wheat yields were increasing and the price rose to 76 cents a bushel. The farmers were thus able to repay the railroad companies for the borrowed wheat seed (6).

Wheat, therefore, became the principal cash crop in the Helena vicinity. Scientific research at the Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station in Stillwater, established in 1891, benefited the farmer. The Turkey Red strain of wheat introduced by the Germans from Russia was improved and other varieties of hard wheat were developed including Karkof, Kamred, and Black Hull. These varieties were freeze resistant in winter and drought resistant in summer. These research breakthroughs encouraged farmers in the area to cultivate more wheat (7).

By 1909, census data indicate that cereal grains were the major crops in Alfalfa County. Because of the Midwestern influence on early farmers, corn was still the major crop with 1.8 million bushels produced on 128,500 acres. Wheat was rapidly expanding with 1.7 million bushels on 106,300 acres. Within the next decade, wheat surpassed corn. Doubling its acreage in ten years, more than 252,000 acres were planted in wheat in Alfalfa County with production reaching 3.5 million bushels in 1919. By 1925 Alfalfa County's wheat production had increased to 4.5 million bushels and 72 percent of its crop area was devoted to wheat (8).

Indicative of increased cattle production by 1925 was an increase in tons of hay produced. With alfalfa as the primary hay crop, more than 25,500 tons of hay was produced on about 12,000 acres.

From 23, 800 cattle in Alfalfa County in 1910, production rose to 26,500 by 1920 and more than 35,000 by 1925. Interest in purebred cattle for beef purposes had increased by the 1920s with Shorthorn and Hereford breeds the most prominent. Cattle breeders

associations were organized in Alfalfa County in order to improve the quality of beef breeds, and registered bulls were imported to upgrade herds (9).

Two organizations affected agriculture in the Helena area. The Oklahoma Wheat Grower's Association was active in the 1920s. It was a cooperative operation devoted to the sale of wheat at the best prices for its members. At about the same time, the Alfalfa County Seed Grower's Association was formed. It consisted of farmers who sought seed improvement and the distribution of pure wheat seed (10).

Unfortunately, the agricultural economy around Helena fell on hard times in the 1930s, like so many other communities in Oklahoma. Plagued by drought, dust storms, and the Great Depression, rural farm population declined in Alfalfa County during the 1930s and 1940s. Coupled with these factors that affected population loss were consolidation of farm units and mechanization of agriculture beginning with the introduction of combine harvesters, threshers, and tractors as early as 1920 (11). Out-migration of farmers occurred in two phases including those who fled the farm for cities in Oklahoma and those who migrated out-of-state to other parts of the country, namely California.

Agriculture, despite its problems in the 1930s, continued to be the largest source of income for Alfalfa County through 1950. Wheat and beef cattle retained their role as mainstays of the farming/ranching population around Helena. By 1950, the value of all farm products in the county was $76,000,000 compared to $4,000,000 in 1930. The number of farms had dramatically decreased from 2,328 in 1930 to less than 900 in 1950. On the other hand, the average size of farms had taken an expected upturn due to farm

consolidation. From an average of 223 acres in 1930, the average size of a farm in Alfalfa County was almost 600 acres in 1950 (12).

Commercial Establishments

As a farm-to-market center, Helena developed a vigorous central business district along the town's Main Street. The Bank of Helena was shortly organized after the townsite was platted. Equipment and personnel from the nearby community of Carwile were moved to Helena and the new bank in Helena was opened in March of 1903. This first bank became the Helena State Bank in April of 1905. A second bank was chartered as the Farmer's State Bank in 1907 with a capital investment of $10,000. In May of 1923, this bank received a national charter as the Farmer's National Bank. In 1924, the two Helena banks merged to become the Helena National Bank. The Farmer's Bank building served as the Helena post office in the late 1920s (13). Banking facilities provided a number of services including loans for merchants and farmers as well as a safe depository for their incomes. The Farmer's State Bank building of 1907 remains intact on the northeast corner of Main and 3rd Street. Since the 1920s, the building has housed a variety of commercial functions.

Besides banks, one of the first businesses in Helena was the Helena Milling Company. Town leaders recognized the need for such a facility and enticed a company to move to Helena from Camp Point, Illinois prior to 1910. The Enid Mill and Elevator Company opened a branch in Helena shortly thereafter. Subsequently, three other elevators also located near the Frisco railroad tracks for storage and eventual shipping to grain terminals in Enid (14).

Historical records indicate that Helena had two hotels by the 1920s. This reflected growth in business and industrial activity in the community. The first was "The Helena," a multistoried facility owned by the Main family in 1911. The Markle Hotel opened sometime later (15).

Helena boasted a variety of additional business enterprises which catered to city and rural residents including groceries, dry goods, hardwares, cafes and restaurants, garages and auto agencies, barber shops, drug stores, meat markets, lumberyards, and farm implement dealerships. Among the first commercial establishments in Helena were Edmund's General Store and Hoyt's General Mercantile, both of which provided the nucleus for Helena's Main Street business district. Additional Main Street retailers included Harry Main's Meat Market , Claude Chaney's Barber Shop, Alberta's Drugs, Young's Hardware, Leslie Brothers Hardware, McDowell Supply Company, Dettle's Auto and Garage, and Dettle's Implements. Both the Dettle Auto Agency and Dettle Implements buildings on Main Street remain intact (16).

During the 1930s and 1940s, Helena's position as a trade center for southern Alfalfa County steadily declined. Competition with other small trade centers in the southern part of the county (Aline, Goltry, Carmen, and Jet) coupled with super highways that bypassed Helena affected its growth and commercial status. The town's population, which once reached over 1,000, slowly dwindled to about 750 by 1950. Neither of the hotels survived and only one bank remained in existence. Both the Dettle Auto Agency and Dettle Implements had closed. The milling companies ceased to exist. Of the four elevators, only the Farmers Coop remained by 1950. The town's central business district relied heavily on the payroll and salaries of employees of the Helena State School for

Boys, located in the west part of town. As of 1950, it continued as a state-supported institution.

Schools and Churches

Prior to statehood in 1907, old Woods County (divided into Alfalfa, Major, and new Woods in 1907) did not have a high school. County commissioners passed a resolution on April 8, 1904 to locate the county high school at Helena. In an election held on November 8, 1904, a majority voted in favor of the Helena high school proposal. The building opened on September 15, 1905 with thirty-two classrooms, seven teachers, and 143 students. When old Woods County was divided in 1907 by the Constitutional Convention meeting in Guthrie, the old Woods County High School was donated to Alfalfa County (one of the new counties). The latter county assumed the indebtedness and it became the Alfalfa County High School from 1908 to 1909. County commissioners of Alfalfa County called an election in 1909 to transfer the Alfalfa County High School to the state. In an overwhelming majority, the county high school became state property. As of December 20, 1909, Alfalfa County High School ceased to exist (17).

The State Board of Agriculture met in October of 1909 and voted to locate the secondary agricultural school of the fifth congressional district at Helena in the existing old Woods County/Alfalfa County High School building. Known as the Connell School of Agriculture, the state added a dormitory, shop building, dairy barn, horse barn, and expanded the campus to approximately ten acres in the west part of Helena [Fig. 9]. From 1910 to 1917, the school offered a 4-year high school curriculum as well as teacher certification. Average attendance during that period was approximately 150 students, and six teachers were employed. In 1917, Governor Robert Williams vetoed the appropriation

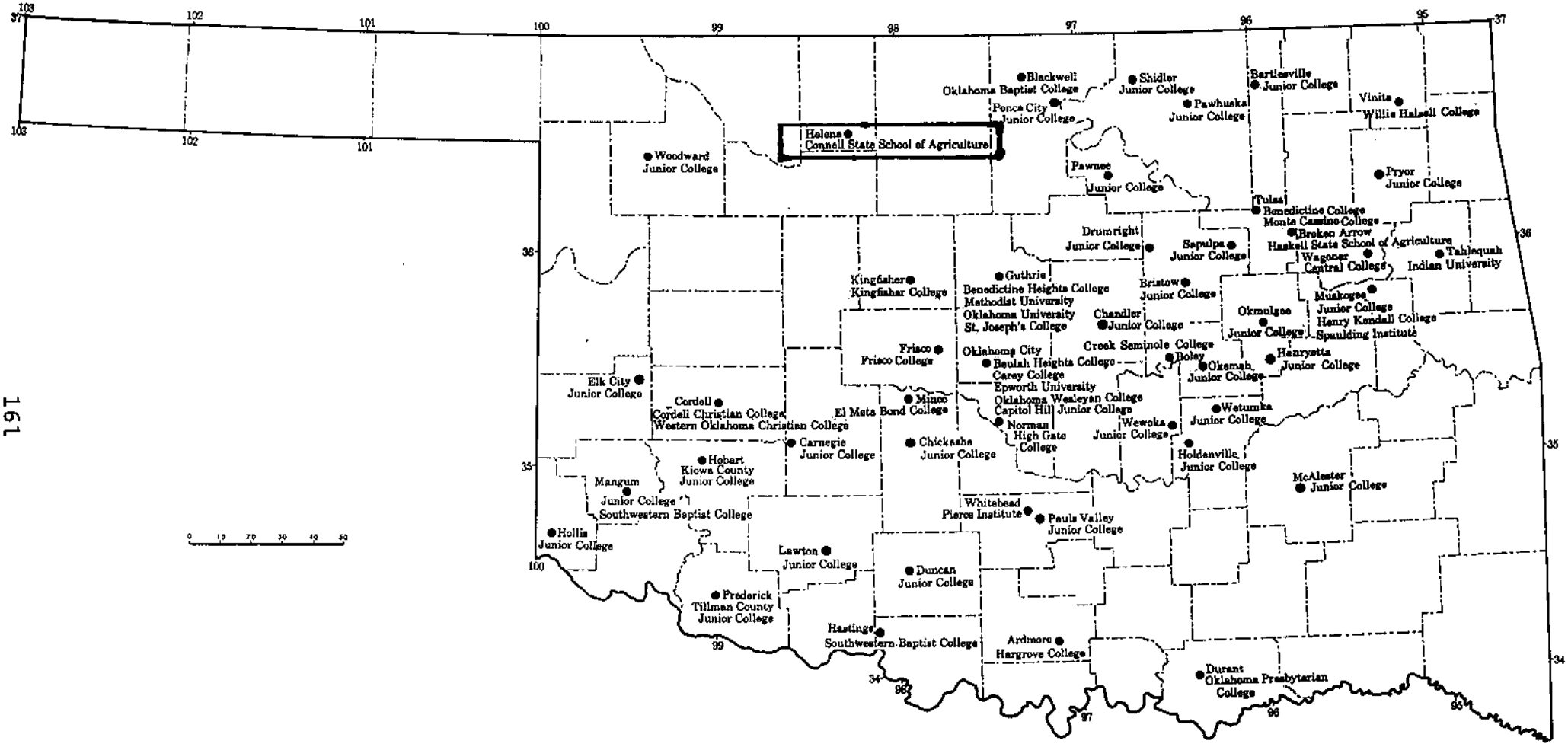


FIG. 9 CONNELL SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE - HELENA
Source: Morris et al., Historical Atlas of Oklahoma (1986), 66.

for the school, and the buildings were donated to Helena. The public school system of Helena used the buildings from 1918 to 1923 to house their grade and high schools (18).

The buildings were then sold to the state in 1923 for $50,000 and became the West Oklahoma Orphan's Home. The ten-acre campus had six buildings and fifteen employees. The $50,000 state compensation to Helena was used with a $10,000 school bond to construct a new school complex for Helena, located in the north part of town.

On the orphan's home campus, the old Woods County/Alfalfa County High School building was razed in 1938. It had served as the administration building, but was replaced by a smaller building. The orphan's home remained in Helena until the early 1940s when it moved to Pryor. However, the ten-acre campus and six buildings served as the State Training School for Boys until the early 1980s when the complex became the James Crabtree Correctional Facility, first a minimum-security compound and today is a medium-security facility (19).

As to the Helena High School building of the early 1920s, it was razed in the late 1970s, and the new school building complex constructed at that time was located in the same general area of town.

The first church building in Helena was the Presbyterian which was moved from Carwile. The next church buildings in order were the Baptist, Methodist, and Christian (20). By 1950, the original Presbyterian church was gone as was the Presbyterian congregation. The Baptists, Methodists, and Christians have survived as religious bodies, but occupy new church buildings. Two new denominations have recently-constructed buildings in Helena: Church of Christ and Nazarenes.

Politics and Government

When the Cherokee Outlet opened in 1893, the territory that later became Old Woods County was designated by the federal government as County "M" [Fig. 10]. At the first election in November of 1894, it was given the name Woods after a Kansas political figure. Several attempts were made to divide Woods County between 1894 and 1907, but were unsuccessful. Several towns vied for the county seat of Old Woods County including four of the five study towns--Cleo Springs, Helena, Fairview, and Cherokee. Alva, the original county seat, fought county division (21).

In 1906 old Woods County was divided into four districts for the purpose of electing delegates to the constitutional convention in Guthrie. Of the four delegates, three were elected from the study towns: J.C. Major of Fairview, D.G. Harned of Helena, and George Wood of Cherokee (22).

On November 19, 1906, a lobbying group from Helena arrived in Guthrie to campaign for a division of old Woods County. The Helena proposition was as follows: Helena wanted to be the county seat of a new county that would take the territory north and east of the Cimarron River up and including Range 12 and as far north as Township 25, including the same. The remaining part of old Woods County would be a second new county with Alva as county seat (23).

After considerable discussion and lobbying from many groups, the Committee on County Boundaries made the following division of old Woods County:

> The new Woods County will be the territory of the original county in the northwest corner, twenty-four miles from east to west and twenty-four miles from north to south, also the portion of Woodward County cut off by the Cimarron River in the northeast part of that county. The strip taken from Woodward

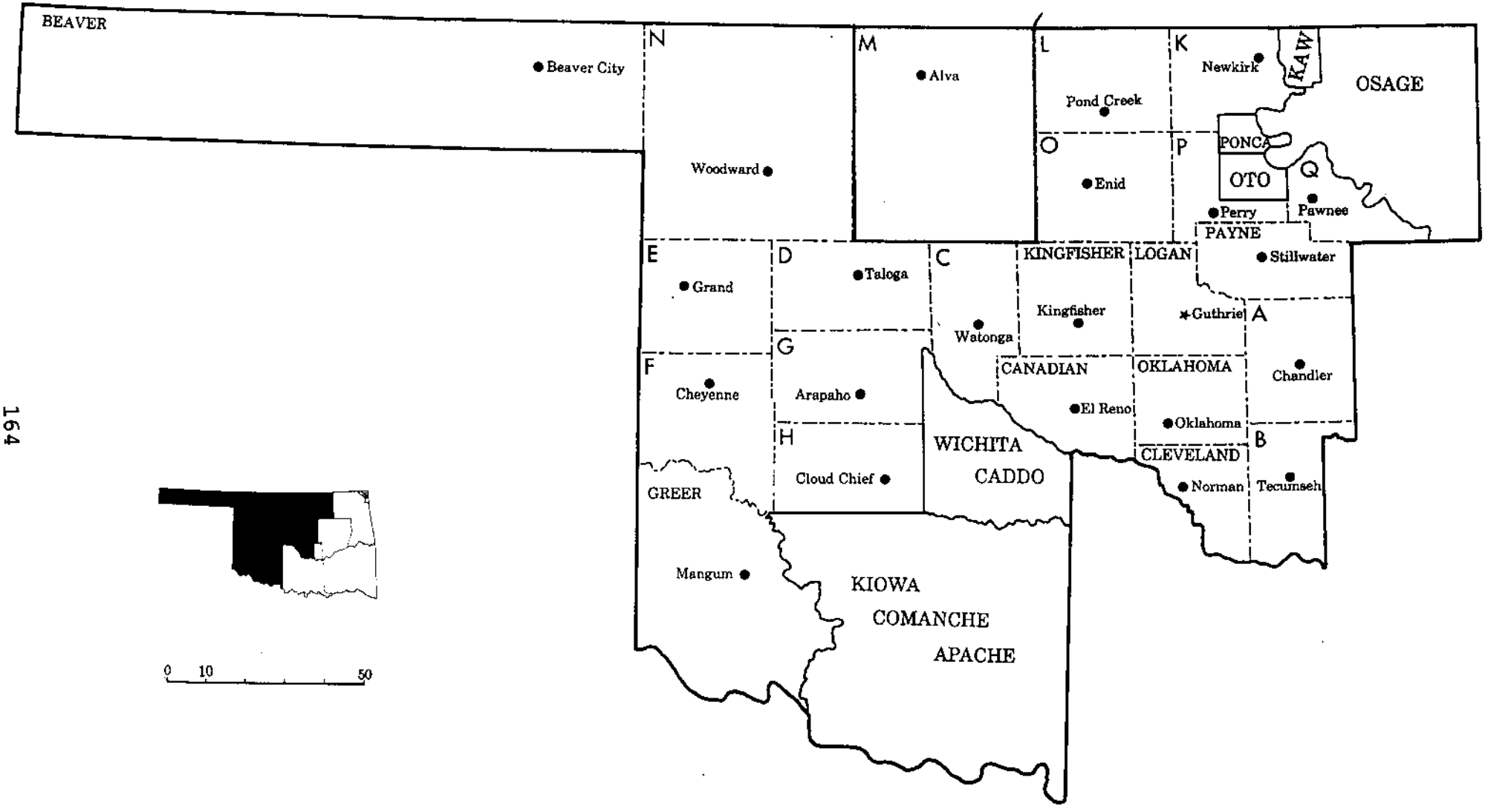


FIG. 10 COUNTY "M"(OLD WOODS COUNTY)- 1893 to 1907
Source: Morris et al., Historical Atlas of Oklahoma (1986), 54.

> County is triangular with a length of twenty-seven miles and a width of sixteen miles.
>
> The new Alfalfa County will be the northeast corner of the original Woods County, twenty-four miles from east to west and thirty-four from north to south, taking in the towns of Amorita, Byron, Burlington, Carmen, Cherokee, Driftwood, Goltry, Helena, Ingersoll, Jet, and Lambert.
>
> The new Major County was to be that part of the original Woods County lying south of the other two with a length of twenty-four miles and a width of forty-eight miles (24) [Fig. 11].

Alfalfa County, home of Helena, was named after "Alfalfa Bill" Murray, president of the constitutional convention. Cherokee was designated as the county seat of Alfalfa County on January 16, 1907 by the constitutional convention (25). In 1908, Ingersoll filed a petition requesting a county seat election, and Governor Charles Haskell set the election for January 27, 1909. Four towns were placed on the ballot including Cherokee, Carmen, Ingersoll, and Jet. After a protracted court controversy over the election results, the Oklahoma Supreme Court ruled on March 26, 1912 declaring Cherokee the county seat. There is no record that Helena ever attempted to place its name on the county seat election ballot (26).

Social and Cultural

The city of Helena was not without its sociocultural history. Many of the activities centered around agriculture; including a 4-H Club and Future Farmers of America organization with a variety of projects for young people, the annual Helena community fair for agricultural events and exhibits, and the Helena Extension Club, an opportunity for women to socialize and engage in sewing and cooking projects.



FIG. 11 NEW COUNTIES AND COUNTY SEATS IN 1907 (ALFALFA, MAJOR, AND WOODS)

Source: Morris et al., Historical Atlas of Oklahoma (1986), 59.

According to local sources, the Old Woods County High School in Helena fielded a competitive football team prior to statehood. The Helena High School has continued its interscholastic competition and provided extracurricular activities for students in sports, debate and speech, and music.

Helena at various times supported three different newspapers. The first of these was the Helena Star, beginning in 1906. The other two papers, Helena Herald and Helena Free Press, ceased to exist by the 1920s. The Helena Star survived through the 1970s, but the town's residents must now rely on the Cherokee newspaper.

Helena has always maintained civic and fraternal groups. The Masons and Eastern Star, organized soon after the town was founded, continue to be active in the community.

CHEROKEE

Founding and Naming

Cherokee, the county seat of Alfalfa County, is located near the geographical center of the county. The town was platted on February 9, 1901 by Andy J. Titus and T. J. Brockway. The townsite land was originally owned by J. P. Sneary, who had secured it when the Cherokee Outlet opened in 1893. Sneary sold it to another party, who in turn, sold it to J. F. Millspaugh (27). The Cherokee Investment Company, composed of A. J. Titus, T. J. Brockway, and others, purchased the land from J. F. Millspaugh. The land was soon divided into town lots and sold (28).

After the town had been platted, four post offices moved to the new townsite including Erwin, Friends, Cherokee, and Alger. Erwin was located one mile east and one-half mile south of the townsite; Friends was located near Stella Academy, five miles northeast of the townsite; Cherokee was situated three miles north near Riverside school house; and Alger was one mile north and three miles west of town. The Cherokee post office, north of the new townsite, was established February 7, 1894. The Friends post office had existed since October 11, 1899, but discontinued on July 31, 1901 after moving to the new townsite. The Erwin post office, established on June 11, 1894, ceased to exist on March 16, 1901 after its move. Finally, the Alger post office was organized on June 18, 1898 before it terminated services on March 30, 1901 after its relocation (29). These four post offices operated in the same block for two weeks, each one dispensing mail. This is believed to be the only instance in the history of the United States where a town had four post offices at the same time.

The petition for incorporation was filed with the old Woods County Commissioners on June 6, 1901. The election was held on July 2, 1901, and the Commissioners declared that Cherokee was incorporated on July 3, 1901 (30). A. J. Titus, one of the town's founders, gave the present town its name because the townsite was located in the Cherokee Outlet (31).

Agriculture

Diversified farming was considered a Midwestern agricultural tradition brought by early settlers to the Cherokee vicinity. This characteristic was reflected in early census data for 1910: corn (1.8 million bushels), wheat (1.7 million bushels), oats (390,000 bushels), and grain sorghums (76,000 bushels). But like cotton in southern Oklahoma, wheat eventually became the single cash crop as corn production dropped to 176,000 bushels in 1920, whereas wheat output had soared to 3.5 million bushels (32).

The Midwestern tradition was dispelled as early as the late 1890s. Farmers surrounding Cherokee produced bumper wheat crops averaging 18 bushels per acre, and prices rose from 48 cents in 1895 to 76 cents in 1897. Thus, Alfalfa County farmers were encouraged to break more of their grassland in favor of wheat. Soft winter wheat was the common crop based on past experiences in western Kansas. However, hard winter wheat was rising in popularity with the introduction of the Turkey Red variety which was more resistant to severe winters. Imported from the Russian steppes via German Mennonites, who first settled in Kansas, the Turkey Red strain was brought to Alfalfa County in the Land Run of 1893. Moreover, Kansas agronomists traveled to Crimea in the early 1900s which resulted in two new varieties that became popular among Alfalfa County wheat producers--Kharkov in 1908 and Kanred in 1917 (33).

Prices for wheat in Alfalfa County and elsewhere plunged in the 1920s from almost $1.50 per bushel to 85 cents. To counteract market instability, farm cooperatives were organized in this period to gain improved prices by withholding their wheat crops in off-season times. Improved and greater capacity storage facilities were needed to accommodate the objectives of the cooperatives in order to gain an advantage over buyers. Therefore, the older iron-clad wood elevators were supplemented with the innovative concrete, tank-type high rise elevators with substantially more storage capacity. The farmer's cooperative movement in and around Cherokee was strong with the construction of several new concrete elevators in the 1920s (34).

By 1930, the quarter-section wheat farmer was becoming rare in Alfalfa county with most farms reaching a minimum of 320 acres. Despite a decline in wheat prices in the 1920s, wheat growers in Alfalfa County produced 3 million bushels and almost three-fourths of the farm land in the county was devoted to wheat.

During the 1930s and 1940s, Alfalfa County's population declined as mechanization, drought, and depression caused farmers to flee the land. These factors created a change in farming management by 1950. From 1930 to 1950, the total number of farms in the county dropped from 2,300 to less than 1,000, while the consolidation of farms was reflected in average size of farms--300 acres to more than 500 in the twenty year period (35).

As of 1950, Cherokee's central role in wheat processing, storage, and transportation remained strong with the most elevators and mills [5] of any of the five study towns in northwestern Oklahoma.

Commercial Establishments

The first two business lots in Cherokee were sold to Durmington and Halstead and the Pioneer Drug Company. The former was located on the present site of the Alfalfa County National Bank and the latter where the Farmers National Bank was housed. As a boost to the early central business district, twenty-two businesses moved from the nearby community of Erwin including Barranger's General Store and the Wheeler Hotel, two of Erwin's principal businesses (36).

At one time or another, seven banks have been organized and chartered in Cherokee. Among the first were the Bank of Cherokee (1901), State Bank of Cherokee (1901), and the Cherokee National Bank (1901). Another bank formed at statehood was the Winne State Bank (1907) which became the Alfalfa County National Bank in 1908. Finally, the Farmer's National Bank was chartered in 1913 and existed until 1933 when it was reorganized as the Farmer's Exchange Bank. Two of the bank buildings (Winne State Bank and Farmer's National Bank) remain intact (37).

Among the early commercial establishments were a flour mill, an alfalfa meal and milling company, a desk factory, a creamery, and an ice and power company. The ice and power compnay failed in 1909, the desk factory moved to Guthrie in about 1915, and the alfalfa milling company ceased operations in 1917.

One of the success stories of these early commercial enterprises was the Cherokee Creamery which opened in 1909. The creamery soon added machinery for manufacturing ice cream and butter. By the 1920s, trade names were selected as "Quality Ice Cream" and "Jersey Brand Butter." Products were shipped throughout the state as well as Colorado Springs. During the 1940s, a growth in business made it necessary to upgrade

to a 1500 pound churn and a 3000 gallon hardening room for ice cream. In 1956, the creamery discontinued its butter operation, but continued manufacturing ice cream to wholesalers and retailers at a rate of 25,000-35,000 gallons per year. In 1964, the Cherokee Creamery was sold to Beatrice Foods, and the McDowell family which had owned the plant since its inception retired (38). The building stands vacant in the 100 block of South Oklahoma Avenue.

Additional early commercial establishments included Wilson's General Store, Keye's Drug Store, Pickrell's Grocery, Orient Hotel, Carlisle's Livery Barn (1902), and C.H. Baker's Store (1909). The building which housed Baker's Store remains intact (39).

During the 1920 to 1950 period, several new commercial firms were constructed. The Orient Hotel was destroyed by fire in 1927. Local entrepreneur, Thomas Thompson, began plans for the Hotel Cherokee to be built on the same site. The four-story modern hotel opened in 1929 with forty-four rooms with coffee shop. The coffee shop closed in the 1950s, but the hotel housed occupants until 1980 when it was sold to the Alfalfa County Historical Society (40). During the 1940s, Cherokee boasted two new mills and a corset factory (Waldo Alfalfa Mill, Goodholm-Maund Milling Company, and Hollywood Corset Company).

Cherokee from its inception has been associated with grain processing and storage facilities. Five elevators remain intact, representing three different stages of elevator construction: iron clad-wood, clay tile, and concrete. The Old Cherokee Mills and Old Hill Grain Company are pre-1920 iron-clad wood structures. The Farmers Federation Elevator (NR listed 1983) is clay tile, while Farmers Coop (North, West, and East Houses) are concrete (41).

Schools and Churches

The first school in Cherokee was a two-story wood-framed building constructed in 1901 soon after the town was platted. It housed both grade and high school students. In 1910, the first brick school building was erected. This two-story brick building with basement housed both elementary and high school classes. From 1909 to 1923, the Cherokee Board of Education leased the 1901 wood-framed school building to Alfalfa County officials for use as county offices and as a courthouse. The wood-framed building was moved to Lots 1 and 2, Block 31 of the Original Townsite, the present location of the 1924 Alfalfa County Courthouse. The citizens of the county voted bonds to construct a new courthouse which opened in 1924, and the 1901 school building was razed (42).

In 1920, a new brick high school building was constructed while the 1910 building continued as a grade school until 1970 when it was demolished. Enrollment in the mid-1920s was approximately 400 in grades 1-8 and 250 in the high school with between 20 and 25 teachers employed (43). The high school building was destroyed by fire in 1982 and replaced with a new campus.

Related to education, it should be noted that five miles northeast of Cherokee was the Stella Friends Academy (Fig. 12). Ten families of the Quaker faith staked claims in the Land Run of 1893 and founded the academy in 1897. A two-story frame building was erected to house students for four years of high school and one year of college. Two dormitories were added later as enrollment peaked at approximately 90 students in the early 1900s. As enrollment declined by 1920, Stella Academy closed its doors in 1921 and the building was razed in 1922. An Oklahoma Historical Society marker designates the site of this historical educational institution on Oklahoma Highway No. 11 northeast of

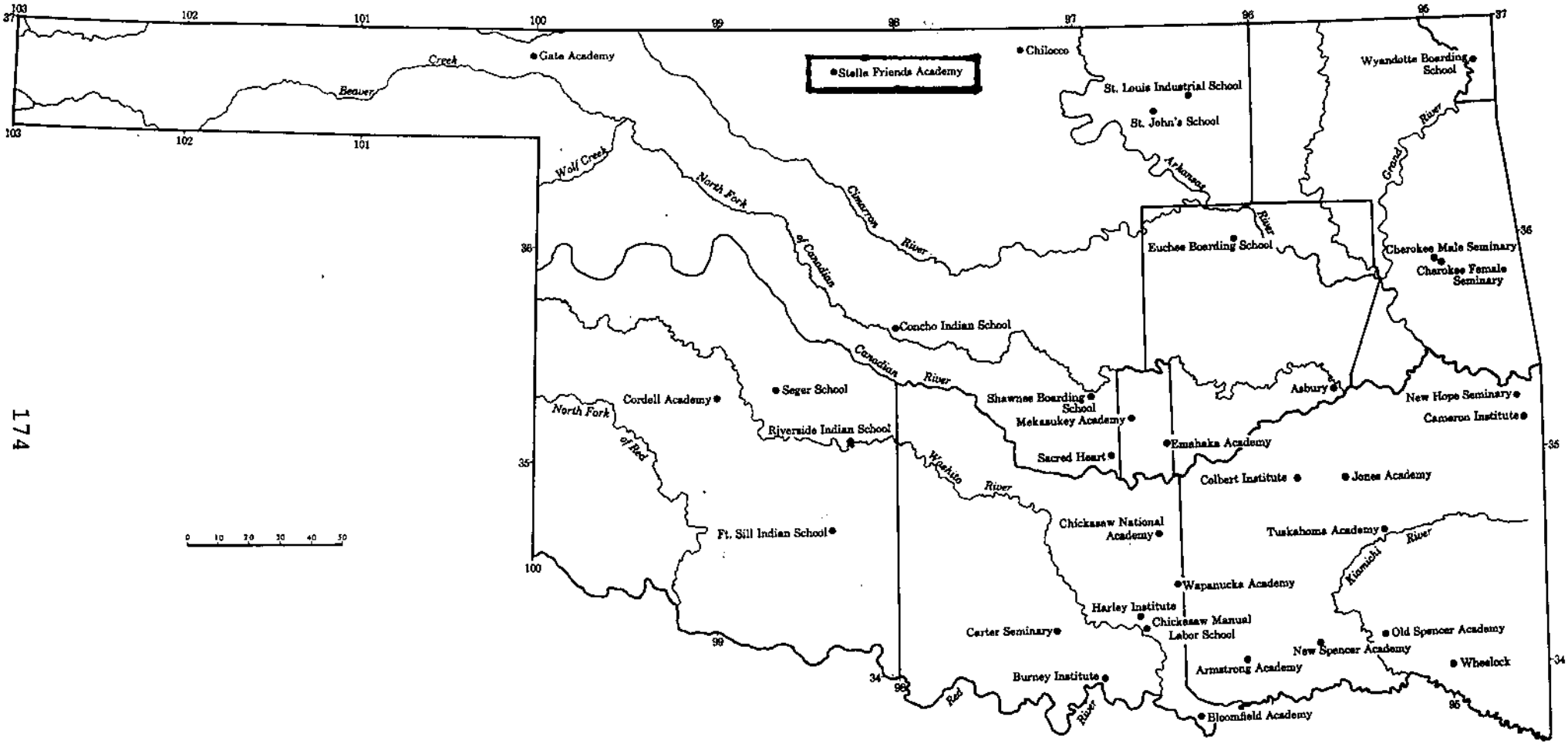


FIG. 12 LOCATION OF STELLA FRIENDS ACADEMY
Source: Morris et al., Historical Atlas of Oklahoma, 65.

Cherokee. The Quaker faith brought to the Cherokee vicinity was reflected in one of the first church groups to organize in the city of Cherokee in 1901. The Friends Church, located at 122 South Pennsylvania Avenue, which was dedicated in 1919, remains extant (44).

The Methodist Episcopal congregation first organized in Erwin in 1901 and moved to Cherokee with the rest of the town in 1902. The first Methodist Episcopal church was a wood-framed building constructed at a cost of $3,500 and was located on the southeast corner of the block at 221 South Kansas Avenue. In 1919, the Methodist Episcopal dedicated a magnificent Classical Revival edifice located at 402 South Grand Avenue, which remains extant.

The Lutherans organized in 1923 with eight members. The present Late Gothic Revival (Carpenter Gothic) church was dedicated in 1924 and stands at 920 South Oklahoma Avenue.

The Christian congregation formed in the early 1900s and occupied a wood-frame building until the mid-1920s when the present church was erected. It stands at 202 South Kansas Avenue (45).

Thus, four of the original congregations in Cherokee have architecturally significant buildings that have remained extant for more than seventy years.

Health Care

Cherokee has long been noted for its regional health care facilities. A group of businessmen from Cherokee persuaded Dr. H.A. Lile and Dr. Tom Rhodes from Aline to move to Cherokee in about 1916. The two physicians financed the construction of the Alfalfa County Hospital which opened at 11th and South Grand Avenue in 1918. The red

brick building was valued at $45,000. Two years later a west wing addition was completed making it a 50-patient facility (46). At about the same time, a school of nursing was established. Courses were offered in anatomy, psychology, ethics, chemistry, hygiene, dietetics, and the history of nursing. Student nurses were required to spend a six months internship at the University of Oklahoma and Children's Hospital in Oklahoma City. Approximately twenty had graduated from the school by 1925 and many of the nursing graduates served their careers in area hospitals (47).

In 1926, the Alfalfa County Hospital was sold to the Masonic Association for $60,000 and became known as the Masonic Hospital. Modern equipment, such as x-ray machines, were added and surgeries performed. The Masonic Hospital remained open until 1976 (48). The building remains extant and is used as an arts and crafts store.

Two other health care facilities were established in Cherokee in the 1940s. The Benson Clinic was founded by Dr. Charles L. Benson, a Duke University Medical School graduate, in 1947. Finally, the Cherokee Clinic was established by Dr. John Blender, a University of Oklahoma medical school graduate, at 305 South Grand. A new Alfalfa County Hospital was constructed in the mid-1970s, but is currently (1996) closed.

Social and Cultural

A number of social activities occupied the leisure time of adults and provided educational and entertainment value to young people. Various clubs, societies, fraternal clubs, and businesses played a significant role in the social history of Cherokee ranging from the Commercial Club, founded in 1906, to a local chapter of the S.P.B.S.Q.A. (barbershop quartets).

The Cherokee City/County Library was founded in 1912 by the Cherokee Study Club. It was housed in a second floor room of the Alfalfa County National Bank from 1912 to 1925. It then moved to the Alfalfa County Courthouse until the 1930s when the Works Progress Administration constructed a new library in 1938 at 602 South Grand Avenue, which remains extant (49).

Newspapers have been a source for local and state information since 1901. The first was The Orient, established at Erwin before Cherokee was founded. It moved to Cherokee in 1901, but was discontinued in five years. The Happy Homes, a temperance publication, was the second newspaper and outlet for the local chapter of the Women's Christian Temperance Union (W.C.T.U.). It ceased publication in 1905. The Cherokee Democrat, established in 1901, was superceded by the Cherokee Warrior, but was terminated in 1906. The Cherokee News, formed in 1901, also closed within five years. By the 1920s, Cherokee boasted three newspapers: Cherokee Messenger (1902), Cherokee Republican (succeeded The Orient in 1906), and the Alfalfa County News (1924). By 1950, the only surviving newspaper was the Cherokee Republican which continues to serve a large trade and reading area today in 1996 (50).

Fraternal groups in Cherokee include the Masons, Eastern Star, and I.O.O.F. The Masons and Odd Fellows followed the usual pattern of fraternal groups in downtown buildings, i.e., they constructed their own two-story buildings with commercial enterprises in the first floor and lodge facilities in the second. The I.O.O.F. Lodge No. 219 (NR listed 1984) was constructed in 1931 at corner of Grand Avenue and 2nd Street. The building at various times has housed a mortuary, abstract agency, and insurance/real estate

company (51). The Masonic Lodge, a 1946 Art Deco building, stands at 221 South Grand Avenue.

One of the major sources of entertainment for Cherokee was the Max Theatre, located on West Main Street, which was demolished in the 1960s.

The Cherokee Round-Up Club, a group of local people interested in horses and racing on the Cherokee Race Track, was formed sometime in the early 1940s. This organization began the Great Salt Plains Stampede in the late 1940s and continues through 1996. This event was first held at the old baseball field, but outgrew that space, and was moved to the Alfalfa County fairgrounds. In conjunction with the rodeo, a parade down Grand Avenue continues to take place. The baseball field supported Cherokee's town baseball team which competed against neighboring communities and out-of-state traveling teams (52).

Finally, Cherokee is located five miles west of the Great Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge established in 1930. In 1941, a flood control project created a 10,700 acre lake. The refuge is a popular stopping point for migratory waterfowl. It serves as an important tourist center as well as source of local recreation for Cherokee residents. With 500,000 visitors each year, this attraction obviously affects the local economy of Cherokee (53).

Politics and Government

As previously mentioned in the politics and government section of the Helena historic context, the Committee on County Boundaries at the Oklahoma Constitutional Convention outlined the boundaries of the new Alfalfa County carved out of old Woods County which included the city of Cherokee.

November 16, 1907 was a glorious day in Cherokee. When the news arrived at 9:20 a.m. that President Theodore Roosevelt had signed the Oklahoma constitution, guns were fired, bells were rung, and every whistle in the city blew for an hour. In the afternoon, a parade of veterans, county officers, and 500 school children was held. The new Alfalfa County officers were sworn in, and George Wood delivered an address to 3,000 people (54).

An unforeseen problem was posed for incoming county officials. None of the competing towns for the position of county seat (Carmen, Ingersoll, and Cherokee) had offered a building for county government activities. Thus, the new county commissioners contracted with the First National Bank for two rooms, Winne State Bank for four rooms, and the Baker building to be used as county courtroom. County prisoners were transported to the Woods County jail until 1908 when a jail building was leased on Washington Street.

The old two-story wood frame school, erected shortly after the town's founding, was moved to Lots 1 and 2, Block 31 of the Original Townsite. These were the north lots of the present courthouse half block. An agreement was reached with the Cherokee Board of Education for the county to use the school building as a courthouse beginning on March 2, 1909. This was the first time that all functions of county government were conducted in one building.

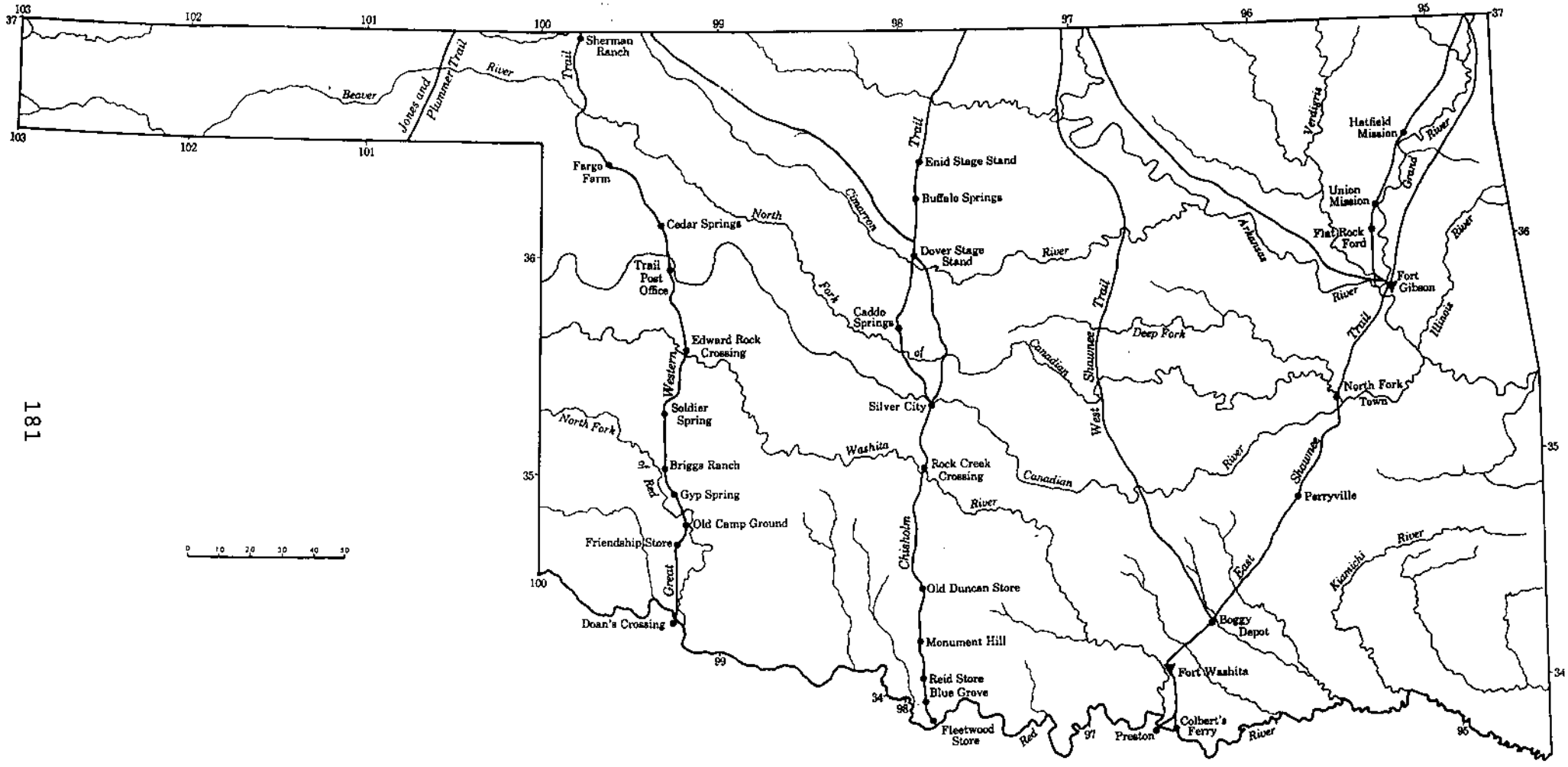
In 1920, county citizens voted a $100,000 bond for the construction of a new Alfalfa County Courthouse on the full half block of Block 31. The new facility opened for county business in 1924 [NR listed 1984] (55).

WAYNOKA

Founding and Naming

Waynoka is located in the historic Cherokee Outlet which was established in the New Echota Treaty of 1835. It was assurance to the Cherokee Nation of a "perpetual outlet west" of some seven million acres. The Osage, Kaw, Pawnee, Ponca, Nez Perce, and Otoe-Missouri settled in the eastern portion of the Cherokee Outlet. A new treaty in 1866 provided that friendly Native American tribes might be settled in the Cherokee Outlet at a price agreed upon by the Cherokees and the purchasers. By 1889, year of the first land run, tribal settlements in the eastern part of the Cherokee Outlet consisted of Osage and Kaw (east of the Arkansas River) and Otoe-Missouri, Ponca, and Tonkowa (west of the Arkansas). As yet no settlements of any significance had been established in the western portion of the Outlet. More than six million acres remained unoccupied in the Outlet land west of the 96th meridian (56).

Several important transportation developments played an important role in the founding of Waynoka. First was two cattle trails that traversed the Cherokee Outlet from south to north--Chisholm and Great Western [Fig. 13]. The Chisholm Trail ran from the Texas to Kansas borders, roughly paralleling a line that was to be followed by the Chicago and Rock Island railroad and later by U.S. Highway 81. Both these later routes would run through Enid, east of Waynoka. The Great Western Trail also ran from the Texas to Kansas border near the 100th meridian. Both trails were used for cattle drives to Dodge City, Kansas where railroad lines served as terminals for shipping cattle to large urban centers (57).



181

FIG. 13 CATTLE TRAILS IN OKLAHOMA
Source: Morris et al., Historical Atlas of Oklahoma, 46.

The second transportation phenomenon that impacted Waynoka more directly was the entry of the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe railroad which crossed the Cherokee Outlet in 1886, seven years prior to the Land Run of 1893 opening the Outlet. A shipping station, section house, and siding were located at Keystone, about twenty-five miles southwest of Alva. The name was changed to Waynoka in 1889-- for the Cheyenne Indian word "winneoka," meaning "good water" or "sweet water" (58).

In 1890, the United States Congress declared the territory west of the Five Civilized Tribes as a formal government by means of the Organic Act. The Cherokee Outlet was opened to non-Native American settlement in the Land Run of 1893 and, as counties were formed, each was designated with a letter until names could be officially adopted. Letters K through Q were applied to counties in the Outlet.

The largest county in the outlet was original called "M" County. At its first general election in 1894, the three major political parties were asked to place names for the county on the ballot. The Republicans proposed FLYNN for Territorial Representative Denis Flynn, while the Democrats suggested BANNER, a popular booster term of the era. Finally, the Populists recommended WOOD, in honor of the important Kansas Populist politician, Sam N. Wood. The Populists won; however, a clerical error resulted in the name registered as WOODS, rather than WOOD (59).

Immediately after the Land Run of 1893, the town of Waynoka was platted on land offered by John Keifer, who had filed on the land as a homesteader. George Nickerson, Charles Cecil, and W.H. Olmsted joined with Keifer in the townsite platting process.

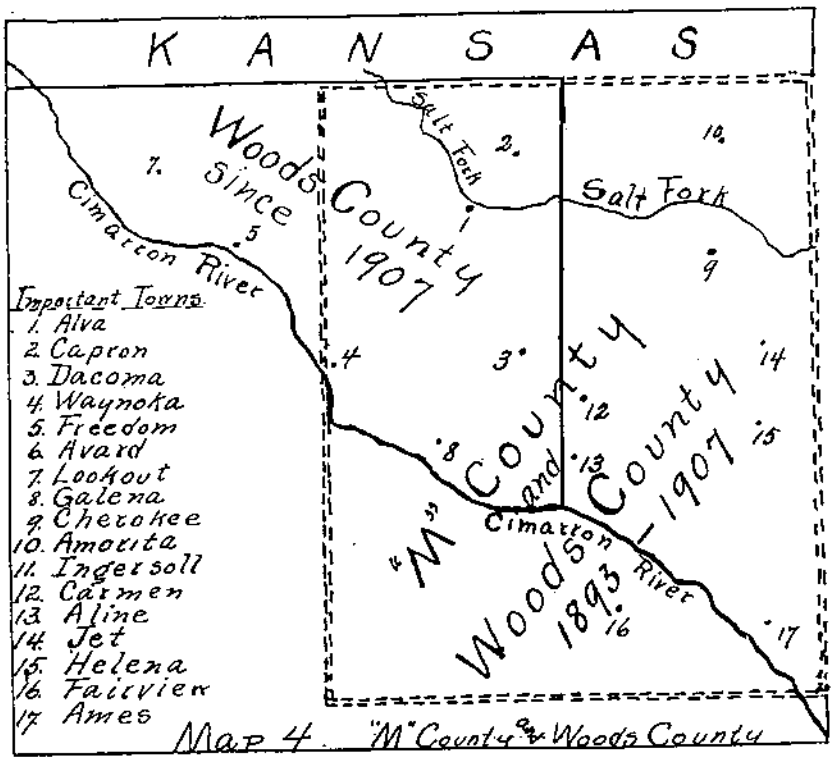
At the Constitutional Convention in 1907, the Committee on County Boundaries divided Old Woods County with the eastern portion becoming Alfalfa and a southern portion as Major. Part of Woodward County, north and east of the Cimarron River, was added to delineate the present day Woods County with Waynoka remaining in Woods (60) [Figs. 14-15].

Agriculture

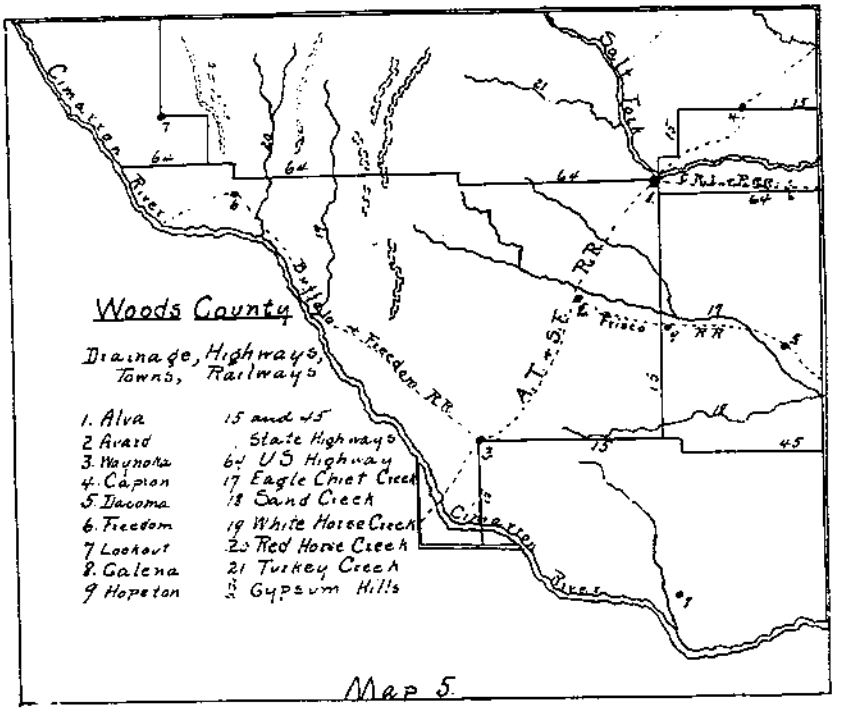
During early agricultural history, Waynoka fell into the transition zone between the wheat belt and the mixed wheat/corn/grain sorghum zone as categorized in the late 1920s (61). The first agricultural statistics on present-day Woods County, after division in 1907, were from the 1910 census. The number of farms in Woods County in 1910 totaled 2,660 with 656,000 acres in farm land. The average size of farms was 247 acres. By 1910, wheat was the dominant crop with 1.1 million bushels as compared to corn, the second leading crop, with 647,000 bushels. In the drier sections of western Oklahoma, grain sorghum (kaffir corn and milo) was cultivated and Woods County production in 1910 was 172,000 bushels. The number of cattle totaled almost 33,000 (62).

By 1920, the total number of farms had dropped to 2,100 (almost 500 from 1910), while acreage in farm land increased to 710,000 and the average size of farms increased to almost 340 acres. Production of wheat soared to almost 2 million bushels on 189,000 acres, whereas corn dwindled to 195,000 bushels on 15,000 acres. Grain sorghum increased to 242,000 bushels as did the number of cattle at 38,000 (63).

The total number of farms continued a steady decline in 1930 to 2,030 while acreage in farm land again expanded to almost 740,000. The average size of farms accelerated to 364 acres. Wheat remained the major grain producer with more than 2.3



Map 4 "M" County & Woods County



Map 5

FIG. 14 "M" COUNTY
OLD WOODS COUNTY (1893-1907)
NEW WOODS COUNTY (1907- Present)

Source: Crissman and Davies, A History of Woods County (1930), 72 and 92.

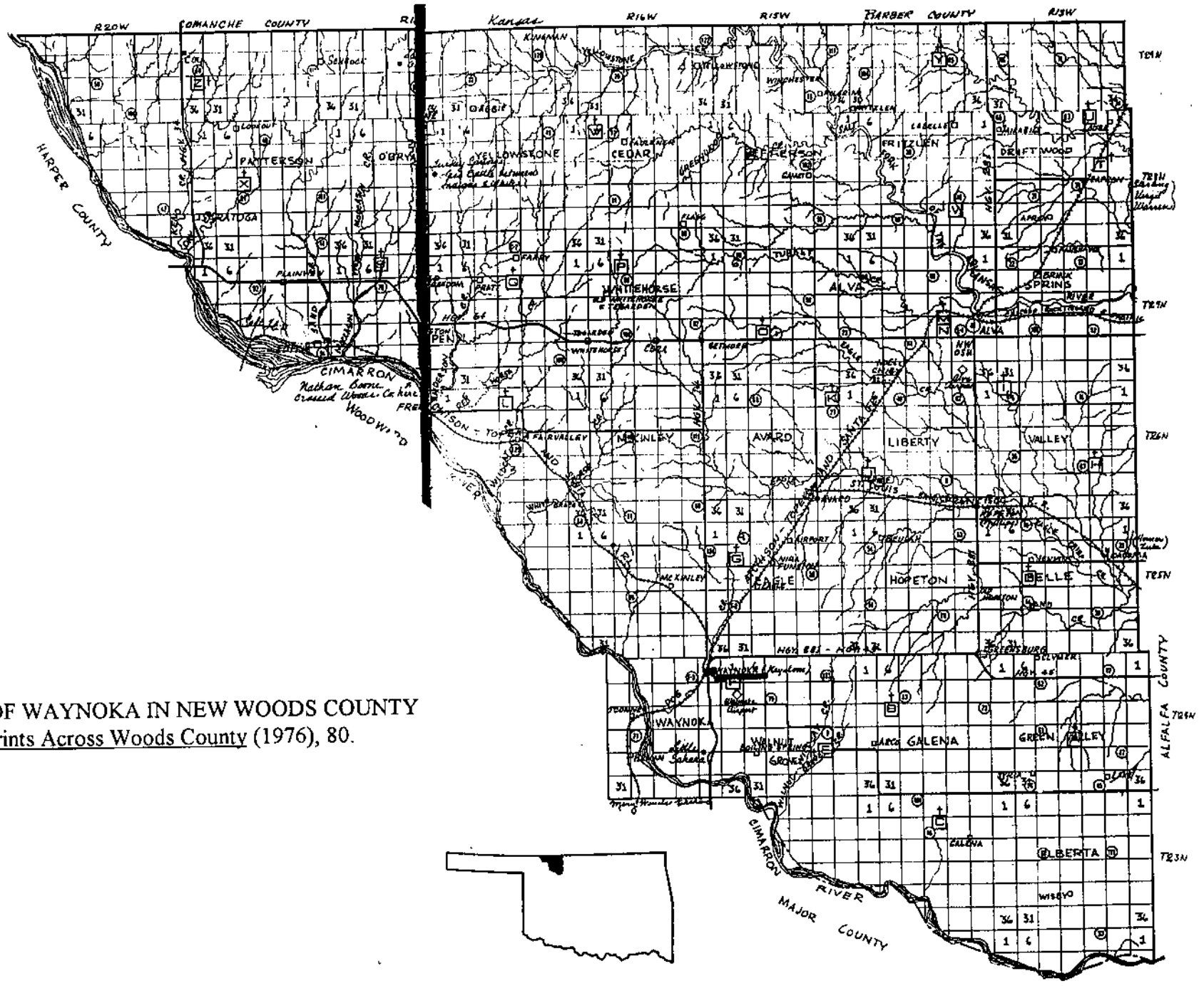


FIG. 15 LOCATION OF WAYNOKA IN NEW WOODS COUNTY

Source: Pioneer Footprints Across Woods County (1976), 80.

million bushels, while corn production increased to 262,000 bushels, and grain sorghum declined to 201,000 bushels. The most dramatic increase in Woods County was the number of cattle which increased to more than 51,000 head compared to 38,000 in 1920 (64).

In addition to wheat, corn, and grain sorghum, agriculturalists in the Waynoka vicinity experimented with other crops. By 1910, Woods County produced about 50 bales of cotton. However, the short growing season negated any considerable cotton production, although early records indicate that Waynoka had at least one cotton gin. Broomcorn proved to be an excellent drought resistant crop in Woods County. Data on production are unavailable; however, it was considered a profitable crop as much as wheat because a single crop frequently sold at harvest time for more than the purchase price of the land. During the early 1900s, broomcorn sold for $75 per ton. According to local historians, Waynoka boasted a broomcorn factory indicative of considerable production in the area (65).

Local informants report that Waynoka had several grain storage facilities, all located near the Santa Fe tracks. Only the Farmers Coop Elevator remains. It was constructed in 1943 with partial financing by the United States Department of Agriculture.

Woods County population has declined for the past five decades (1940-1990), attributed largely to out-migration of farmers. A combination of factors affected these population losses. During the 1930s, drought, depression, and declining farm prices were the major influences. Moreover, farm technology increased allowing more land to be worked faster and more efficiently. Thus, the average size of farms around Waynoka

steadily grew to more than 800 acres, while the total number of farms in Woods County dropped to less than 1,000 in the 1950s (66).

By 1950, the agricultural area around Waynoka was primarily wheat and beef cattle country. Cropland had steadily dwindled with much of it returned to pasture for grazing beef cattle.

Commercial Establishments

George Nickerson and W. H. Olmsted, two of Waynoka's founders, built the first commercial enterprises. Nickerson constructed the first general store and Olmsted established a lumberyard and farm implements store, the latter reflecting the growth of agriculture around Waynoka (67).

Most of the early businesses provided goods and services to the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad (Santa Fe) employees and their families. At the peak of railroad activity in Waynoka, the Santa Fe employed more than 100 workers. Known as a "railroad town" for many years, Waynoka witnessed the Santa Fe company establish the town as a division point for freight, construct a Harvey House restaurant, and build the Santa Fe Reading Room which contained a library, reading area, gymnasium, and pool hall for its employees. Moreover, the Santa Fe erected a "round house" consisting of maintenance and repair shops, and a pumping station. The latter supplied water from ten wells for the "round house" and ice plant, constructed by the Kansas Ice Company. The ice company serviced railroad refrigerator cars for long-distance hauls, especially during the summer months. The ice plant became the largest such facility in the state (68).

Waynoka boasted several hotels for transient railroad workers and Santa Fe passengers. The Commercial Hotel, the first hotel in Waynoka, was located at the

intersection of Cecil and Missouri. Built in about 1907, it was razed in 1975. Additional hotels which served the central business district included the Miller Hotel, St. Elmo Hotel, 2S Hotel, and Dew Drop Inn; all constructed between 1907 and 1910. All of these were instrumental in the pre-1920 commercial history and have been demolished. The 2 S Hotel was destroyed by a downtown fire in 1910. The Eastman/Campbell Hotel, constructed in 1929, is the only extant hotel and located at 302 East Cecil Street. Also built in 1929 to accommodate railroad personnel was the Campbell Hotel Apartments, an extant building at 304 East Cecil Street (69).

The year of 1909 was a momentous one for the central business district of Waynoka. Among the earliest bank buildings erected that year were the First National Bank and the Waynoka State Bank. Also included among the banks was the Commercial Bank; however, the date of construction is unknown. The Commercial Bank evolved into the First State Bank which now occupies a new building. Additional buildings constructed in 1909 included the Lewis Ice Cream Factory, N. L. Tissue Building, G. T. Green Building, Lee Davison Building, Thomas Guilfoil Building, Hendrie and Company Building, and O. H. Patterson Building; all of which are gone. Three buildings--Phillips Building which housed the U.S. Post Office and the Waynoka Phone Company, J. P. Lahr Building, and W. H. Olmsted Department Store--remain standing (70). All were one and two story Commercial style buildings constructed of brick or stone.

Further commercial properties that are mentioned in early historical records consist of the Home Bakery, Gant's Tailor Shop, Scott's Produce and Hardware, Camp General Store, Parks Hardware, Silver Moon Cafe, Akin Drug Company, Corner Drug, Barnett and Sons Mercantile (occupied first floor of the Commercial Hotel), Shiflet's Barber

Shop, Elk Pharmacy, Bunk Brothers Meat Market, Floyd's Funeral Home, and the Lewis and McCoy Pool Halls (71). Along with the 2S Hotel, the two pool halls, barber shop, pharmacy, and meat market were destroyed by a fire in 1910. Reflecting the livestock production of the Waynoka vicinity and the fact that the town had excellent railroad connections, the Waynoka Stockyards was built in 1914 and remained an integral part of the commercial history of Waynoka until 1965. Waynoka boasted at least two newspapers at one time or another, the Waynoka Tribune and Woods County Enterprise.

Waynoka received an economic boost in the late 1920s when it gained brief fame (July 7, 1929 to October 10, 1930) as a connecting point for transcontinental travelers. With arrangements made between the Pennsylvania and Santa Fe railroads and the Transcontinental Air Transportation Company (TAT), Waynoka served as a midway point for travelers leaving New York City's Pennsylvania Station and traveling to Los Angeles. Often referred to as the "Lindberg Line" because Charles Lindberg mapped the route and determined the stops, the TAT transported its passengers from New York City to Columbus, Ohio by rail. Then they were flown to Waynoka in Ford tri-motor planes with refueling stops at Indianapolis, St. Louis, and Kansas City. Once in Waynoka, the passengers ate an evening meal at the Fred Harvey House restaurant and then boarded the Santa Fe passenger train for an overnight ride to Clovis, New Mexico. Here they again boarded a plane for Los Angeles. Because Waynoka was one of the main landing fields, it was equipped with the latest weather bureau instruments and government-trained meteorologists were employed to run them. The service ended almost as quickly as it began. TAT and Western Air Express merged on October 10, 1930 to form what is today

Trans-World Airlines, and one week later, the run through Waynoka was terminated for financial and logistical reasons (72).

Waynoka's central business district remained in relatively good shape through the Great Depression because of its railroad base. Agriculture suffered in the 1930s; however, several New Deal W.P.A. and P.W.A. projects, such as the Waynoka Municipal Pool and Bath House (1939), provided an infusion of Federal funds.

By 1950, a number of businesses had closed including the Ice Cream Factory, but the economic foundations for the central business district remained intact. Economic hard times appeared in the 1960s when the Santa Fe "round house" and shops closed (1960) followed by the closing of the Stockyards (1965) and the Ice Plant (mid-1960s). The Santa Fe Reading Room was razed with the library and other facilities moved to the vacant Harvey House Restaurant near the Santa Fe Depot. Finally, the central business district of Waynoka was dramatically affected by the closure of the Santa Fe Yard Offices in 1970 (73).

Schools and Churches

A two-story wood framed building served as Waynoka's first permanent school facility, housing grades 1-12. A three-story brick building replaced the wood building in the 1920s. This complex housed grades 1-12 until 1980 when a new building was erected for a similar grade configuration (74). The only extant building from the 1920s campus is the gymnasium building.

Six religious denominations have been represented in Waynoka at one time or another. The present Catholic church building was moved from "Mexico Town," south of the city, in the 1970s. A Baptist, Church of God, and two Church of Christ buildings were

all constructed after the 1950s. The two historic church buildings are the First Congregational, organized in 1894, and the First Methodist, also of 1890s vintage. The original wood-framed Congregational Church was destroyed by fire and a new Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival style building was erected in 1926 at 311 East Cecil Street. The basement of this building houses the Waynoka Historical Society Museum. The Methodist Church is a center-towered Colonial Revival embellished building, constructed in 1923, at 108 South Flynn Street (75).

Government and Politics

Political history on Waynoka is scarce. It has endured as a town through all the county changes and divisions; first as a community in the Cherokee Outlet, then in "M" County and Old Woods County after 1893, and finally as a part of the new Woods County in 1907. It never contended for a county seat position as Alva remained in that capacity throughout the county boundary revisions. It is the second largest town in Woods County after Alva. During the 1920s, it was the second largest town in Woods County with approximately 2,000 residents. Its population has steadily declined over the years with an estimated 1995 population of less than 1,000 [947].

The municipal government plan that Waynoka has followed since its inception has been a mayor/council form. The mayor is chosen from the council members and acts as an honorary host for the town's events, but holds the same voting power as the other council members.

Waynoka's city government is conducted from the historic city hall building constructed in 1921 at 201 East Cecil Street (76).

Social and Cultural

In terms of cultural events, the Santa Fe Reading Room hosted numerous outside lectures and musical performances, such as the California Glee Club and Mandolin Band in the 1920s. These events were open to the public until the Reading Room was razed in the 1960s.

The I.O.O.F. (Odd Fellows) had formed a lodge by 1910 in Waynoka and held their meetings in the second floor of the Olmsted Building. The Masons and Order of the Eastern Star were also organized about the same time and held their meetings in the second floor of the Waynoka City Hall after its construction in 1921, and continue their meetings there as of 1996 (77).

A number of theaters were established in Waynoka in order to provide entertainment and education for the town's residents. The first was the Eaton, but there was also the Majestic, Circle, and Marshall. All have been closed, although the Marshall Theater building was donated to the city of Waynoka, and currently serves as the city auditorium, known as the Marshall Auditorium (78).

The two most recent social institutions that have affected Waynoka are the Waynoka Snake Hunt, an annual event begun in 1945, and the establishment of the Little Sahara State Park as a state-owned facility in the early 1960s. The snake hunt is held the weekend after Easter and attracts between 10-and-20,000 hunters and spectators in recent years. Just south of Waynoka on U.S. Highway 281, the Little Sahara was originally developed as a recreation area by the town's residents before its designation as a state park. Waynoka's recreation enthusiasts built the first dune buggies and the camels were

purchased by the Woods County Chamber of Commerce. It draws an estimated 100,000 recreationists each year from many parts of the country (79).

FAIRVIEW

Founding and Naming

The first settlers in Fairview were Clifford and Henry Bower, John Floyd, and A. J. Decker who were the four homesteaders that staked all four quarter-sections of land upon which Fairview now stands. These men had made the Land Run of 1893 into the Cherokee Outlet. The post office was established in 1894 in a 23 X 14 frame house on the Bower land. A. J. Bower, father of Clifford and Henry, is considered the "Father of Fairview" because most local sources give him credit for naming the town. One morning in 1894, A. J. looked in all directions around the town and said this locale has a "Fairview."

In 1901, a move was made to change the name from Fairview to Carroll, after the daughter of A. E. Stillwell, who was responsible for bringing the first railroad, Kansas City, Mexico, and Orient (K.C.M. and O.), to town. The citizens defeated the proposal and the name Fairview was retained (80).

On August 20, 1903, the K. C. M. and O., commonly called "The Orient," arrived in Fairview. Later absorbed by the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe, Fairview became a "division point" with a maintenance shop and roundhouse. The Santa Fe provided both passenger and long haul freight service to the town. An electric road was later proposed by the Fairview and Oklahoma City Railway. It was to run 4.5 miles from Fairview to Rusk, but was never completed (81).

Agriculture

As the Cimarron River winds through Major County, a number of its tributary streams have cut channels through the alluvial plains of its south bank. Upon the terraces between these creeks, farmers found good soil for wheat cultivation in the 1890s. Served principally by Fairview, this zone stretches about thirty-five miles along the river from Orienta, north of Fairview, to the southeastern corner of the county.

Among the early settlers to make the Land Run of 1893 into the Cherokee Outlet were the Russian-born Germans who settled near Fairview. It was these Germans from the Russian Ukraine who inaugurated the extensive cultivation of winter wheat (Turkey Red) in the region (82). Based on the success of the Germans from Russia and their knowledge of this variety of wheat, further experimentation was conducted at the Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station in Stillwater on other hard Russian wheats, e.g., Kharkof. These varieties would not "freeze out" in severe winters. Thus, farmers in the Fairview area were encouraged to cultivate more of the crop, and by 1910, Major County wheat farmers were producing more than one million bushels. While corn remained a viable crop in the western sector of Major County, especially for livestock feed, wheat became the chief cash crop for agriculturalists east of Fairview. By 1920, Major County produced 1.4 million bushels and by 1930 production reached 1.6 million (83).

As indicated, Major County agriculture was divided into two belts by 1930 with the eastern half of the county falling into the wheat zone while the western half was a mixed crop region consisting of wheat, corn, and grain sorghum. Fairview's central

location between these two belts allowed for a variety of crops to be marketed at Fairview's grain processing and storage facilities (84).

During the 1930s and 1940s, the number of farms and farmers steadily declined due to a variety of factors including drought, depression, and declining farm prices. Farm mechanization played a significant role in the need for workers and the consolidation of farm units. The number of acres in farm land held steady over that period at about 500,000 acres; however, the number of farms had decreased from a peak of approximately 2,500 in 1910 to about half that number in 1950. During this period, the trend has been toward larger number of acres in average farm size from 213 in 1910 to more than double that in 1950 (85).

By 1950, all of Major County was classified as a mixed wheat/livestock/grain sorghum region with wheat remaining as the principal cash crop. It also made good pasture during the winter season; thus the grazing of feeder stock was common throughout the area. Grain sorghum, after a slow start in the county, had become the second most important crop. It was used primarily as livestock feed as well as a cash crop.

Commercial Establishments

The Fairveiw Central Business District is on Main Street with lateral streets such as Broadway and Central. Main Street is U.S. Highway 60, the chief route from Enid to Seiling. The largest town in a 30-mile radius as well as the county seat for Major County, Fairview served as a central place for residents of the county. Its railroad connection established Fairview as a node for the storage and transportation of commercially grown wheat. The business district provided mercantile services for the rural populace as a

center for both raw and finished products necessary for farming and home use. Its stores, theaters, and other recreational facilities provided a necessary break from the daily routine of agricultural labor.

The first commercial establishments in Fairview began in the 1890s with the Hubbel House, a hotel owned and operated by Ernest Hubbell; Bower Brothers Mercantile (1897), operated by Clifford and Henry Bower and their father, A.J. Bower ("Father of Fairview"); and John A. Floyd's General Store (1897).

By the turn of the century, Fairview's Central Business District experienced growth. Among the new businesses were Smith's Drug Store, established in 1901, and the Floyd Hotel, built in 1903. The former became the longest family-operated business in Fairview, existing until 1977. Floyd moved his general store to the hotel's first floor. Located at the southeast corner of Main and Broadway, the Floyd Hotel was a three-story wood-framed building with thirty-six rooms and two dining rooms. This Fairview landmark was razed in 1976. The first financial institution moved from Waukomis to become the Bank of Fairview in 1903, and was later chartered as the Fairview State Bank in 1907. Additional businesses during the pre-1920 period included the Fairview Republican, the first newspaper established in 1903; Cawley's Store (1912) which sold dry goods, clothing, and shoes; Fairview Milling Company, a 50-barrel flour mill, owned by Hinkley and Haxley; and Bishop's Barber Shop. During this time, Fairview also boasted three drug stores and three hardwares (86).

Another period of growth in the central business district occurred in the 1920s reflecting the prosperity of that decade prior to the "Great Crash" of 1929. Dick Cornelsen financed and built the four-story Cornelsen Hotel and Coffee Shop, which was

the tallest building in Fairview. Located at 121 East Broadway, the historic building was included on the Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory in 1983 and remains virtually intact from its 1928 construction date (87). The Cornelsen family remained active in the commercial history of Fairview. Dick and Wayman, his son, owned the Cornelsen Motor Company at the corner of Central and Main from 1925 to 1965. The agency featured Chevrolet automobiles and John Deere farm machinery (88).

The Fairview Central Business District, a group of thirty-two buildings, was included in the Oklahoma Landmarks in 1982. Most of the buildings date from the 1910-1929 period, and several have undergone extensive alterations that detract from their architectural integrity (89).

Growth was curtailed in the 1930s because of the Great Depression, drought, and loss of farm population from the hinterlands of Fairview. By 1950, especially the post-World War II era, Fairview had returned to its traditional role as an agricultural center and continued to serve as county seat for Major County, both of which provided impetus for the town's survival as a "main street" community.

Schools and Churches

The first school in Fairview was a two-room wood-frame building on North Sixth Street. A new brick building was erected with the east wing completed in 1906 and the west wing in 1908. The eight rooms of this building was for each of the eight grades. As the town grew so did its school-age population. Consequently, a one-room wood-frame building was constructed for grades one through four in 1909. The Fairview High School building was constructed in 1917. It was a three-story brick building with gymnasium

added in 1920. In 1951, the high school campus was expanded with eight more classrooms and offices, and in 1959, a new dome-shaped gymnasium was completed (90).

Fairview residents have long been deeply religious. As many churches were built, the church building became a focal point in the religious and social life of Fairview residents. In addition to weekend services, the church building was the center for weddings, funerals, and prayer meetings in the community.

The First Methodist congregation moved from the nearby community of Sand Creek in 1901 and a wood-frame building was erected at 7th and Walnut. This building served the Methodists until 1939 when the present brick church building was constructed. In 1953, a brick addition with similar architecture was completed to house a youth chapel, kitchen, and educational activities (91).

The Baptists of Fairview began their services in an upstairs room of the Thomas Hardware building in 1903. The Baptist church at Rusk, a nearby community, was discontinued and their building was moved to Fairview for local Baptists. In 1927, a new building was erected to replace the old Rusk church. In 1952, a one-story stucco building replaced the 1927 building (92).

Catholics in Fairview met in members' homes beginning in 1912; however, members drove to Okeene, Carmen, Goltry, or Enid because a priest was unavailable in town to conduct masses. The Catholic congregation erected their first church in 1950. Located at Sixth and Locust Streets, St. Ann's Catholic Church was dedicated in 1950. A steeple was added in 1973 (93).

The Christians organized in 1905 and held services in a white, wood-frame building known as "The Little White Church" to locals. Located at 7th and Ash Streets, it

was dedicated in 1907. A new concrete block building was constructed in 1913 at 223 East Broadway. It was stuccoed and painted white in 1939. A new stone building was erected in 1953 and serves as the present Central Christian Church [Disciples of Christ] (94).

Organized in the early 1940s, the Church of Christ denomination purchased a rural school building and moved it to Fairview in 1948 where it was located in the 500 block of North Seventh Street. In the early 1950s, the congregation purchased a building from the Baptists which they remodeled and brick-veneered for the present building (95).

In the Land Run of 1893 opening the Cherokee Outlet, numerous Kansas Mennonites were among the early settlers near Fairview. Originally from the Molotschna colonies of the Russian Ukraine, the Ebenfeld Mennonite Brethren held meetings in various homes until 1895. Two sod churches were constructed north and south of Fairview--named North Hopefield and South Hopefield. In 1902, wood-frame churches were built to accommodate the two groups. The two congregations remained separate until 1951 when they were consolidated into the Fairview Mennonite Brethren Church (96). A new building at 1600 East State Road currently serves the congregation. It was dedicated in 1983.

Another Mennonite branch in the vicinity of Fairview is the Church of God in Christ Mennonites which hold services in a rural building located two miles east and two miles south of the city.

Government and Politics

Mandated as the county seat of Major County with the division of Old Woods County in 1907, Fairview has been the center of county government since that time. This

governmental function has been a significant factor in the existence of the town by drawing county residents to transact county business and participate in legal and court proceedings. The Major County Courthouse was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1984.

In 1907, Fairview residents took early steps to secure their own utilities system by passing a water bond issue. An engineering firm from Kansas City was contracted to begin construction of a new water system. A year later, the citizens also passed a $15,000 bond to develop an electrical system. In 1934, a new Fairview Light and Water Plant was built at 424 South Main Street. It has served the community for more than sixty years (97).

Under the auspices of the Works Progress Administration, the Blackledge Municipal Building and Fire Station was dedicated in 1939. This complex, adorned with Art Deco vocabulary, has housed the city government offices, a municipal auditorium, the city library, and the detached fire station for almost 56 years.

Social and Cultural

By statehood in 1907, social and cultural activities became an integral part of the townscape of Fairview. Fairview boasted an opera house and the first music of this genre was staged in 1908. The Odean Theatre, opened in 1917, was the focal point for two cultural events presented on its stage, including The Lyceum Arts, a music and lecture series, and the Chautaqua circuit lectures featuring noted speakers (98).

In 1918, the Fairview Community Band was organized. It traveled to nearby communities for periodic concerts and was featured during the summer months at a Saturday night concert held in the middle of the Main and Broadway intersection. In 1921,

the Royal Theatre was opened by Roy and Tressie Abernathy. The Royal is a two-story red brick building which remains intact at 107-109 North Main Street and has featured motion pictures for almost seventy-five years (99).

Two local civic groups were organized in the 1920s. The Rotary Club, formed in 1928, met in the Cornelsen Hotel ballroom until it closed in the 1970s. The Jolly Neighbors Club was a homemakers society whose objective was to improve the social life or women and provide needlecraft goods for the community (100).

The Major County Fair was established in 1930 with funds supplied by the local Chamber of Commerce and Oklahoma A&M College. 4-H and F.F.A. exhibits were housed in a large tent until a new county fair building was opened in 1940, constructed with Works Progress Administration labor and funds (101).

The Orient Lake (currently in the southwest corner of the Fairview City Park) was constructed by the Kansas City, Mexico, and Orient railroad to furnish water for its steam engines. Donated to the city when the Orient relocated in 1910, the lake became a center for recreational activities such as fishing, swimming, and boating (102).

CLEO SPRINGS

Founding and Naming

The town plat of Cleo was filed with the Register of Deeds of Old Woods County on November 29, 1893 and the post office was established on March 21, 1894. The town was simply called Cleo until 1917 when the Springs was added by Ed Sells, a local real estate dealer, who thought the change would be helpful in advertising and promotion of the town (103).

Two theories exist concerning the naming of Cleo. According to one source, the name was given by A. O. Sharrock, one of the townsite developers. He was a great admirer of Cleopatra, the Egyptian queen, and wanted to honor her (104). A second source explains that local folklore was instrumental in the name. An Indian maiden, who was called Cleo-oh-i-to-mo, reportedly healed one of Francisco Coronado's men on the Coronado expedition when they traveled near the springs in the 1540s. Her name was used to designate the nearby springs and the town took the name (105).

Railroad service to Cleo was established in 1896 when the Choctaw, Gulf, and Oklahoma arrived. It was the predecessor to the Chicago and Rock Island Railroad. The Cleo Chieftain, the first newspaper, reported in a 1901 editorial that Cleo will be the railroad center of Oklahoma with five railroads, and that the town will become the county seat of McKinley County when Old Woods County is divided (106). Unfortunately for Cleo Springs, the county seat designation never materialized.

Agriculture

Agriculture in the Cleo Springs vicinity was and still is based on wheat production. Agricultural specialists in 1929 divided Oklahoma into roughly two crop zones--wheat and cotton (109). The eastern half of Major County, where Cleo Springs and Fairview are located, was included in the wheat belt. Although no agricultural census data are given on Major County in 1900, corn had become the dominant cereal grain crop by 1910. This was due to the Midwestern farming background of early rural homesteaders. Statistics for 1910 show that almost 800,000 bushels of corn was produced on 89,000 acres in Major County, whereas only 420,000 bushels of wheat was produced on 32,000 acres. Within the next decade, wheat had dramatically surpassed corn in production in Major County. More than 1.3 million bushels of wheat on 125,000 acres were produced in 1920 as compared to 236,000 bushels of corn on 20,000 acres. By the 1930 census, wheat's annual production had reached more than 1.6 million bushels and production of corn continued to decline. The number of farms in Major County in 1910 was almost 2,500 and the average size of farms was 213 acres. By 1930, mechanization was beginning to affect agriculture in Major County. The number of farms had dropped to 2,093 while the average size had increased to 268 acres. Consolidation of farm units as well as mechanization continued to influence Major County agriculture. During the 1930s and 1940s, technology, drought, depression, and other factors caused the number of farms to decrease to less than 2,000 in 1950, while average farm size increased to over 500 acres (108). Cleo Springs continued to decline as an agricultural trade center. It lost many of

the central place functions the town once held to larger communities, such as Fairview, by 1950.

Commercial Establishments

Cleo Spring's central business district is arranged in a town square format in the traditional Midwestern pattern. It is the only one of the five study towns to use this model. The square is located south of Kentucky, west of Oklahoma, and north of Missouri (all east-west arteries) and west of Third Street (Oklahoma Highway No. 8), the major north-south thoroughfare through town. Information on commercial enterprises in Cleo Springs is sketchy, especially dates of construction and functions that occupied the buildings. It appears that the first bank in Cleo Springs was the Cleo State Bank, organized in 1900. This bank, the only one that remains in the community, has occupied different buildings, the latest in 1980. A second bank, Farmer's State Bank, operated sometime prior to statehood in 1907; however, historical records are vague as to when it ceased to exist.

In addition to the banks, several businesses operated on or near the square during the 1900 to 1950 period. At one time or another, there were three hotels, including the East Side, Delta, and Blue Front. Local historians recall that participants in the Old Soldier's Reunion in 1909 lodged at one of these hotels. Six groceries were among the commercial establishments that carried on business during the 1910-1950 era. These included Dyer's, Huscher's, B&R, Lakey's, Camp's, and Decker-Clawson. There were at least three general store/mercantile establishments including Mellor-Winters, Bassett's, and Herald's. Two dry goods stores included Brown's Dry Goods and Crump's Dry

Goods. Additional businesses consisted of Bowman's Blacksmith, Hess Saloon, Burke's Barber Shops, Oblander's Millinery, Christy's Drugs, Kern's Livery Stable, Story's Garage, a newspaper (Cleo Chieftain), and an ice plant. Two of the early commercial buildings remain intact including Sions Drug (south side of square) which was closed in the late 1960s and stands vacant; and Grimes (now Tomson) Lumberyard, just off south side of square, which operated from the 1920s (109).

Schools and Churches

The first school was a log building constructed in 1896, reportedly still intact at a location north of Cleo Springs. In 1902, a wood-framed building was erected and housed Cleo students until 1919 when it was razed. A new brick building was constructed at that time and graduated its first eighth grade class in 1920. High school students were transported to either Helena or Alva. Unfortunately, the new brick building was struck by lightning the same year of construction and destroyed by fire. During the next two years, students were housed in leased buildings around town. A second brick building was erected in 1922 and accommodated all grade levels (1-12) until 1973 when replaced by a modern building for grades only as Cleo Springs high school students were consolidated with the Aline school district in 1968. None of the original school buildings remain in existence (110).

Religious history on Cleo Springs is sparse. The Quaker settlement near Cleo apparently influenced the construction of a Friends Church in Cleo, although no dates are given (111). Records indicate that the Methodist congregation was organized in 1897 and a wood-framed church building was constructed at that time. This building remains intact

on the south side of town. An annex was added in the 1950s. A new Christian Church was dedicated in 1939. This building was remodeled and incorporated into a new sanctuary in the 1980s. The Baptists and Church of Nazarene denominations are represented in Cleo Springs; however, their buildings are of 1980s vintage (112).

Social and Cultural

The Cleo Springs community has historically been associated with a variety of social and cultural activities, especially centered on tourism and recreation. One of the earliest events to draw visitors to the town was the Old Soldier's Reunion, begun in 1898. The Cleo Springs Annual Rodeo and Round-Up was launched in 1921, and the Old Settler's Day, initiated in 1937, was the only event of its kind in Major County. These traditional celebrations have been consolidated into the present-day Labor Day Festival, begun in 1946, and will hold its fiftieth consecutive event next September.

The city park and swimming pool has been a focal point for many of the foregoing events. According to historical records, the Old Soldier's Reunion was held in the city park and featured military reenactments dating to the early 1900s. The well-known Camp House, located in the city park, is an extant building associated with providing shelter for out-of-town visitors and migrant laborers.

In terms of fraternal groups, the Masons and Order of Eastern Star have been active in Cleo Spring for more than eighty years. The two groups disbanded in 1993 and now attend meetings in Fairview or Alva. The Masonic Building, located on the south

side of the square, was donated by the Masons to the city of Cleo Springs in 1993 and currently houses city hall facilities (113).

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31. Shirk, 48.

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33. Donald E. Green, ed., Rural Oklahoma, 64.

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XII. ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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This report covers the three counties where the five study towns are located (Cherokee and Helena in Alfalfa, Cleo Springs and Fairview in Major, and Waynoka in Woods). The historical narrative (pp. 11-28) and the property type analysis (pp. 59-118) are most useful.

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Discusses the first cattlemen and later homesteaders as they vied for use of the area with the homesteaders triumphant in the opening of the Outlet in 1893.

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

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

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

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

Rohrs, Richard C. The Germans in Oklahoma. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1980.

This book is one of a series entitled "Newcomers to a New Land," which analyzes the role of major ethnic groups that have contributed to the history of Oklahoma. Particularly helpful is Chapter 3 which discusses German settlement in Major County and the establishment of a German Club in Fairview.

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

Compiled by one of Oklahoma's most noted historians, this is a travelogue of the state, but contains brief histories of each community including the five northwestern towns of this study (Cherokee, p. 67; Cleo Springs, p. 73; Fairview, p. 97; Helena, p. 121; and Waynoka, p.240).

Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Maps-Cleo Springs, Fairview, Helena, Cherokee, and Waynoka, Oklahoma.

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

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

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

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

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

Snodgrass, William George. "A History of the Cherokee Outlet." Unpublished Ed.D. Dissertation, Oklahoma State University, 1972.

An extraordinary piece of research that covers social, political, and economic history of the region where the five towns are located. Special attention is devoted to county seat struggle between Cherokee and Carmen in Alfalfa County and the Populist Party in Woods County from 1893 to 1900.

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

The first statistical handbook on Oklahoma following statehood.

Swartz, Lillian Carlile. "Life in the Cherokee Strip." The Chronicles of Oklahoma, XLII (Summer, 1965), 62-74.

Another fine source for social and cultural history of the region where the five study towns are located.

Tanton, Ralph E. Historical Tales of the Cherokee Strip and the Rhubarb Farm: Before and After the State of Oklahoma. Freeman, SD: Pine Hill Press, 1982.

An amateur historian recollects tales of the Cherokee Strip region.

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

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

Transportation in Oklahoma to 1920: Region Two. Resource Protection Planning Project report prepared by Scott Baxter, Department of History, Oklahoma State

University, 1986. Report located at State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City, OK.

Discusses cattle trails and railroad development in Cherokee Outlet. Three transportation sites in or near the five study towns are listed: Kiowa-Hennessey Cattle Trail trace near Cherokee, Santa Fe Depot in Fairview, and Santa Fe Depot/Harvey House in Waynoka.

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

Although needs updating, this is a valuable source. Other disciplines need to follow this model. First part is organized by topic and second section is arranged by county and city names.

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

With a new introduction by Anne Hodges Morgan, this is an updated version of the 1941 edition compiled by the Writer's Program of the Works Progress Administration. Contains brief material on four of the five study towns (Cherokee, p. 245; Waynoka, p. 246; Cleo Springs, p. 295; and Fairview, p.296).

XIII. SUMMARY

The Reconnaissance Level Survey of Portions of Five Northwestern Oklahoma Towns included the five communities of Cherokee, Cleo Springs, Fairview, Helena, and Waynoka. A total of 77 properties in the study areas specified by OK/SHPO were surveyed with minimum level documentation.

1. Six individual properties were recommended for National Register consideration: Waynoka [3], Cherokee [2], and Fairview [1].
2. Fifty-three individual properties were suggested as warranting further study.
3. Thumbnail sketches for six proposed districts were outlined with tentative boundaries and justifications for intensive level surveys: Cherokee [2], Waynoka [2], Fairview[1], and Helena [1].
4. Eighteen noncontributing resources in the proposed districts were surveyed.
5. Seven thumbnail sketches of areas did not qualify for intensive level surveys.
6. Twenty-three of the individual properties surveyed were commercial, the leading kind of property in the five towns.
7. The second most numerous kind of property was residential with sixteen.
8. A total of eight religious properties were documented based on their architectural significance.
9. Additional kinds of properties represented in the five towns included government (5), educational (3), social (2), health care (1), and recreational (1).
10. Residential areas in the five study towns are characterized by an exceptional variety in architecture including both vernacular and high styles. Among these

were National Folk (Pyramidal, Hall-and-Parlor, and Front-Gabled), Bungalow/Craftsman (classic and airplane), Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival, Romanesque, Ranch, Queen Anne, Folk Victorian, Classical Revival, Late Gothic Revival, Prairie School, and Art Deco. Two general architectural movements, however, appear to dominate the vocabulary of the houses surveyed: Victorian and Eclectic.

11. Commercial areas in the five study towns are characterized by one to three story buildings, primarily of the Commercial style. None of the commercial buildings reached skyscraper proportions. A vast majority had red brick wall cladding with a few stone buildings. Decorative elements were minimal, primarily at the upper levels.

Overall, the five towns possess numerous cultural resources that meet age eligibility requirements and retain some degree of architectural integrity or historic significance. An intensive level survey for four of the five study towns is endorsed for the near future. Several individual properties and proposed districts that retain a high degree of historic and architectural integrity deserve immediate attention and early nomination to the National Register, whereas other individual properties and proposed districts are in need of rehabilitation. Cherokee, Waynoka, and Fairview should be given top priority for intensive level surveys when funding is available because of their intact resources that meet age and integrity requirements.

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

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

XIV. ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW

It has been a long held belief that a culture communicates its values through architecture. This has proven true for a wide variety of cultures over long periods of time, and this certainly holds true in the case of this reconnaissance level survey of the northwestern Oklahoma communities of Cherokee, Cleo Springs, Fairview, Helena and Waynoka.

This principle has often been used to illustrate what a culture considered to be of prime importance, and typically the culture's architectural gems are investigated with admiration. While there are certainly some buildings within the reconnaissance survey area worthy of our admiration and study, the large majority of these particular survey areas are devoid of quality examples of architecture. This is particularly true with respect to its residential building stock.

This fact, however, does not necessarily suggest that the people did not care about their built environment. Rather, it clearly communicates that there were factors more important to these communities than the building of elaborate buildings. These communities, from original development to present time, have been engaged in a type of survival, the basic establishment of community. This has occurred in numerous cultures throughout history, and in each case there is a basic need for survival which precedes the development of any type of higher culture, architecture or otherwise.

These communities have been based primarily on agriculture. Their agricultural support structures, homes and commercial structures were modest, of indigenous materials, and constructed by local craftsman. Functional demands dominated any other concerns. Eventually the communities became concerned with the issue of permanence, and their structures began to reflect this in the quality and durability of their material choices. Most commonly the material of

choice was brick, however as the community developed there were sometimes embellishments of stone or tile. Occasionally we see examples of structures skinned totally in these materials.

The influx of other concerns, primarily the railroads, brought greater prosperity and an improved building stock. It was during this more prosperous period, early in this century, that the best examples of architectural design occurred. The building styles represented reflect the popular choices of the period, and building types become more varied.

Architecturally the best examples occur in religious structures, banks, railroad structures and public buildings. In the case of the religious and public buildings, this indicates that the community valued these concerns greatly. In the case of the banks and railroads, there existed organizations with the funds to build in a more substantial way.

It is through building type that one can best organize the architectural characteristics and examples of this particular survey. The survey identifies several different building types: commercial, transportation-related, industrial, health care, government, educational, recreation, religious, social, and residential (both single family and multi-family residential). For the purposes of this architectural review the categories of building types will be simplified to the following categories: public, commercial, religious and residential.

Public Properties:

This building type category includes government structures, community functions such as libraries and schools, and utility functions. Many of these facilities were constructed under the WPA. Typically these structures appear to be primarily function-driven, with the aesthetics being secondary.

While the structures in this category are not typically the strongest examples of architectural design, there are several structures worthy of note. The best of these is the red brick

Cherokee Armory with its massive scale and stone cornice and details. Another Cherokee structure in this category is the brick and stone Public Library, a simple yet attractive structure. Simplified examples in poorer condition would be the City Hall Building in Waynoka, a brick two-part Commercial structure, and the former government offices in Helena (now used as the James Crabtree Correctional Center), brick Classical Revival structures with one of the structures containing an eclectic mix of simplified Italianate bracketing. An interesting but abandoned structure is the two-part commercial Phillips Building/U.S. Post Office, a red brick structure with a rounded arch colonnade at its entry and flattened arch window openings.

Another interesting approach to this type of structure is the stucco sheathed Art Deco style structures, of which there are several. The best of these are the Blackledge Municipal Building/Library (which also incorporates some panels of bricks), and the Waynoka Telephone Exchange, which has some very nice Art Deco detailing.

Commercial Properties:

This category is being used to group all private facilities, primarily those of business origin, but also including civic organizations such as the Masons. The majority of properties worthy of architectural mention are from this category.

As might be expected, one of the most design-attentive building types is the small town bank. This is certainly true in this survey. A sense of permanence, stability and culture are conveyed by these banks, thus communicating these values to their respective communities.

The Farmers State Bank of Helena presents to the small town of Helena a dominant, corner-sited Classical Revival structure. Unfortunately this structure has had significant alterations. Two of Fairview's most significant buildings are the handsomely detailed brick two-part Commercial Community National Bank and the very impressive Classical Revival Farmers &

Merchants Bank (now the Eitzen Agency) with its refined use of light colored brick. Waynoka's First National Bank takes a dominant corner site and attempts to refine a two-part Commercial structure with the use of stone and the addition of very simplified Classical elements, but the result is a rather mediocre design. Cherokee has two banks in the study area which are worthy of mention. The original structure for the Alfalfa County Bank is a handsome Classical Revival structure of stone and brick. Unfortunately there is a more recent addition to the structure which is not sympathetic to the original structure. The most creative and progressive of all the structures represented in the study is the Farmers National Bank, a two-part Commercial structure with Sullivanesque details in its facade development, utilizing rounded arches and glass block in combination with the solidity of its primary building material, brick.

Other commercial structures of note in Cherokee are the brick two-part Commercial buildings at 117-123 South Grand Avenue, with their nice cornice detailing, and the Masonic Lodge #307. While the Lodge is not as elaborate as others of its type, it does have a rather curious eclectic mix of the two-part Commercial with Art Deco details.

Fairview's Montgomery Oil Company and Waynoka's 301 East Cecil are both examples of the one part Commercial adapted to automotive facilities. Montgomery Oil Company is the best example of this type, with its simple but well proportioned brickwork, while the Waynoka structure has some creative uses of tile integrated into its brickwork.

Waynoka also has several other examples of this building type: although currently vacant and in need of repair, the two-part Commercial structure at 132 East Broadway Street has some interesting elements on its street facade which add unique character to the structure (particularly the dominant flattened arch which is centered on the second story). The two-part Commercial

structure known as the W.H. Olmsted Store is constructed of stone with its upper level composed of Chicago School windows which were very contemporary for its time.

Arguably the best building in the study area is Waynoka's railroad depot. Its owners employed the Mission Style in a brick structure which has very pleasing proportions and details, creating a design which is quite elaborate for a community the scale of Waynoka.

Religious Properties:

It is in the design of religious structures that we consistently see the largest scale buildings which represent a community vision. The communities obviously had a strong faith that related to their everyday lives, and they have chosen to celebrate/indicate this with their choice to build monuments of their faith.

It is curious that while these structures are physically substantial within the community they are also somewhat modest in their means. There is typically careful thought given to their aesthetics, but there is generally a spartan approach taken toward the elaborateness of their detailing. There seems to be a pure functionality to their expression which may be indicative of their community's basic values.

Typical examples of these religious structures are the brick Romanesque-influenced First Baptist Church and brick Late Gothic Revival First United Methodist Church (with its curious rounded arch) of Fairview, the modest Mission/Colonial Revival First Congregational Church and the brick Late Gothic revival United Methodist Church of Waynoka. There were no significant structures of this type in the survey areas of Helena or Cleo Springs.

Cherokee had a greater number of examples, including the First Christian Church, which could loosely be classified as Classical Revival, the Friends Church with its eclectic character and Craftsmen-influenced details, and the brick Classical Revival First United Methodist Episcopal

Church. One of the most interesting structures of the survey is the spartan, wood-framed Late Gothic Revival Cherokee Lutheran Church, with its well-proportioned tower.

Residential Properties:

Typically the residential properties in a survey like this include some of the most interesting and elaborate designs of the survey. Interestingly, this is not the case in this survey. The residential properties of this survey generally convey the modest, utilitarian values of these agricultural communities. From this we may ascertain that there was a simplicity to their lifestyle that focused on the provisions of daily life.

The best residential properties are those found in Waynoka. It is here that the two and one half story Queen Anne (known as the James and Matte Hale residence) stands at 306 East Cecil Street. This is a wood-framed structure with an interesting combination of roof forms. Waynoka is also the site of the 'Mayor's House,' the residence of W.H. Olmsted. This building is a wood-framed two and one half story Queen Anne, with its most interesting element being its various siding patterns.

Cherokee has three properties of note, namely the residences at 501, 509 and 821 South Grand Avenue. 501 South Grand is a two and one half story Queen Anne that has a deep porch and a projecting room on the front corner. The property at 509 South Grand Avenue is a Craftsman Style Bungalow with good proportions, a stucco facade, and strong porches and bracketing. 821 South Grand Avenue is a two story Mission Style residence with a stucco facade and a very dominant front porch and carport. Its lines actually appear very contemporary as well.

The need for temporary housing was met by hotels in several of the communities surveyed. Cherokee is home to the understated four-part Commercial brick structure known as the Cherokee Hotel and located at 117 West Main Street. Fairview boasts the more elaborate

Cornelsen Hotel at 121 East Broadway, a brick four part Commercial with an interesting tower element which is capped with Art Deco inspired stone details.

In summary, the surveyed areas represent communities with values and needs focused on the provision of basic necessities. As a result their architecture is based in function and is unembellished, particularly their residential structures. A strong faith was an important component of their lives, and the celebration of their religious structures is accomplished in a similarly utilitarian way. In conclusion, there is a limited building stock which warrants further study from an architectural point of view.

AN ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW

of the

RECONNAISSANCE LEVEL SURVEY

OF FIVE NORTHWESTERN OKLAHOMA TOWNS

Submitted by:

Jeffrey K. Williams, AIA, Associate Professor
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