RESOURCE PROTECTION PLANNING PROJECT

SETTLEMENT PATTERNS IN THE UNASSIGNED LANDS

REGION SIX

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INTRODUCTION:

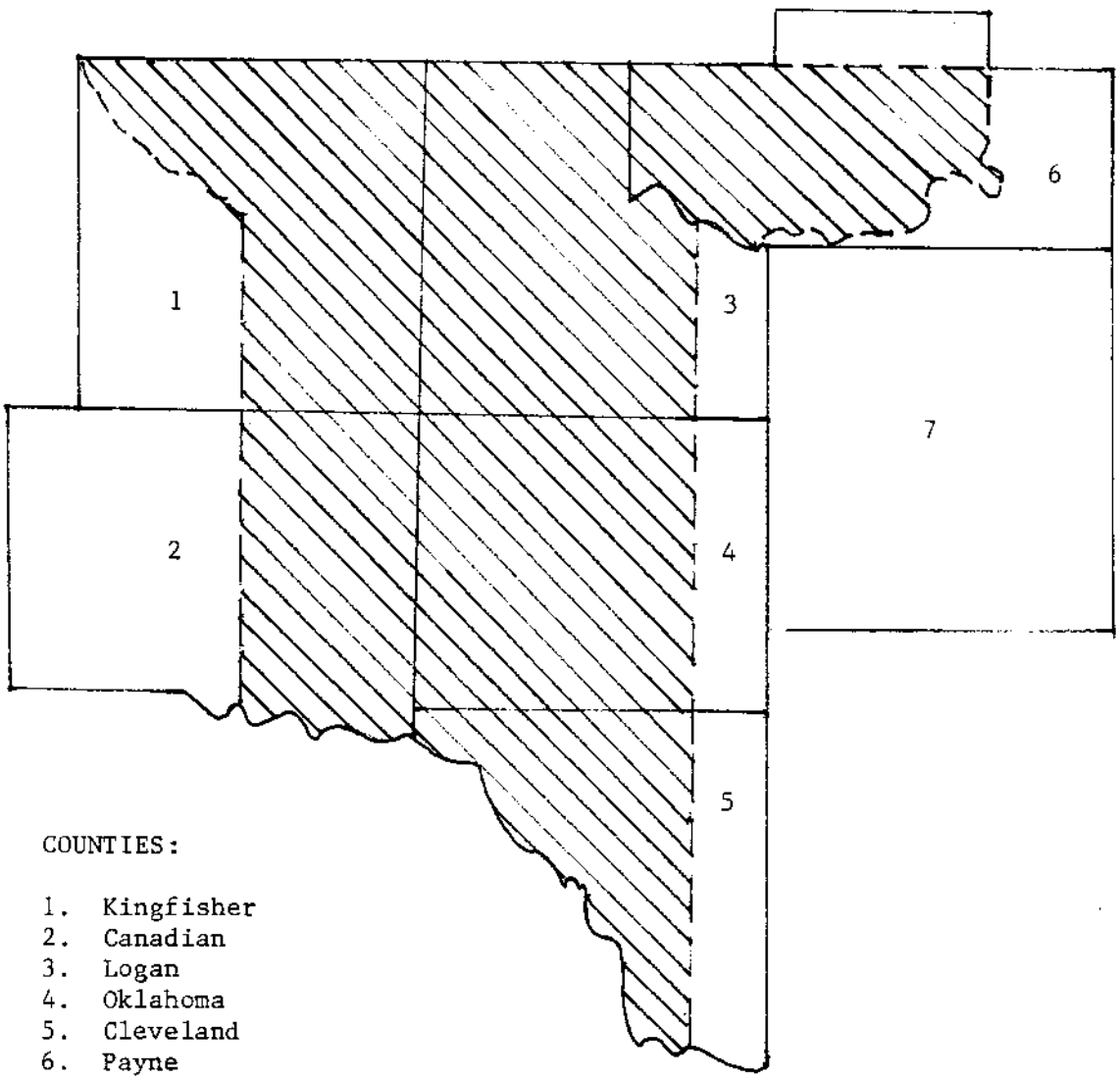
This study is intended to provide an historical context for the interpretation of settlement patterns in Region 6--Payne, Logan, Kingfisher, Canadian, Oklahoma, Cleveland, and Lincoln counties. The principal focus, however, is the settlement of the Unassigned Lands—also known as the Oklahoma district--the first region in the state opened for white occupation in the land run of 1889. Comprising a total of 1,887,796 acres within the Creek and Seminole cessions of 1866, in 1889 the Unassigned Lands were bounded on the south by the South Canadian River, on the east by the Indian Meridian and the Pawnee Reservation, on the north by the Cherokee Outlet, and on the west by the Cimarron River and the 98th Meridian. The original district included only portions of six counties in Region Six (Payne, Logan, Kingfisher, Canadian, Oklahoma and Cleveland). Present day Lincoln County lay outside the Unassigned Lands. This paper will, therefore, discuss aspects of the settlement of the original area from the land run of 1889 until the creation of the state of Oklahoma in 1907. To provide clearer insight into the typical settlement experience throughout the Unassigned Lands, this study will also examine a representative town--Mulhall--and its surrounding rural district during the Territorial period.

BACKGROUND TO SETTLEMENT:

Prior to the Civil War, the United States government created the region of the present state of Oklahoma as an Indian preserve, free from the influences and incursions of whites. In the 1820s and 1830s, the Five Civilized Tribes--the Cherokees, Choctaws, Chickasaws, Creeks, and Seminoles—had been forced to cede their lands in the Southeast in return for areas in Oklahoma. The territory

THE UNASSIGNED LANDS/OKLAHOMA DISTRICT

PRESENT-DAY REGION SIX



COUNTIES:

1. Kingfisher
2. Canadian
3. Logan
4. Oklahoma
5. Cleveland
6. Payne
7. Lincoln

KEY:

The shaded area denotes the area of the Unassigned Lands.

Present-day Lincoln County, currently included in Region Six, lay outside of the Unassigned Lands.

encompassed all lands in the present state except the Panhandle. Fierce nomadic tribes such as the Comanches, Kiowas, and Kiowa-Apaches, however, controlled the western plains, and the Five Civilized Tribes settled only the eastern half of the region. In the two decades after the Civil War, the government's attitude toward the Indians underwent drastic alteration. During the war, the Five Civilized Tribes had allied mainly with the Confederacy. As a penalty for secession, in 1866 the federal government forced them to accept new treaties, which hastened the demise of Indian isolation and ultimately precipitated the opening of their land to white settlement. Contained in the new treaties were provisions which forced the Indians to abolish slavery and cede large portions of their lands upon which the government would relocate tribes from Kansas and elsewhere in the United States. An indication of further white encroachment was the requirement that each tribe grant the right of way to railroads across Indian territory.

During the next two decades, the federal government resettled numerous tribes on the lands acquired through the post-war treaties. In the heart of the western sector, an area of nearly 2,000,000 acres of land acquired from the Creeks and the Seminoles with the proviso that the land be used to resettle Indians and freedmen, remained vacant. In the 1870s these "Unassigned Lands," also referred to as the "Oklahoma district," bounded on all sides by other Indian groups, became the focus of attention and desire of land hungry whites who had failed to find land in the rapidly closing farming frontier in the American West.

Whites had made incursions, both lawful and unlawful, into the Unassigned Lands for decades. Perhaps the most significant interlopers were cattlemen. After the Civil War the range cattle industry burgeoned in Texas, and large herds were driven through western Oklahoma to railheads in Kansas. Among the most important of these cattle routes was the Chisholm Trail, which passed through

portions of the Unassigned Lands. In addition, Texas cattlemen acquired grazing leases on the Indians' virtually unoccupied western lands and often ran cattle in the unassigned district as well.

Many men who crossed the Indian country on cattle business noted and discussed the agricultural possibilities of the region, stimulating the interest of farmers in neighboring states. The Unassigned Lands lie within what is known as the Red Beds region of Oklahoma, a fertile, rolling plain which slopes from west to east. Averaging thirty to thirty-six inches of rainfall annually, the area is well watered by the South Canadian, North Canadian, Cimarron, Deep Fork, and Little rivers and contains the rich bottom lands of these streams and such tributaries as Cottonwood and Uncle John's creeks. Above the second bottoms, there is plentiful soil for grazing, while much of the higher ground is prairie. A variety of trees--blackjack on the ridges and cottonwood along the streams as well as fine oak, walnut, and black gum in the valleys--provide sources of lumber. In the 1870s and 1880s, few could ignore the rich potential of this virgin land.

By 1870, while much of the land in the American West had been surveyed or was in the process of being surveyed, the Indians' domain remained an island around which surveying crews moved into the Great Plains. In that year the General Land Office signed a series of contracts with Ehud N. Darling and Theodore H. Barrett to survey nearly all of the Indian region, including the Unassigned Lands. Generally following the provisions for surveying of public lands established by the Ordinance of 1785, they marked off the area into 160-acre tracts. The region was divided into townships of six miles square. Within each township, one square mile sections, designated one to thirty-six, were laid out. Sections sixteen and thirty-six in each township would be reserved for the maintenance of public schools. This surveying project, completed in 1875,

facilitated the distribution of homesteads and townsites when the Unassigned Lands were opened to white settlement fourteen years later.

In the three decades after the Civil War, the population of the United States doubled; the West grew at a pace much faster than the national average. The postwar land hunger of American citizens overcame their traditional concept of the Great Plains as the "Great American Desert," unfit for the white man's habitation. In the 1870s, the rising tide of farmers, speculators, and businessmen streamed into the western portions of Minnesota, Dakota, Kansas and Nebraska, the Rocky Mountain valleys, the Southwest, as well as California and the Pacific Northwest. Indian land, still closed to whites except those who leased tracts from the tribes, was viewed as the last frontier. North and south of the Indian domain, the states of Kansas and Texas were rapidly filling with farmers, while new towns grew to serve the needs of their rural populations. Texas' population nearly trebled between 1870 and 1890, while that of Kansas quadrupled. Here, especially in Kansas, where a strident farmers' movement, part of the rising agrarian unrest in the Midwest which developed into the Populist movement, joined others throughout the nation who demanded that the Indians be given an allotment of land for farms while the remaining surplus be sold or opened to white settlers as part of the public domain.

The authority for opening the area rested with Congress. Between 1867 and 1879, supporters of that goal unsuccessfully introduced dozens of bills proposing statehood. A variety of interest groups divided into contentious factions supporting or opposing the opening of the territory to white settlement. Among the most energetic proponents of opening were the railroad corporations, who envisioned settlement as a means of increasing traffic on their lines. A land filled with farmers and dotted by towns and cities as distribution centers would vastly increase their profits. Banking and mercantile firms in St. Louis, Kansas

City, Chicago, and other Midwestern cities allied with the railroads and merchants in towns in Kansas, Texas, and Arkansas which bordered on Indian country in favoring settlement. All of these groups had persistent and energetic lobbyists in Washington and sympathetic legislators in both houses of Congress. Perhaps more importantly, scores of thousands of landless, increasingly desperate, American citizens demanded access to Indian lands.

Arrayed against these groups was an equally adamant and remarkably heterogeneous faction opposed to any alteration in the existing system. Indian leaders as a whole fought to retain their exclusive rights to the land. White ranchers wanted no growth of farming in a region where they held lucrative grazing contracts. Indian agents and churchmen, especially the missionaries who worked with the Indians, opposed white settlement. In addition, licensed traders, whiskey peddlers, beef contractors, intermarried citizens, criminals who had fled justice in the states, and some whites who leased Indian land for farming desired to maintain the status quo.

The movement to open Oklahoma received new impetus in 1879, when T. C. Sears, an attorney for the Missouri, Kansas, and Texas Railroad, and Elias C. Boudinot, a Cherokee citizen and railroad attorney, announced that after examining the treaties, laws, and land title questions for Indian territory, they had found 14,000,000 acres, an area including the Unassigned Lands, that belonged to the public domain of the United States. This land, they claimed, was subject to entry by qualified settlers under the Homestead Act of 1862. Boudinot's findings were published in the Chicago Times in February, 1879, and reprinted in many newspapers across the country thereafter.

Spurred by Boudinot's announcement, many whites refused to wait for official government sanction and decided to take matters into their own hands. They organized and carried out invasions of the Unassigned Lands in defiance of

the federal government. Leading the agitation was a group of men called "boomers," led by Colonel C. C. Carpenter, Captain David L. Payne, and Captain William Couch. In 1879, Carpenter assembled a number of families along the southern border of Kansas and vowed to cross the Cherokee Outlet and claim lands in the Oklahoma district. Carpenter, who had previously participated in an unlawful attempt to occupy Sioux territory in South Dakota, staunchly defended their right to settle in the Unassigned Lands. Although Carpenter remained behind in Kansas, members of his group from Kansas and Missouri entered the Unassigned Lands in May, 1879, and moved to the North Canadian River. United States soldiers discovered the interlopers, however, and removed them from the area. With this setback, Carpenter's courage lagged, and when threatened with imprisonment, he gave up his colonizing scheme.

After Carpenter's failure, David L. Payne, whose checkered background included stints as an army officer, Kansas state legislator, postmaster, hunter, farmer, and small businessman, assumed leadership of the boomer movement. Payne established a colonization society on a membership basis in Kansas. Members paid a fee of two dollars for rights to a quarter section of land and twenty-five dollars for a town lot in his proposed capital city. In April, 1880, Payne led a contingent to the North Canadian in the Unassigned Lands near present-day Oklahoma City. Soon, however, federal troops from Ft. Reno arrested the group and escorted them back to Kansas. Over the next four years, until his sudden death in 1884, Payne persistently led groups of boomers from Texas and Kansas into the Unassigned Lands despite government opposition and predictable removal by United States military units. Though he had failed to establish any permanent settlement, his recruitment, agitation in the press and at public meetings, court battles, and lobbying efforts in Washington helped make the Oklahoma movement a national issue.

Shortly after Payne's death, William L. Couch led another illegal entry into the Oklahoma district on Boomer Creek near present-day Stillwater. The approximately 400 boomers were again discovered by a contingent of federal cavalry and, after an initial confrontation, were escorted back to Kansas. By 1886 the successive failures of Carpenter, Payne, and Couch, coupled with continued legal pressures and resistence by federal authorities, brought a temporary suspension to boomer incursions.

The boomers' apparent failure to open Oklahoma, however, was only a temporary setback. Two significant occurences in the mid-1880s greatly advanced their designs. In 1884, Congress granted the Southern Kansas Railway Company, an Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad affiliate, and the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railroad, which shortly became a Santa Fe affiliate, the right to build rail lines across Indian land between Arkansas City, Kansas, and Gainesville, Texas. A portion of the new line sliced through the heart of the Unassigned Lands. In the opinion of many observers, after construction of the line, which began in 1886, the movement to open Oklahoma would be irresistible.

Laying a line across the Indian country would directly aid both the boomers and the company. Many of the men who secured employment on the grading crews were, in fact, boomers who could now enter the district legally, travel unmolested by federal troops, and gain a foothold in the area prior to its official opening. Not only did the extension of this line now give the Santa Fe direct connections between Chicago and the Texas port of Galveston, the railroad would also benefit from its operations in new townsites and as a result of the agricultural, commercial, and industrial development which would arise there.

When the line was completed in 1887, the Santa Fe established station points at approximately ten-mile intervals. Those designated in the Unassigned Lands would serve as some of the principal townsites in the district after it was

opened for settlement. These stations included Beaver Creek (later Alfred, then Mulhall), Deer Creek (Guthrie), Summit (Edmond), Oklahoma Station (site of the early boomer settlements and, later, Oklahoma City), Verbeck (Moore), and Dugout (which had been called Camp Norman since the Barrett survey).

The second major development occurred in January, 1885, as Couch was leading his party out of the Stillwater Valley. Secretary of the Interior Henry M. Teller recommended the opening of the Indian lands for white settlement to President Chester A. Arthur. In March, Congress authorized the president to negotiate with the Creek, Seminole, and Cherokee tribes for the cession of their surplus lands in the western Indian district. Although Arthur did not have time to act on the matter prior to leaving office and incoming President Grover Cleveland was disinclined to press the negotiations, a definitive step toward a final solution to the land question had been taken. Numerous bills and petitions calling for the opening of Oklahoma in 1888 failed to secure sufficient support for passage, but the issue would not die. Among those in Congress pressing for the opening were William M. Springer of Illinois, James B. Weaver of Iowa, Charles H. Mansur of Missouri, and Bishop W. Perkins of Kansas.

Ironically, the Indians took the decisive step towards opening the Unassigned Lands to white settlement. Recognizing that they could no longer hope to retain title to their lands, in January 1889, representatives of the Creeks and Seminoles proposed to sell their western lands to the United States government. The government agreed to purchase 1,392,704 acres in the unassigned district from the Creeks and an additional 500,000 acres from the Seminoles. With these cessions, the United States government acquired clear and unrestricted title to the Unassigned Lands. On March 2, 1889, a bill introduced by Springer was rushed through Congress and sent to Cleveland, authorizing the chief executive to open the area to white settlement under the terms of the Homestead

Act. The measure was in the form of a rider attached to the Indian Appropriations Bill of 1889. When Cleveland signed the measure into law, the region thus designated for opening measured 1,887,796 acres in extent, a little over 4 percent of the total area that was eventually to be incorporated into the state of Oklahoma.

THE LAND RUN OF 1889:

According to the Act of March 2, 1889, settlers could acquire title to 160 acres of land in the unassigned district after demonstrating proof that they had resided upon and cultivated the tract for five years. It further stipulated that townsites created in the area could not exceed more than one half section. The customary reservations of sections sixteen and thirty-six for the maintenance of public instruction also applied to the region. Anyone who already owned more than 160 acres of land elsewhere was ineligible to claim a homestead. To qualify for land in Oklahoma, a male was required to be the head of a family, to be twenty-one years old, and to be a citizen of the United States or have declared his intention to become one. Male heads of households under twenty-one were also eligible. Honorably discharged veterans of the armed forces of the United States could stake a claim without regard to either age or citizenship. A widow, a female head of household, a woman deserted by her husband, or an unmarried woman who was twenty-one and a United States citizen could also seek a homestead. A veteran received the right to file a declaratory statement for land, which, when filed would reserve the land for six months, at the end of which time he could make a formal homestead entry. A veteran could also deduct from the five-year residency requirement the time he had served in the armed forces up to a period of four years. In addition, the right of commutation allowed any claimant

to gain a title to his land before the expiration of the five-year period by paying the government $1.25 per acre.

No one would be allowed to enter upon and occupy any portion of the Unassigned Lands until the president officially opened the region for settlement. Any person violating this provision would be prohibited from ever acquiring land in the district. The act empowered the president to create not more than two land districts in the area for settlement, locate land offices in each, and appoint registers and receivers. The measure, however, made no provisions for civil government in the Unassigned Lands, and none would exist for over a year after settlement.

Benjamin Harrison, who had succeeded Grover Cleveland as president on March 4, was reluctant to open the lands for settlement without more definitive plans for civil government. During the first three months of the year, however, in anticipation of the opening of the area, thousands of homeseekers flocked to the four borders of the Unassigned Lands. Any delay would cause much financial loss and physical hardship for those present. On March 23, therefore, Harrison declared that the Unassigned Lands would be opened at noon on April 22, 1889. He stated that no other lands in the Indian domain would be open to settlers and warned that anyone who entered and occupied lands in the Oklahoma district prior to the official opening would be barred from ever acquiring lands in the area. The army was ordered to allow only authorized personnel in the district prior to the opening date. The Department of Interior later ruled that even those legally present in the Unassigned Lands prior to noon, April 22, would not be permitted to homestead. Hundreds of men, some with their families, were in the district between Harrison's proclamation and the opening date. The vast majority were government officials or employees, peace officers, or railroad workers. Many would later attempt to take advantage of their presence to grab claims ahead of

those who made the run. A military force was dispatched to the region to remind prospective settlers that they must remain outside the Unassigned Lands until the appointed time; soldiers were under orders to record the names of those they encountered in the area in violation of the law.

As the total area of the Unassigned Lands was relatively small and the number of expectant settlers far exceeded the approximately 12,000 sites available, the Department of Interior devised a unique procedure to give each prospective settler an equal chance--a land rush. The first person to "stake out" a claim and file on it in the appropriate land office would receive rights to the land. A settler could claim his right as soon as he entered the tract, "drives a stake, or blazes a tree, or throws one spade of earth, or hoists a flag" and did anything else of a more substantial nature such as erecting a habitable house and cultivating the soil or digging a well.

Harrison declared that the land office for the eastern district would be established at Guthrie, on the Santa Fe line; the land office for the western district would be at Kingfisher, approximately thirty miles west of Guthrie. The Kingfisher stage station had been a stopping point on the military trail between Caldwell, Kansas, and Fort Reno, just across the Unassigned Lands' western boundary.

As the date for the opening approached, an estimated 100,000 people began to position themselves around the Unassigned Lands. Three days before the run, the government suspended the rule against trespassing on Indian land, thereby allowing settlers to press to the immediate borders of the district. Former boomers or those who had previously located desirable lands placed themselves as near as possible to their prospective homesteads. The areas near Guthrie, Kingfisher, Oklahoma Station, and the North Canadian Valley east of Fort Reno

were the most attractive places of settlement because they held the greatest promise as future population centers.

The largest concentration of entrants lined the southern border of Kansas, just north of the Cherokee Outlet, in such towns as Arkansas City, Caldwell, Winfield, and Hunnewell. This concentration in the north reflects the Midwestern origins of many of the settlers as well as their desire to avoid the treacherous crossing of the South Canadian River on the southern boundary. Although the "northliners" were farthest from many of the most desired locations, both Arkansas City and Caldwell held important advantages as staging areas. Arkansas City, three miles north of the Cherokee Outlet, was the last important station on the Santa Fe railroad before it entered the Oklahoma district; the wagon road which followed the rail line was the shortest route from the border to Guthrie and Oklahoma Station. Caldwell was a popular embarcation point because it was the northern terminus of the road and stage route across the Cherokee Outlet to the Darlington Indian Agency and Fort Reno, on the western border of the Unassigned Lands. Three railroad lines--the Santa Fe, the Frisco, and the Rock Island, which reached into the Cherokee Outlet and had plans to extend a line into the Unassigned Lands--entered Caldwell. Furthermore, the Kingfisher stage station, site of one of the land offices, lay directly south of the city.

Settlers also anxiously gathered on the other three borders of the Oklahoma district. The most important entry point in the south was Purcell. This recently established town in the Chickasaw Nation was on the Santa Fe line just south of the South Canadian River. Most of those waiting to enter the territory from Purcell were southerners. Another large group gathered in the region where the western boundary intersected with Kingfisher Creek. From this location, the "westliners" were less than two miles from the land office at Kingfisher. Settlers scattered from this point for about twenty miles south to the Darlington-Fort

Reno area, which attracted a large number of impoverished farmers from the Texas Panhandle, No Man's Land, western Kansas, and southeastern Colorado. Homeseekers on the eastern border of the Unassigned Lands waited beyond the Indian Meridian to make the run into the well watered valleys of the South Canadian, North Canadian, Deep Fork, and Cimarron rivers. At some points, these eastliners were less than ten miles from Guthrie. Although federal troops and other government representatives maintained a relatively effective vigilance over much of the northern and western lines of entry, the southern and, especially, the eastern approaches were virtually unguarded. Taking advantage of the lax oversight in these areas, "moonlighters," later called "sooners," found many opportunities to enter the area and claim choice locations before the run began.

Precisely at noon on April 22, blasts from cannons, rifles, pistols, and bugles signaled the beginning of the land run. One witness described the scene from the Kingfisher land office as a "mad, furious rush of people . . . swarming in . . . They came in every conceivable fashion—on horseback, in wagons and buggies, and on foot. In a few instances horses, being ridden at break-neck speed, fell and threw their riders over their heads. Wagons and buggies were turned bottom up . . . It was . . . like the wild rush of an excited mob in pursuit of its victim." Special Santa Fe trains carried hundreds of homeseekers into the Unassigned Lands from Arkansas City and Purcell. Engineers had instructions to run slowly so that those on horseback or with wagons would not be at a disadvantage. All along the route, men and women leaped off the train and ran to a promising spot to make their claim.

By late afternoon of April 22, most of the land in the Oklahoma district had been claimed--frequently by two, three, or more land seekers. Claim jumping was common, and settlers often decided disputes over land rights by violent means. As litigation through normal legal procedures was expensive, many legitimate

claimants lost their land because they had no money to defend their rights. Others decided that claims were not worth the expense or danger necessary to defend them.

The presence of hundreds of sooners complicated the near chaotic conditions. Throughout the district, those who had observed the rules against premature entry were surprised to find large numbers of sooners already staking out lots in proposed townsites or planting a crop on a tract of land. Many, apparently, had been working their land for weeks. Doubtless, hundreds of sooners were successful in keeping their illegally acquired land, but many were later denied patents to the property and were fined and imprisoned for giving perjurous testimony in their entry affidavits.

In an incredibly short time, 60,000 people had entered the Unassigned Lands and had either staked out a claim or located in towns. Guthrie, Oklahoma City, and Norman were established as tent cities before nightfall on April 22; Kingfisher became a tent city overnight. Two hours after crossing the South Canadian River, a townsite company began surveying Lexington. It is estimated that 15,000 people spent the first night in Guthrie and 10,000 in Oklahoma City.

Although the Unassigned Lands would ultimately evolve in a manner similar to that of other areas in the American West, its sequence of growth possessed characteristics which were distinctly atypical. C. A. Dawson and D. W. Meinig have designed models of regional development comprised of a four-stage sequence—frontier outpost, isolated agricultural settlement, integration of the area with the national economy, and the growth of regional centralization. Development in the Unassigned Lands by and large bypassed the first two stages. The land run and the attendant accelerated rate of settlement in the area was uncommon for most sections of the United States. In addition, the pre-existence of a railroad network in parts of the district and the Cherokee Outlet served to

stabilize the urban structure to a greater degree than for most of the American frontier and provided immediate integration of the towns and their surrounding rural areas into the national economy.

The federal census of 1890 provides a clear indication of the geographic and ethnic origins of those who settled the Unassigned Lands. One year after the opening, the population of the territory totalled 53,822. These pioneers were overwhelmingly--over 90 percent--white, native born citizens of the United States. Those states providing the greatest number of settlers were Kansas (10,048), Missouri (7,421), Texas (5,381), Illinois (5,347), Indiana (4,090), Ohio (3,734), Iowa (3,003), Kentucky (2,895), and Tennessee (2,507). Forty-two percent of the population of the territory came from five Midwestern states, while 21 percent migrated from three upper southern states. This distribution suggests that a Midwestern cultural influence would be most significant during the formative years of the region.

In 1890, 4.4 percent of the population was foreign born. Germans, Irish, English, Canadians, and Bohemians (Czechs) were the most numerous. The land run did not generally allow European ethnic groups to cluster in large groups or in distinct ethnic enclaves as they had in other areas of the United States. A considerable number of Czechs, however, were concentrated in townships in eastern Canadian County and southern Oklahoma County. Nearly all of the foreign born migrants to the region were members of the pre-1880s "Old Immigration" from northern and western Europe. They had resided for a time in the central and western Midwest and came to the territory as part of the Midwestern migration. Many foreign born settlers in Oklahoma had come from Kansas, which contained numerous foreign colonies.

Perhaps black settlers, who comprised 4.6 percent (2,973) of the population of Oklahoma in 1890, possessed more idealistic goals than any other group. Many

were motivated by the desire to establish an all-black society in Oklahoma in response to the repressive measures they experienced in the South when white southerners regained control of their state legislatures after Reconstruction. Oklahoma represented a hope for a better life where former slaves could own their own land and be their own masters. Many promoters of migration to Oklahoma were Kansas blacks, notably those who had organized the Oklahoma Immigration Association in Topeka in 1889; but the most important source of black immigrants was Tennessee. The leading proponent of black settlement in the Unassigned Lands was E. P. McCabe, who later moved to Langston and organized the town as a commercial center for black homesteaders. With a population of approximately 600 in the 1890s, Langston was the only all-black community in the Unassigned Lands that could properly be called a town.

HOMESTEADING IN THE UNASSIGNED LANDS:

Homesteaders who succeeded in obtaining land drove a stake with their name or initials on it and then hurried to locate the corners of the quarter section, which surveying crews in the 1870s had marked with stones or by blazing trees. Next, they began to make rudimentary improvements on their claim by erecting a crude shelter, plowing a furrow, digging a hole to indicate the beginnings of a well, or perhaps pitching a tent. For most homesteaders, these initial measures were all they had time for on the first day. Many others, however, hastened to make application to enter or file for a homestead at the land office in Guthrie or Kingfisher. While the law allowed three months to complete this process, many settlers elected to do so immediately. Although those who hurried to the land offices on those first days found tediously long lines of people waiting to file, they deemed the inconvenience a minor one if they could secure an uncontested claim. Conflicts over claims would have to be resolved by the courts. In addition

to other requirements, the homesteader had to sign an affidavit that he had not violated the law by entering and occupying any portions of lands in Oklahoma prior to the run. After making entry, many settlers returned to their former homes to get their families and personal possessions. They had six months from the date of filing to establish residence and begin visible improvements on their tract. Not all homeseekers obtained land. The unlucky ones returned to their former homes or elsewhere to await another opening.

Before nightfall of the first day, thousands of settlers had staked out farms and prepared to file on their land. A virtually uninhabited region a few hours before, the Unassigned Lands were almost fully claimed and largely occupied. Many settlers were surprised to discover the number and proximity of their neighbors. While it most certainly would be difficult to survive and succeed in the early days, the Oklahoma district would not be a lonely frontier.

The settler's first home was small and crudely built of whatever material was available. In some areas, homesteaders found timber to provide a log cabin. In the prairie regions, they commonly established residence in a tent, a sod house, a dugout, or perhaps a two-room house constructed of rough lumber. They then proceeded to plow their land, plant a crop, build a hay-covered shed for the livestock, and set out a few fruit trees. Most homesteaders' only possessions consisted of a wagon and team, a few farming implements, and a little furniture. Those who might also have a few dollars in cash were considerably better off than their neighbors.

As they received their claims under the Homestead Act, settlers did not have to pay for the land. After five or seven years, they could "prove up," that is, demonstrate that they had met all the requirements to gain possession. In the interim, they were exempt from paying taxes. Before proving up, the homesteader had to publicize his intent to do so in a newspaper. He then went to

the land office with three witnesses who could duly testify that he had maintained continuous residence for the required period. Although many settlers abandoned or relinquished their tracts before proving up, they could not, of course, transfer title. Many settlers who came after the run claimed abandoned land. Frequently, if two or more homesteaders claimed the same property, they were able to resolve the dispute among themselves. Other cases, however, required years to resolve legal rights to claims; some suits eventually reached the nation's highest courts.

By June 30, 1889, nine weeks after the opening, 5,764 homesteads had been filed on 903,962 acres of land in the Oklahoma district. By the end of the next year, nearly all the remainder had been formally claimed. Some individuals who filed on the land failed either to construct buildings or plant crops. They had not intended to farm in the first place, rather they hoped to sell a relinquishment or simply hold their tracts for speculative gain.

Although a few farmers plowed some ground and planted crops in 1889, settlement came too late for much agricultural activity. While some settlers grew a little corn, vegetables, and even a small amount of cotton, most spent their time building a house, digging a well, and breaking ground for the following season. Not only did most settlers not get a crop planted in 1889, a searing drought precluded an adequate harvest in 1890. Thus, for the first two years, Oklahoma homesteaders endured successive seasons without crops or income from their land.

In the face of this disaster, it appeared that thousands of destitute farmers would be forced to abandon their lands. In September, 1890, however, Congress provided $50,000 in relief funds to ease the hardship in the Territory. A Territorial board of relief used the government funds to buy commodities for distribution by boards in the newly organized counties and municipalities. Many proud settlers, humiliated that they had to rely on a government handout, waited

for the cover of night to pick up their commodities. Union veterans also received some aid in the form of quarterly pension checks. Both the recipients and the local merchants eagerly anticipated the small payments, usually eight to twelve dollars. The funds commonly furnished much of the money in many early communities.

The Santa Fe and Rock Island railroads each supplied $10,000 worth of wheat seed at cost to the settlers. They levied no transportation charges and allowed farmers to pay for the wheat after the harvest of 1891. The abundant crops of 1891 gave new life to the farmers. Although production was good from 1891-1893, crops failed again in 1895 as a result of widespread drought. Thus, the faith, mettle, and endurance of the homesteaders was severely tested during their initial years in the district.

Corn and wheat were the principal grain crops in Oklahoma. While almost every farmer raised corn both for food and and livestock feed, wheat was the principal money crop. In 1893 wheat averaged about twenty bushels per acre throughout the territory and reached as high as forty bushels on some farms. Farmers in Oklahoma also produced oats, Kaffir corn, maize, other feed crops, and cotton. In 1899 a Kingfisher newspaper encouraged every Oklahoma farmer to plant some cotton because it was a sure crop and enjoyed a cash market. While there was an overemphasis on wheat planting in parts of the Territory, farmers were well diversified in both crops and livestock from almost the beginning of settlement.

Oklahoma farmers did not have to wait long, if at all, for railroads to connect them with markets in Wichita or Kansas City. The Santa Fe, the Rock Island, and other lines soon extended into the farming regions. Within a few years, large quantities of wheat were transported from grain centers. In 1897, nearly 600,000 bushels of wheat were shipped from Kingfisher alone.

TOWN BUILDING IN THE UNASSIGNED LANDS:

A 160-acre homestead was not the only motive which impelled men and women to rush into the Unassigned Lands. Many were not farmers and had no intention to be. Some desired to establish themselves in a new community as merchants, professionals, laborers, or capitalists and profit from the opportunities which the opening of Oklahoma presented. To some, town lots were more valuable than a homestead. The urban impulse in the new land, therefore, was nearly equally as compelling as was the hunger for land.

Although not completely unique in American frontier experience, a significant characteristic of the settlement of the Unassigned Lands was the creation of "instant" cities and towns. The "boom towns" of Guthrie and Oklahoma City literally sprouted on the prairie on the day of the rush and by nightfall contained an estimated 10-15,000 inhabitants. Railroad towns evolved from stations or locations along the Santa Fe and enjoyed the immediate advantages of transportation and communication facilities. Inland towns, those settlements which had no initial connection to rail lines, were created to serve the needs of the homestead families and in hopes of becoming thriving communities in their own right. The success and durability of these ventures largely depended upon a variety of factors, the most important of which was the success of their efforts to attract the interest of a railroad. And, as Stan Hoig has recently noted, many aspiring communities just "bubbled up" after the run and then collapsed almost as quickly. These "bubble towns" failed for a variety of reasons, usually their inability to secure a railroad connection. In all, thirty townsite applications were made in Guthrie and Kingfisher by the end of June, 1890. During the next decade and a half, scores more would be created, with varying degrees of success.

Specific provisions and omissions in the Act of March 2, 1889, severely complicated urban development in the Unassigned Lands. The law limited townsites to 320 acres, an area totally inadequate for a city of several thousand. Thus, at some sites, two or more adjacent, separate, and competing townsites were platted. In addition, the act opening the Unassigned Lands did not provide an organized territorial government. As a result, there were no corporate authorities at either the city or county level. Federal authorities ordered registers and receivers at the two land offices simply to note the applications for townsites on their records, forward a report, and await further instructions. Although the proposed townsites were ineligible for entry by homesteaders, the federal government would have to secure title to them with future legislation. Such legislation would not be forthcoming until Congress passed the Organic Act some thirteen months later. Initially, therefore, no towns were established "legally," and settlers were unable to acquire legal claim to the lot upon which they proposed to settle. All towns, however, did establish provisional machinery to regulate community activities and generally proved to be effective units of government.

Guthrie and Oklahoma Station were most eagerly sought as townsites. Guthrie, because it had a land office, was located on the Santa Fe, and had the best prospects of becoming the territorial capital, attracted a large number of settlers and competing townsite developers. Life in the new settlement was hectic. In the beginning, tents of all shapes and sizes, most without floors, sheltered homes and businesses alike. As the 320-acre townsite limit was far too restrictive to accommodate all claimants, four adjacent half sections were claimed as separate towns and subdivided into lots. Capitol Hill, East Guthrie, Guthrie, and West Guthrie formed separate charters and passed and enforced

laws. Several months after the passage of the Organic Act, however, residents elected common officials and formed a single city.

Within three months, while several hundred tents were still scattered over the settlement, about 4,000 homes were in various stages of construction. The business district of the now single city expanded rapidly. Tents and wood frame structures gave way to brick and stone buildings, some several stories high. Banks, grocery stores, drugstores, general stores, saloons, pool halls, clothing stores, lumber yards, livery stables, and many other kinds of business establishments were located in the central core of the city. Professionals, insurance brokers, and real estate agents were numerous and offered their services to newcomers. Several subscription schools, small factories, a flour mill, three cotton gins, and an elevator served the city and the surrounding countryside. By 1900, Guthrie boasted of several brick-paved streets, a developing street car system, electricity and running water, nascent police and fire departments, a courthouse, city hall, four newspapers, a library, an opera house, and modern hotels.

Although Oklahoma Station had a smaller population than Guthrie on the first day of the run, it grew with nearly equal rapidity. Its method of settlement and organization were similar to those of Guthrie but more disorderly. Oklahoma Station was destined to be a principal urban center in the territory. It contained the two major ingredients necessary for a frontier settlement--transportation and water. Its location had been a natural place for a railroad station, as the site where the Santa Fe tracks crossed the North Canadian River. On the day of the run, Oklahoma Station already had a depot, a home for the station agent, a post office, a government office building, and the stockade of the stage line that passed through the area. Town promoters, aware of its advantages, rushed to the site with town lots already platted and ready for sale. Although the promoters did

not own the lots and had no legal authority to sell them, most prospective buyers realized that if they did not pay the going rate they would lose out to someone who would.

Adding to the confusion on the day of the run was the fact that two competing town companies attempted to develop the site. The Seminole Land and Improvement Company was surveying and marking streets north of the street named for its leading promoter, Sidney Clarke (the street was later renamed Grand Avenue). The Oklahoma Colony Company also set up a headquarters and named its town South Oklahoma--located south of Grand. Federal regulations made no provision for city lots, streets, or alleys. Fights, lot jumping, illegal sales, sporadic violence, and much confusion attended the proceedings. The two companies' surveys did not match, thereby creating jogs in the area wherever a north-south street crossed Grand. Though conflict between the two groups was vehement and frequently violent, the Seminole group ultimately predominated. By November, a workable compromise had been reached, and conditions became more harmonious. The origins of Oklahoma City and Guthrie, however, do belie claims that the instant cities were created without violence.

A door-to-door canvas in June, 1889, revealed the rapid development of Oklahoma City. Four thousand, one hundred and thirty-eight people lived in the city. In less than two months the city contained 1,603 occupied structures, three water wells, thirty-four grocery stores, twenty-one drug stores, fifteen meat markets, five furniture stores, thirty-seven restaurants, ten hotels, twenty boarding houses, fourteen barber shops, four banks, twenty-nine real estate firms, fifty-three doctors, two dentists, five newspapers, seven ice cream parlors, eleven laundries, six livery stables, and eleven flour and feed stores.

Originally an inland town, Kingfisher, as the site of the western land office, also became the object of interested townsite planners. The crowd of settlers

waiting along the west line included a group who were already familiar with the area and had platted the town of Kingfisher while awaiting the opening. Like other townsite developers, they hoped to make a quick profit by staking and then selling their claim to a business lot. These "westliners" were much closer than the Kansas "northliners." They reached the area around the land office first and had their choice of town lots. The competition for lots was brisk, and in less than an hour after the opening, another town rose on the prairie. As in Guthrie and Oklahoma City, these settlers immediately made improvements with whatever they had available in order to establish their claims. They erected tents, spread out bedding, dug holes to begin wells, or set out stakes.

Kingfisher was also originally a two-town city. The City of Kingfisher occupied the portion of the northern half of one section; the southern half was organized as a separate townsite called Lisbon. The present Roberts Avenue divided the two. On both sides of the dividing line, settlers began the process of transforming the sites into established towns, bouyed by the announcement a short time later that the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad would extend its line south from Caldwell through Kingfisher. The Rock Island tracks reached Kingfisher in October, 1889.

Just as Oklahoma City and Guthrie had attracted many townsite planners because of their location on the Santa Fe Railway, other points at which the Santa Fe had established stations became the focus of much attention on the first day of the run. More modest in their later development and significance, their locations stimulated settlement for the same obvious advantages. Townsite companies--especially the Seminole Town and Improvement Company--had already inspected the sites and had prepared preliminary plats for the most favorable spots. As a result, Alfred Station, Seward, Moore (formerly Verbeck), and Norman attracted early attention. In addition, Orlando, Lawrie, Noble, and Lexington (not directly

on the Santa Fe, but just across the river from Purcell in the Chickasha Nation, which was on the rail line) were established along the Santa Fe with much anticipation. In each area and on a smaller scale, the process of converting the largely barren landscape into settled towns proceeded as it had in other sites. The towns were surveyed and platted, often in consonance with the railroad line rather than with the cardinal directions, lots were distributed, and the process of town building began. Their growth would be less spectacular than that of the boom towns, and their individual successes would vary as well, depending to a large degree upon the fertility and terrain of the surrounding countryside, their other natural advantages and disadvantages, and their ability to compete successfully with other nearby towns.

Sites along the railroad line were not, of course, the only areas developed after the run. The fertile soil of the Unassigned Lands would make the area an important agricultural region, and a variety of inland towns sprang into existence to serve the surrounding agricultural population and in hope of becoming important commercial centers in their own right. Stillwater, an early boomer site sought by Payne and Couch, held a central position in the eastern panhandle of the Unassigned Lands. Nearby Perkins, north of the Cimarron, and Crescent were also attractive sites. Each town would later owe much of its success to the Santa Fe, which extended trunks to connect them with the main line. Hennessey, Union City, and El Reno were also settled early. When the Rock Island built its line along the western edge of the district, Hennessey, Union City, and El Reno, like Kingfisher, reaped the benefits of greater contact with the outside world.

The success of El Reno indicates especially well the role of the railroad in the survival of many early towns. Just inside the Oklahoma district, El Reno possessed the advantages of being both a fertile farming area and a potential railroad crossroads. Before the land rush, the Rock Island, which had surveyed a

route southward across the territory, loomed as a potential giver of life along its course. The railroad company, however, often demanded incentive capital to follow its tentative path. Several other towns were established in the vicinity of El Reno. Two that were more influential in the beginning and that later vied with El Reno for local supremacy were Reno City and Frisco. Reno City originally had a better chance for success as a town because the Rock Island surveyors had already staked through the site. Railroad officials, however, decided to extract from Reno City an additional $10,000 in exchange for which the town would become the railroad center of the area. Because the route was already staked, Reno City residents refused to pay. A delegation from El Reno, however, went to the railroad authorities and persuaded them to make a new survey in exchange for which the railroad was given a number of lots and enough space for a terminal in El Reno. Shortly thereafter Reno City residents found themselves a mile and a half from the new railroad line. Before long, most of the people moved to El Reno, and Reno City died away. The case of El Reno clearly indicates how the railroad could bring life and ultimate prosperity to a new town; the fate of Reno City reflects the failed dreams of many bubble towns.

Like Reno City, and for a variety of reasons, many other bubble towns failed during the early years of settlement. Frisco, Mathewson, Cimarron City, Harrison, and Red Wing are but a few of the scores of failures. Frisco (originally called Veteran City) was located about seven miles north of El Reno on the north bank of the North Canadian River. Several hundred settlers took claims on farms surrounding the townsite. In its short life, Frisco was destined to play a significant part in early Oklahoma history. In July, 1889, it served as the site for the Frisco Convention, called as a counter move to the early effort by Guthrie to become the capital and dominant political center of the new country. Frisco

withered, however, when the Choctaw Railroad built up the south side of the North Canadian rather than the north.

Midway between Guthrie-Fort Reno and Kingfisher-Oklahoma City, the town of Mathewson was founded as a potential junction of the railroads connecting the four cities. When the projected lines failed to become a reality, the Mathewson project failed as well. A number of Guthrie businessmen founded Cimarron City on the north bank of the Cimarron River about twenty miles northeast of Guthrie. The town was planned as a potential wholesale distribution hub for satellite cities in the area. When these hopes failed to materialize, Cimarron City disappeared. Another town called Harrison was platted a few miles north of Edmond on the Santa Fe line. The town was located on a section of land reserved for school use, however, and the developer was forced to abandon his site.

A number of black families settled north of the Cimarron River above Kingfisher, east of present day Dover. They established two black towns, one called Red Wing and another ten miles east on the north side of the Cimarron. Other blacks settled in the vicinity of another bubble town called Wanamaker, north of Lincoln. The land in the area was not the most suitable for farming, but it was hoped that the homesteaders would be able to survive by selling wild game, fence posts, and firewood. By August, 1889, however, the black settlers found the growing season too far advanced and the land too difficult. The families moved to Kingfisher, and the small communities collapsed. Thus a variety of factors would doom many proposed town sites. Nearly fifty small communities established by 1895 in the Unassigned Lands have faded away to become ghost towns or abandoned cemetery plots.

SETTLED LIFE IN THE UNASSIGNED LANDS, 1889-1907:

Regardless of their location, most early settlements in the Unassigned Lands were similar in terms of human activity. As in all frontier environments, self-sufficiency was a salient characteristic of family life. Most settlers made their homes on lots large enough for a garden plot, some fruit trees, a grape arbor, a barn, and a chicken house. In winter, they arose before dawn to feed the stock and milk the cow. They obtained fuel for cooking and heating from a variety of sources, depending upon the part of the area in which they lived. Settlers preferred wood for fuel, but they also burned buffalo or cow chips and sometimes obtained coal mined in Indian Territory. Water was provided by a hand-dug well or cistern on their own property or was transported from the town pump on the town's principal street. Coal oil lamps illuminated the interior of houses. Women baked bread at home, and the family's animals and garden supplied most of the food for meals.

The business district, usually comprised of from four to twelve stores along the main street at first, was the heart of the settlement. Most establishments opened by 7 a.m. and seldom closed before 9 p.m. The first stores were often located in tents, but frame buildings replaced the temporary quarters as soon as possible. As the town prospered, brick, stone, or concrete structures gradually supplanted many of the wooden buildings, and sidewalks often lined the dirt street in front of the stores. A representative town would probably contain a general store that handled a variety of items--groceries, meat, cloth, hardware, lumber, farm machinery, drugs, furniture, and general supplies. Frequently the town's post office occupied one corner of the store, thus providing the proprietor's customers an additional service and boosting his own business. Professionals and businessmen offered and performed a variety of services. Doctors often located their offices in a drug store; the clothing store employed a milliner; the meat market had a

butcher who cut meat to the customer's specifications; the furniture store sold caskets; and the furniture dealer himself perhaps doubled as the town undertaker. As the settlement developed, stores selling specific items or offering specific services usually replaced the multi-purpose establishments. Other common enterprises in the early days of settlement included at least one saloon (the sale of alcoholic beverages was legal in the Territory until statehood) and one or more hotels or boarding houses to serve travelers. A wagon yard, a blacksmith shop, and a grist mill were essential ingredients to any community. As agriculture in the surrounding area developed, an elevator, a cotton gin, or a sawmill, depending upon the location, became integral parts of the local business complex. The forming of a bank and the establishment of a local newspaper, generally a four- or eight-page weekly, added prestige to the town and were clear indications of progress in any settlement.

Saturday, when the farm families visited town, was the most important business day of the week. Farm wives traded their homemade butter, fresh eggs, and other products for goods in the stores. The blacksmith was kept busy shoeing horses and repairing wagons and farm tools. The doctor saw more than his usual number of patients. The editor of the local newspaper circulated to gather news and names for the next edition of his paper. Farmers and townspeople exchanged gossip and discussed and compared weather conditions, crops, land, and prices. By mid-afternoon, however, most farm families returned home, and businesses resumed their normal routine.

Many community activities centered upon the local physician, minister, or teacher. Doctors, by necessity, were general practitioners who were required to treat every sickness. They made house calls at any time of the day or night. Because hospitals were seldom available, operations were rare. Physicians performed necessary surgical procedures on the kitchen table at the patient's

home or in his office. Women bore their children at the family residence. During times of family illness, the minister visited the sick frequently, and women from the church helped in any way possible. When smallpox or some other dread disease struck the community, the doctor and the minister were frequent companions in tending the sick.

Sunday was a day of rest. No stores were open, and nearly everyone went to church. The vast majority of settlers in Oklahoma were protestant, and, at first, there was frequently only one church in a community. It was not unusual to hold religious services in a public building or in the school house until a proper church was built. Although the religious doctrine of different individuals might vary considerably, settlers frequently worshipped at a common service or used the building in shifts to accommodate members of differing religious beliefs. When the number of believers was sufficiently large and as funds were raised, separate churches--usually erected on land donated by a member of the congregation--served the religious needs of a variety of denominations.

Members of a community often created a subscription school shortly after the settlement was organized. As soon as possible, however, they established a school district and elected a school board. A town's first public school was commonly comprised of one room with a single instructor responsible for teaching all subjects in all grades. Frequently, the more advanced students helped the beginners. The school also played a significant role in a community's social life. Readings, plays, and other school presentations were important elements of a town's culture. Literary societies, social clubs, and other groups used the school as a meeting place. Fraternal organizations, which usually met in an upstairs room of the local bank or other business, often gathered in the school building as well. As the settlement grew and enrollment increased, board members employed

additional teachers, enlarged the school house, or constructed more buildings to accommodate the increasing student population.

The economic well being of most early communities depended upon the agricultural activities of the surrounding area. Mechanization on the farm often decreased employment opportunities. A resulting decline in population diminished sales at local stores. With improved roads, farmers could buy and sell in larger places that offered better markets and lower prices. In many small towns, stores closed, doctors moved away, and schools consolidated; frequently, the community declined or ceased to exist.

Political organization for the new settlements was not legally established until May 2, 1890, when President Benjamin Harrison signed into law an act that formally created the Oklahoma Territory. The statute, generally known as the Organic Act, served as the constitution of the Territory for the next seventeen years. The measure defined Oklahoma Territory as comprising all of Indian Territory except the lands of the Five Civilized Tribes, those of the Indian tribes in the Quapaw agency, and the unoccupied portion of the Cherokee Outlet. It did, however, include the Public Land Strip (No Man's Land).

As outlined in the Organic Act, the government of the Territory would consist of a governor, a secretary, an attorney for the United States, and three district judges who constituted a supreme court. All of these officials would be appointed by the president. The Territory would have a bicameral legislature whose members would be chosen by the electorate. The Unassigned Lands area was divided into six counties; the Panhandle region would form a seventh. At first identified only by numbers, the county names were selected by the residents of the counties in elections held for that purpose. The Organic Act designated seven towns as county seats: Guthrie (County No. 1, Logan), Oklahoma City (County No. 2, Oklahoma), Norman (County No. 3, Cleveland), El Reno (County No. 4,

Canadian), Kingfisher (County No. 5, Kingfisher), Stillwater (County No. 6, Payne), and Beaver (County No. 7, Beaver). The people of Oklahoma Territory were entitled to elect a delegate to Congress; the Territorial legislature would establish all other offices. The laws of the state of Nebraska governed Oklahoma Territory until the legislature developed its own body of law. The Territorial Legislature would hold its first session in Guthrie, during which the governor and the legislature would select a seat of government.

The Territory's first governor, George W. Steele, arrived in Guthrie in May 1890; the first legislature met in August. During its initial session, the legislature adopted a complete code of laws, and, after a considerable struggle, designated Guthrie as the territorial capital. Among the other measures enacted during this first legislative session was the location of three territorial schools of higher education and the creation of a system of public instruction providing elementary and high schools for towns and townships. By the end of its first session, the legislature had organized territorial, county, and city offices, enacted a system of taxation, created its first institutions, and passed laws governing commerce, industry, banking, and social control.

Non-Indian settlement in Oklahoma was not restricted to the Unassigned Lands for long. In 1889 the federal government had established a commission to negotiate agreements with Indian tribes--excluding the Five Civilized Tribes--to relinquish claims to their reservation lands. After each man, woman, and child listed on the tribal rolls was given a 160-acre allotment, the rest of the reservation would be declared surplus and purchased by the federal government for general settlement. Between 1891 and 1906, these additional lands were organized into counties under the jurisdiction of Oklahoma Territory. In successive land runs and lotteries, about 13,500,000 more acres of land were

opened to settlers hoping to duplicate the success of the homesteaders and town builders in the Unassigned Lands district.

While many disappointed, unsuccessful, or merely more adventurous types from the Unassigned Lands joined in the scramble for new lands, the later openings had a number of positive effects on the older area. In 1891 about 20,000 persons participated in the land rush on the Sac and Fox, Pottawatomie and Shawnee, and Iowa lands. Parts of this district were added to Payne, Cleveland, and Logan counties, and two new counties—Lincoln and Pottawatomie—were created. In 1892, an estimated 25,000 people made the run for the 3,500,000 acres of surplus land in the Cheyenne and Arapaho Reservation. Portions of this territory were used to enlarge Kingfisher and Canadian counties. Speculators and businessmen in towns in the western section of the Unassigned Lands—Hennessey, Kingfisher, and El Reno—were influential in organizing townsite companies in the newly opened area. In addition, these cities also served as important markets for the products of the farms in the new territory. As there was no railroad in the area west of the Rock Island until 1898, all grain and livestock had to be marketed at stations along this line. These and later openings of the Cherokee Outlet; the Pawnee and Tonkawa reservations; the Kiowa, Comanche, and Apache Reservation; and the Wichita-Caddo Reservation continued the expansion of Oklahoma Territory. The concomitant economic development of the region helped to consolidate the preeminent position of the Unassigned Lands in the Territory.

During the seventeen years before statehood, the population of Oklahoma Territory increased remarkably. In 1890, the Territory contained 61,834 inhabitants. Of that total, 53,822 (87 percent) lived in the six counties carved from the Unassigned Lands. By 1900, the number of residents in the Territory increased to 398,331, with 124,257 (31 percent) living in the original six counties. Nine of the twenty most populous urban communities lay within this region, with

Oklahoma City (10,037) and Guthrie (10,006) by far the largest. The special census of 1907 set the total population at 722,441. Although the physical size of the Oklahoma Territory had expanded nearly 700 percent by this date, 165,162 (23 percent) of its people still resided in the Unassigned Lands area.

Several of the new urban centers had begun to compete for the site of the capital even before the legislature first met in August 1890. Although Guthrie had been designated as the seat of government, throughout the 1890s Oklahoma City and Kingfisher attempted to move the capital to their town. Other principal cities--Norman, Stillwater, and Edmond--had benefitted by judiciously lending their support to the various contestants. As a result, Norman gained the territorial university, Stillwater was assigned the territorial agricultural and mechanical college, and Edmond received the territorial normal school.

The Unassigned Lands, therefore, possessed an unusually high concentration of territorial institutions and became, in fact, the nucleus of Oklahoma Territory and the future state of Oklahoma. Governmental authority resided at Guthrie and, after statehood, at Oklahoma city. All the major territorial institutions were located in the area. The region had the greatest population density and the highest number of large cities. These cities were relatively close together and were effectively linked by the Santa Fe Railroad and later by the Choctaw, Oklahoma and Gulf Railroad. The efforts of the business leaders of Oklahoma City attracted a number of railroads to that city. By 1909, it had access to approximately 80 percent of the railroad stations in the state. This transportation focus stimulated wholesale business, which exercised economic control over much of the Territory. The fact that the Unassigned Lands comprised the first section settled was also significant in establishing its areal dominance. The district became the center for goods and services to later developing areas that surrounded it. This circumstance stimulated capital concentration during a

critical period in the development of the region. For these reasons, the Unassigned Lands can be considered the functional and cultural core of Oklahoma Territory.

MULHALL, LOGAN COUNTY, OKLAHOMA TERRITORY: A CASE STUDY:

The preceding discussion of the opening and settlement of the Unassigned Lands offers a broad perspective on the development of the region between 1889 and 1907. One may gain a clearer insight into that process, however, through the utilization of a case study. The settlement and development of the area in and around Alfred Station (Mulhall) provides a model for what was happening elsewhere in the Unassigned Lands during the period under consideration. Using the foregoing historical context and the following case study, a preservationist may research and identify typical properties in any town or rural setting during the Territorial period.

As prospective settlers gathered at the northern starting line of the great land rush, a small group of men making the run on horseback already had in mind a definite site that they intended to settle. Following the Santa Fe tracks, they would ride directly into the Beaver Valley, about seven miles south. In 1887, when the Santa Fe extended its line into the Unassigned Lands, the company had established one of its "stations" near Beaver Creek. In 1889, the station, called Alfred, after the son of Henry Asp, a member of the railroad's legal staff, contained a boxcar depot, a small section house, a cottage for the section boss, and a water tower. Along the creek, Jim Bryant had built a house, commonly called the "Hotel Alfred," where his wife served meals to travelers.

The men heading the rush of settlers to Alfred were not strangers to the area. The leader of the group, Zack Mulhall, was the assistant livestock agent for the Santa Fe Railroad in the southwest. Since 1887, Mulhall had traveled

extensively through Indian country and Texas, soliciting business from ranchers in the region. He had stopped frequently at Alfred and had been impressed by its abundant water, lush grass, convenient holding spots, and loading pens. He had also established a ranch of his own in the Cherokee Strip and often used the stock pens at Alfred to ship his cattle on the Santa Fe.

As soon as the shots rang out to start the land run, Mulhall and his group raced into the Unassigned Lands. They reached Alfred a few minutes ahead of the train carrying other homeseekers. Mulhall claimed the quarter section just west of the station, near the holding pens and loading chutes. His land already contained a dugout, which was used by cowboys working in the area. Sam Matthews, who before the run had been holding a herd of longhorns at Alfred, selected the quarter section opposite Mulhall on the east side of the station. J. J. Cummings claimed the quarter just north of Matthews. Other members of the group staked their claims on adjoining tracts. Jim Bryant and Al Seeley, who resided in Alfred and had left to join the land run, also took land nearby. Soon after the Mulhall group had staked their claims, a chuckwagon loaded with tents, supplies, and equipment arrived; the men immediately began digging trenches to demonstrate their attempts to make "improvements" in accordance with the Homestead Act. Thus, within a short time, the land that would become the town of Alfred was taken. In the meantime, hundreds of other homesteaders had begun to occupy quarter sections in the surrounding area.

Shortly after they had staked and filed on their claims, the settlers at Alfred resolved to establish a town. Mulhall donated some of the first lots for town use. Sam Matthews and J. J. Cummings, who had initially contemplated creating a townsite of 240 acres along Beaver Creek, each ultimately platted into lots forty acres and relinquished them for a townsite. After platting, lots were distributed to eager, prospective town dwellers and businessmen. The townsite,

laid out to the cardinal directions, stretched eastward from the Santa Fe tracks in regular blocks, 300 feet on each side. Twenty-foot alleys sliced through each block. Broad, 100-foot streets divided the blocks. Lying just east of the tracks, Main Street, the major north-south axis, contained the most coveted business lots. The other north-south and east-west avenues would bear the names of the principal founders and other important leaders of the new town, including Mulhall, Cummings, Matthews, Baty, Bryant, and others. (See maps, pages 48 to 51.)

A number of the settlers who made the run to Alfred had prepared in advance to open places of business. Many brought tents or lumber with them to set up temporary shelters for their merchandise. Others had materials shipped in on the railroad. On the day of the run, many proprietors raised their tents or built crude wooden shanties and immediately began selling groceries, lumber, and flour, serving food and drink in a short order restaurant and saloon, and barbering in a small tent. Within weeks the settlement acquired a newspaper, called the Alfred Monitor, a physician, a drug store, a boarding house, a general store, a hotel, a livery stable, a butcher, and a real estate agent to locate newcomers. As the weeks passed, stable wood-frame structures replaced the tents and shanties. A town well was dug and a pump located at the corner of Main and Baty, the town's principal intersection, lying directly east of the railroad depot.

On May 8, 1889, the citizens of the new town, now formally named Alfred, elected a mayor and four-man town council. In November of that same year, residents adopted the town's first charter. During its initial year of existence, Alfred prospered. The town's newspaper was an unabashed booster of the community, as the following excerpt from an early issue of the Alfred Monitor reveals:

> Alfred, a shining young city situated in the fertile Beaver Valley, Oklahoma, a town surrounded by the richest and most productive land in Oklahoma country . . . About the first of May following the opening of Oklahoma to settlement on April 22, 1889,

> a number of energetic businessmen being so favorably impressed with the natural advantages of the beautiful Beaver Valley, lying along the line of the AT&SF Railroad and Beaver Creek north of the Cimarron River in Oklahoma . . . decided to locate at Alfred, then just a sidetrack and watering station of the Santa Fe RR Company . . . The little company of men mentioned went to work and laid out a town site adjoining the Railroad company on the east and gave it the name of the railway station, Alfred. They then opened up their places of business and were greatly encouraged in the morale they made starting the town by receiving a flattering trade at once. They united their forces in working for the advancement of Alfred and by their united efforts induced businessmen from other parts of the globe to visit our town, and when they got here, they . . . immediately picked out lots, erected buildings, and engaged in business themselves. Thus on the spot where less than a year ago three or four green railroad employees could be found has sprung into existence a life flourishing town of 500 population full of business enterprise. And this is not all, Alfred continued to grow in length and breadth, business and population every day and today can compete with any town between Arkansas City, Kansas, and Purcell as a trading point. And as a trading point it has outstripped the larger and more expansively known towns of Oklahoma. The beautiful little stream, Beaver Creek, takes its course to the townsite on the west side of the railroad and skirted with fine growth of forest timber which abounds with deer, squirrel, and turkey and other small game. And the stream is full of fish of different kinds and thus affording wood for fencing and other building purposes and hunting and fishing for those who like such sports. Alfred is. . . in the heart of the richest and best watered agricultural land to which hundreds of streams and rivulets skirted with fine timber can be seen running in Oklahoma. It commands and receives the trades for eighteen miles east & west and from the Cimarron River 12 miles south to the Cherokee Strip, 6 miles on the north. Thus a stretch of country 18 by 30 miles, rich, fertile and well populated for tributary to Alfred the best and purest water can be obtained at a depth of 15 to 25 ft inexhaustible quantity. . . We . . . extend a cordial invitation to seekers of homes and good business locations to make Alfred the town destined to be the best and most prominent city and railroad center in the great and glorious Oklahoma country.

On April 7, 1890, during the town's first regular election under its new charter, citizens chose Zack Mulhall as mayor. Shortly thereafter a movement developed to change the name of the town from Alfred to Mulhall in honor of the new mayor. On June 6, 1890, the post office was officially designated as Mulhall.

Mulhall early developed into a principal market for agricultural products in the area, prompting businessmen in Guthrie to accuse the Santa Fe of giving

Mulhall special freight rates because of Zack Mulhall's connection with the company. Santa Fe officials promptly and emphatically denied the charges. But the town's location and facilities did make it a convenient market and shipping point for locally produced crops of corn, wheat, cotton, castor beans, fruit, hogs, cattle and poultry.

By 1894, Mulhall enjoyed a thriving economy and offered a full range of goods and services to the settlers in the surrounding area. The town boasted a bank, an elementary school, Methodist and Presbyterian churches, a post office that served as a distributing point for as many as twelve inland post offices, two newspapers, and a print shop. A physician and two drug stores tended to the medical needs of the community. Two hotels and three boarding houses provided rooms for travelers and lodgers. Provisions were available at four general stores, six groceries, two meat markets, a "racket," and a feed and grain store. Settlers in and around Mulhall had access to a wagon yard, a wagon repair shop, two livery stables, three agricultural implement dealers, six blacksmiths, a harness shop, and a machine shop. Mulhall contained two lumber yards, a hardware store, a flour and corn mill, and a grain elevator. Other enterprises included two restaurants, a confectionary, a gunshop, a cobbler, a dressmaker, a furniture store, two barbers, and an undertaker. The town also contained a beer depository, a brewery, and six saloons.

At the turn of the century, additional enterprises had joined the business community and provided settlers with a wider range of entertainment opportunities. The town had a new railroad depot and station and a new cotton gin. Entrepreneurs established new and second-hand clothing stores, a shop producing tinware, two jewelry stores, a photography studio, a paint store, a bicycle repair shop, a broom factory, and a millinery shop. A cheese factory, begun in 1901, served as a market for cream and milk produced by area farmers.

Young and old alike could entertain themselves at the local billiard hall, bowling alley, and skating rink.

By statehood, Mulhall had two additional places of worship--a Catholic church and a Christian church--a new cotton gin, a county cooperative mill and gin. Other enterprises included a book store, a cement business, a fresh milk delivery service, two buggy shops, a plumbing business, and a telephone supply store. Saloon keeping, which had flourished during the town's early years--six saloons in 1894 and three in 1901--did not survive the prohibitionist spirit in the area. In 1901, the famous prohibitionist Carrie Nation visited Mulhall, spoke against the consumption of alcoholic beverages, and warned the saloon keepers that she "would be back." Soon thereafter, the people of Mulhall voted to close down the saloons, thus anticipating the anti-liquor provisions of the state constitution six years later.

A variety of institutions helped bind the settlers of the Mulhall area and provided much needed religious, intellectual, social, and recreational interaction. A group of seventeen settlers organized a Sunday school in early June, 1889. The first formal religious services were held in Zack Mulhall's home, where a priest visited to offer the Roman Catholic Mass. Churches serving Mulhall included the Presbyterian Church (built in 1890), the fine stone Methodist Episcopal Church (1894), the Christian Church (1901), and the small Catholic Church (1901). In addition, in 1901, the Antioch Christian Church was built just southeast of Mulhall.

As in most early settlements, the first educational institution in Mulhall was a subscription school, established in the fall of 1889 by the daughter of a local blacksmith. After the Territory was formally organized in 1890, available funds permitted the building of a one-room public school. This structure was soon replaced by a four-room wood frame building of two stories. This school would

serve the town until after statehood, when a brick building was erected. Because the Mulhall school did not offer classes beyond the elementary level, students seeking additional education had to attend the county high school in Guthrie. Schools also provided instruction for children in the rural areas surrounding Mulhall. County schools operating before statehood included Fairview, Rural School, Oak Dale, Rural Dale, and Pleasant Valley. These schools were usually one-room affairs offering only elementary level instruction.

During the Territorial period, Mulhall was served by a number of local newspapers. In April, 1889, Ed K. Watts founded the Alfred Monitor, a four-page weekly which provided its readers with largely local news and boosted the town and Oklahoma in general. The paper cost subscribers $1.50 per year. In 1890 the Mulhall Chief, of independent political affiliation, supplanted the Monitor. The Mulhall Enterprise was established as an independent newspaper in 1893, but three years later it proclaimed a "new course" by declaring itself as an "independent Free Silver" advocate, echoing the Populists and William Jennings Bryan's demand for the free and unlimited coinage of silver at a ratio of sixteen to one. The four-page weekly maintained a largely independent political position until 1907, when a new editor and publisher announced his support for the Republican Party. By the end of the Territorial period, the Enterprise claimed a readership of 800. Two other papers were published in Mulhall during the years prior to statehood. In 1902 the local postmaster established the short-lived Mulhall Tribune, and in 1903, the State Journal, supporting the Republican Party, was founded. Three years later the editor of the State Journal claimed his paper had a circulation of 600.

A number of fraternal and mutual aid organizations flourished in Mulhall before statehood. The first important group, established in July, 1890, was the Pap Thomas Post No. 11 of the Grand Army of the Republic. Other organizations included the St. John's Masonic Lodge No. 65, the Eastern Star, the International

Order of Odd Fellows, Mulhall Camp No. 7268 of Modern Woodmen of American, Mistletoe Lodge No. 21 of the Knights of Pythias, and the Royal Neighbors.

Residents of Mulhall enjoyed a wide array of social activities. The school provided readings, plays, and recitations. Churches and community clubs sponsored picnics and national holiday celebrations. A large building constructed to store cotton bales was used as a dance hall in the off season. Commonly known as the "Wigwam," the building also served as a center for large gatherings and community meetings. In 1900 the superintendent of schools organized the Mulhall town band. The following year the band marched in the inaugural parade of President Theodore Roosevelt, a personal friend of Zack Mulhall.

The town's fire protection, a clear concern in Oklahoma's wind-swept plains towns comprised largely of wood frame buildings, was less well organized. Mulhall lacked a fire engine, hose truck, and hook and ladder. In case of a fire, the community depended upon the efforts of volunteers, who were summoned to action by the ringing of bells or the firing of pistol shots. Several wells downtown and those on private property provided water in case of such an emergency.

While the development of a townsite at Mulhall was priority for a number of settlers and prospective businessmen, the major attraction for those who made the run was the opportunity to secure a homestead. Homesteaders in the Mulhall area were mainly northliners who streamed into the region on horseback, in wagons or buggies, or on the Santa Fe to claim tracts in the countryside surrounding the depot. On the day of the run, settlers staked most of the good land around the station and initiated at least some "improvements."

Typically, homesteaders in the Mulhall area had made the run into the Unassigned Lands after having tried their luck in the East or Midwest, most commonly in Kansas. Many had purchased or homesteaded farms in Kansas during the 1870s but went broke or became discouraged during the agricultural crisis

there. When they received word that the Oklahoma district had been opened to settlement, they took their positions along the north line, frequently leaving their wives and children camped in the Cherokee Strip. Fathers and sons, brothers, and other relatives waited together in hope of acquiring adjoining or neighboring tracts.

Reaching the Mulhall area, they selected land with a good source of water, sufficient timber for firewood, and grass for pasture. After staking a claim, they built a shelter--often a dugout--near a source of water and hastened to Guthrie to file on their claim. In Guthrie they paid the fourteen dollar filing fee and signed affidavits attesting that they had not entered or occupied land in the Oklahoma district prior to opening. Other affidavits declared the claimants' civil status and nationality and affirmed that settlement was for actual residence and cultivation.

After staking and filing, homesteaders with families retrieved their wives and children and returned to the claim. They replaced the temporary shelter with a small, one-room farm house as soon as possible. Later, the house would be enlarged with another room or two and perhaps a porch. Over the years, increasingly substantial frame houses would provide more comfortable quarters, especially for the usually large farm families. The abundance of sandstone and other native rock also provided materials for a more substantial home place.

In the first weeks on the land, the homesteaders would dig a well and begin to clear and prepare at least a portion of their quarter section for planting. As in most other areas, the typical crops in the Mulhall region included corn, wheat, oats, and Kaffir corn; the main money crops were cotton and Castor beans. Settlers also planted a variety of fruit trees, including apple, peach, apricot, and mulberry. These, along with blackberry, grape, and gooseberry plants would later provide all the fruit the family would need. In addition, they built hotbeds to raise cabbage, tomato, and sweet potato plants. Most settlers would also have at least

one cow, some chickens, and perhaps a few cattle and pigs. Like other settlers throughout the Unassigned Lands, the late first crop and the droughts in the early 1890s caused severe hardship for homesteaders in the Mulhall area, but the vast majority weathered the trying times. In 1895 and 1896 most claimants had completed residency requirements; they ran notices in the Mulhall newspaper stating their intention to file final proof in support of their claim, made the required affidavit in Guthrie, and received their final patents.

Homesteading required a hardy self-sufficiency, and everyone in the family had a variety of responsibilities. The men and boys operated and maintained the farming and stock operations. Women also had a demanding myriad of tasks. They had primary responsiblity for running the household and caring for the children and frequently helped with the farm work as well. Women made the family bread, produced lye soap from ashes, raised hops from which they obtained yeast for baking, and separated cream and churned butter from the milk of the family cow. They raised chickens that provided fresh eggs and, frequently, Sunday dinner as well. They made clothes for themselves and the children and knitted stockings, mittens, and sweaters for winter. Women made apple, peach, and grape butter, which was stored in the celler for a winter supply. Frequently they made grape wine as well. Women saved scraps of cloth and rags, tore them into strips, and later wove carpets for the floors. As farm families raised almost any food they needed, coffee, sugar, salt, pepper, and cloth were about the only items on the family's household shopping list, which they filled during periodic visits to town.

Children also had many duties on the farm. They soon became seasoned farm hands as they learned to improve the land, raise crops, tend livestock, and perform a wide variety of maintenance jobs. Children also helped get additional food by fishing and hunting quail, rabbits, and other small game. In addition, they

often trapped opposum, skunks, and racoons, and cured and sold the skins for extra cash. After 1890, children in the rural areas could attend one of the country schools or perhaps go to school in Mulhall if they lived close enough to town.

Some homesteaders not only farmed but also engaged in other economic pursuits as well. A few owned businesses or rental property in Mulhall. One homesteader was appointed postmaster, another established a cheese factory, while another operated a small broom factory. Others engaged in selling cattle, farm commodities, and real estate.

An examination of a nine square mile area just southeast of Mulhall (a tract including sections 1-3 and 10-15) provides some insight into patterns of settlement and property holding in the area. Members of the same family frequently occupied adjoining or nearby tracts. Three members of the Wood family held adjacent quarter sections; two members each of the Blakesley and Anthis families also homesteaded together. A study of the region also reveals that two-thirds of the homesteaders received final patents in 1895 and 1896. During the interim they were not required to pay taxes, from which they were exempt for up to seven years after filing their claim. This area also demonstrates little concentration of land ownership prior to statehood, as only two settlers owned more than one quarter section (each owned two tracts).

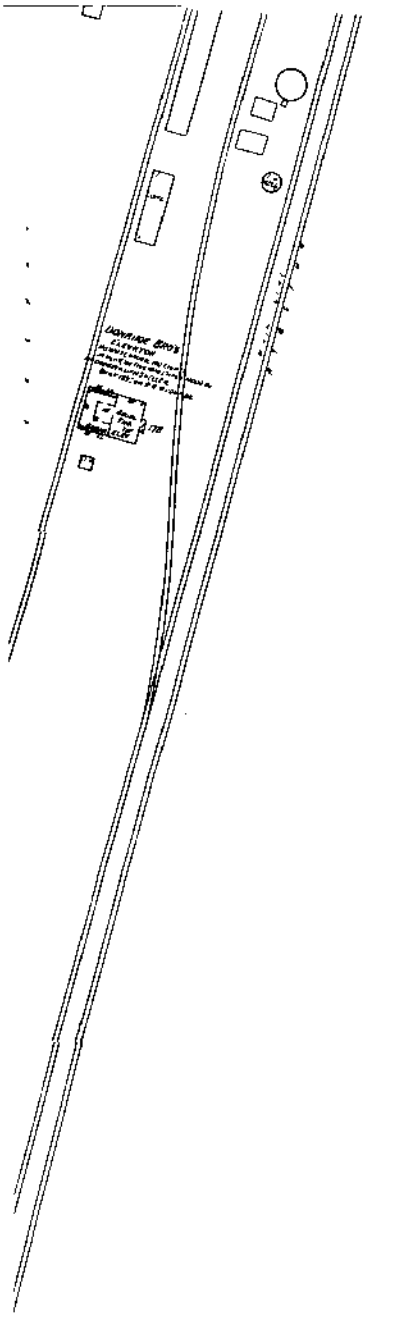
Between 1889 and 1907, fifty percent of the properties remained in the hands of the original homesteaders or their families. Records indicate, however, that the properties were mortgaged frequently. Land prices were good during Territorial days. Two quarter sections sold for $2,700 and $2,300 in 1892 and 1893, respectively. Between 1901 and 1907, land values rose consistently. During that period, land sold for an average of $3,150 a quarter, with a low of $2,000 (in 1901) and a high of $4,500.

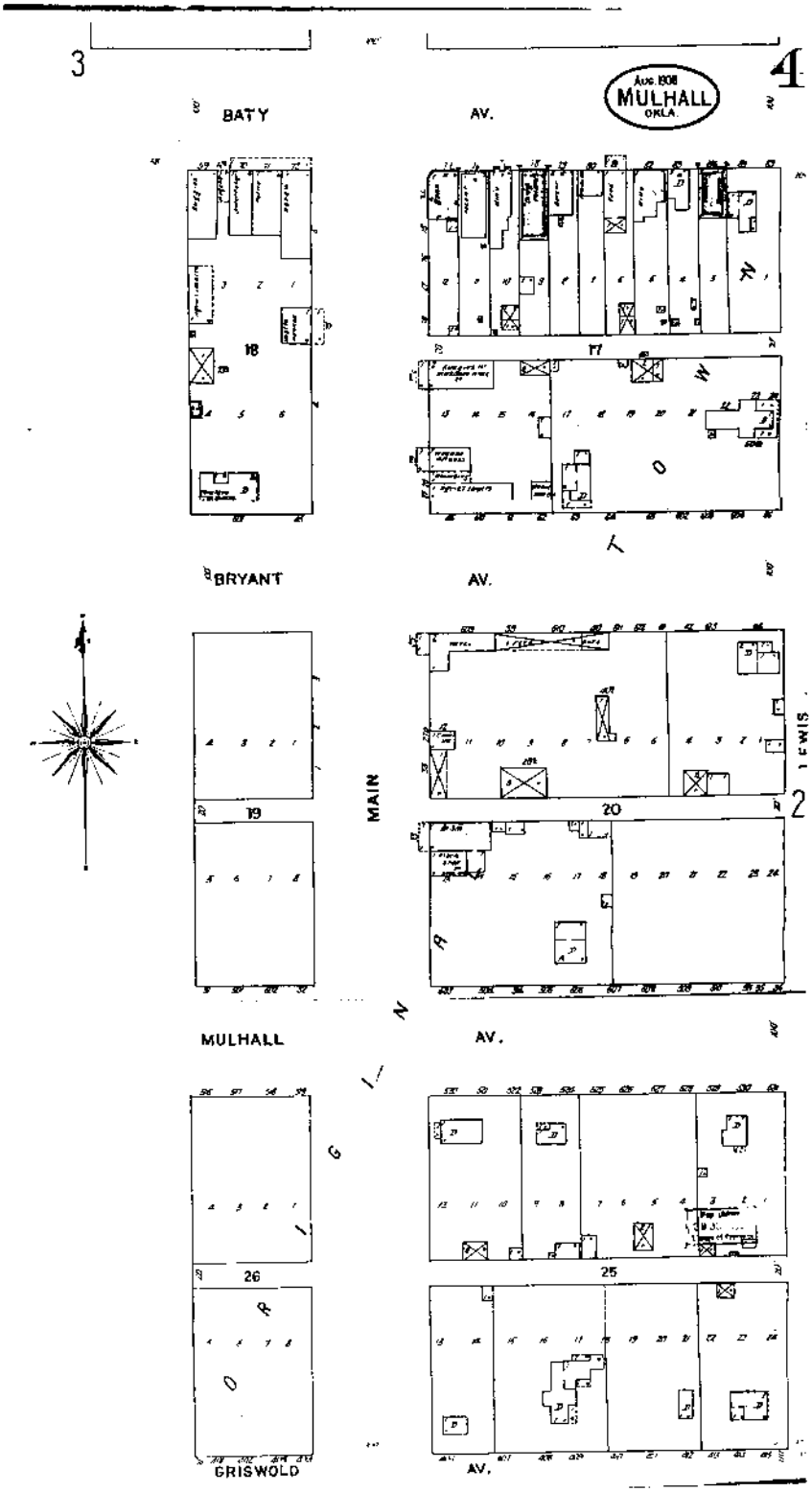
Throughout the Territorial period, Mulhall provided a network of economically and socially cohesive relationships uniting the townspeople and the surrounding farming families. Though the streets were unpaved and the town lacked public lighting, it proudly claimed a prosperous and diversified business community and good schools. Its farming hinterland produced a variety of staple and cash crops. Mulhall's location provided easy access to the Santa Fe Railroad, as well as to the Western Union telegraph system, telephone service, and Wells Fargo express service--all providing contact and linkage to the Territory and the nation.

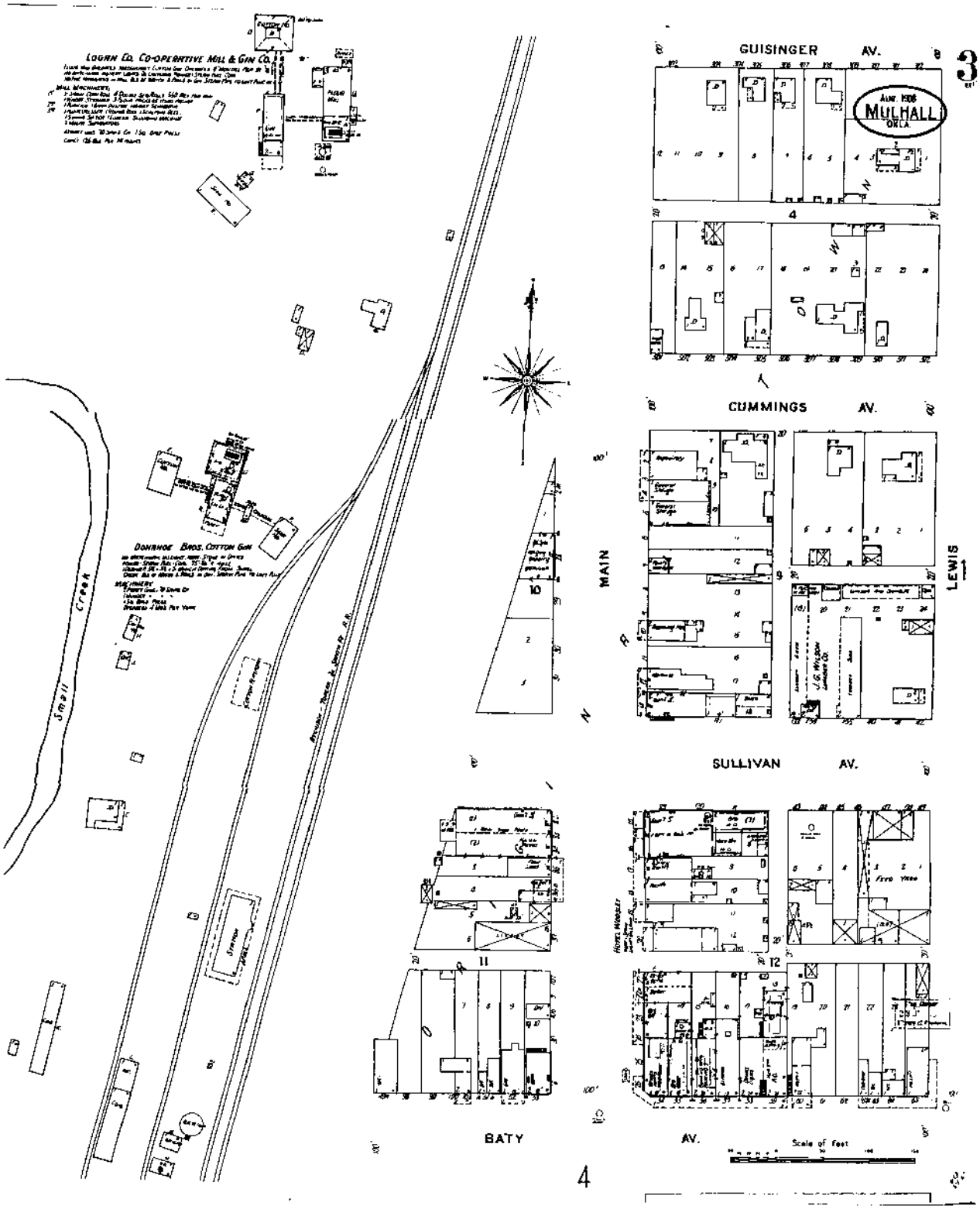
The population of Mulhall was relatively stable throughout the last decade of the nineteenth century. Although there are no official figures because the town was not formally incorporated at the time of the national census of 1890, contemporaries claimed that 500 people lived in the town. By 1900, Mulhall contained 564 residents, while another 764 resided in Mulhall Township. Of the five incorporated towns existing in Logan County in 1900, Mulhall ranked second to Guthrie in population. By the time of statehood, however, the population of the town declined to 443; another 747 lived in Mulhall Township. The community ranked third among the county's eight incorporated towns, trailing Guthrie and Crescent, which claimed 715 residents. The town's population stabilized during the next few years, registering 441 inhabitants in the federal census of 1910. Mulhall, however, had slipped to fourth place among the county's eleven towns, behind Guthrie, Crescent, and Marshall. During the next decades, Mulhall's population would continue to register a gradual but clear decline. With the exception of 1940, the town would never again surpass 400 inhabitants. By 1970, only 250 residents remained in Mulhall.

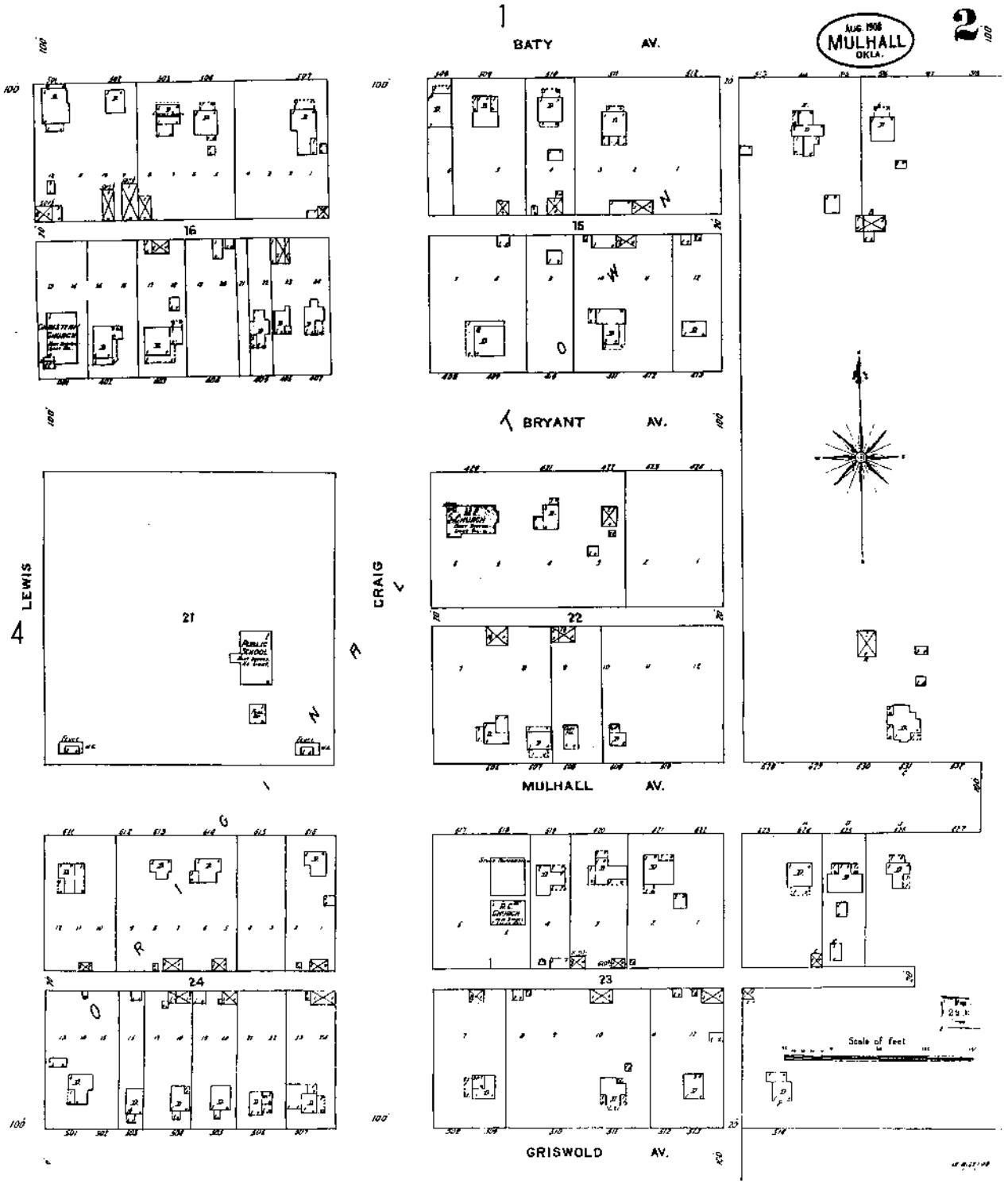
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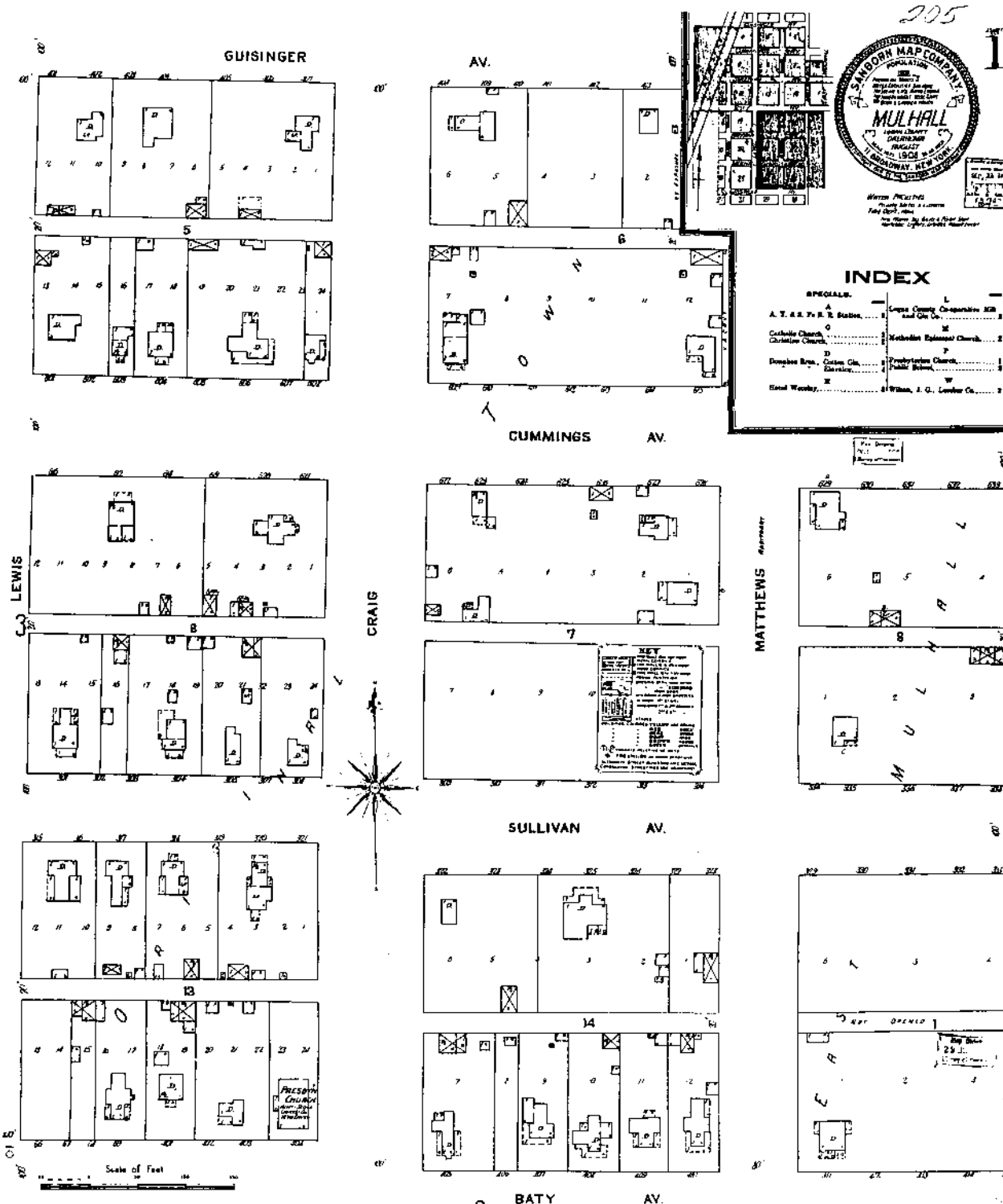
Oklahoma Territory was largely comprised of small towns surrounded by hundreds of rural farming units. Townspeople and homesteaders alike were economically and socially interdependent. Because Mulhall never expanded greatly or drastically rebuilt after 1907, it has retained many of the physical characteristics of the early days of settlement. A proportionally large number of commercial buildings and family residences constructed during Territorial days remain relatively unchanged. Only one farmstead, however, has been documented from the area under consideration. Few of the original farm structures remain. Fire, elements, or neglect have deteriorated them beyond usability, or they have been so altered as to lose their architectural integrity. In recent years, a sense of pride in the town's history has stimulated residents of Mulhall to celebrate their heritage, and they have made renewed efforts to preserve it.


Scale of Feet


3
4
Aug. 1908
MULHALL
OKLA.
BATY
AV.
18
17
BRYANT
AV.
19
20
MAIN
LEWIS
MULHALL
AV.
26
25
GRISWOLD
AV.


LOGAN CO. CO-OPERATIVE MILL & GIN CO.
DONAHOE BROS. COTTON GIN
Small Creek
GUISINGER AV.
CUMMINGS AV.
SULLIVAN AV.
BATY
MAIN
LEWIS
MULHALL
OKLA.
Scale of Feet
3
4


1
2
BATY AV.
Aug. 1908
MULHALL
OKLA.
16
15
BRYANT AV.
4
LEWIS
CRAIG
21
22
MULHALL AV.
24
23
GRISWOLD AV.
Scale of feet



Maps 1, 2, 3, and 4
From the Western History Collections
University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma

PROPERTIES RECORDED AT THE NATIONAL REGISTER LEVEL OF DOCUMENTATION

Elliott House

Location: 118 Main St., Mulhall, Oklahoma 040, Logan County 083

Classification: building; private ownership; public acquisition--N/A; occupied; unrestricted access; present use--private residence.

Owner: Darrell Graef, P.O. Box 244, Mulhall, OK 73063

Location of Legal Description: Logan County Courthouse, Guthrie, OK 73044

Description: Condition: good; unaltered; original site

The Elliott House was built in 1906. It is constructed of concrete blocks, the only house in Mulhall made from this material. The house is two stories in height; the first story is built of concrete blocks; the half-story is wooden. The front porch stretches across the entire east side of the house; four concrete pillars support the roof over the porch. A chimney is located in the center of the roof. Pent roofs extend on three sides. The Elliott House is in completely original condition on both the exterior and the interior. The residence was constructed with an indoor bathroom, an unusual feature for the period.

Significance: 1906; builder/architect: Diehl Betz/unknown

The Elliott House is significant because it represents a residence dating from the territorial period in rural central Oklahoma. The original owner was J. C. Elliott, part owner of Mulhall's Beaver Valley Hardware Store and one of the town's most successful businessmen. He hired a Kansan, Diehl Betz, to construct the house. Betz mixed and poured the concrete on the site; he later attempted to establish a cement business in Mulhall, but failed. The Elliott House is located on the site of the old Carey-Lombard Lumber and Hardware Company, one of Mulhall's earliest businesses.

Major Bibliographical References:

Craven, Stella. Interview. Mulhall, Oklahoma. March 1985.
Graef, Mrs. Darrell. Interview. Mulhall, Oklahoma. December 1984.
Nelson, Mildred. Interview. Mulhall, Oklahoma. March 1985.

Acreage: less than 1 acre

Quadrangle: Mulhall, OK 1:24,000

UTM: 14 643420 3992010

Verbal Boundary Description: the south half of Lots 4, 5, and 6, Block 18, original town of Mulhall.

Kincaid Home/Warren Home

Location: 316 Mulhall, Mulhall, Oklahoma 040, Logan County 083

Classification: building; private ownership; public acquisition—N/A; occupied; unrestricted access; present use--private residence.

Owner: Ray Ditch, c/o Cecil Ditch, 2227 Rolla, Joplin, MO 64801

Location of Legal Description: Logan County Courthouse, Guthrie, OK 73044

Description: Condition: good; altered; original site

The Kincaid Home was built circa 1893. It is a one-story frame building with large attic and a gabled hipped roof. A small porch was added on the southwest (rear) corner sometime between 1895 and 1898. After 1908 this porch was extended eastward and enclosed. Asbestos siding now covers the exterior.

Significance: circa 1893; builder/architect: unknown

The Kincaid Home is significant because it represents an early home of Oklahoma's territorial period. It was built in the early 1890s, probably about 1893, shortly after settlement of the region in the 1889 land run. The house originally belonged to Winniefred L. Kincaid, member of a prominent pioneer family. For much of the territorial period the house was the property of the Wilson family, also important in Mulhall's early history. After Oklahoma statehood, the property belonged for years to Grover Warren, long active in the community.

Major Bibliographical References:

McNeil, Mrs. Fred. Interview. Mulhall, Oklahoma. March 1985.
Logan County Courthouse records. Guthrie, Oklahoma.

Acreage: less than 1 acre

Quadrangle: Mulhall, OK 1:24,000

UTM: 14 643750 3991820

Verbal Boundary Description: Lot 2, Block 23, original town of Mulhall.

Cummings Home/Kincaid Home

Location: 109 Cummings, Mulhall, Oklahoma 040, Logan County 083

Classification: building; private ownership; public acquisition--N/A; occupied; unrestricted access; present use--private residence.

Owner: Faye Ryan, 109 Cummings, Mulhall, OK 73063

Location of Legal Description: Logan County Courthouse, Guthrie, OK 73044

Description: Condition: excellent; altered; original site

The Cummings Home was built in the early 1890s. It is a one-story wood frame building with a large attic and gabled roof. The north-facing gable contains an attractive fan-shaped motif, resembling the rays of the setting sun. The front porch and main entrance are located on the north side. The roof over the porch is supported by carved wooden posts. There is no back porch and no chimney. The house has not been altered on the exterior since construction except for a covering of asbestos siding.

Significance: circa 1893; builder/architect: unknown

The Cummings home is significant because it represents one of the earliest small-town residences constructed in central Oklahoma. It was built in the early 1890s, very shortly after the land run of 1889 that settled Mulhall and central Oklahoma. The original owner was Emma R. Cummings, a member of one of the pioneer families of Mulhall. The property changed hands on several occasions before coming into the hands of the Kincaid family, long-time bankers in the community.

Major Bibliographical References:

Stansbery, Mr. and Mrs. Max. Interview. Mulhall, Oklahoma. December 1984.
Logan County Courthouse records. Guthrie, Oklahoma.
Guthrie Daily Leader, April 22, 1985.

Acreage: less than 1 acre

Quadrangle: Mulhall, OK 1:24,000

UTM: 14 643450 3992310

Verbal Boundary Description: The eastern half of Lots 7, 8, and 9, Block 9, original town of Mulhall.

Blakeney Home/Perry Henry House

Location: 210 Baty, Mulhall, OK 73063

Classification: building; private ownership; public acquisition--N/A; unoccupied; unrestricted access; present use--vacant.

Owner: Gary McNeil, East Highway 152, Mustang, OK 73064

Location of Legal Description: Logan County Courthouse, Guthrie, OK 73044

Description: Condition: fair; altered; original site

The Blakeney Home was built circa 1893. It is a two-story frame building with center gable on the south (front) and a catslide on the north (rear). The front porch is covered by a roof supported by turned wooden posts. The entire exterior is covered by asbestos siding, but the siding is so old that it has peeled away in places, exposing the original wooden boards. The only other change to the exterior of the house was the addition of a small room to the northeast corner of the catslide; this alteration was made sometime between 1898 and 1901. Since the end of the territorial period the house has not been changed on the exterior.

Significance: ca. 1893; builder/architect: unknown

The Blakeney Home is significant because it represents a small-town residence of the territorial period in central Oklahoma. The house was constructed in about 1893 by Nettie C. Blakeney. Before 1907 the property changed hands on several occasions. After Oklahoma became a state the house came into the possession of Perry Henry, owner of the local feed store, who resided there for many years. The house is vacant at present.

Major Bibliographical References:

Craven, Stella. Interview. Mulhall, Oklahoma. March 1985.
McNeil, Mrs. Fred. Interview. Mulhall, Oklahoma. March 1985.

Acreage: less than 1 acre

Quadrangle: Mulhall, OK 1:24,000

UTM: 14 643620 3992570

Verbal Boundary Description: Lots 18 and 19, Block 13, original town of Mulhall.

Gray-Compton Home

Location: 222 S. Lewis, Mulhall, Oklahoma 040, Logan County 083

Classification: building; private ownership; public acquisition--N/A; occupied; unrestricted access; present use--private residence.

Owner: Sonny Burgess, 110 Griswold, Mulhall, OK 73063

Location of Legal Description: Logan County Courthouse, Guthrie, OK 73044

Description: Condition: poor; altered; original site

The Gray-Compton Home was built circa 1893. It is a one-story native stone house with frame additions. The original building contained three rooms and was built of stone quarried near the town of Mulhall. In the late 1890s a small frame room was added at the rear of the house, on the southwest corner. After the end of the territorial period a second frame room was added on the west end, at the rear of the house.

Significance: circa 1893; builder/architect: unknown

The Gray-Compton Home is significant because it represents an early residence in central Oklahoma. For much of the territorial period it was the residence of "Grandma" Gray and Mrs. Compton, two well-known local personalities of the time.

Major Bibliographical References:

Craven, Stella. Interview. Mulhall, Oklahoma. March 1985.

Acreage: less than 1 acre

Quadrangle: Mulhall, OK 1:24,000

UTM: 14 643550 3991760

Verbal Boundary Description: The south half of Lots 22, 23, and 24, Block 25, original town of Mulhall.

Moritz Home

Location: 204 Sullivan, Mulhall, Oklahoma 040, Logan County 083

Classification: building; private ownership; public acquisition--N/A; occupied; unrestricted access; present use--private residence.

Owner: Stella Craven, 210 Bryant, Mulhall, OK 73063

Location of Legal Description: Logan County Courthouse, Guthrie, OK 73044

Description: Condition: excellent; altered; on original site

The Moritz Home was built in 1900. It is a one-story frame building with a large attic and a pyramid-style roof. A small front porch, its ceiling supported by four turned posts, is located on the south side. After the end of the territorial period, probably in the 1930s, a carport was built at the rear (north side); this was later enclosed into two rooms. This section is covered with asbestos siding.

Significance: 1900; builder/architect: unknown

The Moritz Home is significant because it represents a small-town residence of the territorial period in central Oklahoma. It was built in 1900 by Anna Knipe. She sold it in 1905 to Bernard Carl Moritz, a German immigrant who had settled in the Mulhall area in 1890. Moritz farmed on a quarter section southeast of Mulhall but chose to live in town, as did many farmers in the area.

Major Bibliographical References:

Craven, Stella. Interview. Mulhall, Oklahoma. March 1985.

Acreage: less than 1 acre

Quadrangle: Mulhall, OK 1:24,000

UTM: 14 643520 3992250

Verbal Boundary Description: Lots 13, 14, 15, Block 8, original town of Mulhall.

Miller Home

Location: 204 Bryant, Mulhall, Oklahoma 040, Logan County 083

Classification: building; private ownership; public acquisition--N/A; occupied; unrestricted access; present use--private residence.

Owner: Stella Craven, 210 Bryant, Mulhall, OK 73063

Location of Legal Description: Logan County Courthouse, Guthrie, OK 73044

Description: Condition: excellent; altered; original site

The Miller Home was built in the early 1890s. It is a one-story frame building surmounted by a pyramid-style roof. A veranda runs along the south side and most of the east side, covered by a ceiling supported by wooden pillars. The house fronts on the east side. The house was originally square in shape, probably with only two or three rooms. Between 1898 and 1901 a room was added on the north (back) side. By 1908 a small room had been added on the northeast corner and the present porches placed on the south and east sides. The present owner's father (Jake Diehl) purchased the house in 1938 and built a room and a bathroom on the north side. Asbestos siding covers the most recent addition.

Significance: circa 1893; builder/architect: unknown

The Miller Home is signficant because it represents a small-town home of the territorial period in central Oklahoma. It was constructed in the early 1890s by Moses Miller.

Major Bibliographical References:

Craven, Stella. Interview. Mulhall, Oklahoma. March 1985.
Logan County Courthouse records, Guthrie, Oklahoma.

Acreage: less than 1 acre

Quadrangle: Mulhall, OK 1:24,000

UTM: 14 643620 3992020

Verbal Boundary Description: Lots 15 and 16, Block 16, original town of Mulhall.

Woosley Home

Location: 210 Bryant, Mulhall, Oklahoma 040, Logan County 083

Classification: building; private ownership; public acquisition--N/A; occupied; unrestricted access; present use--private residence.

Owner: Stella Craven, 210 Bryant, Mulhall, OK 73063

Location of Legal Description: Logan County Courthouse, Guthrie, OK 73044

Description: Condition: excellent; altered; original site

The Woosley Home was built in 1895. It is a one-and-a-half story frame building with an open front porch on the south side and a screened-in porch at the southeast corner. Two gabled dormer windows are located on the second floor, one on the south and one on the north sides. A single interior chimney is visible in the center of the roof. Two major alterations have been made to the house. In the 1930s a bathroom was added on the east side. In the 1920s the rooms on the second floor were built in the old attic and the dormer windows added on the front and rear sides. Asbestos siding covers the exterior walls.

Significance: 1895; builder/architect: unknown

The Woosley Home is significant because it represents a small-town home of the territorial period in central Oklahoma. It was built in 1895 by David Van Aken. In 1901 Van Aken sold the house to Bessie R. Kelly, later the wife of Thomas Woosley, the town postmaster and publisher of the Mulhall State Journal.

Major Bibliographical References:

Craven, Stella. Interview. Mulhall, Oklahoma. March 1985.
Logan County Courthouse records, Guthrie, Oklahoma.

Acreage: less than 1 acre

Quadrangle: Mulhall, OK 1:24,000

UTM: 14 643660 3992020

Verbal Boundary Description: Lots 17 and 18, Block 16, original town of Mulhall.

Herbert Farmstead House/Cunningham Farmhouse

Location: Route 2, Box 107, vicinity of Mulhall, Oklahoma 040, Logan County 083

Classification: building; private ownership; public acquisition--N/A; occupied; unrestricted access; present use--private residence.

Owner: Gary Cunningham, Route 2, Box 107, Mulhall, OK 73063

Location of Legal Description: Logan County Courthouse, Guthrie, OK 73044

Description: Condition: good; altered; original site

The Herbert Farmstead house was constructed in 1903 from native stone quarried near the site. The two-story home is essentially in its original conditon; the only alteration to the exterior is to the enclosed porch on the northwest side (rear) of the house. The present owners rebuilt this porch in the early 1980s because the deteriorated state of the wood in the original porch made it unsafe. The enclosed porch on the southwest corner remains unchanged. The floors of both porches are of the original concrete construction. The wooden floors on the interior are also original, though the plaster walls are now covered with sheet rock. A basement lies under the kitchen at the west end (rear) of the house. The exterior walls are 20 inches thick, typical for stone houses of the period. An unusual feature of the residence is the fact that the date of construction is etched in a framed stone located above the second-story window on the east (front) side. All outbuildings are of recent construction and are not included in the nomination.

Significance: 1903; builder/architect: Albert and Ben Hyde/unknown

The Herbert Farmstead is significant because it represents an early farm home in central Oklahoma. The house was built in 1903 by Eugene A. Herbert, a farmer who homesteaded the quarter section on which the house sits in the land run of 1889. Much of the actual work of construction was done by Albert and Ben Hyde, Herbert's stepchildren.

Major Bibliographical References:

Cunningham, Gary. Interview. Mulhall, Oklahoma. November 1984.

Acreage: less than 1 acre

Quadrangle: Mulhall, OK 1:24,000

UTM: 14 645020 3990240

Verbal Boundary Description: SE/4 Sec. 10, T 18N, R 2W. From the intersection of Main and Baty streets in downtown Mulhall proceed one-half mile south on Main, then turn

east (left) on the paved section line road. Go east on this road for one mile, then turn south (right) on the gravel section line road. Follow this for four-sevenths of a mile, then turn west (right) and follow the gravel driveway for one hundred feet to the north-east corner of the house; this is the point of beginning. From this point go fifty feet west, turn ninety degrees and go forty feet south, turn ninety degrees and go fifty feet east, turn ninety degrees and go forty feet north to the point of beginning.

Spangler Home/Methodist Parsonage

Location: 308 Bryant, Mulhall, Oklahoma 040, Logan County 083

Classification: building; private ownership; public acquisition—N/A; occupied; unrestricted access; present use--private residence.

Owner: Board of Trustees of the Methodist Church, Mulhall, OK 73063

Location of Legal Description: Logan County Courthouse, Guthrie, OK 73044

Description: Condition: good; unaltered; original site

The Spangler Home was built between 1898 and 1901. It is a one-and-a-half story frame building with four gables, one on each side of the house. A veranda runs along the west and north sides. Asbestos siding shingles cover the exterior walls.

Significance: circa 1898-1901; builder/architect: unknown

The Spangler Home is significant because it represents a small-town home of the territorial period in central Oklahoma. It was constructed between 1898 and 1901 by Charles W. Spangler, a local businessman. He sold the house to the Methodist Church, located in the next block south, in 1919. Since that time the building has served as the Methodist parsonage, the residence of Mulhall's Methodist ministers. The church at present rents the house to a local family.

Major Bibliographical References:

Craven, Stella. Interview. Mulhall, Oklahoma. March 1985.
Holmes, Helen F., ed. Logan County History, 1889-1977. 2 vols. Guthrie: The History Committee, Logan County Extension Homemakers Council, 1978.
Hunnicut, Charles and Mary. Interview. Mulhall, Oklahoma. December 1984.

Acreage: less than 1 acre

Quadrangle: 1:24,000 Mulhall, OK

UTM: 14 643740 3992020

Verbal Boundary Description: Lots 7 and 8, Block 15, original town of Mulhall.

Mulhall Methodist Episcopal Church

THIS PROPERTY IS ALREADY LISTED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER--SEE ORIGINAL NOMINATION FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION

Location: Mulhall, Oklahoma 040, Logan County 083

Classification: building; private ownership; public acquisition--N/A; occupied; unrestricted access; present use--religious.

Owner: Board of Trustees of the Methodist Church, Mulhall, OK 73063

Location of Legal Description: Logan County Courthouse, Guthrie, OK 73044

Description: Condition: excellent; altered; original site

The Mulhall Methodist Episcopal Church was built in 1894. The church is constructed of native red sandstone quarried from a hill west of town. The roof is gabled on the east, west, and south sides; beneath each gable is a round stained-glass window. Long, narrow stained-glass windows run along the north, south, and west walls, each window surmounted by a pointed (gothic) arch. A steeple is located at the northwest corner. The upper portions of the steeple (spire) and the end gables are constructed of wood frame. In 1961 an annex of classrooms and a kitchen was added on the east side.

Significance: 1894; builder/architect: unknown

The Mulhall Methodist Episcopal Church is significant because it represents the religious activities of settlers during the territorial period. The first Methodist Sunday School met in Mulhall on June 2, 1889, when the town was still Alfred. Methodists formally organized the church on June 17, 1889. The present building was constructed entirely by local labor in 1894 for the then large sum of $3,000. The building is still used as a place of worship by local Methodists.

Major Bibliographical References:

Craven, Stella. Interview. Mulhall, Oklahoma. March 1985.
Holmes, Helen F., ed. Logan County History, 1889-1977. 2 vols. Guthrie: The History Committee, Logan County Extension Homemakers Council, 1978.

Verbal Boundary Description: Lots 5 and 6, Block 22, original town of Mulhall.

Mulhall State Bank

Location: 101 E. Baty, Mulhall, Oklahoma 040, Logan County 083

Classification: building; private ownership; public acquisition--N/A; occupied; unrestricted access; present use--commercial.

Owner: Michael and Jo Watters, Mulhall, OK 73063

Location of Legal Description: Logan County Courthouse, Guthrie, OK 73044

Description: Condition: good; altered; original site

The Mulhall State Bank building was constructed in the early 1890s. It is a long, narrow, single-story building constructed of native stone quarried in the nearby hills. It fronts on the north, although the front entrance is on the northwest corner. Construction began in 1984 on additional rooms at the rear of the building, where the present owners intend to make their home. The north elevation has a six-pane clerestory with fixed display windows below. Two of the display windows are replacements. The northwest entry has an arched transom with recessed pane. The west elevation has one double door entry and one small fixed window.

Significance: circa 1893; builder/architect: unknown

The Mulhall State Bank is significant because it represents commercial and financial interests of Oklahomans in the territorial period. It was built in the early 1890s when it was a grocery store and later a clothing store. In 1905 it became the Mulhall State Bank. This bank was founded in 1901 by Philip Strothman and R. M. Kincaid. Kincaid bought out his partner in 1905. Members of Kincaid's own family served as the bank's employees, a commmon feature of rural banks in the period.

Major Bibliographical References:

Stansbery, Mr. and Mrs. Max. Interview. Mulhall, Oklahoma. December 1984.

Acreage: less than 1 acre

Quadrangle: Mulhall, OK 1:24,000

UTM: 14 643450 3992080

Verbal Boundary Description: The northern one-third of Lot 12, Block 17, original town of Mulhall.

Corner Drugstore

Location: 102 E. Baty, Mulhall, Oklahoma 040, Logan County 083

Classification: building; private ownership; public acquisition--N/A; unoccupied; unrestricted access; present use--vacant.

Owner: Jim Rogers, Security Center of Oklahoma, Guthrie, OK 73044

Location of Legal Description: Logan County Courthouse, Guthrie, OK 73044

Description: Condition: poor; unaltered; original site

The Mulhall Corner Drugstore is a one-story brick commercial building constructed in 1897. The building fronts on the south, although the main door is located on the southwest corner. The south entry is recessed and flanked by display windows. Rooms on the north end of the building, once a doctor's office, open through double doors onto the west side of the building. A decorative brick frieze runs along the top of the building. The roof is flat.

Significance: 1897; builder/architect: unknown

The Corner Drugstore is significant because it represents the commercial and business life of Oklahomans during the territorial period. It was built in 1897 by William Rawlings. During the period the south two-thirds of the building was occupied by the drugstore, operated by W. M. Hatfield, M.D. At approximately the turn of the century the northern one-third was a billiard hall, but by the middle of the century's first decade Hatfield had opened a doctor's office in those rooms.

Major Bibliographical References:

Kimberling, Mary. Interview. Mulhall, Oklahoma. March 1985.

Acreage: less than 1 acre

Quadrangle: Mulhall, OK 1:24,000

UTM: 14 643460 3992120

Verbal Boundary Description: The south two-thirds of Lot 13, Block 12, original town of Mulhall.

Grocery Store

Location: 104 E. Baty, Mulhall, Oklahoma 040, Logan County 083

Classification: building; private ownership; public acquisition--N/A; occupied; unrestricted access; present use--commercial.

Owner: Max Stansbery, 107 E. Baty, Mulhall, OK 73063

Location of Legal Description: Logan County Courthouse, Guthrie, OK 73044

Description: Condition: good; unaltered; original site

This grocery store was built in 1897. It is a long, narrow, single-story brick-front building, and shares a common wall with the Corner Drugstore. It fronts on the south; the main door is slightly recessed into the building and display windows are located on either side of the entry. The open east wall is of rough-cut sandstone, stucco covered. The flat entablature has a row of decorative stepped brick trim. The building is unchanged from its original condition.

Significance: 1897; builder/architect: unknown

This grocery store was built in 1897 by William Rawlings simultaneously with the construction of the Corner Drugstore. During the territorial period it was first a general store and later a grocery.

Major Bibliographical References:

Stansbery, Mr. and Mrs. Max. Interview. Mulhall, Oklahoma. December 1984.

Acreage: less than 1 acre

Quadrangle: Mulhall, OK 1:24,000

UTM: 14 643480 3992120

Verbal Boundary Description: The south half of Lot 14, Block 12, original town of Mulhall.

Drug/Paint Store

Location: 107 E. Baty, Mulhall, Oklahoma 040, Logan County 083

Classification: building; private ownership; public acquisition--N/A; occupied; unrestricted access; present use--commercial.

Owner: Max Stansbery, 107 E. Baty, Mulhall, OK 73063

Location of Legal Description: Logan County Courthouse, Guthrie, OK 73044

Description: Condition: good; altered; original site

This drug and paint store in Mulhall was built in the early 1890s. It is constructed of native stone. The front elevation stone is dressed and coursed; however, the single exposed side elevation is rubble stone. The large, wood-framed display windows, clerestory, and recessed entry are original.

Significance: circa 1893; builder/architect: unknown

The drug and paint store in Mulhall is significant because it represents the commercial and business life of Oklahomans during the territorial period. It was constructed in the early 1890s by David McConnehy. It served as a drugstore throughout the territorial period, and by the time of statehood also sold paints.

Major Bibliographical References:

Stansbery, Mr. and Mrs. Max. Interview. Mulhall, Oklahoma. December 1984.

Acreage: less than 1 acre

Quadrangle: Mulhall, OK 1:24,000

UTM: 14 643480 3992080

Verbal Boundary Description: The north half of Lot 9, Block 17, original town of Mulhall

Printing Shop/American Legion Hall

Location: 119 E. Baty, Mulhall, Oklahoma 040, Logan County 083

Classification: building; private ownership; public acquisition--N/A; occupied; unrestricted access; present use--American Legion Hall.

Owner: American Legion Post #100, Mulhall, OK 73063

Location of Legal Description: Logan County Courthouse, Guthrie, OK 73044

Description: Condition: fair; unaltered; original site

This printing shop (now the local American Legion Hall) was built in the 1890s. It is constructed of native stone and is one story in height. The stone of the front elevation is dressed and coursed. The east wall is stucco covered and the rear elevation is rubble stone with a later concrete block addition. The front has a double-door entry with flanking double-hung wood-framed windows. Entry and windows have round arched transoms. The building is narrow and rectangular in shape, with a flat roof.

Significance: circa 1893; builder/architect: unknown

This printing shop is significant because it represents the commercial and business life of Oklahomans during the territorial period. It was built in the early 1890s. In 1894 it served as a saloon; the next year it was a grocery and bakery. By 1898 it had become a printing shop, which it remained for the rest of the territorial period.

Major Bibliographical References:

Craven, Stella. Interview. Mulhall, Oklahoma. March 1985.
Stansbery, Mr. and Mrs. Max. Interview. Mulhall, Oklahoma. December 1984.

Acreage: less than 1 acre

Quadrangle: Mulhall, OK 1:24,000

UTM: 14 643550 3992080

Verbal Boundary Description: Lot 3, Block 17, original town of Mulhall.

Commercial Building

Location: 103 and 105 Main St., Mulhall, Oklahoma 040, Logan County 083

Classification: building; private ownership; public acquisition--N/A; unoccupied; unrestricted access; present use--vacant.

Owner: Jim Rogers, Security Center of Oklahoma, Guthrie, OK 73044

Location of Legal Description: Logan County Courthouse, Guthrie, OK 73044

Description: Condition: poor; unaltered; original site

This commercial building was constructed circa 1900. It is essentially square in shape and is constructed of native stone. The front elevation stone is coursed masonry, whereas the exposed north elevation is rubble stone. The building fronts on the west and originally housed two separate businesses, divided by an interior wooden partition. Thus on the west side there are two sets of double, wood-framed doors, each with windows for display on either side. The building has a flat roof. The building is unchanged from its original condition.

Significance: circa 1900; builder/architect: unknown

The stone commercial building is significant because it represents the economic and business life of the people of central Oklahoma during the territorial period. It originally housed a butcher shop and bank; by the time of statehood it contained a combination drugstore and bookstore on one side, and a barbershop on the other.

Major Bibliographical Reference:

Kimberling, Mary. Interview. Mulhall, Oklahoma. March 1985.

Acreage: less than 1 acre

Quadrangle: Mulhall, OK 1:24,000

UTM: 14 643460 3992160

Verbal Boundary Descriptions: The northern one-third of Lots 13 and 14, Block 12, original town of Mulhall.

Oklahoma State Bank

THIS PROPERTY IS ALREADY LISTED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER--SEE ORIGINAL NOMINATION FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION.

Location: 102 W. Baty, Mulhall, Oklahoma 040, Logan County 083

Classification: building; private ownership; public acquisition--N/A; unoccupied; unrestricted access; present use--vacant.

Owner: Jim Patterson and Holman Trust, Oklahoma State Bank, Mulhall, OK 73063

Location of Legal Description: Logan County Courthouse, Guthrie, OK 73044

Description: Condition: excellent; unaltered; original site

The Oklahoma State Bank building was constructed circa 1893. It is a two-story native stone building with round arches over each window and door and an ornate metal frieze surmounting the second floor on the east and south sides. The main door is located at the southeast corner of the building. The exterior is entirely unaltered.

Significance: circa 1893; builder/architect: unknown

The Oklahoma State Bank building is significant because it represents one of the earliest financial institutions in Mulhall and central Oklahoma. The bank was founded as the Bank of Mulhall in 1892 by Daniel C. Dwinnell and his partners, John and Ed Donahoe, owners of the town cotton gin. The bank operated under several names: Bank of Mulhall (1893-1899), Citizens Bank of Mulhall (1899-1908), First National Bank (1908-1911), and Oklahoma State Bank (1911 to present). For most of the territorial period a jewelry store operated by F. F. Ball occupied rooms at the rear (north side) of the building. Ball also performed watch and clock repair. This bank building is now vacant. Since 1982 the Oklahoma State Bank has been located in a new brick building one block north of this structure.

Major Bibliographical References:

Stansbery, Mr. and Mrs. Interview. Mulhall, Oklahoma. December 1984.
Logan County Courthouse records, Guthrie, Oklahoma.
The Guthrie Daily Leader, April 22, 1985.

Acreage: less than 1 acre

Quadrangle: Mulhall, OK 1:24,000

Verbal Boundary Description: The south half of Lot 10, Block 11, original town of Mulhall.

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