United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  

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: __ State National Bank Building __
   Other names/site number: __ American National Bank Building __
   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: __ 2 East Main Street __
   City or town: __ Shawnee __ State: __ Oklahoma __ County: __ Pottawatomie __
   Not For Publication: ___ Vicinity: ___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 ___ statewide _X_ local
   Applicable National Register Criteria:
   _X_ A ___ B _X_ 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 ☐

Category of Property (Check only one box.)

Building(s) ☑
District ☐
Site ☐
Structure ☐
Object ☐
State National Bank Building

Name of Property

Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma

County and State

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 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE: Financial Institution

COMMERCE/TRADE: Office Building

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE: Office Building

VACANT/Not in Use
Section 7 page 4

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)
Late 19\textsuperscript{th} and Early 20\textsuperscript{th} Century Revivals: Classical Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick, Stone

Description Summary
The State National Bank Building, at 2 East Main Street, in Shawnee, Oklahoma is a six-story plus basement, Classical Revival style building that was built in 1928. It occupies a lot on the northeast corner of the intersection of East Main Street and North Broadway Avenue, in downtown Shawnee. It has a flat roof and a concrete structural system. A three-story addition on the north side of the building dates to 1936. The materials and detailing of the addition closely match those of the original building. The south façade and west elevation of the building have very similar systems of ornamentation. Both have monumental stone pilasters on the lower floors and a tall stone parapet wall at the roofline. The parapet walls are adorned with urns, swags and stylized balustrades. The five-bay façade faces south, towards East Main Street. The front door of the building is centrally located and slightly recessed; it is topped by a flat copper canopy and a cast stone pediment. The interior of the State National Bank Building is largely intact and in fair condition. The south (front) end of the ground floor is partially open to a mezzanine level that is accessed by a central staircase. The staircase, and many of the current office finishes appear to have been added in the 1970s or 1980s. The original beamed ceiling of the bank lobby is in place, and in good condition. Each of the upper floors has a double-loaded corridor that is lined with offices. The upper floor plans and finishes are predominantly early or original and in fair to good condition. The State National Bank Building has seen very few exterior changes of note and it appears today much as it did during the period of significance, which corresponds to the time it was used as a bank, 1928-1965.

Narrative Description
Setting and Site:
The State National Bank Building is located in downtown Shawnee, Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma at the intersection of East Main Street and North Broadway Avenue. (Figures 1 and 2.) There is a large surface parking lot to the north, and a small park across North Broadway
Avenue to the west. Most other properties in the area contain one- and two-story commercial buildings which appear to date to the early- to mid-twentieth century. Many of the nearby buildings have modern metal cladding and storefront alterations. The Bell Street Historic District (NRHP #00001579, listed 2000), is located one block east, around the intersection of North and South Bell Avenue and East Main Street. The State National Bank Building is one of the largest and most intact historic buildings in the downtown area. Other sizeable historic buildings along Main Street are located just east of the State National Bank Building. One is a six-story bank building that received significant alterations in the late 1940s, and the other is a large four-story brick commercial building.

The State National Bank Building occupies all of its lot. The façade of the building faces south to East Main Street, and the long west elevation overlooks North Broadway Avenue. (Photo 1.) Both streets are lined with wide concrete sidewalks that include low planting beds. A narrow public alley runs along the north (back) edge of the lot, less than a yard from the north elevation of the building. (Photo 6.) The east elevation of the bank building adjoins a tall one-story commercial building which occupies the lot next door; the common wall between the two buildings extends to the top of the second story of the bank building. The remainder of the east elevation of the bank building is exposed. (Photo 2.)

**Exterior**
The State National Bank Building is a six-story plus basement, two-part vertical block commercial building that has a rectangular footprint. It has a concrete foundation, a reinforced concrete structural system, and a flat roof. The two street-facing elevations of the building (south façade and west elevation) have equally high levels of architectural detailing which includes stone cladding on the first two floors, and dark textured brick on the upper floors. A small blade sign is located at the corner of the south and west elevations. The sign is newer; the mounting brackets have been in place since at least the 1950s. (Photo 2.)

**South Façade**
The façade is divided into five bays, separated by oversized flat cast stone piers and pilasters. Paired cast stone pilasters run from tall granite water table panels to a cast stone cornice at the top of the second floor. The words STATE NATIONAL BANK are incised into the entablature of the cornice. The letters were filled with mortar at a later date but are still clearly visible. (Photo 3.) A taller set of cast stone and brick engaged pilasters extends from the second-floor cornice to a smaller cornice at the bottom of the parapet. (Photo 4.) The upper cornice is topped by a cast stone parapet that continues the vertical lines of the engaged pilasters with projecting cast stone piers. In the outer bays of the parapet, the piers are topped with cast stone urns, and the parapet walls are ornamented with cast stone swags. The three center bays of the parapet are faced with stylized cast stone balustrades and the tops of the two center piers are ornamented with smaller floral medallions. (Photo 4.)

The central bay of the ground floor of the south façade contains the main entrance into the building. It is a slightly recessed entryway sheltered by a copper canopy and surrounded by elaborate cast stonework. (Photo 3.) The door surround includes a pediment topped by a shield.
that depicts the date of the building’s completion, “1928” and the phrase “ESTABLISHED 1902” runs along the flat lintel above the entryway. It refers to the year that the State National Bank was founded. The copper canopy has a coffered ceiling and small shield-shaped medallions at the corners. The canopy and surrounding cast stonework are presumed original. The doorway has aluminum and glass storefront doors that are a few decades old. A presumed original 1/1 window fills the second story space above the canopy.

There are four additional bays at the first and second stories, two on either side of the central entry bay. Each is filled with wide windows separated by molded metal spandrel panels. (Photo 3.) The windows appear to be original and most have been covered and/or painted over from the interior. Two-story modern exterior storm windows cover the original windows and spandrel panels of all four bays. The upper façade is filled with columns of windows that are separated by the cast stone and brick engaged pilasters. The three central bays each have two windows separated by brick mullions, while the two outer bays each have a larger single window. The window openings on the upper floors are intact, but are filled with newer, one-over-one, metal hung windows. The new units fit the window openings well and are comparable to the original windows, which also had a one-over-one configuration. (Figure 7: 1929 State National Bank postcard.) Patterned brickwork fashioned from header bricks laid in a stack bond courses create subtle grid-like spandrel panels between all upper floor windows. All upper window openings have brick rowlock subsills. (Photo 4.)

**West Elevation**

The long west elevation of the building is very similar to the south façade in composition and systems of ornamentation. The elevation is divided into twelve bays, nine on the original building, and three on the 1936 addition. (Photo 5.) The bays of the original building are nearly identical to those on the façade. The pattern of two-story openings on the lower walls is continued on the first eight bays, and there is a wide secondary entryway in the ninth, northernmost, bay. (Photo 6.) The entry is similar to the one found on the façade and has a similar presumed original window and ornamental flat copper canopy, but lacks the elaborate stone surround found on the façade. The doors are modern glass and aluminum with a large aluminum framed transom that is also modern.

The upper floors of the original building have the same engaged pilasters and parapet wall found on the façade. The end bays have matching cast stone urns and swag panels and the interior bays have matching cast stone balustrades. The pattern of double versus single window openings is also continued, with two windows separated by brick mullions on the interior bays, and single openings at the ends. The upper window openings, brick spandrel panels, and window units all match those of the façade. (Photo 1.)

The 1936 addition, which is just three stories in height, has three slightly wider bays that follow the same pattern of ornamentation. The lower two floors have matching cast stone cladding and detailing, and the third floor is faced with the same type of dark brick. The brick walls have the same type of grid pattern of header bricks above the windows. The lower floors also have matching tall window openings that are covered with modern storm windows, as well as two...
single storefront entry doors in the ground floor of the center bay. The third floor also has matching engaged pilasters. In lieu of the cast stone parapet, the pilasters have only a narrow band of cast stone coping and terminate just above the roof line with stepped caps and urns. As on the rest of the street-facing elevations, the vast majority of the original materials of the addition are in place, and in fair to good condition. (Photos 6-7.)

**North Elevation**
The north (back) and east elevations of the building have no architectural embellishments. (Photos 6-8.) The north wall of the original building is visible above the three-story addition. It has an exposed concrete structural system, with red brick walls and rows of windows. The three-over-three metal-framed windows, most of which are glazed with wired glass, are presumed original and in fair condition. One scupper and downspout are visible on this wall. (Photos 6 and 7.) An open fire escape located on the east side of the original back wall also appears to be original. (Photo 7.)

The north elevation of the 1936 addition is a flat red brick wall that is partly covered by vines. The upper floors are lined with banks of 3/3 metal windows that match those found on the north elevation of the original section. A large metal fire escape is roughly centered in the upper wall, and there is a single door on east end of the first floor. (Photo 7.) Marks in the brick west of that doorway indicate that there were once large windows on the first floor as well. Two scuppers and downspouts are present on the addition. (Photo 7.)

**East Elevation**
The long east elevation that is visible above the neighboring building is similar to the original north elevation, with an exposed concrete structural grid and flat red brick walls. The upper floors are divided into three bays by a pair of small lightwells, and are lined with single window openings that have presumed original 3/3 metal windows. The lightwells are filled with modern HVAC equipment. (Photo 8.) A large brick elevator penthouse extends above the roofline near the back edge of the east wall. (Photo 9.)

**Roof and Elevator Penthouse**
The State National Bank Building has a flat roof with short parapet walls. A large satellite dish is located near the rear of the main section of the bank building. There is also a tall flagpole in the southwest corner. There is minimal HVAC equipment located on the roof, since most of the equipment is located within the two lightwells. The large elevator penthouse, which houses the elevator equipment, and is located near the northeast corner of the building. It has a flat roof and walls that are of the same red brick as the rest of the east wall. The penthouse stands one-and-one-half stories tall, and is roughly 14’ x 12’ wide.

**Interior**
The interior of the State National Bank Building retains much of its original layout. The lower two floors on the front section may have served as the main banking room or lobby when the building was new, and the upper floors are filled with offices. All three floors of the 1936 addition also have a long history of commercial use. With the exception of one former restaurant
space on the second floor, the addition is filled with modest offices. Currently, only the lower two floors of the entire building are occupied.

The ground floor of the original building contains a two-story atrium that is ringed by small offices. It appears that the offices were added as part of a larger remodeling project that took place around the 1980s. (Photos 10-11, Figure 3.) That remodeling also involved adding a second level of floor space by expanding two early or original mezzanines and adding walkways and more offices to the upper level of the former lobby. The walkways surround three sizeable openings, which provide a visual link to the first floor. That project also included the installation of a new open staircase in the center opening. The new metal staircase consists of two opposing sets of stairs. The stairs each have a tall handrail with thin balusters and narrow stringers. (Photo 11.) The stairs are carpeted, as are most of the rooms on the first floor.

Although the lobby remodeling project represents a notable change to the main lobby, it is not visible from the exterior of the building, and many of the original features of the lobby have survived. Almost all new second floor spaces retain the original ornamental beams and pilasters, and the original ceiling is still visible from both levels of the lobby. (Photos 10-12, 17-19.) The ceiling features paneled plaster beams, supported by square columns and pilasters that are exposed in the hallways and within the offices of the second floor. (Photo 19.) The field of the ceiling is covered with small acoustical tiles that are early but may not be original. Many of the original plaster walls are also intact; little early millwork or flooring has survived in that part of the building.

The new second-floor structure connects to one front and one rear mezzanine, both of which appear to be original. (Figure 3. Plan sketch.) The original mezzanines sit slightly higher than the new walkways; they are linked by ramps and a few newer stairs. The south (front) mezzanine contains a small original staircase which leads down to the first floor and the basement. The stair has a plaster half-wall at the mezzanine level, and simple painted concrete treads and risers. (Photo 20.) That same stair has an ornamental iron railing and terrazzo flooring at the first floor. (Photo 15.) The basement of the building has tall ceilings and concrete walls and floors. A pair of rooms in the southwest corner of the basement appear to have been used as a kitchen and break room at some point; most of the other rooms there are unfinished. (Photo 16.)

The north mezzanine contains a large original vault, plus a small elevator lobby. (Photo 21.) The elevator lobby, which is located along the north wall of the original building, contains two passenger elevators and a narrow straight-run staircase. The floor in front of the elevators is terrazzo; all other floors on the mezzanine level have modern tile or carpet.

The stairs and elevators serve all levels of the building, and each of the upper floors has a comparable elevator lobby. (Photo 27.) The lobbies have few architectural embellishments; the elevators have plain flat doors and the stairways are edged by plastered half walls that are topped with simple dark varnished wood railings. The treads and risers are of painted concrete. The first floor of the staircase is slightly more ornamental; it has white marble wainscoting, and the lower stairs of that run are of terrazzo. (Photos 14 and 30.)
The upper floors of the original building all have nearly identical floor plans. Each upper floor has a double-loaded corridor that is lined with office doors and interior glass windows, all of which are presumed original. Other early interior finishes of note include original terrazzo flooring in the hallways and elevator lobbies. (Photos 28 and 31.) Although much of the terrazzo is currently covered by carpeting, initial investigations indicate that much of the terrazzo is intact beneath the carpet. The ceilings in most hallways have suspended tile ceiling systems which were installed in recent decades to conceal new HVAC ducts. (Photo 23.)

The corridors are located off-center of the building’s north-south axis. Offices on the west side of the hallway are nearly twice as deep as those on the east. (Figures 4 and 5, photo 24.) Most of the offices feature presumed original dark stained wood and glass paneled doors with flanking fixed windows and other original millwork. (Photo 26.) Presumed original plaster walls and ceilings are also present. Most office floors are covered with carpet, and have ceiling-mounted florescent light fixtures. (Photos 24-25, 29.)

The three-story 1936 addition has seen few changes to the plan or function. The first floor of the addition includes offices that are accessed by internal doorways, as well as the two doors in the west elevation. Each of the two upper floors of the addition has a large central room that is surrounded by modest individual offices. (Photo 22.) Many of those offices have interconnecting doorways. Most of the walls are of painted plaster, and ceiling finishes include painted plaster and suspended acoustical tiles with halogen lighting. (Photo 13.) Almost all floors in the addition are covered by newer carpeting.

**Integrity:**

The State National Bank Building has seen few changes since the addition was completed in 1936. This is particularly true on the exterior of the building. Exterior alterations have been limited to door and window changes. Historic patterns of fenestration are intact, and almost all original architectural detailing is in place and in fair condition. The two-story banks of windows and spandrel panels on the lower floors are intact, albeit covered by modern storm windows as well as some new interior coverings. The windows on the upper floors of the street facing elevations are modern, but they fit the original openings well and are comparable to the original windows, which also had a 1/1 configuration. Exterior entryways on the south and west are also intact but filled with modern glass and aluminum doors and transom windows.

The interior of the building also retains a good deal of material and character from the period of significance. Although the expansion of the early mezzanine spaces at the south end of the original building has reduced the volume of what appears to have originally been a much more open room, the volume of that early banking space is still apparent, thanks to large openings between the first floor and the expanded mezzanine. Additionally, the historic beamed ceiling and many of the original monumental square columns and pilasters in that area are still in place and in good condition.

The upper floors all appear very much as they did in the 1930s. Most offices feature presumed original doors and other millwork, as well as early plaster walls and ceilings. One of the more noticeable changes in those spaces is the flooring, which is generally either missing or covered.
by modern carpeting. The original hallways and elevator lobbies all appear to have been built with terrazzo floors, most of which are now covered by modern carpeting. (Photo 24.) In many of the offices, early tile or carpet has been removed from the original concrete floors, and other rooms have newer carpeting. (Photos 26 and 29.) Overall, the State National Bank Building looks much as it did during the period of significance; the exterior of the building is particularly intact, as are the offices of the upper floors.
8. Statement of Significance

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

- [x] 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.
- [x] 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
Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)
Commerce
Economics
Architecture

Period of Significance
1928 – 1965

Significant Dates
1928
1936

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

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Unknown

Statement of Significance Summary
The State National Bank Building, at 2 East Main Street in Shawnee, Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma, was built in 1928. It is locally significant under National Register of Historic Places Criterion A, in the areas of Commerce and Economics as the home of two of the city’s most prominent banks. The building was built for the State National Bank, which was established in 1902. The State National Bank closed as part of the National Banking Holiday of 1933. In 1934, the building reopened as the American National Bank. In 1936, the American National Bank constructed a three-story addition to the north side of the building. The American National Bank remained in the building until 1965, when they moved to a larger building a few blocks to the north. The upper floors of the building were also home to numerous local businesses over the
years, including several oil companies, who came to Shawnee after oil was discovered in the region in the early 1920s. The period of significance reflects the time that the building was used by those two banks, 1928-1965.

The State National Bank Building is also locally significant under National Register of Historic Places Criterion C, as one of the largest historic buildings in Shawnee, and a large, intact example of a Classical Revival style commercial building in Shawnee. In 1994, an architectural survey of Shawnee stated that the State National Bank Building was “the best remaining property from the oil boom era in Shawnee and it was the principal multistoried building that anchored the corners of the intersection of Main and Broadway.”¹ The six-story plus basement, two-part vertical block building is an excellent example of Classical Revival architecture in Shawnee. It features monumental stone pilasters and classically-inspired architectural detailing. When it was completed, the building was among the tallest in the area and a prime location for office space. Today, it is one of the largest intact historic commercial buildings in Shawnee.

Narrative Statement of Significance

**Shawnee, Oklahoma**

Shawnee, Oklahoma, which is the county seat of Pottawatomie County, is located approximately 36 miles southeast of Oklahoma City. Shawnee has experienced several different economic phases since the city was founded in 1895. Due to the characteristics of the soil, early settlers were successful in growing cotton. Shawnee quickly emerged as a regional agricultural center, where farmers would sell their crops, and shop in the town’s stores.²

The economy began to shift in 1897, when the Choctaw, Oklahoma, and Gulf Railroad constructed a line to Shawnee. Other railroads quickly followed suit, and by 1908, Shawnee was connected to five different railways.³ Several railways, such as the Rock Island Railway and the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway, relocated their main repair shops to Shawnee. The establishment of those repair shops helped to boost the population from 3,476 in the 1900 census to 12,474 in 1910. As Shawnee’s accessibility grew, it attracted other industrial enterprises, such as mills, distilleries, canning factories, and garment factories. Despite the success brought about by the railroads and industrial interests, Shawnee saw only a modest population increase over the next decade, reaching 15,348 by 1920.

Shawnee’s economy continued to rely on the railroads until the discovery of the Wewoka Oil Pool in March 1923. The pool was discovered near the town of Wewoka, Oklahoma, approximately 33 miles east of Shawnee. Within a year, an additional four pools had been discovered in the region, establishing what would later be known as the Greater Seminole Field.

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¹ Oklahoma State University Department of Geography. *Architectural/Historic Intensive Level Survey of Portions of Shawnee, Oklahoma* (Oklahoma City: State Historic Preservation Office, 1994), 75.
² *Architectural/Historic Intensive Level Survey of Portions of Shawnee, Oklahoma*, 127.
³ *Architectural/Historic Intensive Level Survey of Portions of Shawnee, Oklahoma*, 124.
Ultimately, the field grew to include 39 pools.\(^4\) Fueled by the discovery and development of the Greater Seminole Field and the establishment of the oil industry, Shawnee’s population jumped from 15,348 in 1920 to 23,283 in 1930, the second largest increase ever in the city’s population between censuses.\(^5\) The rise in Shawnee’s population can be attributed to oil production from the Greater Seminole Field, which peaked at 500,000 barrels daily between 1927 and 1928.\(^6\)

Although no oil was actually extracted or refined within Shawnee, the town was ideally located to benefit from the oil boom. Located around 30 miles from the major oil fields, Shawnee was removed from many of the negative aspects often associated with boom towns. The town was close enough, however, to be an ideal location for oil company offices. As a result, Shawnee became home to a number of employees from various oil companies.\(^7\)

By 1930, the Greater Seminole Field’s production had dipped to around 200,000 barrels per day, which was still more than half of the entire state’s daily production.\(^8\) The reduction in oil production had a marked impact on Shawnee’s economy. In 1937, the Rock Island repair shop, which was one of the largest in the nation, closed. This event significantly impacted the town, as the shop was a major source of employment in Shawnee.\(^9\) The reduction in oil production, coupled with the closing of the Rock Island repair shop and the economic impact of the Great Depression, contributed to the town’s population loss, from 23,283 in the 1930 census, to 22,053 in the 1940 census.\(^10\)

Shawnee was slow to recover from the Depression. The economy was further impacted by the expansion of Oklahoma City, which left Shawnee with few major employers in the 1940s.\(^11\) Things eventually began to improve when Tinker Air Force Base, located approximately 34 miles west of Shawnee, was established in 1941. The base, located on the outskirts of Oklahoma City, employed 3,500 people when it first opened. Over the next 20 years, employment at the base grew, with employment peaking at nearly 25,000 in 1968.\(^12\) As of 2012, Tinker Air Force Base was the largest employer in Oklahoma.\(^13\) According to statistics available from the City of

\(^6\) Architectural/Historic Intensive Level Survey of Portions of Shawnee, Oklahoma, 136.
\(^7\) Architectural/Historic Intensive Level Survey of Portions of Shawnee, Oklahoma, 138.
\(^8\) Architectural/Historic Intensive Level Survey of Portions of Shawnee, Oklahoma, 136.
\(^9\) Architectural/Historic Intensive Level Survey of Portions of Shawnee, Oklahoma, 134, 146.
\(^10\) 1940 Census, 862. Architectural/Historic Intensive Level Survey of Portions of Shawnee, Oklahoma, 146.
\(^11\) Architectural/Historic Intensive Level Survey of Portions of Shawnee, Oklahoma, 152.
Shawnee, Tinker Air Force Base “has employed as many as 3,000 Shawnee residents.” The economic impact of the base, along with the addition of new manufacturing plants in town, helped to boost Shawnee’s economy in the 1940s-1970s.

**State National Bank**

The State National Bank was one of the first banks to be established in Shawnee. According to *A Standard History of Oklahoma*, “the State National Bank was organized in Shawnee, Oklahoma on October 2, 1902 by Willard Johnston, George E. McKinnis, Julius Greenlee, J. W. McLoud, and Mr. [C. M.] Cade.” Sanborn Fire Insurance Company maps of the area show that the new bank originally occupied a two-story brick building just west of the current building, at 2 West Main Street. In 1901, the year before the State National Bank moved in, that building housed a boot and shoe store, a grocery store, and a restaurant. (See Figure 8.)

The founding officers of the State National Bank were all prominent local businessmen. The bank’s first president was Willard Johnston. Born in New York in 1863, Johnston settled in Pottawatomie County during the land run of 1891. In 1895, Johnston helped establish the Shawnee National Bank, which was said to be the first commercial bank in town. George E. McKinnis, one the bank’s first vice presidents, moved to Shawnee in 1898. He served as the principal of the high school, superintendent of the school system, and Shawnee’s postmaster. As postmaster from 1903-1907, McKinnis established rural mail service throughout Pottawatomie County. McKinnis also helped to bring Oklahoma Baptist University to Shawnee and was president of that school’s board of trustees for a time. One 1930 summary of influential Oklahomans highlighted his importance to the state in the areas of politics, business, and finance, and *A Standard History of Oklahoma* referred to McKinnis as “a real leader of progress in his home city of Shawnee…”

By the time Oklahoma became a state in 1907, the State National Bank was one of five banks located within Shawnee. All but one of those was a national bank. Nationally-chartered banks are regulated by the federal Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, while banks holding a state charter are governed by regulations within that state. National banks were established by the National Currency Act of 1863, and the National Banking Act of 1864. One of the objectives of these acts was to increase the number of nationally-chartered banks by removing the ability of

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16 Sanborn Fire Insurance Company map, 1901.
18 “Rotary Names Shawnee Man for Governor,” *The Daily Oklahoman*, April 24, 1929, 3.
the state-chartered banks to print currency. This helped establish the modern-day “dual banking system,” where banks operate under either a state or national charter. The Second Bank of the United States operated until 1836, when President Andrew Jackson blocked renewal of its charter. Before 1863, the Second Bank of the United States, which operated through a series of offices located around the country, was the only national bank in the United States. In 1863, the national banking system was established by President Abraham Lincoln. The system created a nationwide series of “federally chartered, privately owned, and locally managed banks.” In the United States today, there are around 880 banks with a national charter, and over 4,000 state-chartered banks.

Although the State National Bank was one of the newest banks in town in 1906, it was the second largest bank operating in Shawnee in terms of capital. The oldest bank in Shawnee was the First National Bank, which had been organized in 1896. When new, the First National Bank Building occupied a two-story building on the current site of the State National Bank, at 2 East Main Street. In 1906, First National Bank closed after it was acquired by the Oklahoma National Bank. Around 1907, the State National Bank moved across the street into the First National Bank’s old building, which was significantly larger than the original two-story building at 2 West Main Street. (Figure 7: 1912 Sanborn Map of Shawnee showing location of State National Bank.)

The State National Bank prospered in the early twentieth century. According to advertisements in city directories, the bank’s capital and surplus increased from $110,500 in 1906, to $130,000 in 1925. In banking, capital is determined by taking the value of a bank’s assets, and subtracting its liabilities. Assets are owned by a bank, and can include loans, federal securities, and cash reserves; liabilities include customer deposits into a bank, and money borrowed by the bank.

In September 1927, an article in The Daily Oklahoman announced that the State National Bank of Shawnee planned to begin construction on a new building on the same location within 60 days. According to the article, the building would be six stories; the bank would operate from the first two, while the remaining floors were to be rented out as office space. The article proclaimed that the new bank building would be one of “the largest building projects launched in Shawnee since the expansion of the city about the time the Seminole oil field began to boom.” (Figure 9: 1929 Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Map of Shawnee, Oklahoma, showing new State National Bank Building.)

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22 National Banks and the Dual Banking System, 4.
23 National Banks and the Dual Banking System, 7.
24 Sykes, 1.
26 1906 Shawnee City Directory, 12.
Referred to as the “State National Bank Building” when it was completed, the new building immediately became an important commercial space in Shawnee, housing offices of several oil companies and closely-related industries. These included the Sinclair Oil & Gas Company, the Prairie Oil & Gas Company, the Stanolind Pipeline Company, as well as companies that dealt in oil royalties. Non-oil ventures such as lawyers, physicians, insurance companies, and real estate agents also had offices in the building.29

**Great Depression/Closing of State National Bank**

In the early 1930s, many in Oklahoma believed that the prosperity brought by oil production would help to spare the state from the financial impacts of the Depression. The oil business supported a strong banking system in Oklahoma. Evidence of this prosperity could be seen in Oklahoma City, where two 33-story bank buildings were completed in 1931. One of those buildings was the First National Bank and Trust Company Building (NRIS #SG110002220), which was 55% occupied when it opened in December.30 The Ramsey Building, also completed in 1931, was over 60% leased then it opened.31 In 1920, the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City opened a branch in downtown Oklahoma City, which originally operated out of two separate buildings. The new bank was so successful that it had to move to larger quarters just two years later.32 Throughout the rest of the state, banking was also strong.

At the onset of the Great Depression, the mood around Shawnee was optimistic, given its place in the oil economy, which had become more profitable than the state’s agricultural production.33 The 1930 city directory heralded Shawnee as “The Metropolis of the World’s Largest Oil Fields,” while its three banks (including the State National Bank) had combined assets totaling nearly $10 million. An advertisement in the 1930 city directory declared that the State National Bank had over $3,000,000 in assets, while noting that the bank was under government supervision. As for the State National Bank Building, the directory also showed that it had zero vacancies.34

Two years later, the Depression finally caught up with Shawnee. The State National Bank had lost nearly $500,000 in assets, according to their advertisement in the 1932 city directory, and the building had 8 vacancies.35 (Figure 10: 1932 State National Bank advertisement in city directory.) The State National Bank’s operation in Shawnee effectively ended when President Roosevelt issued Proclamation 2039 on March 6, 1933. The proclamation declared a national banking holiday in an attempt to halt the steady rate of bank failures and runs, which had placed

29 Shawnee City Directories; 1930-1935.
32 Hightower, 82, 86.
33 Hightower, 98.
34 1930 Shawnee City Directory, 12, 373.
35 1932 Shawnee City Directory, 28, 300.
considerable toll on the nation’s financial system. The holiday ended three days later when Congress passed the Emergency Banking Act of 1933, but the damage was done. According to the Federal Reserve, around 4,000 banks were permanently closed as a result of the act.\(^{36}\)

The State National Bank in Shawnee, Oklahoma was one of the banks that closed during the holiday. A June 1933 article in *The Daily Oklahoman* mentioned that the State National Bank had been closed since the bank holiday, but noted that plans were underway to open a new bank from its assets, with the assistance of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation.\(^{37}\) The process of establishing a new bank was completed in January 1934, when the local newspaper announced that the American National Bank and Trust Company of Shawnee was “organized from prime assets of the closed State National Bank.”\(^{38}\) The new bank’s organizational structure did not include any members of the former State National Bank’s leadership.

**American National Bank**

The American National Bank was organized on January 6, 1934, and took over the first two floors of the State National Bank Building. Around the same time, the building’s name was changed in the city directory from the “State National Bank Building,” to the “American National Bank Building.” A cigar stand located at 109 North Broadway Avenue also changed its name from the “State National Bank Cigar Stand,” to the “American National Bank Cigar Stand”\(^{39}\) (Figure 11: 1935 American National Bank city directory advertisement.)

While the building’s name and ownership had changed, many of its tenants remained. Between 1930 and 1935, the building retained nine out of 31 tenants. The Shawnee Clinic, a medical operation, occupied the entire fourth floor. Other tenants included the Sinclair Prairie Oil Company; the Ingram Royalty Company; Goode, Dierker & Goode, Lawyers; and the Carson Abstract Company.\(^{40}\)

Like the early leaders of the State National Bank, the American National Bank’s leadership included businessmen who were important at both the local and state levels. J. A. Ingram, who served as one of the bank’s first vice presidents, was also mayor of Shawnee from 1930 to 1934. Ingram owned a highly-successful royalty company, and two drug stores in Oklahoma City.\(^{41}\) The American National Bank’s longtime president, W. Elmer Harber, served in that role until at least 1960, and was the chairman of the bank’s board of directors until his death in 1975.\(^{42}\) Harber was also the Chairman of the Board of Regents at Oklahoma State University, as well as the Chairman of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation from 1950-1951.\(^{43}\) It was under his leadership...


\(^{39}\) Shawnee City Directories; 1930-1935.

\(^{40}\) 1930 Shawnee City Directory, 373; 1935 City Directory, 348.


leadership that the American National Bank flourished. A three-story addition was constructed on the north side of the building around 1936. This addition closely matched the materials and architectural detailing of the original building. (Figure 12: 1950 Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Map of Shawnee, Oklahoma, showing entire State National Bank Building. Figure 12: 1960 photograph of the State National Bank Building showing addition.)

In 1949, an article in *The Daily Oklahoman* reported that the bank sought to more than double its capital, from $100,000 to $250,000. The article also stated that deposits in the bank increased from $1.1 million in 1934 to nearly $10 million by 1949. President Harber said that the bank needed the additional funds due to “increasing business in Shawnee, and the resulting demand for larger banking facilities.”44 The demand for larger facilities finally outpaced the capacity of the former State National Bank Building, and in 1965, the American National Bank moved to a new location a few blocks north. The American National Bank’s new building boasted modern styling, as well as up-to-date conveniences such as a drive-thru and a large parking lot for customers.45 Those amenities targeted a population that had become enamored with the convenience offered by the automobile. (Figure 14: 1965 advertisement for American National Bank in Oklahoma Baptist University yearbook. Figure 15: 1966 advertisement in Oklahoma Baptist University yearbook showing new bank.)

Sometime in the 1970s or 80s, outside the period of significance, the lower two floors of the space originally occupied by the bank were remodeled into smaller offices. This included the addition of a central staircase to the mezzanine level. (Photos 9-12.) The configurations of the office spaces on floors three through six have not seen significant alterations, despite the fact that they have housed a number of businesses over the years. The corridors and elevator areas on the upper floors are intact. (Photos 13-19.)

**Architecture**

According to an architectural survey of the area, downtown Shawnee experienced two main eras of construction in its history. The first era included buildings that were built between ca. 1895 and 1910. These buildings are typically two to three stories tall, and were clad in either brick or stone. Few had elaborate architectural embellishments.46 The State National Bank Building was built during the second era of development in Shawnee, which is generally considered to have lasted between ca. 1920 and 1930. Buildings of this era were taller, and featured more elaborate architectural detailing. Nearby buildings of note that were constructed during the second era of construction include the Aldridge Hotel (NRHP #00000622), which was constructed in 1928, and the Billington Building/Masonic Building (NRHP #85002512), constructed in 1929.

The State National Bank Building is significant within the architectural history of Shawnee, Oklahoma as the tallest building on Main Street, as well as the largest intact historic bank building in Shawnee. The Federal National Bank Building (112-114 North Bell Avenue) was constructed in 1907 as a two-story building. It underwent significant changes in 1947, which

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included the addition of four stories and a reconfigured entryway. The only historically intact buildings taller than the State National Bank Building in downtown Shawnee are the ten-story Aldridge Hotel (NRHP #00000622) (20-24 East 9th Street), and the seven-story Billington Building/Masonic Building (NRHP #85002512) (23 East 9th Street), both of which were built around the same time as the State National Bank Building.

The State National Bank Building is an excellent example of a two-part vertical block, a popular form that was used for many office buildings in the late 19th to early 20th century. The two-part vertical block, as described by Richard Longstreth, in The Buildings of Main Street, is generally “divided horizontally into major zones that are different yet carefully related to one another. The lower zone rises one to two stories, and serves as a visual base.” The form is “further distinguished by a clearly prominent upper zone, rather than appearing merely to have several stories placed atop the lower zone…”

The first two floors of the State National Bank Building are emphasized with granite and cast stone cladding and large window openings. The stone cladding serves as a visual break from the generally uniform upper floors. The four upper floors have red brick walls and smaller windows that are divided by monumental cast stone pilasters, giving the building a sense of verticality. The roofline is dominated by a tall parapet of cast stonework, which features classical embellishments.

**Conclusion**

As one of the largest intact historic commercial buildings in downtown Shawnee, the State National Bank Building represents a significant link to the commercial history of the community. It was the headquarters of two of the most prominent banks in the city for 37 years, and has housed offices of scores of local businesses. The building has seen few exterior alterations in the past 90 years, and appears today much as it did when the State National Bank opened for business there in 1928.

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9. Major Bibliographical References


City of Shawnee, Oklahoma. “History of Shawnee.”


Oklahoma City Community Foundation. “Records – Johnston Family Foundation.”

Oklahoma State Banking Department. “Closed, Merged, Renamed and Relocated Banks of Oklahoma.” *Archive of Institutions*.


State National Bank Building

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

____ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
____ 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):  N/A

10. Geographical Data
Acreage of Property  Less than one 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: 35.327632°  Longitude: -96.923266°
2. Latitude:                Longitude:
3. Latitude:                Longitude:
4. Latitude:                Longitude:
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)
All of Lots 18 and 19, AP Block 25, Shawnee, Pottawatomie County, OK. Otherwise known as 4 Main Street, Pottawatomie County Parcel No. 0015-00-025-018-0-000-00.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)
The boundary encompasses all land currently and historically associated with the State National Bank Building.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Debbie Sheals and Mason Martel
organization: Building Preservation, LLC
street & number: 29 South 9th Street, Suite 210
city or town: Columbia state: MO zip code: 65201
e-mail: debsheals@gmail.com
telephone: (573) 874-3779
date: September 2019

Photographs

Photo Log

Name of Property: State National Bank
City or Vicinity: Shawnee
County: Pottawatomie State: Oklahoma
Photographer: Debbie Sheals
Date Photographed: October 2018, March 2019

Description of Photographs
1 of 10. Southwest corner, camera facing northeast.
2 of 10. West elevation, camera facing east.
3 of 10. Northwest corner, camera facing northeast.
4 of 10. North elevation, camera facing south.
5 of 10. Northeast corner, camera facing southwest.
6 of 10. East wall, camera facing west.
7 of 10. South elevation, camera facing north.
8 of 10. Modern first floor staircase and historic second story ceiling, camera facing south.
9 of 10. Original first floor staircase, camera facing northeast.
State National Bank Building

Figure Log

Figure 1: Site Map. Google Maps 2019.
Figure 2: Contextual Map. Google Maps 2019.
Figure 3: Plan Sketch and Photo Key, Exterior, First Floor, and Basement.
Figure 4: Plan Sketch and Photo Key, Second Floor.
Figure 5: Plan Sketch and Photo Key, Third Floor.
Figure 6: Plan Sketch and Photo Key, Fourth Through Sixth Floors.
Figure 7: 1929 State National Bank postcard.
Figure 8: 1912 Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Map of Shawnee, Oklahoma, showing location of State National Bank buildings.
Figure 9: 1929 Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Map of Shawnee, Oklahoma, showing new State National Bank Building.
Figure 10: Black and white advertisement for the State National Bank in the 1932 Shawnee, Oklahoma city directory.
Figure 11: Black and white advertisement for the American National Bank in the 1935 Shawnee, Oklahoma city directory.
Figure 12: 1950 Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Map of Shawnee, Oklahoma, showing entire State National Bank Building.
Figure 13: Black and white photograph of the State National Bank building showing addition, 1960.
Figure 14: Black and white advertisement for American National Bank in 1965 Oklahoma Baptist University yearbook.
Figure 15: Black and white advertisement in 1966 Oklahoma Baptist University yearbook showing new bank building.
State National Bank Building
Name of Property

Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma
County and State

Figure 1. Site Map. Google Maps 2019.
Figure 2: Contextual Map. Google Maps 2019.
Figure 3: Plan Sketch and Photo Key, Exterior, First Floor, and Basement. Sketch Plan by Deb Sheals, 2019.
Figure 4. Plan Sketch and Photo Key, Second Floor. Sketch Plan by Deb Sheals, 2019.
Figure 5: Plan Sketch and Photo Key, Third Floor. Sketch Plan by Deb Sheals, 2019.
Figure 6: Plan Sketch and Photo Key, Fourth Through Sixth Floors. Sketch Plan by Deb Sheals, 2019.
Figure 8: 1912 Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Map of Shawnee, Oklahoma, showing location of State National Bank. (Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, *Shawnee, Oklahoma, 1912*, Volume 1, page 12.)
Figure 9: 1929 Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Map of Shawnee, Oklahoma, showing new State National Bank Building. This map was created the year after the first section of the State National Bank Building was completed. (Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, Shawnee, Oklahoma, 1929, Volume 1, page 2.)
Figure 10: Black and white advertisement for the State National Bank in the 1932 Shawnee, Oklahoma city directory. *Polk’s Shawnee City Directory* (R. L. Polk & Co.: Kansas City, MO, 1932), 29.

![State National Bank Advertisement](image)

“The habit of systematic saving is the keynote of good citizenship, good morals, and healthy and independent homes.”

START THAT ACCOUNT WITH US NOW

Assets Over

Two and One-Half Million Dollars

The State National Bank

(Under Government Supervision)

2 E. MAIN

TELS. 389-390


![American National Bank Advertisement](image)

American National Bank

Shawnee, Oklahoma

Capital and Surplus $220,000.00

Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

In accordance with the banking act of 1933 providing for the insurance of deposits to the extent of $5,000.00 for each depositor.

Safety Deposit Boxes for rent. We sell Travelers’ Checks. A general banking business.

W. E. HARBER, President
H. T. RIDDLE, Vice President
W. E. GRISSO, Vice President
J. A. INGRAM, Vice President

L. L. LESLIE, Cashier
E. BARNWELL, Assistant Cashier
J. GRANT MOREY Assistant Cashier
Figure 12: 1950 Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Map of Shawnee, Oklahoma, showing entire State National Bank Building. This is the only available Sanborn Map that shows the complete Sate National Bank Building. (Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, Shawnee, Oklahoma, 1950, Volume 1, page 2.)
Figure 13: 1960 photograph of the State National Bank Building showing addition. “Dividing lines between east and west Shawnee is Broadway Street, parking problems of which are expected to be eased by construction of $600,000.00 worth of municipal parking lots,” February 22, 1960, Oklahoma Historical Society. Photograph 2012.201.B1166.0186, https://gateway.okhistory.org/ark:/67531/metadc517861/ (accessed March 2019.)
Figure 14: Black and white advertisement for American National Bank in 1965 Oklahoma Baptist University yearbook. Oklahoma Baptist University, *1965 Yahnseh* (Shawnee, OK: 1965), 184.
Figure 15: Black and white advertisement in 1966 Oklahoma Baptist University yearbook showing new bank. Oklahoma Baptist University, *1966 Yahnseh* (Shawnee, OK: 1966), 184.
State National Bank Building

Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma

OK_PottawatomieCounty_StateNationalBankBuilding_0002
State National Bank Building

Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma

OK_PottawatomieCounty_StateNationalBankBuilding_0003
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<td>Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma</td>
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OK_PottawatomieCounty_StateNationalBankBuilding_0004
State National Bank Building
Name of Property

Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma
County and State

OK_PottawatomieCounty_StateNationalBankBuilding_0005
State National Bank Building
Name of Property

Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma
County and State

OK_PottawatomieCounty_StateNationalBankBuilding_0007
State National Bank Building

Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma

OK_PottawatomieCounty_StateNationalBankBuilding_0008
State National Bank Building
Name of Property

Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma
County and State

OK_PottawatomieCounty_StateNationalBankBuilding_0010