

GUTHRIE HISTORIC DISTRICT

Roughly bounded by Oklahoma Avenue on the north, Broad Street on the east, Harrison Avenue on the south, and the railroad tracks on the west, includes 301 Harrison Street

Guthrie

Logan County

Oklahoma

HALS OK-48

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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPES SURVEY

National Park Service

U.S. Department of the Interior

1849 C Street NW

Washington, DC 20240-0001

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GUTHRIE HISTORIC DISTRICT

HALS NO. OK-48

Location: Roughly bounded by Oklahoma Avenue on the north, Broad Street on the east, Harrison Avenue on the south, and the railroad tracks on the west, includes 301 Harrison Street

Guthrie, Logan County, Oklahoma

Lat: 35.878042 Long: 97.425342 (Intersection of Oklahoma Avenue and Division Street, Google Earth, Simple Cylindrical Projection, WGS84)

Significance: Guthrie was the territorial capital of Oklahoma from 1890 to 1907 and then the first state capital from 1907 to 1910. Situated on over 1,400 acres, Guthrie Historic District is the largest contiguous Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places. The district is also listed as a National Historic Landmark. Today, the Downtown Historic Preservation District retains a high degree of integrity and showcases an excellent collection of small town commercial architecture built in the decades immediately prior to and after the turn of the twentieth century. There are sixty-eight contributing and forty-three noncontributing resources in the district.

Description: The Guthrie Historic District includes the commercial core of the city. The district includes four complete blocks and parts of ten others, in addition to one building, the Logan County Courthouse, located outside the boundaries.

The city of Guthrie was laid out in a grid pattern following the cardinal directions. The grid included 300' by 300' blocks and alleyways. This layout is unique to Oklahoma, because it was methodically planned unlike other 'boom towns' of its time period. The road system uses Oklahoma Avenue as an axis from the railroad depot to the historic Oklahoma State Capitol site. The district has two main east-west streets, Oklahoma and Harrison Avenues, and the most prominent buildings face these streets.

The homogeneity of the buildings includes brick made from Oklahoma's red clay, sheet metal, and locally quarried sandstone. The harmonious streets are lined with buildings sharing similar materials, heights, and scale. A small downtown park exists and many local street are lined with mature oak trees. The district site is rather level with only slight changes in elevation. The west end of the district is met with a densely forested green space with a steep slope leading the eye upward and providing a contrasting backdrop to the red brick.

History: The period of significance began in 1889, the year of the first Oklahoma Land Run and the founding of Guthrie. With the Organic Act of 1890, Guthrie was designated the capital of Oklahoma territory. In 1907, Oklahoma achieved

statehood and Guthrie became the territorial capital. The capital was moved to Oklahoma City in 1910 and the town fell into decline, resulting in little change of the Guthrie commercial area.

The contributing buildings were constructed between the years 1889 and 1910 with the distinct architectural design of Belgium-born architect, Joseph Foucort. They are notable for their detail such as minarets, towers, arched windows, oriel windows, and stone finials. Architectural styles includes Victorian, Italianate, Romanesque, late-19th and early-20th century revivals, Beaux-Arts, classic revival, late 19th and 20th century American movements, and commercial styles.

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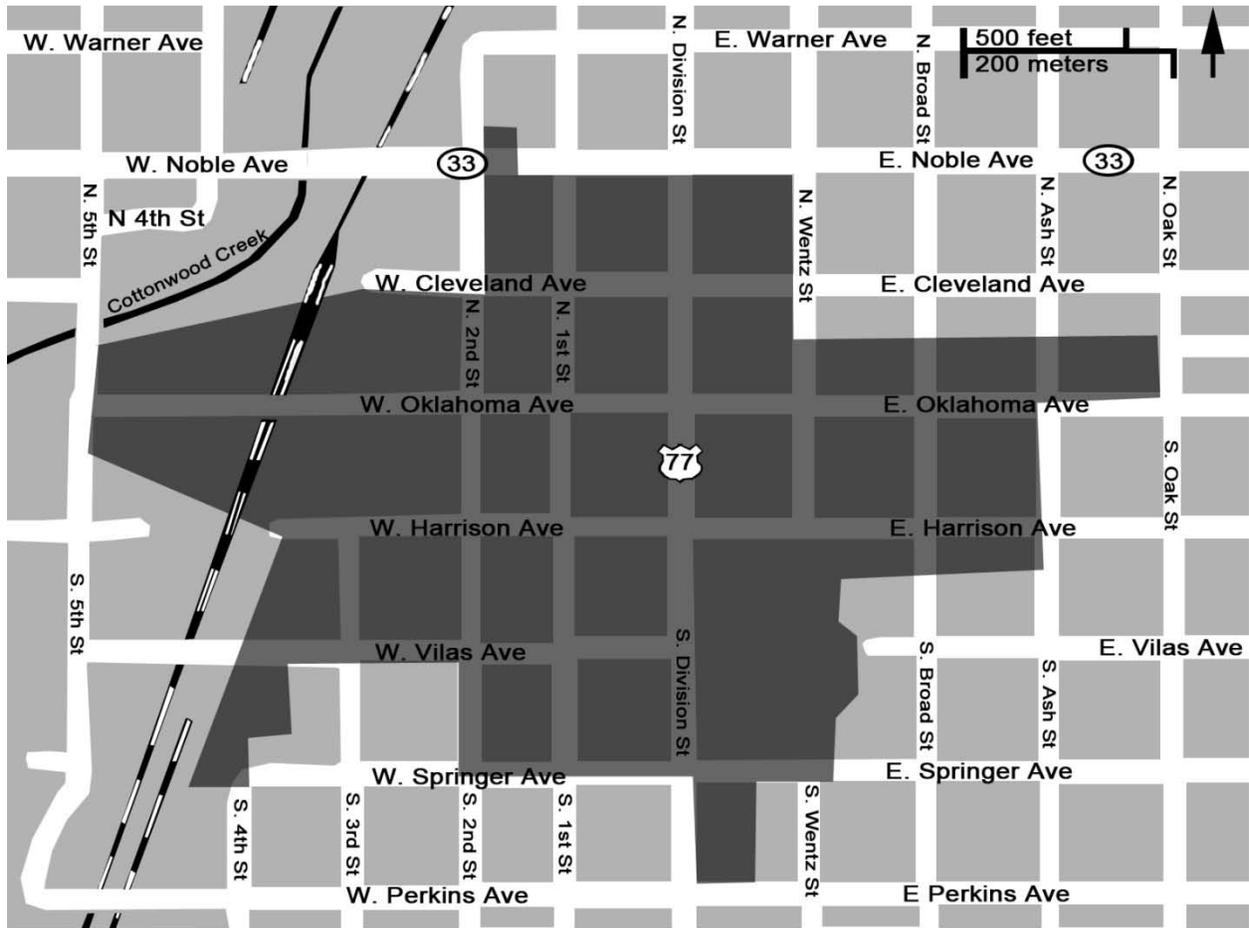
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Historian:

Forrest Hunt, May 5, 2011

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Map of Guthrie Historic District (Forrest Hunt, May 2011).



Downtown street in Guthrie Historic District (Forrest Hunt, April 17, 2011).