are somewhat smaller than the original windows, requiring a second wood frame around the replacement window as a filler. This gives the impression that the stone sills are subsills when they are the original sills.

The single entry on the façade retains its 1970s, aluminum-framed, commercial type, glazed slab door with a full-height sidelight on the north side. The transom above the door has been covered and a modern, metal, security light has replaced the pendant light fixture above the door in the 1979 photograph. In several historical photographs, the front entry had a screen door that was likely wood.

An off-center, above-grade, entry porch that has brick sidewalls topped by a stone cap provides access to the front entry. The porch’s concrete stairs were replaced about ten years ago when other work was done to the building. A metal handrail has been added along the north side of the stairs. The handrail does not appear in the 1979 photograph of the building, which also shows the concrete stairs covered with outdoor carpet.
The two-story section of the façade is ornamented by the continuous stone sill course beneath the front windows that wraps around most of the building. The stone sill course projects upwards around the entry to create a stone surround. The sides of the entry surround are wider than the sill course and there is a projected ledge along the top. The entry surround is wider than the door, matching the width of the entry porch. The second floor windows also feature narrow stone sills. Between the second floor windows is decorative stonework and above the windows is a rectangular stone bar decorated with stone drops. Centrally located in the upper wall is a stone tablet that reads “Mine Rescue Station” and is ornamented with a floral design on either end. The front parapet wall is pedimented with a rectangular, stacked, stone ornament in the apex.

The façade of the one-story wing has undergone multiple changes. Currently, the only opening on the east wall of the one-story wing is a centrally located, single, wood, eight-over-one, hung window with metal screen and stone sill. There is a continuous stone stringcourse above the window that wraps around to the north elevation. Historical photographs show a similar, eight-over-one, hung window, probably in the 1940s. The same historical photograph also shows that the brickwork around the window is not original, having infilled a larger opening. Earlier historical photographs show a twelve-light window within a larger bricked in opening surrounded by a wide stone surround similar to the one around the entry, including a second slightly projected ledge along the top. Directly above this in the historical photograph, there was another rectangular stone outline filled with brick below the existing stone stringcourse. An even earlier historical photograph of the building, available from the University of Oklahoma’s Western History Collections, show some type of large, rectangular, opening that extended to the foundation. The opening above this is obscured in the photograph by a tree. While the painting of the building obscured the obvious changes in brickwork, close examination of the brick does show that changes have occurred. Behind the existing shrub, along the stone water table, there are two small rectangular projections that were likely the base for the stone surround that was removed. Because the current appearance of the building is consistent with later historical photographs within the building’s period of significance, the changes to the opening on this side of the one-story wing do not detract from the building’s integrity.

North Elevation

The north elevation of the Mine Rescue Station is also composed of two sections (photographs 2 and 3). The lower one-story wing and the upper portion of the two-story section. On the north elevation, the one-story wing features four windows. Unlike the rest of the windows in the building, the windows in the one-story wing are not symmetrical in size or placement. Because the one-story wing was originally the imitation mine, it is unknown if the first floor windows on the north elevation are original to the 1910 construction or were later modifications related to the change in function of the one-story wing from mock mine to office/storage/shop space. The windows appear in place in the latter historical photographs and all of the windows in the one-story wing feature stone lug sills like the windows on the back and south elevations. The sills are also set at the same height, which is slightly above the height of the other windows; however, the window height is correct to the current floor level. This is suggestive of the windows being added when the function changed as the floor in the one-story wing was originally at grade level.
and dirt. When the function of the one-story wing changed, a concrete floor was poured for the one-story wing at the same height as the rest of the first floor. The windows appear in place in the available circa 1940s historical photograph of the building. The easternmost window in the one-story wing is the largest of the four windows. This window corresponds to what is described on the older floor plans as the director’s office. In about the center of the one-story wing’s north elevation is a single window that is slightly shorter and narrower than the two matching easternmost windows. The smaller window provided light to what is described as the storage room and the two easternmost windows lite the break/shop area. There are no doors on the north elevation of the one-story wing. The only ornamentation, besides the exposed rafter tails, is the stone stringcourse located on the upper wall of the one-story wing.

The north elevation of the two-story section of the Mine Rescue Station features only three, small, symmetrically located, fixed-pane windows towards the west side. The east window, corresponding to the second floor restroom, has been blocked off from the inside. The two west windows were also replaced in the 1970s and 2008 with the current wood windows being awning. The windows have matching, stone, lug sills. Above the windows, along the upper wall, are six, small, symmetrical, square, roof scuppers that appear in historical photographs.

**Rear (West) Elevation**

The west elevation of the one-story wing features a central door and a non-historic wood entry porch (photographs 3 and 6). As with the side windows, the rear door on the one-story wing may not be original. Set at the same height as the rear door in the two-story section, this would have been inconsistent with the original level of the one-story wing. As with the front door, the back door was replaced in the 1970s with an aluminum-framed, glazed slab door. The stone sill remains in place. The replacement, wood, entry porch has metal railings and a short, straight run of north-south stairs. The porch is supported by two, wood, square posts on the east side and two, metal, round pipes on the west side. The circa 1940s historical photograph of the building shows that the door in the one-story wing was accessed by an uncovered section of wood porch that was an extension of the two-story wood sleeping porch that covered much of the backside of the two-story section. The rear porch historically was supported by brick piers and had a short, straight east-west run of wooden steps that were located to the south, near the entry to the sleeping porch. The uncovered section of the rear porch had a wood railing.

Like the east elevation, the west elevation of the two-story section has a symmetrical fenestration pattern with three openings per floor, including the basement (photographs 3, 4 and 6). The basement windows consist of two, rectangular, eight-light, metal, fixed windows and one square window on the far south side. The square window has been infilled with wood penetrated by pipes from the gas meter. On the north side of the first floor of the two-story section, there was a single door that was infilled with brick apparently when a restroom was added at the west end of the first floor corridor. The concrete sill and outline of the door remains. South of the door are two matching openings that retain their 1970s, fixed, aluminum, single pane windows with a blank panel above. Below the windows is the continuous stone sill course that wraps around the two-story section. The second floor of the rear elevation features a center door flanked by two
short windows. Both of the second floor windows have been covered with the lug sills remaining visible. The narrower second floor door has been replaced with an aluminum-framed, glazed slab door. Above the door, there is a square transom that has also been covered. Above the door on the upper wall are three, small, square, roof scuppers. The leader head on the modern downspout corresponds in location to the leader head in the historical 1940s photographs, although the historical downpipe jogged to the south along the ceramic tile roof of the sleeping porch before extending down to the ground along the south edge of the sleeping porch. The current downpipe has a straight vertical run to the ground.

Between the first floor door and windows is the metal fire escape that was probably added after the door was infilled to allow grade access to the second floor and the roof. A circa late 1940s photograph of the rear elevation reveals that the wood sleeping porch that appears in other historical photographs was gone by that time with an uncovered partial porch remaining. Although partially obscured by a tree, it appears the second floor was accessed by wood stairs with a small uncovered entry porch providing access to the second floor door.

South Elevation

The south elevation of the Mine Rescue Station is composed solely of the two-story section (photographs 4 and 5). There are no doors on the south wall. At the basement level, there are two rectangular windows and, east of the windows, three brick-framed crawl space vents with stone caps. The basement windows align with the openings on the upper floors, except for there being no basement window on the westernmost edge of the south elevation. The first floor windows are equally spaced with five of the six windows being matching, one-over-one, hung, wood windows. The third window from the west, providing light to the small north-south hallway that accesses the basement, is significantly shorter than the other first floor windows. All of the first floor windows share the continuous sill course that wraps around the two-story section. The four windows on the east side of the second floor are matching, full-size, hung, wood, one-over-one windows with stone lug sills. The two windows on the west side of the second floor are shorter. The shorter windows correspond in size to the smaller second floor windows on the rear elevation; however, the shorter windows on the south elevation are set at relatively the same height at the bottom as the other windows on that side of the building and the rear elevation windows are set higher. The smaller windows correspond to the apartment area on the west side of the second floor so the smaller size of these windows may be attributable to the interior function. Along the upper wall of the south elevation, there are six square roof scuppers. Off-center towards the west, is the brick chimney with a stone cap.

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION (See Floor Plans provided on Continuation Sheets 3-4)

First Floor

The front door opens onto the main, east-west, central, first floor corridor (photographs 7-9 and 24-27). The corridor was originally full-length with a back door directly opposite the front door. At an unknown time, a dividing wall was constructed with a doorway towards the south side,
separating the corridor into two spaces. In the 1970s, the west exterior door was enclosed to create space for a first floor restroom at the end of the corridor. As described in the February 9, 1911 article in *The Hartshone (Oklahoma) Sun*, the imitation mine was separated from the corridor by “large glass windows” so the training activities in the mock mine could be monitored. There is no visible physical evidence of the original pattern of openings along the north side of the corridor.

As currently configured, in the east portion of the corridor, there is now a single doorway on the north side and two doors on the south side. In the west portion of the corridor, there is a single door towards the west end of the south side and, at what is now the end of the corridor, a doorway on the north side of the corridor. Both the doorways along the north wall are oversize with no actual doors. The three doors on the south side of the corridor are replacement doors. Like the rest of the interior spaces, the main corridor is clad with 1970s paneling and has a suspended acoustical tile ceiling with fluorescent light fixtures. The main corridor is differentiated from the other rooms in that the paneling is white rather than brown. Even the non-original restroom door and restroom are clad with the white paneling.

Based upon the 1911 article in *The Hartshone Sun*, the first floor originally contained two rooms and the imitation mine separated by the corridor. On the south side of the corridor, the two rooms were separated by the open stairwell and were different sizes with the east room being considerably larger than the west room. The original, single, large, open, office space on the east side was subsequently divided into two offices (Southeast First Floor Office and South Central First Floor Office in photographs 10-16). Based on the modified first floor plan pinned to the wall of the corridor, originally there was only one door to the front office space with an interior door allowing access between the spaces. At an unknown time, a second door was added in the south wall of the corridor. Accordingly, of all the first floor spaces, only the smaller, rectangular, southwest office retains its original undivided configuration (photographs 28-31).

It is unknown exactly when the imitation mine was converted to office space; however, based on historical photographs, it was probably done by the 1940s. In total, the former imitation mine space was divided into four spaces with the east three being roughly equal in size and the westernmost space, a combination shop/break/workroom, being larger (photographs 17-23 and 32-38). Based on the “Emergency Escape Route,” which is a hand modified first floor plan of the building pinned to the wall of the corridor, the two office spaces (Northeast First Floor Office and North Central First Floor Office) on the east side of the original mock mine space were accessed from the corridor by a single entry in the east corner. Evidently, these offices were for the director and secretary with the director’s office accessible only through the secretary’s office. At an unknown time, the eastern door on the north side of the corridor was closed in and the existing larger doorway to the west was created, possibly swapping the secretary’s and director’s offices. The fourth room in the former mock mine was marked as storage on the “Emergency Escape Route.”

All of the rooms on the first floor feature 1970s wall paneling and suspended acoustical tile ceilings. The paneling is typically a light golden brown. The exception to this are the two front...
offices on the south side that have matching dark brown paneling. In all the rooms, the fluorescent lights are flush in the suspended ceilings in a variety of configurations. The floors are uniformly carpeted. In the northeast office, there is a small wood built-in bookcase on the east side of the south wall where the door used to be. Near the exterior door of the breakroom, there is a large niche on the south side of the door towards the lower part of the west wall. Located adjacent to the cabinet containing the sink, the purpose of the niche is unknown.

Located off-center to the west along the main corridor on the first floor is the historic staircase leading up to the second floor with a small north-south corridor leading to the basement stairwell. On the first floor, at the south end of the north-south corridor is the small, one-over-one, hung window on the south elevation. The corridor turns to the east with the basement stairs located under the second floor stairs. The historic, wood, paneled, basement stairwell door has been painted orange, matching the paint on the second floor stairs (photographs 67-69). The straight-run basement stairs are metal with the treads being diamond plate. The basement stairs were evidently replaced in 2008 as the 2007 Mine Safety and Health Administration Building Historic Structures Report by Hardlines Design Company identifies the basement stairs as being wood with orange carpeting. A slender pipe railing extends the full-length of the stairs on the east side with a shorter section of thicker pipe railing along the upper portion of the west side that attaches to a ledge created by a protruding section of the first floor. The lower portion of the west side railing is attached to the stairs.

The second floor stairs are U-shaped and retains its historic wood railing with square newel posts and balusters (photographs 39-44). The newel post on the bullnose is the only newel post that is paneled. The upper stairs have been clad with brown carpet, although the wood edges remain visible and have been painted orange. Mid-way along the second floor stairs is a rectangular landing that is lit by the fourth from the east, full-size, one-over-one, hung window on the south elevation. The wood frame around the window appears to be new as it is not painted and does not match the remaining historic window frames in the small storage rooms on the northwest side of the second floor. The stairwell is one of three spaces on the first and second floors that is not clad with paneling with the plaster on lathe walls remaining visible. The second floor landing, however, features the 1970s wall paneling and suspended acoustical tile ceiling with flush fluorescent light fixture.

Second Floor

Directly off the second floor landing to the north is a comparatively commodious restroom with a modern mechanical equipment enclosure on the east side of the restroom (photographs 42 and 46). To the east side of the second floor landing, there is a large room that encompasses nearly the entirety of the east half of the second floor (photographs 45 and 47-53). The floorplan included in the 1979 registration form indicated that this space was likely the living room when the Mine Rescue foreman resided in the building; however, page 14 of the 2007 Historic Structures Report suggested that this space was more likely the bedroom(s). However, it is probable that the space towards the front of the second floor was not part of the foreman’s apartment at all. With the stairwell being open on both floors, rather than serving as a private
entry to the upper floor, and the second floor landing providing a sizeable separation of the
spaces, it is likely that the east side of the second floor served other purposes than living space
for the foreman. With the first floor devoted to the mine rescue training which was estimated to
take at least two weeks, the front second floor space was likely used, at least initially, by the
trainees that were to “be housed and fed at the station during the training period.” The space
may have also been used as classroom/auditorium space on an as-needed basis. Currently, the
expansive front room is subdivided by the addition of two walls to create a partitioned workroom
in the southwest corner. The main body of the front second floor room features 1970s paneled
walls, carpeted floor and suspended acoustical tile ceiling with flush fluorescent lights. The
partitioned space has matching 1970s paneled walls and suspended acoustical tile ceiling with
flush fluorescent lights. The partitioned room has a linoleum floor, suggesting that it was
possibly intended for more utilitarian purposes than an office. The door to the partitioned room is
a non-historic, wood, flush door. There is no interior door separating the main front room from
the second floor landing.

To the west side of the second floor landing, is another large open room that was used most
recently as a conference room (photographs 54-56). The historic, interior, wood door to the room
is paneled. This room, along with the adjoining smaller rooms on the north side and the rear
sleeping porch, likely served as the foreman’s apartment. The main west room on the second
floor features the prevalent 1970s wall paneling, carpeted floor and suspended acoustical tile
ceiling with flush fluorescent light fixtures. Towards the north side of the west wall, there is the
single, second floor, non-historic, glazed slab, exterior door.

Off the north side of the main west second floor room, there are two narrow rectangular storage
spaces that, according to the 1979 registration form, served as the kitchen and closet, although
the closet may have been the bedroom or possibly the bathroom (photographs 56-66). These
spaces retain their plaster walls with the east room retaining its plaster ceiling, historic light
fixture and wood floor. The west room has a linoleum floor and modern suspended acoustical tile
ceiling with a fluorescent light fixture. Both rooms retain original door frames with the east room
having a second, smaller, framed opening on the east side that has been boarded over. The east
room retains its historic wood paneled door with the west room currently having no interior door.
Both rooms have exterior windows on the north wall that retain their historic interior window
frames. The exterior window on the west wall of the west room has been covered from the
outside but the wood, one-over-one, hung window remains in place on the inside. Both rooms
were most recently used for storage with wood shelves lining the available wall space.

Basement

The Mine Rescue Station has a partial basement under the southwest part of the building. There
is no basement under the one-story wing or under the front two offices on the south side. The
basement consists of four spaces (photographs 69-77). The main north-south rectangular space
on the east side contains the straight run stairs along the east wall. At the bottom of the stairs, on

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2 *The Daily Oklahoman*, (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma), 31 July 1910.
the east side, there is a wood flush door that opens onto a long, rectangular, east-west, crawl space with a dirt floor. Opposite the crawl space on the north side of the basement, there is another long, rectangular, east-west space that opens directly onto the north-south space. Off the west side of the north-south space, is the largest room in the basement, designated as the mechanical room. The walls in the basement are uniformly brick, the ceilings are unfinished and, except for the crawl space, the floors are concrete. The walls are painted white except in the east-west crawlspace where the red brick remains visible. A metal floor drain extends around the edge of the walls in all the rooms except the crawl space.

ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS

The Mine Rescue Station has undergone various alterations over its nearly 110-year history. The most substantial change has been to the front opening in the one-story wing. This change included modifications to the size of the opening and removal of the original decorative stonework. However, as this change occurred early on during the building’s period of significance and supported continued use of the building for its historic function, the change has gained historic significance of its own. Other notable changes include replacement of the windows and doors, painting of the brick and replacement of the one-story wing’s ceramic tile roof with asphalt shingle. These alterations diminish but do not destroy the integrity of materials. While the 2008 installation of wood windows in the front and side elevations that are similar to the historic windows greatly improved the appearance of the building, the 1970s aluminum-framed doors and windows on the rear elevation remain in place. The painting of the brick also diminishes the integrity of materials because the red color of the brick was a visible characteristic of the building for more than fifty years. However, as the brick was painted when the building was listed on the National Register, the change is not overwhelming. The 2008 work that resulted in the current pink color of the building also included removal of the brown paint on the stonework and was necessitated by the previous treatment, which included sandblasting in the 1970s, which damaged the brick. Overall, with the stonework uncovered, the current appearance is an improvement over the previous and the building retains its ability to convey its historic significance.

Despite previous declarations found in a variety of reports that were evidently based on the 1979 nomination form, the one-story wing was not an addition to the Mine Rescue Station. It was an original feature of the building, which was purposely designed and constructed for use by the Bureau of Mines as a training facility to improve mine safety. The only addition to the Mine Rescue Station was the porch that was on the back of the building from about 1918 through roughly the 1940s. According to the 1918 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, the porch was three stories and covered the entirety of the rear two-story section of the building. The 1927 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map and its 1945 update showed a smaller two-story porch that only covered the north section of the rear elevation. Historical photographs of the building from about the 1940s show a frame, two-story, enclosed porch sitting on brick piers with a ceramic tile shed roof. On the north side, providing access to the door in the one-story wing, was an uncovered section of porch that is also supported by a brick pier. However, another historical photograph of the building, estimated as being taken in the late 1940s, shows the rear elevation with an uncovered...
porch and what looks to be a wood ladder providing access to the second floor rear door. Currently, the second floor door is accessed by a metal, industrial type, fixed cage, fire escape and the first floor by later, wood, entry porch with steps oriented to the north, rather than west like the earlier stairs.
Mine Rescue Station (Additional Documentation)      Pittsburg County, OK
Name of Property                   County and State

Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark “x” in all the boxes that apply.)

A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes

B. Removed from its original location

C. A birthplace or grave

D. A cemetery

E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure

F. A commemorative property

G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Section 8 page 16
Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY
POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance
1910-2016

Significant Dates
1910
1914
1973
1977

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Unknown
Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Mine Rescue Station, located in McAlester, Pittsburg County, Oklahoma, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on March 13, 1980 (NRIS #80004290). As physically recorded on the façade of the building at the time of construction, the historic name of 509 South Third Street is “Mine Rescue Station.” While the entirety of the Mine Rescue Station, including the main building, secondary garage building and associated grounds, was listed on the National Register in 1980, the original nomination added “Building” to the historic name. As “building” is an unnecessary non-historic appendage to the historic name, it is not used in this documentation. According to the nomination form completed in June 1979 by Dr. George O. Carney, the building was listed for its historic significance in the areas of economics, industry and social/humanitarian. Using current terminology, the Mine Rescue Station is significant under Criterion A in the areas of industry and social history for its role in improving mine safety and, therefore, reducing mine disasters and saving lives. Since the Mine Rescue Station was a governmental entity aimed at improving mine safety, rather than a commercial entity that was involved directly or indirectly in mineral production, in place of economics, the third area of significance for the building is changed to politics/government for its association with the federal Bureau of Mines and subsequent agencies that were tasked with mine safety. The level of significance is not indicated on the 1979 form; therefore, because the Mine Rescue Station was the embodiment of federal efforts in Oklahoma, as well as regionally, to improve mine safety, the Mine Rescue Station is recognized as being historically significant at the state level of significance. The 1979 inventory form identified a period of significance for the building of 1910 through “the present.” The period of significance for the building is herein clarified as extending from 1910 through 2016. The start year of 1910 coincides with the construction of the building and the establishment of the federal Bureau of Mines, which immediately occupied the building upon its completion. The year 1914 is identified as a significant date as that is when the federal government formally purchased the building. The year 1973 is identified as a significant date as that is when the Department of Interior created the Mine Enforcement and Safety Administration (MESA) that took over the Bureau of Mine’s responsibilities for health and safety of the mining industry. The year 1977 is identified as a significant date as that is when the Federal Mine and Safety Act of 1977 transferred the enforcement of mine health and safety standards from the Department of Interior to the Department of Labor, creating the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA). The end date of the Mine Rescue Station’s period of significance coincides with the MSHA District 9’s departure from the building. The relocation of the District 9 office to Longview, Texas, in 2016 ended the historic role of the Mine Rescue Station with the building remaining unoccupied through 2019 and scheduled for transfer from the federal building inventory. From its construction in 1910 through the 2016 relocation of the local MSHA office, the Mine Rescue Station was at the forefront of federal mine safety in Oklahoma and regionally.
Development of Mine Rescue Stations

In late December 1908, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) announced its intention “to establish rescue stations in the principal coal fields of the country” as part of its nationwide efforts to reduce coal mining fatalities. The USGS had already established an experiment station for coal mining in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, in July 1908 in response to four catastrophic mining disasters in December 1907 that took 700 lives. The new rescue stations were to be located “at or near the greatest centers of accidents.” An “expert,” described as a “government mining engineer” who was “thoroughly trained in the use of rescue apparatus,” was to be assigned to each station. The experts would then “teach the miners and mine bosses how to use the most approved apparatus for mine rescue work.” In addition to their training duties, the experts would be “ready at a moment’s notice to go to any disaster in their district.” The experts were to be equipped with “oxygen helmets” so that they could enter a mine at once, even if it was filled with smoke and gas. The stations were also to serve as the headquarters for mining engineers studying coal waste during mining, which was an “important problem” the USGS was trying to solve. Finally, the stations were to be sites for testing of “safety lamps of all designs,” in the presence of miners and mine owners, for general safety and efficiency.

Critically, it was not the intention of the government to “engage in general rescue work.” The purpose of the rescue stations was to demonstrate the effectiveness of the technology and provide training on how to use the technology “until such time as the mine owners have thoroughly trained rescue crews at their mines.” Each of the rescue stations were to be built “in co-operation with the mine owners and state geological surveys.” Additionally, the initial plans called for each rescue station to include an “air-tight room where gas can be generated.”

Initially, the nation’s coal fields were divided into four districts with at least one station in each district. To serve the coal fields of Oklahoma, Arkansas and southwestern Missouri, a station “in the neighborhood of South McAlester, Oklahoma,” was proposed in 1908. The other mine rescue station locations consisted of one in Urbana, Illinois, to serve the states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Iowa, northern Missouri and western Kentucky and one probably in Raton, New Mexico, to serve the states of New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, Wyoming and Montana with possibly a second station to be located in Salt Lake City, Utah. The location of the mine rescue station for the states of Alabama, Tennessee, Virginia, eastern Kentucky, Georgia and southern

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3 The McAlester (Oklahoma) News-Capital, 28 December 1908 and 9 January 1909. See also The Daily Ardmoreite, (Ardmore, Oklahoma), 28 December 1908; Daily News-Democrat, (Huntington, Indiana), 28 December 1908; Wyandotte Chief, (Kansas City, Kansas), 1 January 1909; and, Press and Sun-Bulletin, (Binghamton, New York), 3 December 1909.

4 Ibid.
West Virginia was still under discussion in late December 1908 with Knoxville, Tennessee, Birmingham, Alabama, and Lexington, Kentucky, all under consideration.\(^5\)

### McAlester, Oklahoma, and the Coal Industry

The selection of McAlester as the site of a rescue station was based on the community’s role in the development of Oklahoma’s coal industry. While geographically located towards the southwest side of Oklahoma’s coal fields, McAlester was the birthplace of the commercial coal mining industry in Indian Territory and, thus, Oklahoma. James J. McAlester established a store at the crossroads of the Texas Road and one of the trails to California in what was then Indian Territory in 1869. At this crossroads, the town of McAlester came into being under the laws of Indian Territory. In 1872, McAlester married Rebecca Burney, thus gaining citizenship in the Chickasaw Nation. As a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation, McAlester was able to partner with three others and lease land in Indian Territory to the Osage Coal and Mining Company in 1875, beginning the commercial production of coal in the territory. From the 1870s forward, coal production was a major industry in the area that also relied heavily on the railroads, both as consumers and transporters of the coal. Fourteen years later, the community of South McAlester developed at the intersection of the newly built Choctaw Coal and Railway line and the 1872 Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railway (Katy) line, about a mile and a half south of the original McAlester. At the crossroads of then modern transportation, the town of South McAlester quickly outgrew McAlester with both towns incorporating separately in 1899. In 1906, McAlester and South McAlester combined to create the community of McAlester. The McAlester community thrived in the early twentieth century with many of the coal companies establishing headquarters in the city.\(^6\)

Also likely influencing the location of the mine rescue station in Oklahoma, rather than one of the other states in the district, was its history as having “the most dangerous” mines in the United States from 1867 to 1906 with “more than thirteen miners dying per million tons of coal produced.” In contrast, Kansas’s ratio was less than half that. Just in the three-year period from 1905 to 1908, fifty-six miners died in coal mining accidents in Oklahoma, likely contributing to the decision to locate the Mine Rescue Station at McAlester. This included the August 26, 1908 fire at the Hailey-Oklahoma No. 1, located near Haileyville, Oklahoma, that killed twenty-nine miners. In 1906, an explosion at the Poteau No. 6, located near Witteville, Oklahoma, resulted in the death of fourteen miners. Thirteen miners lost their lives in the 1905 explosion at the No. 19 located near Wilburton, Oklahoma.\(^7\)

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\(^5\) Ibid.


Fundraising and Land Acquisition for the McAlester Mine Rescue Station

Within weeks of the USGS’ announcement, a “government representative” was in McAlester talking to a “joint committee representing the coal operators and the McAlester Commercial Club.” After touring “several vacant buildings,” it was determined that raising “$10,000 with which to purchase a lot and construct a suitable building to be used exclusively as a Mine Rescue and Training Station” was the best course of action. Accordingly, the “Coal Operators in conjunction with the McAlester Commercial Club” determined to raise the money by public subscription. To this end, a “Mine Rescue Association” was established in McAlester with Eugene Mock as secretary. By January 15, 1909, and with assurances that the “all coal operators will subscribe liberally,” public requests were made to “all classes of mine workers,” as well as mining towns and cities, to donate to the effort. The proposition was endorsed by the chief mine inspector and the United Mine Workers Union.8

With 1909 evidently spent in raising funds, the land for the new Mine Rescue Station in McAlester was purchased in January 1910. Consisting of the north 50’ of Lot 2, Block 487 in the city of McAlester, Oklahoma (formerly South McAlester, Indian Territory), the land was conveyed to John C. and Bessie K. Reid by Carrie B. and Edward C. Young for the sum of $400 on January 7, 1910. According to “Who’s Who in Coal Mining,” published in Coal Age on May 30, 1914, John Callum Reid was born in Sharon, Pennsylvania, in 1871 and “was educated as a mining engineer in the Missouri School of Mines at Rolla,” Missouri, receiving his “degree of E.M.” in 1893. From 1895 to 1900, Reid was the mining engineer in the coal department for the Katy Railroad. In 1900, the Katy promoted Reid to mine superintendent in Oklahoma. Two years later, Reid quit the Katy to become general superintendent of the Great Western Coal & Coke Company and the Osage Coal & Mining Company with headquarters in McAlester. In 1906, Reid was promoted to general manager of the aforementioned companies, a position he retained through 1910.9

Beyond being the land owner, Reid’s exact association with the Mine Rescue Station is unclear. According to the 1910 McAlester City Directory, in addition to being the general manager at the Great Western Coal & Coke Company, Reid also served as Alderman in McAlester’s First Ward. In 1909, when McAlester’s water supply was threatened by a leak in one of the dams at Lake Talawanda, Reid, who was described as a “practical engineer,” “devised a plan for stopping the lead (sic) by driving steel spikes” with his plan being adopted by the McAlester City Council. According an article in The Shawnee (Oklahoma) Daily Herald on September 30, 1910, Reid resigned his position of “general superintendent of the Busby coal properties,” to go into the mining business in Canada, accepting the position of general manager of the Chinook Coal Company, Ltd., of Canada, in 1911. Reid was also described in 1914 as “an active figure in the councils of coal-mine operators of Alberta Province, and vice-president of the Western Coal Operators’ Association.” By 1916, the Reid family had returned to McAlester with Reid holding

8 The Haileyville (Oklahoma) Signal, 15 January 1909.
9 General Warranty Deed, Carrie B. Young to John C. Reid, available County Clerk’s Office, Pittsburg County Courthouse, McAlester, Oklahoma, filed 7 January 1910. See also “Who’s Who in Coal Mining,” Coal Age, Volume 5 (May 30, 1914), 895.
the title of vice president and general manager of the Oklahoma Mining & Stripping Company. Based upon his education and experience as mining engineer and coal operation manager, Reid obviously would have understood and appreciated the value of a mine rescue station in McAlester.10

Although not technically part of the Mine Rescue Station’s land, the Youngs also sold the south 15’ of Lot 2 and the north 35’ of Lot 3 of Block 487 to Daniel M. Hailey at the end of January 1910. For 50’ of land, Hailey paid $1,750, almost three times what Reid paid the same couple for the same amount of land. However, Hailey may have also been purchasing a building as the 1918 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map shows the house at 515 South Third Street extending into Lot 2. Eight months later, the Youngs sold an additional 50’ in Lot 2 to Hailey. Evidently not occupied by any buildings, this part of Lot 2 changed hands for the sum of $425.11

Hailey’s purchase of the land is noteworthy due to his connections to the coal mining industry. In addition to being president of the Coal Operators’ Association in 1910, as well as a medical doctor and storeowner, Hailey was one of the “most successful” small-scale independent operators in Oklahoma’s coal field. The Hailey Coal and Mining Company operated some of the largest mines in Pittsburg County, including mines at Wilburton and Haileyville. Thus, it was likely more than coincidence that Hailey purchased the remaining portions of Lot 2 at the same time that the Mine Rescue Station was in development.12

McAlester’s Mine Rescue Association

The 1979 nomination form credited construction of the Mine Rescue Station in McAlester to the Coal Operators’ Association. According to the 1909 McAlester City Directory, Eugene Mock was manager of the Oklahoma & Arkansas Coal Operators’ Association. By 1910, the name of the association had evidently change to the Oklahoma Coal Operators’ Association. Based on the 1910 McAlester City Directory, the Oklahoma Coal Operators’ Association was not the same as the Mine Rescue Association, although there was clearly some overlap at least in personnel. The 1910 directory lists Daniel M. Hailey as president, Eugene Mock as secretary and James Elliott as treasurer of the Oklahoma Coal Operators’ Association with the organization located on the second floor of 109 East Grand Avenue, notably the same address identified in the 1909 directory for the Oklahoma & Arkansas Coal Operators’ Association. Listed among “Miscellaneous Societies” in the front pages of the 1910 directory, the Mine Rescue Association

11 General Warranty Deed, Edward C. Young and Carrie B. Young to Daniel M. Hailey, available County Clerk’s Office, Pittsburg County Courthouse, McAlester, Oklahoma, filed 22 January 1910. See also General Warranty Deed, Carrie B. Young and Edward C. Young to Daniel M. Hailey, available County Clerk’s Office, Pittsburg County, Courthouse, McAlester, Oklahoma, filed 22 August 1910.
was identified as being located at 517 South Third with William Busby listed as president, Eugene Mock as secretary and James Elliott as Treasurer. Additionally, L. M. Jones was identified as engineer in charge for the Mine Rescue Association. The obvious connection between William Busby, identified in the 1910 directory as president of the Great Western Coal & Coke Company, and John C. Reid at least partially explains Reid’s purchase of the land for the Mine Rescue Station. The alphabetic listing in the 1910 directory for the Mine Rescue Association identified the same officers but placed the location of the association at 517 South Second, which may have been a simple typographical error as the 517 South Third address corresponds closely to the address of the Mine Rescue Station at 509 South Third.13

The Mine Rescue Association was more than just a name. In late March 1910, the Mine Rescue Association, under the auspices of the American Red Cross, organized a “series of meetings to be held throughout the coal fields of Oklahoma” that included lectures and demonstrations on first aid. Dr. M. J. Shields was in charge of the meetings with assistance of L. M. Jones. Described as the “Mining Engineer of the U.S. Geological Survey,” Jones was reportedly “in Oklahoma in connection with the establishment of a Rescue Training Station at McAlester.” The meetings evidently were of benefit to both the Mine Rescue Association and the American Red Cross as the result of the April 7, 1910, meeting in Pittsburg, Oklahoma, was organization of a Red Cross Society with eighteen members.14

Even before work on the building started, the Mine Rescue Association was also providing needed expertise in mine rescue. On March 31, 1910, the Busby No. 2, operated by the Great Western Coal and Coke Company, exploded, killing six miners. There is no name on the Bureau of Mines report on the Busby No. 2; however, it was evidently prepared by L. M. Jones as the writer specifically mentions that he and Dr. Shields returned to McAlester on the noon train the day after the explosion so they could make the lecture at Adamson that evening. According to the section of the report titled “The Trip to the Mine With Helmets,” Jones received a request to bring the “rescue apparatus” to the mine shortly after the explosion. While there were three helmets available in McAlester, all were the property of different mining companies and had never been unpacked or tested. Jones reported that he had brought four Linde tanks from Pittsburg but lacked the reducer and pipe connection. Jones also lacked electric lights. With the “street railroad manager” providing “a supply of flashlights,” the Rock Island Coal Company at Hartshorne was contacted to bring its two helmets and Draeger electric lights to the Rock Island depot at Hartshorne, which Jones and his party would pick up on their way to Wilburton. Reaching Wilburton at about 6:30 a.m., the helmets were not used immediately as the trapped miners had already been spotted and were all visibly deceased. However, after the bodies had been removed from the mine and two of the advance rescue party had been affected by “the damps,” Jones put a helmet on a miner and explained how it worked “to the men that were

13 McAlester City Directory, 1909 and 1910.
gathered around the slope.” Jones reported that “A great many questions were asked as to the use of the helmet and great interest was shown.”

Just days after the Busby No. 2 accident, the coalminers in the “southwestern states” of Kansas, Arkansas, Missouri, Arkansas and Oklahoma, along with those in Illinois, went on strike in a dispute with the owners/operators over the “wage scale.” Lasting from about April 1, 1910, through September 15, 1910, the strike resulted in a loss of ten to fifteen million tons of coal. More significantly, the strike allowed coal from other states to make serious “in-roads” to the market. Of equal concern, the strike resulted in the migration of workers to active coal fields, leaving the Oklahoma fields at a disadvantage when the strike ended.

As noted in the April 1910 *Daily Oklahoman* article describing the various amenities of “McAlester – The Fuel City of the Southwest,” even without a building and despite the strike, the Mine Rescue Association was a beneficial entity in improving “conditions under which our people labor.” Described as an “experimental and rescue station for the four states of Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri and Arkansas,” the station’s purpose was summarized as “educating coal miners and operators to diminish the dangers and lessen the fatalities of mine accidents.”

**Creation of the Bureau of Mines**

On May 16, 1910, an act of Congress established the Bureau of Mines under the Department of the Interior. The act became effective on July 1, 1910 with the Bureau of Mines assuming the “technological work,” as well as the associated staff, previously performed by the USGS. The general purpose of the bureau was “to increase health, safety, economy, and efficiency in the mining, quarrying, metallurgical, and miscellaneous mineral industries of the country” through inquiries and investigations. In addition to its mine accident and technological investigations work, the Bureau of Mines also had a separate division related to fuel, including coal, lignite and oil fuel.

**Construction of McAlester’s Mine Rescue Station**

Just weeks later, around May 25, 1910, the contract for construction of the “government rescue station” at McAlester was awarded to an unspecified contractor. As described in the newspaper, the station was “provided for by an agreement between the mine operators of this (McAlester) district and the federal government.” Not including fixtures and furniture, the building was estimated to cost $8,275. The money was said to have “been subscribed by the mine owners of this (McAlester) district and the several towns and cities interested in the coal mining industry in

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16 *The McAlester News-Capital*, 13 January 1911.
17 *The Daily Oklahoman*, (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma), 22 April 1910.
this part of the state.” The same entities were expected to pay for the fixtures and furniture with the federal government supplying the “oxygen helmets and other apparatus for the purpose of instruction.” The government was also to “pay the instructor regularly stationed” at the rescue station in McAlester. The station was to “have everything necessary for the instruction of mine superintendents, pit bosses, foremen, gas men, fire bosses and others in how to give first aid in the case of accidents in the mines.” They were to “be taught the dangers from the various kinds of gases found in the mines, how they explode and what is the result of each explosion, how to render the first aid to the miners who may be imprisoned or injured by such explosions and everything in the way of the rescue of the miners in case of accident.”

By mid-August 1910, McAlester’s rescue station building was ready to be “taken over by the federal government.” The government was to “complete the building, equip it and furnish instructors to train expert miners how to act in case of accidents in the mines.” J. B. Roberts, with the Bureau of Mines, represented the government in the August 15, 1910, transfer of the building. Robert’s reportedly stated that the Mine Rescue Station building in McAlester was “the best station in the United States.”

Two months later in mid-October 1910, Roberts was again in McAlester to appoint Anderson Hamilton as the superintendent of the local mine rescue station that was “just completed.” However, before the building officially opened, Hamilton was set to go to Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, “to take a course of training at the principal station there.” Upon Hamilton’s return to McAlester, the McAlester station was to “be opened and experienced miners trained in rescue work.”

With the building expected to be opened between November 7th to the 10th, it was reported that the building cost $9,500 with the money raised “by the operators, the miners and the towns in the mining district.” The federal government was anticipated to expend $4,200 in equipping the building with the government also to “pay all the expenses of operating it and instructing the men.” Evidently delayed slightly, Hamilton, described as “Engineer A. G. Hamilton,” left Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, in the evening of November 11, 1910, “to take charge of the new mine-rescue station established at McAlester, Oklahoma.” Hamilton took with him “a full equipment of rescue apparatus.” By November 17, 1910, the Mine Rescue Station at McAlester was “being opened for the promotion of its laudable work.”

Within about a week of the building’s opening, John C. Reid executed a warranty deed transferring the north 50’ of Lot 2, Block 487 to The McAlester Trust Company as trustee. Relocated to Canada by that time, John Reid’s signature on November 23, 1910, was notarized by a Canadian notary from the Alberta Province. Bessie K. Reid signed the deed several weeks

20 The Daily Oklahoman, 16 August 1910.
21 Ibid, 21 October 1910. See also The Fort Gibson (Oklahoma) Era, 27 October 1910.
22 The Hartshorne Sun, 10 November 1910. See also The Baltimore (Maryland) Sun, 11 November 1910 and The Pittsburg Enterprise, 17 November 1910.
later on December 9, 1910. Bessie Reid was evidently in McAlester at the time of signature as the notary for her signature was from Pittsburg County, Oklahoma, and the document was filed at the courthouse the same day. The nominal consideration of $1 was all that was recorded in the transfer. The McAlester Trust Company was a local bank with no obvious connections to the Mine Rescue Association beyond location.\(^{23}\)

Shortly after the opening of the Mine Rescue Station, there was an explosion at the Jumbo Mine near Antlers, Oklahoma. Operated by the Choctaw Asphalt Company of St. Louis, Missouri, the November 28, 1910, explosion killed a total of thirteen miners with just one miner surviving the explosion. As reported in various newspapers, “When the first news of the explosion was received at the new Bureau of Mines, Dr. J. A. Holmes, Chief of the Bureau, immediately sent a telegram to A. G. Hamilton, at McAlester, Okla., ordering him to proceed at once to Antlers and give all assistance in his power.”\(^{24}\)

As reported in *The Engineering and Mineral Journal*, by mid-December 1910, the Bureau of Mines announced the locations of its six rescue stations and seven first aid cars. The stations were numbered as followed: No. 1, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania; No. 2, Urbana, Illinois; No. 3, Knoxville, Tennessee; No. 4, McAlester, Oklahoma; No. 5, Seattle, Washington; and, No. 6, Birmingham, Alabama. One car each was located in the states of Colorado, Indiana, Wyoming, Montana, West Virginia with two cars stationed in Pennsylvania.\(^{25}\)

**Mine Rescue Training**

As described in a lengthy article in *The Hartshorne Sun* in February 1911, the training held at the Mine Rescue Station was intense and very physical. With Hamilton’s office in one room, a second room on the first floor of the Mine Rescue Station, aptly nicknamed the pump room, held “the pump apparatus” that “charged the hydrogen cells” which were “fitted later into the Drager apparatus.” The Drager apparatus resembled a “diver’s outfit” and, through the helmet with full face mask, supplied oxygen filtered through potash. Documenting that the “mock mine” was an original feature of the building, the newspaper article stated “In another portion of the building separated by large glass windows, is the imitation mine with tunnel and overcast and full of poisonous fumes, made by burning sulphur in large quantities in that portion of the structure.” As used by miners, “overcast” was “an enclosed airway which permits one air current to pass over another without interruption.” Quoting Hamilton, the article exclaimed “We have here as exact an imitation of conditions in a mine right after an explosion has occurred, as can be made.” Indicating that the mock mine opened onto the main corridor of the building is the statement “Just then from the entrance to the “mine” in the adjoining portion of the building, comes a figure of one of the knights in modern armor, who has been practicing the life saving game.”\(^{26}\)

\(^{23}\) General Warranty Deed, John C. and Bessie K. Reid to The McAlester Trust Company, available County Clerk’s Office, Pittsburg County Courthouse, McAlester, Oklahoma, filed 9 December 1910.

\(^{24}\) *The Guthrie (Oklahoma) Daily Leader*, 29 November 1910. See also “Mine Disasters in the United States.”


According to Hamilton, the imitation mine contained “an artificial arrangement of planks representing the overcast.” Rising six’, the artificial overcast was “thirty feet representing the entry of 4 ½-feet between.” The 20’ tunnel was 18 ½” by 20 3/4” which Hamilton noted that, although it seemed small, “when an explosion tears a mine to pieces, the passage way is often chocked up so that the rescuers will have to go through such small areas as that to get to the men entombed in the mine.” The men, wearing the cumbersome Drager apparatus, spent about an hour and half in training sessions that included crossing the overcast 59 to 79 times and going through the tunnel from 8 to 15 times. Upon exiting the mock mine, the removal of equipment revealed “a face swathed in perspiration and red from exertion; the armpits are wringing wet and the shirt is well nigh wrining (sic) wet.”

Federal Acquisition of Mine Rescue Station, McAlester

The June 1911 report of the director of the Bureau of Mines described the Mine Rescue Station as a “small brick building” that was erected at a cost of about $10,000, including the ground on which the building sat. The report also indicated that the land and building were “now offered to the Government for continuous station use at a cost of about $4,000.” The issue of federal ownership continued until early 1914 when Representative C. D. Carter of Oklahoma successfully got Congress to pass a bill purchasing the land and building. The statement by J. A. Holmes, director of the Bureau of Mines, to the House Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds revealed a backstory to construction of the building that did not make the popular press.

According to Holmes’ statement, the miners and operators raised only about $6,500 for construction of McAlester’s Mine Rescue Station before proceeding with the construction, intending to raise the rest of the money after the building was completed. Unfortunately, due to “labor troubles, etc.” that were probably related to the 1910 coal mining strike, the money was not able to be raised and, in 1914, there was an outstanding debt of $5,500 on the building. At the time, the federal government paid $40 per month in rent. As told to the committee, the building cost “a little more than $10,000, including the furnishings, etc.” The committee members questioned Holmes as to whether the rescue operation would be endangered if the appropriation was not paid. Holmes responded that “The danger is that this building may be taken away from us; the people say they can not (sic) make the note.”

Along with testifying in front of the committee, Holmes provided a letter to the committee dated February 3, 1914. In the letter, Holmes credited the Oklahoma Coal Operators’ Association with the construction of the building, noting that the “specifications for the building were prepared by

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27 Ibid.
29 Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, 3-5
This building contains a large smoke or practice room for rescue training, connected with an observation hall, and a reading and lecture room, a repair shop, and an office room. It has a complete installation of electric wiring and fixtures, and up-to-date system of gas and water plumbing, an efficient heating plant, and is furnished throughout in first-class style and workmanship. The lot cost $600; the bid for the building was $6,100; and the contract for heating, lighting, and plumbing equipment was $1,500; or a total of $8,200, and this sum is exclusive of the cost of smoke-room equipment, office furniture, chandeliers, and other furnishings and fixtures. The lot, building, equipment, fixtures, and furnishings represent an investment on the part of the Oklahoma Coal Operators’ Association and miners of approximately $10,000.30

Holmes also pointed out that McAlester was the center of Oklahoma’s coal mining district and less than 100 miles from the Arkansas coal district. According to Holmes, in 1912, there were nearly 9,000 miners working in Oklahoma’s coal mines, producing over 3.5 million tons of coal. Arkansas’ coal mines employed an additional 4,500 miners and produced over 2 million tons of coal in 1912. That the Bureau of Mines had recently been tasked with inspecting and supervising “operations under all coal, oil, and gas leases on Indian lands in Oklahoma” further intensified the need for a local office. As Holmes noted, nearly all of the coal produced in Oklahoma was from Native American leased lands. Holmes concluded his letter with “I believe this action would be for the best interest of the Government in every way, and would result in supplying the Bureau of Mines, at a small cost, with a permanent, satisfactory, and much needed head quarters (sic) for its work in the Oklahoma region.”31

“The Act for the purchase of a building and lot as a mine rescue station at McAlester, Oklahoma” was enacted into law by Congress on July 17, 1914. The act authorized the Department of the Interior to purchase the building and land for the sum of $5,500. The building was to be used by the Bureau of Mines as a mine rescue station “and for such other purposes as the Bureau of Mines may from time to time desire to use the same.” The following year, Congress appropriated $500 for unspecified repairs at the Mine Rescue Station.32

In response to Congress’ act, John C. and Bessie K. Reid executed a warranty deed granting the land and all improvements to the United States of America on August 18, 1914. Evidently still in Canada, the Reid’s warranty deed was notarized by a consular

30 Ibid, 5-6.
31 Ibid.
agent. Shortly after this, the Board of Directors of the McAlester Trust Company recorded at the county courthouse their August 26, 1914 resolution to convey by quit claim deed the property to the federal government. The company’s quit claim deed was dated the same as the resolution; however, it was not filed for record until November 4, 1914 when Reid’s warranty deed was also filed.  

Although not directly part of the land title chain, Daniel M. Hailey, the 1910 president of the Coal Operators’ Association, also executed a quit claim deed on October 3, 1914 to the United States of America for the Mine Rescue Station. Filed on October 20, 1914, the deed indicated that Hailey had taken out a short-term mortgage involving part of Lot 2 from the First National Bank of McAlester in the amount of $2560.12 on September 20, 1914. William Busby, the 1910 president of the Mine Rescue Association, did not file a quit claim deed to the Mine Rescue Station because he had passed away in September 1913.

Living Quarters in the Mine Rescue Station, McAlester

As discussed in the 1979 nomination, the Mine Rescue Station also contained employee housing. According to the 1913 McAlester City Directory, William T. Burgess was then foreman of the Mine Rescue Association. Burgess, along with his wife, resided at the Mine Rescue Station through about 1915. By 1916, J. J. Rutledge was the mining engineer in charge of the Mine Rescue Station with William W. Fleming in the position of foreman. Fleming, along with his wife but no children, resided in the building at that time. Rutledge was promoted to superintendent of the central district at Urbana, Illinois, in about 1922. Fleming then became superintendent of the Mine Rescue Station at McAlester. The Flemings lived at the Mine Rescue Station from around 1916 through at least 1925. The 1928 McAlester City Directory listed the couple as living at 300 Comanche, where they continued to reside through about 1940 and Fleming’s death. The only entity listed in 1928 at 509 S. Third Street is the U.S. Bureau of Mines. By 1930, Fleming had switched agencies from the Bureau of Mines to the U.S. Geological Survey but remained officed at the Mine Rescue Station. In 1930, John B. Hynal held the position of foreman for the Mine Rescue Station but, according to the city directory, Hynal resided at Krebs. With Criss-Cross City Directories unavailable for McAlester

33 Warranty Deed, John C. and Bessie K. Reid to the United States of America, available County Clerk’s Office, Pittsburg County Courthouse, McAlester, Oklahoma, filed 4 November 1914. See also Extracts from the Minute Book of the Board of Directors of the McAlester Trust Company, available County Clerk’s Office, Pittsburg County Courthouse, McAlester, Oklahoma, filed 4 November 1914 and Quit Claim Deed, The McAlester Trust Company to the United States of America, available County Clerk’s Office, Pittsburg County Courthouse, McAlester, Oklahoma, filed 4 November 1914.

34 Quit Claim Deed, Daniel M. Hailey to the United States of America, available County Clerk’s Office, Pittsburg County Courthouse, McAlester, Oklahoma, filed 20 October 1914. See also Sewell, "Coal," and Akers, “The Daniel M. Hailey Collection.”

between 1930 and 1962, the residential function of the Mine Rescue Station evidently ended around 1927.36

**Mine Rescue Station Support Facilities**

Around 1925, Congress evidently appropriated money for construction of a garage to house the mine rescue truck. The mine rescue truck was an advancement on the earlier mine rescue car, which was a train car outfitted for mine rescue, including rescue apparatus and medical equipment. The truck obviously provided benefit in its inherent independence that allowed the rescue team to respond without having to coordinate with the railroad. The brick, three-car garage at the Mine Rescue Station was not recorded on the 1918 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map but appears on the 1927 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map.37 As mentioned previously, the garage was destroyed in April 1996 by a tornado.

**Oklahoma’s Coal Mining Industry**

From the 1870s through the 1980s, over 200 million tons of coal was mined in Oklahoma. With the industry well-established by 1900, the heyday of coal mining lasted through the 1920s. As with other mining activities in Oklahoma, World War II resulted in another surge of activity. Coal mining continued through the 1950s and 1960s, hitting a low in 1967 when 827,000 tons were produced. With the energy crisis of the 1970s, coal again rose in prominence with 1,719 Oklahomans working for forty-six companies in twelve counties in 1979 alone. The surge in mining activity in the 1970s likely contributed to the myriad of interior and exterior updates to the Mine Rescue station. In 1981, coal production set a record that continues to stand with 5.73 million tons produced in Oklahoma that year. Coal mining continues to be a significant Oklahoma industry with 670,610 tons of coal mined in Oklahoma in 2016. As noted by the State of Oklahoma’s Department of Mines, “Oklahoma contains the most significant deposits of bituminous coal between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains.”38

During much of the first century of commercial coal mining in Oklahoma, the focus was on southeast Oklahoma, including the counties of Coal, Pittsburg, Latimer, Haskell and LeFlore. The latter decades of coal mining shifted operations to northeast Oklahoma, particularly the counties of Rogers, Nowata and Craig. Until about 1915, most Oklahoma coal was produced from underground mines. After 1915, surface mines became predominant with all coal after 1974 coming from surface mines.39 The change from underground to surface mines, however, did not decease the dangers of coal mining in

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39 Morris, Drill Bits, 82-84.
Oklahoma, as evidenced by historic properties such as McAlester’s Mass Grave of the Mexican Miners (NRIS 80003297).

**Oklahoma Coal Mine Disasters**

The Mine Rescue Station was an important element in Oklahoma’s mining history. As evidenced by the establishment of the Mine Rescue Station and the overall Bureau of Mines, coal mining was a dangerous profession that too often resulted in loss of life in sometimes extremely substantial numbers. After the Jumbo explosion in 1910 that killed thirteen miners, there were about fourteen additional mine disasters through 1945 in Oklahoma. These included the San Bois No. 2 near McCurtain in 1912 that resulted in seventy-three deaths; the No. 21 near Wilburton in 1926 that killed ninety-one; and the Old Town explosion near McAlester in 1929 that killed sixty-one, twenty-four of whom were interred side-by-side in the huge grave dug by prisoners from the state penitentiary in what became known as the Mass Grave of the Mexican Miners. In addition to their training activities that contributed to knowledgeable and proficient rescuers equipped with the latest devices throughout the region, the experts at the Mine Rescue Station provided direct aid that was oftentimes critical. For example, the “first aid team of the United States Bureau of Mines” were credited with saving two miners rescued during the Old Town explosion through their administration of “artificial respiration.”

**Federal Involvement in Mine Safety**

Besides its significance in Oklahoma’s coal mining industry and social history, the Mine Rescue Station is a unique representation of the federal government’s mine safety activities in Oklahoma. As a federal agency, the Mine Rescue Station occupied a unique position in the mining fields. Unlike the other entities, the Mine Rescue Station was not profit-driven and, thus, viewed the mining activities and technological developments differently. The contributions of the Mine Rescue Station, however, were no less substantial than the coal mining companies, railroads and other for-profit ventures in the coal mining district.

From 1910 through 2016, the Bureau of Mines, along with other federal agencies with mine safety-related responsibilities such as the USGS and the Department of Labor, continuously occupied the Mine Rescue Station and implemented federal mining laws at the local level. Changes in federal law altered the duties and responsibilities at the Mine Rescue Station; however, underlying all of the federal legislation and actions from 1910 to 2016 was the effort to make mining safer and create and maintain healthy conditions for miners to avoid needless loss of life. Spread throughout much of the twentieth century.

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century, federal mining legislation included the 1941 Public Law 77-49 that granted federal inspectors the right to entry and the 1947 Public Law 80-328 that created the first federal safety standards for bituminous and lignite (coal) mines. The Federal Coal Mine Safety Act of 1952 was momentous legislation that was aimed at preventing major disasters in underground coal mines. In 1961, although exempting coal and lignite mines, Public Law 87-300 authorized the Bureau of Mines to study causes and prevention of injuries and health hazards in metal and nonmetal mines. Five years later, Public Law 89-376 extended the Federal Coal Mine Safety Act of 1952 to small underground coal mines and, along with the Federal Metal and Nonmetallic Mine Safety Act of 1966, expanded education and training programs. Just a few years later, the enactment of the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969 (Coal Act) created the most stringent and comprehensive legislation governing the mining industry to that point.41

In 1973, the Mining Enforcement and Safety Administration (MESA) was created within the Department of Interior as a separate agency from the Bureau of Mines. MESA took over the Bureau of Mines’ health and safety enforcement functions in order to avoid conflict of interest issues. Previous to 1973, the Bureau of Mines was tasked with enforcement of mine health and safety standards, as well as mineral resource development. The Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 (Mine Act) transferred MESA from the Department of Interior to the Department of Labor, renaming it the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA). The 1977 act also amended the 1969 Coal Act in significant ways, including consolidating federal health and safety regulations for coal and metal/nonmetal mines. As reflected in the sign in the 1979 photograph of the Mine Rescue Station, the local MSHA office was housed at the Mine Rescue Station.42

The Bureau of Mines ceased to exist in 1996. During its eighty-five years, the Bureau of Mines was instrumental in reducing fatalities in mine disasters by 97 percent, going from 3,000 in 1907 to 98 in 1993. A critical part of this decline was the Bureau of Mines role in use of “self-rescue equipment” that allowed miners to continue to breathe when trapped in a mine. Overall, due to the efforts of the Bureau of Mines, “energy and mineral resources (became) steadily less expensive to obtain and use at the same time that the health and safety of the Nation’s miners…improved.”43 Although MSHA evidently took over the Mine Rescue Station in 1977, the relationship with the Bureau of Mines remained cloudy. For example, the 2007 Mine Safety and Health Administration Building Historic Structures Report stated “The building has remained under the control of the Bureau of Mines to the present, although the name of the department was changed to Mine Safety and Health Administration in 1977.”

While the safety and health of mining improved substantially from 1910, the transfer of responsibilities from the Department of the Interior to the Department of Labor and the

42 Ibid.
dissolution of the Bureau of Mines did not end the federal government’s commitment to improving the mining industry’s conditions. In 2006, the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response (MINER) Act was signed into law by President George W. Bush. Among other actions, the MINER Act provided new regulations regarding mine rescue teams and sealing of abandoned areas. Thus, while many of the technological conditions changed over the course of the century, mining remained a dangerous industry that required government intervention to ensure the safety of the workers.44

It is noteworthy that many of the changes to the Mine Rescue Station coincide with significant legislation. Although imprecise, it was in the 1940s-1950s that the two-story, frame, sleeping porch was removed and probably the mock mine converted to office space, coinciding with the 1947 legislation and the Federal Coal Mine Safety Act of 1952. The extensive work at the Mine Rescue Station in the 1970s, including modernization of both the interior and exterior, followed not only the surge in coal mining activity in Oklahoma and passage of the 1969 Coal Act, but also coincided with the development of MESA in 1973 and the building’s acquisition by MHSA in 1977. The 2006 legislation was followed almost immediately by the 2007 Historic Structures Report and the 2008 work on the exterior, including new windows and roof.

The District 9 office of MSHA remained officed at the McAlester Mine Rescue Station until 2016. At that time, the office relocated to Longview, Texas, with the building remaining unoccupied to the present time. The removal of MSHA ended the Mine Rescue Station’s role in supporting the safety and health of miners. For 106 years, the building served Oklahoma, as well as the other states in the district, as the center of federal mine safety. The Mine Rescue Station remains historically important at the state level of significance for its contributions to improvements in the mining industry, the social impact of rescuing miners and reducing fatalities, and as the federal representation of mine safety at the local level.

9. Major Bibliographical References


*The Daily Oklahoman*. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. 22 April 1910, 16 August 1910 and 21 October 1910.

Extracts from the Minute Book of the Board of Directors of the McAlester Trust Company. Available County Clerk’s Office, Pittsburg County Courthouse, McAlester, Oklahoma, filed 4 November 1914.


The Guthrie (Oklahoma) Daily Leader. 29 November 1910.

The Haileyville (Oklahoma) Signal. 15 January 1909.


The Hartshorne (Oklahoma) Sun. 10 November 1910 and 9 February 1911.


The McAlester (Oklahoma) News-Capital. 28 December 1908, 9 January 1909 and 13 January 1911.


“Mine Rescue Station.” Unpublished manuscript containing a brief history and historical photographs of the building. Available Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory, Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. No date.

The Muldrow (Oklahoma) Press. 10 September 1909.


Quit Claim Deed, The McAlester Trust Company to the United States of America. Available County Clerk’s Office, Pittsburg County Courthouse, McAlester, Oklahoma, filed 4 November 1914.


The Shawnee (Oklahoma) Daily Herald. 30 September 1910.


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**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

___ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

X___ previously listed in the National Register

___ previously determined eligible by the National Register

___ designated a National Historic Landmark

___ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #

___ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

___ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #

**Primary location of additional data:**

X___ State Historic Preservation Office

___ Other State agency

___ Federal agency

___ Local government

___ University

___ Other

Name of repository: _____________________________________

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):**

X___ N/A

Sections 9-end page 37
10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property  __________ LESS THAN ONE (1) ACRE __________

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84: __________
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 34.926250  Longitude: -95.768436

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

North 50’ of Lot 2, Block 487, South McAlester, McAlester, Pittsburg County, Oklahoma.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes the property historically associated with the Mine Rescue Station in McAlester, Oklahoma. This is a different legal description than that provided in the 1979 documentation. The legal description above was obtained on March 5, 2019 from the Pittsburg County Assessor’s Office, located at the Pittsburg County Courthouse, McAlester, Oklahoma, and is consistent with historical documents, including the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title:  Cynthia Savage, Architectural Historian, for
organization:  U.S. General Services Administration
street & number:  346 County Road 1230
city or town:  Pocasset  state: OK  zip code: 73079
e-mail:  archconsulting.savage@yahoo.com
telephone: 
date:  February 2019

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- Maps:  A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
**Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and does not need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

**Name of Property:** Mine Rescue Station  
**City or Vicinity:** McAlester  
**County:** Pittsburg  
**State:** OK  
**Photographer:** Cynthia Savage  
**Date Photographed:** 5 March 2019

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

**Photo 0001:** Exterior Façade (east elevation), camera facing west.  
**Photo 0002:** Exterior Façade (east elevation) and north elevation, camera facing southwest.  
**Photo 0003:** Exterior North elevation (left) and west elevation (right), camera facing southeast.  
**Photo 0004:** Exterior West elevation (left) and south elevation (right), camera facing northeast.  
**Photo 0005:** Exterior South Elevation (left) and façade (right), camera facing northwest.  
**Photo 0006:** Exterior Rear parking area (foreground) and west elevation (background), camera facing northeast.  
**Photo 0007:** Interior First Floor Corridor with dividing wall on left, main stairwell off-center to east and door to southwest first floor office, camera facing southeast.  
**Photo 0008:** Interior Stairs from mid-way landing, camera facing northwest.

### Figure Log (Continuation Sheets):

- **Location Maps:** close view  
- **Location Maps:** far view  
- **Floorplans:** First Floor  
- **Floorplans:** Second Floor  
- **Floorplans:** Basement  
- **Photo Key Maps:** 1. First Floor
Photo Key Maps: 2a. Second Floor
Photo Key Maps: 2b. Second Floor
Photo Key Maps: 3. Basement

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number   Location Maps   Page 1

Mine Rescue Station
509 South Third Street
McAlester, Pittsburg County, Oklahoma

Legend

Mine Rescue Station (Additional Documentation)

Name of Property
Pittsburg County, Oklahoma

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)
Mine Rescue Station
509 South Third Street
McAlester, Pittsburg County, Oklahoma

Legend
- 34.926250°-95.768436
Floor Plan: First Floor
Mine Rescue Station
McAlester, Pittsburg County, Oklahoma

Base Floor Plans Extracted from the 2007
Mine Safety and Health Administration Building Historic Structures Report
By Hardlines Design Company.

Floor Plans updated to reflect configurations/room names in 2019.
Floor Plan: Second Floor
Mine Rescue Station
McAlester, Pittsburg County, Oklahoma

Base Floor Plans Extracted from the 2007
Mine Safety and Health Administration Building Historic Structures Report
By Hardlines Design Company.

Floor Plans updated to reflect configurations/room names in 2019.

Floor Plan: Basement
Mine Rescue Station
McAlester, Pittsburg County, Oklahoma

Base Floor Plans Extracted from the 2007
Mine Safety and Health Administration Building Historic Structures Report
By Hardlines Design Company.

Floor Plans updated to reflect configurations/room names in 2019.
Mine Rescue Station
Name of Property
Pittsburg County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)
Mine Rescue Station
Name of Property
Pittsburg County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number # Photo Key Maps _ Page __6__

Photo Key Map 2 : Second Floor

Base Floor Plans Extracted from the 2007
Mine Safety and Health Administration Building Historic Structures Report
By Hardlines Design Company.

Floor Plans updated to reflect configurations/room names in 2019.
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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _Photos_ Page 7

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County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

OK_PittsburgCounty_MineRescueStation(AdditionalDocumentation)_0003
Mine Rescue Station

Name of Property
Pittsburg County, Oklahoma

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Mine Rescue Station
Name of Property
Pittsburg County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photos Page 11

OK_PittsburgCounty_MineRescueStation(AdditionalDocumentation)_0005
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Mine Rescue Station
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Pittsburg County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photos Page 12

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Pittsburg County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet  

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