476

(Oct. 1990)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

removed from the National Register

other (explain):



THE OCCUPANT OF THE OCCUPANT OCCUPANT OF THE OCCUPANT OCCUPANT OCCUPANT OCCUPANT OCCUPANT OCCU
1. NAME OF PROPERTY
HISTORIC NAME: Central Roanoke Historic District OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER: N/A
2. LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER: 100 and 200 blocks of North Oak Street CITY OR TOWN: Roanoke STATE: Texas CODE: TX COUNTY: Denton CODE: 121 NOT FOR PUBLICATION: N/A VICINITY: N/A ZIP CODE: 76262
3. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this (x_nomination) (request for determination of eligibility) meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property (x_meets) (_does not meet) the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be eonsidered significant (_nationally) (_statewide) (_x_locally). (_See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
4-15-2008
Signature of certifying official Date
State Historic Preservation Officer, Texas Historical Commission State or Federal agency and bureau
The state of the s
In my opinion, the propertymeetsdoes not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Signature of commenting or other official Date
State or Federal agency and bureau
4. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION
I hereby certify that this property is: entered in the National Register See continuation sheet determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet determined not eligible for the National Register

5. CLASSIFICATION

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY: Private

CATEGORY OF PROPERTY: District

NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY:

CONTRIBUTING	Noncontributing	
7	3	BUILDINGS
0	0	SITES
0	1	STRUCTURES
0	0	OBJECTS
7	4	TOTAL

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 1 (Continental Bank Building)

NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING: N/A

6. FUNCTION OR USE

HISTORIC FUNCTIONS: COMMERCE/ Business, Restaurant, Specialty Store, Professional/Financial, Hotel

GOVERNMENT/Post Office

CURRENT FUNCTIONS: COMMERCE/ Business, Restaurant, Specialty Store, Professional

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: Late Victorian: Romanesque Revival

Late 19th-Early 20th Century American Movements: Commercial Style

MATERIALS: FOUNDATION: Concrete, Wood

WALLS: Brick, Stone, Metal, Weatherboard

ROOF: Asphalt, Metal

OTHER

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (see continuation sheets 7-5 through 7-7).

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

APPLICABLE	NATIONAL.	RECISTER	CRITERIA
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- X A PROPERTY IS ASSOCIATED WITH EVENTS THAT HAVE MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE BROAD PATTERNS OF OUR HISTORY.
 - **B** Property is associated with the lives of Persons Significant in our past.
- X C PROPERTY EMBODIES THE DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF A TYPE, PERIOD, OR METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION OR REPRESENTS THE WORK OF A MASTER, OR POSSESSES HIGH ARTISTIC VALUE, OR REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT AND DISTINGUISHABLE ENTITY WHOSE COMPONENTS LACK INDIVIDUAL DISTINCTION.
- **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS: N/A

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Commerce, Architecture

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: c.1886-1958

SIGNIFICANT DATES: 1933

SIGNIFICANT PERSON: N/A

CULTURAL AFFILIATION: N/A

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: unknown

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (see continuation sheets 8-8 through 8-17).

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

BIBLIOGRAPHY (see continuation sheet 9-18 through 9-21).

PREVIOUS DOCUMENTATION ON FILE (NPS): N/A

- _ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- X previously listed in the National Register (Continental State Bank Building)
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

PRIMARY LOCATION OF ADDITIONAL DATA:

- x State historic preservation office (Texas Historical Commission)
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository:

NPS Form 10-900-a

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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Central Roanoke Historic District Roanoke, Denton County, Texas

The Central Roanoke Historic District is located in southern Denton County, Texas. The district is linear, oriented northwest to northeast along Oak Street, the main street through the community from Rusk Street to Main Street. The district encompasses the extant commercial properties that served the community, business owners, area ranchers and farmers. It is also representative of small town commercial growth in North Central Texas. The community of Roanoke is located in North Central Texas in Denton County at the intersection of U.S. Highway 377 and State Highway 114. The district has eleven structures, eight are contributing and three are non-contributing. The majority of resources retain integrity of design, location, materials, workmanship and feeling from the district's period of significance.

Description

The Central Roanoke Historic District is located in southern Denton County at the intersection of State Highways 377 and 114. The district is linear, oriented northwest to northeast along Oak Street, the main street through the community from Rusk Street to Main Street. It encompasses extant commercial structures that typify the growth and development of a small rural community from the late 1880s to the 1950s. Adjacent to and running parallel to Oak Street is the Texas and Pacific Railroad line. The town of Roanoke is a direct result of the Texas and Pacific line that was built between Denton and Fort Worth. The town was founded and platted in 1881 by the railroad. The layout of the town is a grid pattern that is parallel to the railroad tracks. The lot sizes vary and are laid out in a peculiar manner. Typically, lots are laid out perpendicular to the street however the lots on the west side of Oak Street are laid out parallel to the street. This block has an alley that divides it mid-block. These lots do not face Oak Street but the side streets of Main and Rusk Streets. Later, these lots were re-platted to face Oak Street, and in some cases the very small lots were combined and sold as one lot. On the east side of Oak the lots are laid out in a more traditional manner, perpendicular to the street.

Commercial Buildings One-Part Commercial Building or Block

The majority of commercial buildings are one story brick structures dating from 1908 to 1945. Richard Longstreth defines one part commercial buildings or block has having only a single story which is treated in the same manner as the lower area of the two part commercial building or block. This type of structure or block developed during the mid-19th century and was common in most cities and towns. These buildings were utilitarian in nature, catering to the demand for goods and services. Most of these buildings have the same essential design of plate glass windows (in which to display merchandise) and an entry door. Decorative elements on the cornices or parapets were often very simple. In Roanoke, this building type was used for general merchandise stores. On the whole, they are one story brick structures with a center door (sometimes wide or double), wide plate glass windows and simple embellishment at the parapet These buildings include: 200 N. Oak, and 106 N. Oak.

Another one-part commercial building is the Continental State Bank (NR 1986). However, as Longstreth points out, the banks were usually more embellished than the typical commercial one part building or block.² The bank was constructed in 1906 to serve the prosperous ranches and farmers in the area. It is a one-story, tan brick building with a flat roof. It has a simple corbeled brick parapet and decorative false chimneys at each corner. The building has a corner door although it

² Longstreth, Richard. P.58

¹ Longstreth, Richard. Buildings of Main Street. Washington, D.C.: National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1987, pp.54-55.

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Central Roanoke Historic District Roanoke, Denton County, Texas

The Central Roanoke Historic District is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion A for its association with the development and commercial history of the small rural community of Roanoke, Texas. The district was the center of community life in the small town and developed as a commercial center for this prosperous ranching region between Fort Worth and Denton, serving as a major shipping point for the large cattle ranches of southern Denton County. The town was platted in 1881 as part of the expansion of the Texas and Pacific Railway through North Central Texas but was not incorporated until 1933. Roanoke replaced two earlier settlements, Elizabethtown and Green or Garden Valley. The district is linear, oriented northwest to northeast along Oak Street, the main street through the community between Rusk and Main Streets. The Central Roanoke Historic District encompasses the extant commercial structures that served the community, business owners, area ranchers and farmers. It is also representative of small town commercial growth in North Central Texas. The community of Roanoke is located in North Central Texas in Denton County at the intersection of U.S. Highway 377 and State Highway 114. The downtown area was the site of many community gatherings including medicine shows in the 1920s and regular "Trade Days" that continued into the 1950s.

The district is also eligible at a local level of significance under Criterion C for its collection of early 20th century small town commercial architecture. One building, the Continental Bank, is on the National Register of Historic Places.⁷ The period of significance is from 1886 to 1958, corresponding to the date of the earliest extant building and recognizes the importance of the commercial center to the surrounding agricultural region.

Early History of the Roanoke Area

Present-day Roanoke is situated in what was part of the Peters Colony land grant. William S. Peters received a land grant from the state of Texas in 1841. The company was called the Texian Land and Immigration Company but known as Peters Colony. Most of the settlers were from the Upper South. Peters sent his agents to Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas and Missouri. Many of the people who settled in this part of what became Denton County were German and Swedish. The farming in the county was subsistent due to a lack of transportation options.

The area was first settled around 1847 by Charles and Louis Medlin and their families. Their settlement was located northeast of present day Roanoke on Denton Creek and called Medlin Center. The community's name was later changed to Green Valley (or Garden Valley). The town was moved closer to what is now Roanoke due to the continually flooding of Denton Creek.

Although the area was settled in 1847, the town of Roanoke was not established until 1881 when the Texas and Pacific Railroad came through and founded the community to serve as a major shipping point for the cattle ranches in the vicinity. Local historians believe the town was named by one of the railroad surveyors who came from Roanoke, Virginia. The

⁶ Emrich, Ron. National Register of Historic Places Continental Bank Building, Roanoke, Texas, 1986, p.3)

⁷ Emrich, Ron

⁸ Handbook of Texas Online, s.v."http://tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/DD/hcd6.html (accessed November 27, 2006.

⁹ Cowling, Mary Jo. Geography of Denton. Dallas: Banks Upshaw and Company, 1936, p.1.

¹⁰ Cowling, Mary Jo, p.42.

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Central Roanoke Historic District Roanoke, Denton County, Texas

railroads had a profound effect on the establishment of new towns and the economic growth of existing and these new towns.

The Railroad and Its Impact

In North Central Texas, before the railroads, there was no other viable transportation system other than over land. Stage coaches and wagons could be unreliable and dangerous. Driving cattle long distances often meant more expense and less profit. This was due to the loss of cattle on the long drives as well as the need to constantly find grazing areas to keep the weight on the cattle. Long distances also meant that more cowboys were needed for longer periods of time for the drives. Again, this meant a lower profit margin for the ranchers. The advent of the railroad greatly improved the ability of ranchers and farmers to transport their good to markets, locally, regionally and nationally.

It must also be remembered that the railroads often followed the established overland mail and stage routes. And, that they practiced what was tantamount to legal blackmail. The railroads would solicit money and land to pass through a community. If the community did not raise the money requested by the railroad or donate right-of-way, then the railroad would lay its track next to a more willing community. Or, they would establish a new community leaving the people and businesses of the existing town no choice but to move to the new town by the railroad or suffer economically.

The Texas and Pacific survey from Fort Worth to Sherman followed the mail and stage routes through Pilot Point, Toll Town (located five miles from present day Roanoke) and Denton. But the route was changed at Pilot Point to come south and west to Denton missing Toll Town into the newly platted (by the railroad) town of Roanoke. The Texas and Pacific had 33.9 miles of track in Denton County from Roanoke to Pilot Point for which the state paid 718 sections or approximately 459,520 acres. This is equal to about 4/5 the area of the county. The Constitution of 1876 repealed the land subsidies given to railroad companies. 12

As stated above, communities quickly learned the importance and impact of the railroad. In Denton County, towns not situated on the railroad line would not grow and often would experience decline, vanishing from the landscape. Towns including Elizabethtown, Green Valley, Toll Town and Stony disappeared; Bolivar remained a small town. The residents and businesses of the nearby communities of Elizabethtown and Green Valley understood that access to the railroad and, hence, to local and regional markets would dictate the economic growth of a community. These communities eventually moved to Roanoke. Elizabethtown had a blacksmith, church, saloon and the post office but these all relocated to Roanoke when the T & P missed them by three miles.

Roanoke is located almost equidistance between Fort Worth and Denton. Also, the area had large ranches, with several thousand head of cattle, including the Sam Reynolds Ranch that had 8,000 fenced acres for grazing. Obviously, the ranchers would need to get their cattle to market. The combination of these factors, site and an important "client" base i.e. the ranchers, probably led to the railroad's choice of location for the town. And, with the advent of the railroad, large scale cultivation of crops like wheat and cotton became economically feasible.

¹¹ Smith, Maude Grace. History of Green Valley 1870 to 1900. Shawnee, Oklahoma: Herald Printing Company, 1944, p.5.

¹² Cowling, Mary Jo, p.80.

¹³ Odom, E. Dale. An Illustrated History of Denton County, Texas. Denton, Texas: Self Published, 1996, p.45.

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Central Roanoke Historic District Roanoke, Denton County, Texas

An example of how important the railroads were to towns and the inducements a railroad would demand from a community is explained as follows. Even though Roanoke was established by the Texas and Pacific Railroad, the community leaders felt it was important to woo other rail lines and even the Interurban to their community. In 1886, the town chose R.M. Snead, J.W. Medlin and R.T. Foster to negotiate an incentive package with the Gulf and Pacific Railroad officials to induce them to bring their line through Roanoke. The committee was informed by a railroad representative that it would take a cash bonus and several miles of right-of-way for the Gulf and Pacific to pass through Roanoke. ¹⁴

The negotiations with various railroads and the Interurban continued through into the early 20th century. In 1887, General George F. Alford, president of the Dallas, Archer and Pacific Railroad, was bargaining with communities for the possible route his railroad would take: Dallas, Grapevine, Archer or Dallas, Roanoke, and Archer. Decatur, hoping to lure the railroad its direction, filed a bond guaranteeing the right-of-way through Wise County and land for a depot there. It was noted that "Roanoke, a small village, from which no money was expected, had raised \$1,500." ¹⁵ Occasionally, the railroads did co-operate. The Texas and Pacific and the Missouri, Kansas and Texas (MKT) shared track between Roanoke and Denton. ¹⁶ In 1906, there were meetings in Lewisville and Roanoke between community leaders and railroad officials of the proposed Texas, New Mexico and Pacific Railroad. Both Lewisville and Roanoke were termed "enthusiastic" and "would pay a handsome bonus" to entice the railroad through their respective towns. ¹⁷ Finally, the impact of the railroads on counties and communities can be seen in the demographics. The Denton County population in 1870, before the railroad was 7,251 and with the advent of the railroad the population more than doubled to 18,143. ¹⁸ In Denton County, Aubrey, Argyle and Roanoke were all established by the Texas and Pacific Railroad. ¹⁹ As pointed out in the Handbook of Texas article on Denton County, the railroads determined town locations up until the 1970s. ²⁰ *Geography and Agriculture of Roanoke and Southern Denton County*

Denton County has three general soil belts running north to south: the eastern belt lies in the Blackland Prairie; one fourth of the county is in the western belt that lies along the Grand Prairie and half of the county in the mid-section is in the Eastern Cross Timbers. Roanoke is located in the southern part of the county in the western Grand Prairie belt with undulating to gently rolling land dissected by several streams. This topography and soil made the area around Roanoke suitable for ranching and general crop cultivation including cotton and wheat. This is important because the agricultural uses in this part of the county contributed to the economic growth of Roanoke. Between the 1850s and the advent of the railroad in the early 1880s, much of the agriculture remained subsistent. However, many large cattle ranches were

¹⁴ Dallas Morning News, "The Great Railway World", October 2, 1886, p.2.

¹⁵ Dallas Morning News, "Railroad News of the Day", July 1, 1887, p.3

¹⁶ Dallas Morning News, "About the Railroads", September 17, 1889, p.6

¹⁷ Dallas Morning News, "Conference with Railroad Promoters", March 15, 1906, p.9.

¹⁸ Bridge, C.A. History of Denton County from Its Beginning to 1960. Waco, Texas: Texian Press, 1978, p.168.

¹⁹ Bates, Ed, History and Reminiscences of Denton County. Denton, Texas: McNitzky Printing, 1918, p.278.

²⁰ Handbook of Texas. Denton County.

²¹ University of Texas Bureau of Business Research. An Economic Survey of Denton County Prepared for Texas and Pacific Railroad, June 1949, Section 2.0201-02.

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Central Roanoke Historic District Roanoke, Denton County, Texas

established in the area including ones by John Chisum, Burk Burnett, and Sam Reynolds²² Barbed wire fencing was introduced to the area in 1883, soon after the arrival of the railroad.²³

Denton County became know for its wheat cultivation, beginning in the early 1880s and well into the turn of the century. As stated above, large scale cultivation of crops like wheat became economically feasible with the advent of the railroad and the ability to move these crops to market. Between 1880 and 1900, the acreage cultivated with wheat increased more than 80,000 acres. Denton County ranked either first or second in statewide wheat production behind Collin County. The wheat crop increased steadily in the early 1900s. In 1903, the wheat crop increased 10% from the previous year.

Cotton was also grown in the area around Roanoke.²⁷ In 1880, there were 29,785 acres of cotton being cultivated in the county. Cotton cultivation peaked at 115,078 acres in 1920.²⁸ In 1930, cotton cultivation made up 26% of the crops grown in the county, wheat was 16%, oats 15%, corn 13%, peanuts, sorghum and barley 3%.²⁹ During the Depression years, cotton was still being grown in the area.³⁰ By 1945, cotton was the leading crop in Denton County, followed by cattle. The surge in cotton production may have been in response to the demands of World War II. Dairy farming had also become important to the local economy, with Denton ranking 9th in the state.³¹ By the 1980s, cotton was no longer a significant crop in Denton County.

In 1920, there were 4,200 farms in Denton County and in 1925, there 4,255 farms or ranches averaging 120 acres. By the beginning of the Depression in 1930, there were 3,963. This number steadily declined through the Depression years from 3,796 in 1935 to 3,340 in 1940.³²

Growth and Development of Roanoke

Roanoke served as the business and economic center of the thriving ranching and farming area between Fort Worth and Denton. One of the earliest families in the area was the Medlin family who arrived as part of the Peters Colony in 1847. The Medlin family had a large ranch in the area and also became successful businessmen by investing in local commercial concerns and property in the district. The area attracted several extended families from Sweden who purchased large parcels of land.³³ In 1868, Andrew Gustav Petersen and his two brothers, Frederick and Pete, immigrated to the area and

²² Jordan, Terry. Southwestern Historical Quarterly, "Forest Folk, Prairie Folk: Rural Religious Cultures in North Texas". Volume 80, No. 2, October 1976, p.140.

²³ Smith, Maude Grace, p.6.

²⁴ Paddock, Captain B.B. History of Texas: Fort Worth and Texas Northwest Edition. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1922. vol. 2, p738.

²⁵ Handbook of Texas Online, s.v.","http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/DD/hcd6.html (accessed March 5, 2007).

²⁶ Dallas Morning News. *North Texas*. April 21, 1903, p.10.

²⁷ Dallas Morning News. Cotton Report. July 10, 1907, p. 10.

²⁸ Handbook of Texas. Denton County.

²⁹ Cowling, Mary Jo, p.45.

³⁰ Dallas Morning News. "Eight Cent Raise in Ginning Prices Called Necessary", July 28, 1932, Section II, p.8.

³¹ University of Texas Bureau of Business Research, 4.0107.

³² University of Texas Bureau of Business Research, 4.0101-03.

³³ Jordan, Terry, p.143.

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Central Roanoke Historic District Roanoke, Denton County, Texas

ended up owning approximately 2,500 acres in southern Denton County and brought steam engines for agricultural use to this area.³⁴ Later, many of these families purchased property in Roanoke for residences and businesses.

After the community was founded in 1881 by the railroad, it continued to grow. In 1882, there was a general store and post office. The first general store was constructed by Mr. W.G. Patterson who also built the first residence in town. In 1885, a community well was constructed in the middle of on Oak Street. By 1890, the population was 350 and there were four churches, a school, a cotton gin, several groceries, a saloon, doctors, a barber and a shoe maker. One of the earliest buildings constructed was a hotel and saloon. The building, still extant at 114 Oak Street, was constructed in 1886 by Lawrence Olson. He arrived in the area from Stockholm in 1870. Olson became a naturalized citizen in 1895. The saloon was managed by the Snead brothers. Local lore has Sam Bass as one of its regular visitors. The stock pens for cattle were located west of the railroad tracks. Cattle were held here before being shipped to Kansas City. These pens were used by area ranchers before the Fort Worth Stockyards were built. Even with the construction of the Stockyards, Roanoke still served as a shipping point for cattle, and other agricultural products.

The community continued to grow through the turn of the century. By the early 1900s, the town had a weekly newspaper, a bank (the Continental Bank, NR 1986), a grain elevator and the Denton Oil and Gas Company. The Continental State Bank was constructed in 1906 to meet the banking needs of the ranchers, like Sam Reynolds and the Medlin family, in the Roanoke area. The Masonic Lodge, still extant, was constructed in 1908. In 1910, the town was struck with a devastating fire that damaged many of the buildings on the west side of Oak Street. Those buildings were rebuilt soon after. The community engaged in capital improvements in 1913. The city contracted with W.E. Trotter to install sidewalks on Main, Oak and Commerce streets. That same year, 66 lots were purchased for development. It was also during this year that local businessmen capitalized and formed the Farmer's Gin Company. They met at the Continental State Bank on Oak Street (NR 1986) to raise \$10,000 for investment in the new gin. The gin was chartered in August of 1913 by local businessmen E.C. Neeley, W.P. Davis and J.R. Bourland. At the same time, the Roanoke Creamery was chartered with \$4,500 capital investment by W.P. Davis, J.T. Foster and H.W. Jenkins. In 1916, Hugh Jenkins built the structure at 200 Oak Street for his hardware store (still extant). Mr. Davis and J. M. Medlin, of the local ranching family, were also investors in the Cotton Oil Mill in Lewisville. Mr. Davis also owned the Davis Dry Goods store on Oak Street. He and two other men, W.D. Miley and E.W. Dickson, invested \$5,000 and chartered the business in 1912.

³⁴ Petersen, Conway. Peterson Family History 1810-1997. Self-published, September 12, 1997, p.24.

Manire, Philip and Love, Rodney. Quad-Town Community News, History of Roanoke, Texas. September 14, 1962-November 23,1962.

³⁶ Petersen, Conrad, p. 50.

³⁷ Fort Worth Star Telegram, A Page In History-Roanoke Preserves a Piece of the Past, June 13-14, Northeast Extra, p.8.

³⁸ Dallas Morning News, *Sidewalk Campaign*, November 22, 1913, p. 4.

³⁹ Dallas Morning News, *Building Houses at Roanoke* December 12, 1913, p.10.,

⁴⁰ Dallas Morning News, Trades Day at Roanoke, April 10, 1913, p. 9.

⁴¹ Dallas Morning News, *Texas Charters*, August 6, 1913, p.6.

^{42 &}quot;Seagraves came to Texas from Lafayette, Tennessee", as told by Hise Seagraves, on October 8, 1963. Author unknown. From the papers of Hise Seagraves Sr. and Jr., loaned by Gary Alexander, Fort Worth, Texas.

⁴³ Dallas Morning News, *Texas Charters*, May 31, 1913, p.7.

⁴⁴ Dallas Morning News, *Texas Charters*, October 11, 1912, p.11.

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Central Roanoke Historic District Roanoke, Denton County, Texas

In 1919, a boiler exploded at the Farmer's Gin killing three and damaging several of the downtown buildings. ⁴⁵ The damaged buildings were soon replaced. In 1920, the population was 500 people. ⁴⁶ Roanoke was incorporated in 1933, and Hugh W. Jenkins became the town's first mayor. In November 1934, almost 25 years to the day of the Farmer's Gin explosion, the town was struck by another disaster, a fire burned the same buildings on the west side of Oak Street. The fire caused \$20,000 in damage and destroyed several buildings. ⁴⁷ Again, these buildings were rebuilt.

Beginning in the early 1920s, plans were being discussed to build a highway from Dallas north across Denton County. Another highway was also being planned that would extend from Fort Worth through Roanoke to Denton, now Highway 377. Highways were to communities what railroads had been in the late 1800s. They were seen as a vital tool for economic development for the communities situated on the highways. Northwest Highway (Highway 114) was laid on what was part pf the old Dallas, Pacific, Southeastern Railroad that had been graded from Letot (Dallas) to Tarrant County but not constructed.

The Dallas Pacific and Southeastern Railroad right-of-way was deeded to the Gulf, Texas and Western and was to pass west through Denton, Wise and Jack counties. The rail line would cross the Texas and Pacific and the MKT at Roanoke. The grade and dump were completed through Roanoke to Rhome when they ran out of money. The Texas Highway Department purchased this right-of-way and constructed Northwest Highway which was completed in 1932. The highway opened with a great deal of fanfare including Governor Ross Sterling and other dignitaries. The communities along the highway understood that the highway was the same type of economic engine as the railroad. The leaders of the community had worked to ensure the route would pass through Roanoke. The Roanoke Keller News describes Roanoke, with access to the new highway, as follows "...has within 30 miles 3 large cities in which to market her products-a population of more than ½ a million people. Where can you beat it?" **South Roanoke**

In 1930, Roanoke, with a population of 400, boasted three grocery stores, a café, a theater, a hardware store, a barbershop, a cream station, and a truck line. Oak Street, the main road through town, was lined with these businesses as well as the homes of community leaders. Some of the homes also housed family businesses. One residence was used as a home and shoe repair shop.

On November 7, 1933 an election was held to incorporate the city and adopt the commission form of government. Jack Medlin and J.H. Seagraves were the election judges. In April of 1934, the city adopted the commission form of government and elected their first mayor and commission members. The election was held at the Continental Bank⁵³ H. W. Jenkins was elected as mayor. Mr. Jenkins proceeded to apply to the Public Works Administration for a loan to build

⁴⁵ Dallas Morning News. *Boiler Explosion Kills 3*, November 23, 1919, p. 9

⁴⁶ Cowling, Mary Jo, p. 43.

⁴⁷ Dallas Morning News, Fire Causes \$20,000 in Damage, November 12, 1934, p.7.

⁴⁸ Dallas Morning News, \$143,000 State Highway Fund Will Be Asked, December 16, 1921, p. 10.

⁴⁹ Interview with James Weisman, September 13, 2006.

⁵⁰ Dallas Morning News. March 25, 1910, p.6.

⁵¹ Dallas Morning News. Governor, Visitors from East and West Open Highway, May 20, 1932, Section 2, p. 1 and 10.

⁵² Roanoke-Keller News, Volume 1, #4, April 4, 1930, p.1.

⁵³ Resolution No. 28 dated April 2, 1934

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a new water system in the community.⁵⁴ The first contract with the federal government was dated September 18, 1934, Public Works Administration Docket #7351 for \$21,000.⁵⁵ The city requested more funds from the PWA from \$21,000 to \$22,000 in September 1935. As Mayor Jenkins stated in his letter, this was to extend service and connections to all the houses being served by Interstate Utility Company, a private company. He did not want the city and a private utility company to be competing in the delivery of water.⁵⁶ The consulting engineer was F. J. Von Zuben from Fort Worth.⁵⁷ The amount was increased and the work was completed by Shinslett and Friday, Fort Worth contractors.⁵⁸ At this time the city also purchased the existing water works system from Interstate Public Utility Company.⁵⁹

A local history states that Roanoke was relatively unscathed by the Depression, "Not a single business house went broke". ⁶⁰ Businesses may not have closed but the farmers and ranchers of the area received checks from the federal government to plow under cotton and wheat and to slaughter animals. ⁶¹ The city commissioners continued to pass ordinances to ensure orderly growth of the community. In 1936, they passed an ordinance making it illegal to allow large animals such as horses, cows and swine to run free in the town. ⁶² A traffic ordinance was passed in 1937 that included only parallel parking on Oak Street and a 20 mile per hour speed limit it town. ⁶³ By 1940 the population was 485 people with 32 businesses. Most of the businesses were located along Oak Street, the main street of the community. By 1960, the population had increased to 585 people. ⁶⁴

The downtown served as the focus of community events including medicine shows in the 1920s and the local Trade Days. The medicine shows came in the summer and stayed in the area for three to four weeks at a time. The shows, presented in the downtown, consisted of a singer, someone to tell jokes, beauty contests, and the person selling the "medicine". The Trade Days were an opportunity for the farmers and ranchers in the area to come into town on a Saturday afternoon for community activities. The local merchants enjoyed a substantial increase in business during these gatherings which occurred at least once a month and sometimes weekly. There would be games such as sack races, contests and prizes. The day would end with a baseball game. The Trade Days date back to before the turn of the century and continued well into the 1950s. 65

⁵⁴ Ordinance 34-103 August 28, 1934.

⁵⁵ Federal Contract P.W.A. Docket #7351dated March 18, 1934.

⁵⁶ Letter to Julian Montgomery, Acting State Director of PWA dated September 23, 1935.

⁵⁷ Letter dated September 26, 1933.

⁵⁸ Commission Minutes April 30, 1935.

⁵⁹ Commission Minutes November 17, 1934.

⁶⁰ Manire, Phillip and Love, Rodney, p.2.

⁶¹ Odom, Dale, p.75.

⁶² Ordinance 36-101, March 31, 1936.

⁶³ Ordinance 37-100A, July 27, 1937.

⁶⁴ Handbook of Texas, Roanoke.

⁶⁵ Interview with Mrs. Emily Ragsdale, July 24, 2007

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Central Roanoke Historic District Roanoke, Denton County, Texas

Local Community Leaders and Associated Structures in Central Roanoke

The population rose slowly over the years. However, the town's proximity to Dallas and Fort Worth has meant a dramatic increase in population in recent years. Development pressures are beginning to impact the historic central town area. The central town area includes historic commercial properties that are associated with locally prominent families. The following is a discussion of the buildings and associated information. Architectural descriptions are noted in the previous section. Most of the buildings date from the early 1900s and are modest, simple structures typical of small rural communities in Texas.

It is important to note, that like many small towns, the community leaders practiced unabashed "boosterism". This was typical for communities in the early 20th century to try and improve their economic status and viability. As noted previously, local leaders like J.W. Medlin, Hugh Jenkins, J.R. Bourland and others negotiated with the railroads, the interurban and the state highway department in an effort to improve Roanoke's access to markets and therefore, improve the local economy. Of course, improved transportation and location on major transportation arteries would also be important for the businesses in the community. Again, the buildings associated with the leaders in the community and the other commercial buildings in the district denote the modest economic success of this small rural community.

Hugh W. Jenkins, who came to Roanoke from Tennessee in 1905, is associated with one extant property in the Central Roanoke Historic District. His hardware store (200 Oak Street) was constructed around 1915-16. Jenkins served as the manager of the Reynolds-Hanna Lumber Company. In 1915, he bought the hardware part of the Hise and J.H. Seagraves dry goods and hardware business. Jenkins' first location was the rock building at 114 Oak Street. He then purchased the lot at 200 Oak and constructed the current building. Over the years, Jenkins participated in a variety of activities to benefit Roanoke. In 1912, Jenkins and several other local businessmen started a "Board of Trade" (precursor to a Chamber of Commerce) for Roanoke. Jenkins was elected the first president of the organization and W.P. Davis, J.M. Medlin and J.R. Norton were also involved. He also served as a vice-president of the Northwest Highway Association. Jenkins served as the city's first mayor after the town was incorporated in 1933. He is credited with developing the well and water system in Roanoke. Jenkins also had another hardware store located in Keller and was an investor in the Roanoke Creamery.

As stated before the Continental State Bank building (107-109 Oak Street) is already listed on the National Register. The bank was often used for meetings and the polling place for local elections including the vote to incorporate the town. ⁷⁰

The two story rock building located at 114 Oak Street was constructed in 1886 by Lawrence Olson for the Snead brothers. Apparently, the stone came from one of the local ranches. R.M. Snead owned almost 300 acres in Tarrant County near Henrietta Creek. Snead was on the executive committee of the Denton County Immigration Association.⁷¹ He was also on the committee, along with J.W. Medlin, to negotiate with the Gulf and Pacific Railroad to have their route pass through

⁶⁶ Dallas Morning News, *Board of Trade*, October 24, 1912, p.15.

⁶⁷ Dallas Morning News, Governor Scheduled Speaker, May 8, 1932, Section III, p. 7.

⁶⁸ Information provided from notes of H.W. Jenkins and Mrs. Alberta Lincecum

⁶⁹ Dallas Morning News, Keller Fire Does \$25,000 Damage, December 14, 1942, Section 1, p.2.

⁷⁰ Resolution No. 28, April 2, 1934.

⁷¹ Dallas Morning News. *Immigration Matters*, January 21, 1888, p. 6.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Central Roanoke Historic District Roanoke, Denton County, Texas

Roanoke.⁷² He also served as a delegate from Denton County to the State Democratic Convention.⁷³ Locally, he was a property owner, rancher and notary.

Mr. Snead's building was a hotel and saloon. Local legend indicates that it was a brothel. Apparently, the building next door (112 Oak) was two stories and housed a bank at this time. Upstairs there was a door between the two buildings. This allowed patrons to come into the bank, go upstairs and pass through to the brothel without detection. The door is still in evidence. In later years, the building was used as a grocery, the site of Hugh Jenkins' hardware store, and café. The structure at 112 Oak is now only one story due to a fire. Previously this building housed a variety of uses including blacksmith, garage, and grocery. In the 1920s the building was owned By G.G. Wardlaw.

The structure at 110 Oak Street was the creamery building and an ice house until the late 1940s. ⁷⁴ It also housed a grocery and barbershop run by the Newman family. The structure at 106 Oak is associated with the Bourland family. J. R. Bourland had come to Texas in 1876 and settled in the Roanoke area. ⁷⁵ Guy Bourland was a member of the local Board of Trade, the precursor to the Chamber of Commerce. ⁷⁶ J.R. Bourland was an owner of the Farmers' Gin. ⁷⁷ He was in the lumber business and used this building for his lumber company and general merchandise store. Bourland was also involved with encouraging state officials and the highway department to build highways through Roanoke. ⁷⁸ The building was purchased by the Noah family in 1939 and used for a grocery store.

Architectural Significance

The Central Roanoke Historic District is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its collection of early to mid 20th-century commercial properties. The majority of commercial buildings are one story brick structures dating from 1908 to 1945. The earliest extant building is the two story stone hotel constructed in 1886. It is a handsome stone structure with arched windows and white stone keystones. The parapet is corbelled with white stones evenly spaced across the front. The predominant style of the commercial buildings is best described as one part Commercial Style. The Continental Bank Building (NR 1986) though vernacular, is one of the more adorned buildings with its corbelled brick parapet and decorative false chimneys at the four corners. The buildings at 106 Oak and 200 Oak represent the one part Commercial Style buildings in the district. The building at 110 Oak is a one story masonry building with a simple parapet cap.

The post office building was constructed in the early 1900s as a one story structure. In later years another story was added to the building. Other commercial buildings in the area include 115 Oak Street, built around 1940 and used as a grocery.

⁷² Dallas Morning News. Great Railway World, October 12, 1886, p. 2.

⁷³ Dallas Morning News. *Denton County Democrats*, April 27, 1902, p.23.

⁷⁴ Denton County Tax Roll Cards.

⁷⁵ Dallas Morning News. *Deaths*, June 18, 1919, p.3.

⁷⁶ Dallas Morning News. *Board of Trade Organized*, October 24, 1912, p.15.

⁷⁷ Dallas Morning News. *Texas Charters*, August 8, 1913, p. 6.

⁷⁸ Dallas Morning News. Tarrant Denton Good Roads Boosters Meet, November 10, 1915, p.11.

⁷⁹ Longstreth, Richard. Buildings of Main Street. Washington, D.C.: National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1987, p.54.

NPS Form 10-900-a

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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Central Roanoke Historic District Roanoke, Denton County, Texas

Summary

The Central Roanoke Historic District is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion A for its association with the development and commercial history of the small rural community of Roanoke, Texas. The district was the center of community life in the small town and developed as a commercial center for this prosperous ranching region between Fort Worth and Denton, serving as a major shipping point for the large cattle ranches of southern Denton County. The town was platted in 1881 as part of the expansion of the Texas and Pacific Railway through North Central Texas but was not incorporated until 1933. Roanoke replaced two earlier settlements, Elizabethtown and Green or Garden Valley. The district is linear, oriented northwest to northeast along Oak Street, the main street through the community. The Central Roanoke Historic District encompasses the extant commercial properties that served the community, business owners, area ranchers and farmers. It is also representative of small town commercial and residential growth in North Central Texas. The town was the center of activity for southern Denton County as evidenced by the regular Trade Days and other events that were held in downtown. The community of Roanoke is located in North Central Texas in Denton County at the intersection of U.S. Highway 377 and State Highway 114.

The district is also eligible at a local level of significance under Criterion C for its collection of early 20th century small town commercial architecture. One building, the Continental Bank, is on the National Register of Historic Places.⁸¹ The period of significance is from 1886 to 1958, corresponding to the date of the earliest extant building and recognizes the importance of the commercial center to the surrounding agricultural region.

The district is located in a fast growing area of southern Denton County. The town of Roanoke is landlocked by Trophy Club, Northlake and Fort Worth as well as Alliance Airport and is facing development pressure. The district has some intrusive structures and vacant lots however the city has committed to maintaining the historic core of the community. Listing of the Central Roanoke Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places will further assist these efforts.

81 Ibid.

⁸⁰ Emrich, Ron. National Register of Historic Places Continental Bank Building, Roanoke, Texas, 1986, p.3)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Central Roanoke Historic District Roanoke, Denton County, Texas

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Central Roanoke Historic District Roanoke, Denton County, Texas

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Dallas Morning News. Cotton Report. July 10, 1907, p. 10.

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Dallas Morning News, "The Great Railway World", October 2, 1886, p.2.

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Dallas Morning News, "About the Railroads", September 17, 1889, p.6

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Dallas Morning News, Trades Day at Roanoke, April 10, 1913, p. 9.

Dallas Morning News, *Texas Charters*, August 6, 1913, p.6.

Dallas Morning News, *Texas Charters*, May 31, 1913, p.7.

Dallas Morning News, *Texas Charters*, October 11, 1912, p.11.

Dallas Morning News. Boiler Explosion Kills 3, November 23, 1919, p. 9

Dallas Morning News, Fire Causes \$20,000 in Damage, November 12, 1934, p.7.

Dallas Morning News, \$143,000 State Highway Fund Will Be Asked, December 16, 1921, p. 10.

Dallas Morning News. Immigration Matters, January 21, 1888, p. 6.

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Dallas Morning News. Denton County Democrats, April 27, 1902, p.23.

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United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

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Central Roanoke Historic District Roanoke, Denton County, Texas

Dallas Morning News. Board of Trade Organized, October 24, 1912, p.15.

Dallas Morning News. Texas Charters, August 8, 1913, p. 6.

Dallas Morning News. Tarrant Denton Good Roads Boosters Meet, November 10, 1915, p.11.

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Texas Fire Insurance Department Map. Austin, Texas: Roanoke, Texas, Sheet 1-2, Inspected November 16, 1943 by DuPriest and Wheeler. University of Texas, Arlington, Texas: Special Collections.

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Board of Commission Minutes April 30, 1935.

Letter proposal to the city dated September 26, 1933.

Commission Minutes December 2, 1939

Ordinance 34-103 August 28, 1934.

Ordinance 36-101, March 31, 1936

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Central Roanoke Historic District Roanoke, Denton County, Texas

Ordinance 37-100A, July 27, 1937

Commission Minutes November 17, 1934.

Commission Minutes December 10, 1946.

Resolution 44-100 dated February 15, 1944.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF PROPERTY: Approximately 3 acres

 UTM REFERENCES
 Zone
 Easting
 Northing

 14
 665453
 3652591

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION (see continuation sheet 10-22)

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION (see continuation sheet 10-22)

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE: Kate Singleton

ORGANIZATION: Cornerstone HPS

DATE: April 4, 2008

STREET & NUMBER: 6220 Gaston Ave., # 304 **TELEPHONE:** 214.826.2420

CITY OR TOWN: Dallas STATE: TX ZIP CODE: 75214

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

CONTINUATION SHEETS

MAPS (see continuation sheet Figure-23)

PHOTOGRAPHS (see continuation sheet Photo-28)

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

PROPERTY OWNER (On file with the Texas Historical Commission)

NAME:

STREET & NUMBER: TELEPHONE:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: ZIP CODE:

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 10 Page 22

Central Roanoke Historic District Roanoke, Denton County, Texas

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Being the properties on the east and west sides of and that face Oak Street from Lamar to State Highway 114, described as follows:

Block11, lots 11, 8R, 12-18

Block 12, lots 1,2 (south 25'), lots 1,2 (center 91.3'), 3 (SE 116.4'), lots 1,2,3 (N 23.6') 19,20,21(N25' EACH)-all lots bounded by Main on the south, the alley on the west, Oak Street on the east, Rusk Street on the north. Block 14, lots 4, 5 (west 110' and east 30')

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

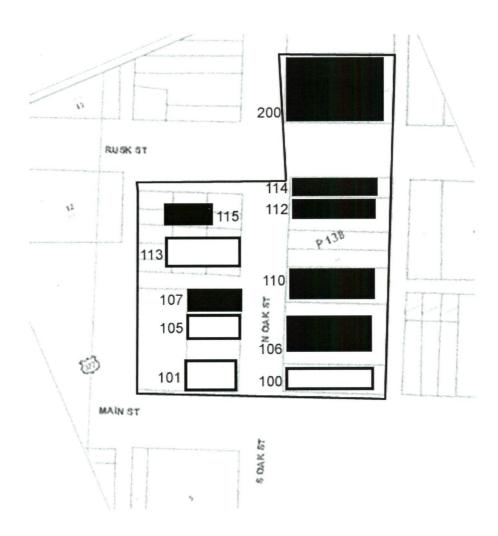
This boundary includes the collection of commercial buildings along Oak Street from Main Street to Rusk Street that are the central district of Roanoke, Denton County, Texas.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section FIGURE Page 23

Central Roanoke Historic District Roanoke, Denton County, Texas

District Map, Central Roanoke, Denton County, Texas No Scale



K N

■=Contributing
□=Non-Contributing

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Figure Page 24

Central Roanoke Historic District Roanoke, Denton County, Texas

Historic Photographs From the papers of Hise (Hice) Seagraves Sr. and Jr., loaned by Gary Alexander, Fort Worth, Texas.

Radio and J. V. Shop and noah's



Kranoke, Jevas - 1933

104-106 N. Oak



Roanche, Se 10 - 1953 "

Oak Street look south from Rusk and Oak

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Figure Page 25

Central Roanoke Historic District Roanoke, Denton County, Texas



Post Office at 101 N. Oak-now two-story



114-112 N. Oak

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Section Figure Page 26

Central Roanoke Historic District Roanoke, Denton County, Texas



Jenkins Hardware 200 N. Oak 1953

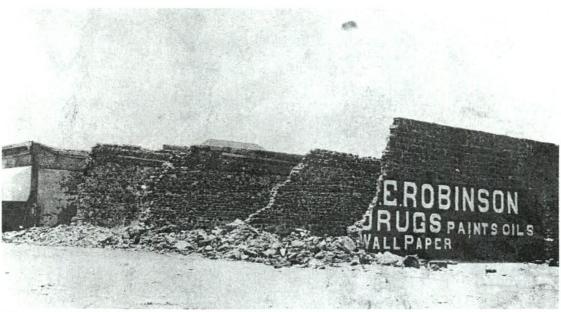


Continental Bank 107-109 N. Oak ca. 1953

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Figure Page 27

Central Roanoke Historic District Roanoke, Denton County, Texas



West side of Oak Street after 1910 fire



112-114 N. Oak ca. 1946-- Trade Days

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Photo Page 28

Central Roanoke Historic District Roanoke, Denton County, Texas

Photographic Log

Central Roanoke, Roanoke, Denton County, Texas

Black and White Photos November 26, 2006

Photographer: Kate Singleton

Negatives located at: Cornerstone HPS, 6220 Gaston Ave. #304, Dallas, Texas 75214

1. N. Oak Street at Rusk Street Oblique view looking southwest

2. N. Oak at Main Street Oblique view looking northeast

3. 200 N. Oak Street Historic Name: Jenkins Hardware Looking east

4. 114 N. Oak Street Historic Name: Snead Brothers Saloon/Hotel "Rock Hotel" Looking southeast

5. 114 N. Oak Street Historic Name: Snead Brothers Saloon/Hotel "Rock Hotel" Looking east

6. 112 N. Oak Street Looking east

7. 110 N. Oak Street Looking east

8. 106 N. Oak StreetHistoric Name: Bourland's, Noah's GroceryLooking east9. 115 N. Oak StreetLooking west

10. 107-109 N. Oak Street Historic Name: Continental Bank (NR) Looking west

11. 105-105A N. Oak Street Looking northwest

12. 101 N. Oak Street Looking northwest

13. 100-104 N. Oak Looking northeast

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION
PROPERTY Central Roanoke Historic District NAME:
MULTIPLE NAME:
STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Denton
DATE RECEIVED: 4/16/08 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/05/08 DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/20/08 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/30/08 DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:
REFERENCE NUMBER: 08000476
REASONS FOR REVIEW:
APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N
COMMENT WAIVER: N ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 5.29.08 ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:
Entered in The National Register of Historic Places
RHASONS-FOR-RHVIEW:
RECOM./CRITERIA
REVIEWERDISCIPLINE
TELEPHONEDATE
DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N
If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

Missing Core Documentation

ber
ry:
s #6-



1. Central Roanole Roanole, Denton County, TX. N. Oak St. at. Rusk Sl.



2. Central Roanole Roanole, Denton County, TX. N. Dakst. at Main St.



3.200 N. Dalc St. Central Roanola Roanola, Denton County, T.X.



4.114N. Dak St. Central Roanoke Roanoke, Denton County, TX.



5.114 N. Oak St. Central Roanole Roanole, Denton County, To



6. 112 N. Dak St. Central Roanoka Roanoka, Denton County, TX.



7. 110 N. Oak Central Roanoka Roanoka, Denton County, TX.



8. 106 N. Dak Central Roanoke Roanoke, Penton County, Tt.



9.115 N. Dak Street Central Roanoke Roanoke, Denton County, TX.



10. 107-109 N. Oak St. Central Roans le Roanola, Denton County, Tx.



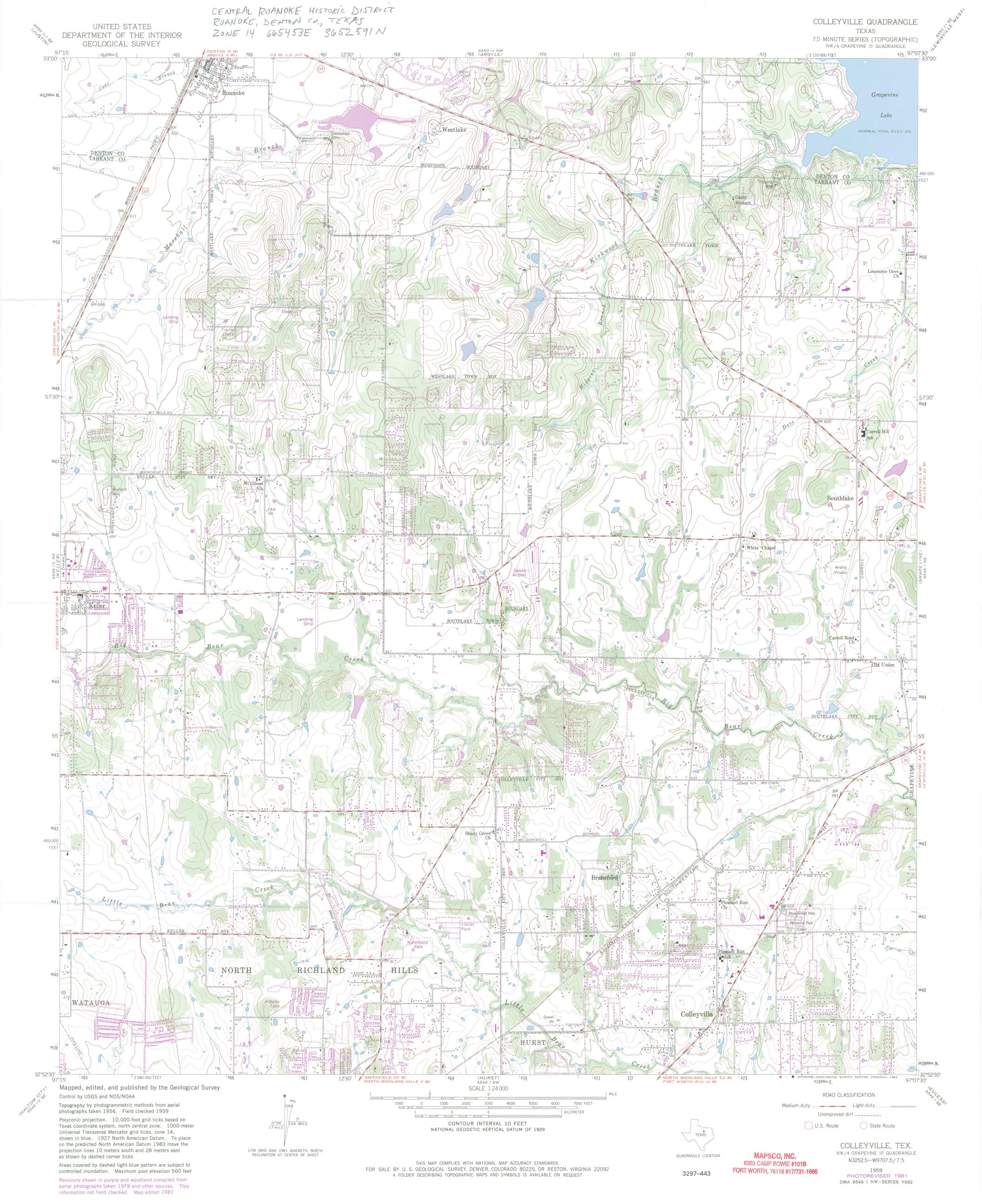
11. 105-105 A N. Oak Central Roanolle Roanolle, Denton County, TX.



12. 101 N. Oak St. Central Roanolle Roanolle, Denton County, TX.



13. 100 10.0ak Central Roanoke Roanoke, Denton County, TX.





Rick Perry • Governor

John L. Nau, III • Chairman

F. Lawerence Oaks • Executive Director

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

RECEIVED 2280

TO:	Linda McClelland National Register of Historic Places APR 1 6 2008	
FROM:	Gregory W. Smith, National Register Coordinator Texas Historical Commission NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	
RE:	Central Roanoke Historic District, Roanoke, Denton County, Texas	
DATE:	April 14, 2008	
• Th	e following	materials are submitted regarding the Central Roanoke Historic District:
	<u>X</u> <u>X</u> <u>X</u>	National Register of Historic Places form Resubmitted nomination Multiple Property nomination form Photographs USGS map Correspondence Other:
SH Th	PO requests	ed in the revised nomination, addressing all concerns in your evaluation/return sheet. substantive review wner objections (do) (do not) constitute a majority of property owners