

# A Historic Walking Tour of Downtown Stillwater, OK

brought to you by the

## Stillwater Public Library



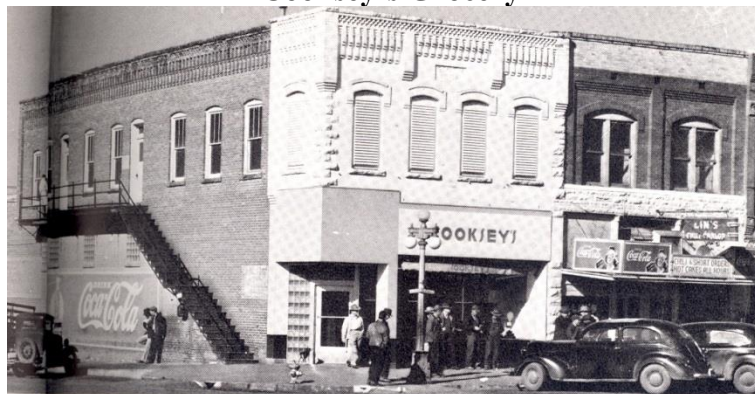
The Swope building at the intersection of Ninth and Main

1. Starting at the intersection of **Ninth and Main**, as you look to the northwest corner, you will see the “building where everything started.” What was formerly known as the **Swope Building** has been altered drastically, but you can see a mural commemorating its past. Amon Swope was an active participant in the founding of Stillwater, and started the first bank in this building. The first city council meetings, church services, and public school classes were all held here. Later businesses at this location included the New York Racket and Cooksey’s Grocery.

### **The New York Racket**



### **Cooksey's Grocery**



**Walk south to the 900 block.**

2. **910 South Main** was the location of the first store in Stillwater. Robert Lowry, often called the “father of Stillwater”, convinced his friend William A. Swiler to move his hardware and grocery store to Stillwater from Angus, IA. It was first located near 13<sup>th</sup> and Perkins Road facing west. After the town was platted and lots were drawn for businesses on June 11, 1889, the store was moved to this location. The first post office, also located in the store, went with it. W.A. Swiler’s brother Ambrose later moved here to join him in business. A devastating fire destroyed the original buildings on this side of the 900 block on September 12, 1893. The store was rebuilt, and the Swiler Brothers were at a few different locations on this block into the 1940s.
3. **914 South Main** was the location of Stillwater’s first elegant movie house, called the **Alamo Theatre**. It existed between 1908 and 1915. In the 1910 city directory it is advertised as having the “Best vaudeville on the road. Nothing but up-to-date moving pictures.” **Harrison Electric** has been here since 1961.
4. Several cafes were located at **922 South Main** from the 30s to the 80s, including **Tiny’s Café**. Did the size of the building have something to do with the name?
5. **924 South Main** was the home of several corner filling stations over the years. The shape of the building still reflects this.

**A view of the west side of the 900 block in 1894**

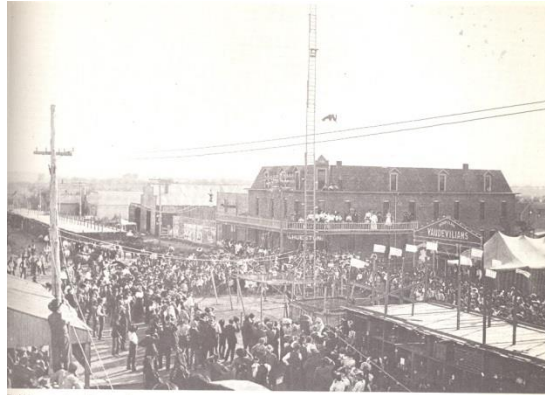


**The west side of the 900 block around 1911. The Greiner Bros. Harness shop is on the far right and Swiler’s is four doors down from it.**



6. **As you look across the street south to 1002 South Main**, you will see the site of the former **Nichols Hotel**. The building was originally opened as the **Hueston Hotel** in 1899 by Hamilton Hueston. The hotel featured a second story porch that extended around the front and north side of the building. Underneath this was a drive-in that permitted buggies to drive up to the entrance and be sheltered from the rain. Hueston later sold the building to Frank Nichols. During his ownership, the hotel was known as “The Heinz 57” because every table in the restaurant had Heinz products on them. After World War II, Elvin and Earl Rains bought it and it became the **Rains Hotel**. Later on the building was remodeled and used as a restaurant for many years.

**The Hueston Hotel**



**The Nichols Hotel**



**The Rains Hotel**





While you are on the corner of 10<sup>th</sup> and Main, look to the north to view the advertisement for Peyton Furniture on the side of the three story Lytton building.

7. Across the street on the east side, 1001 South Main began as the location of the **W.A. Frick Seed, Feed, and Hay Store** in 1896. It was the **Shannon Feed Co.** from the 30s to the 50s, and from 1954-1960 the **Stillwater Roller Rink** was located here. **The Lee Company** moved to this location after 1960. The front of their building recently became a Sears.

**The W.A. Frick Store**



**Cross the street to the east side of the 900 block.**

8. **923 South Main** was at one time the **McConkey Hatchery**. The **Shannon Feed Co.** had a second warehouse east of it on 10<sup>th</sup>.
9. Orlando M. Eyler founded the second store in Stillwater at **917 South Main**. Eyler was on the school board when the school system was organized and became mayor of Stillwater in 1895. Eyler was from Pennsylvania and spoke German. He attracted trade from miles around from settlers who had not yet learned English.

**Eyler's Store**



10. **Herb Ricker's Garage** was at **915 South Main**. Herb Ricker owned the first automobile in town (a 1905 Oldsmobile), and at one time used his garage to house all the automobiles in Stillwater. An ordinance prohibited gasoline storage in residential sections of town, including that which was stored in automobile tanks. Ricker would start the cars for the owners, and also gave driving lessons. Ricker later bought the **Pastime Theatre** which had been located at **612 South Main**, and moved it to this location after 1910. He renamed it the **Gem Theatre**, but then sold it to the Fire Department, and it became the **Fireboys Theatre** which raised money for the Fire Department.

**The Fireboys Theatre**



11. Mrs. Josephine Pierc owned **Pierc Millinery** (yes, that's the correct spelling), a ladies ready-to-wear shop, at **911 South Main** from about 1910 to the 1930s. You can still see the tile with the shop name in the sidewalk. The **Carpenter's Union** was located on the second floor from the 40s to 1974.
12. The **Lytton Building** at **907-909 South Main** was built by Dale Lytton in 1901, and served as an implement and hardware store. Lytton was a founder of the First Christian Church in Stillwater and was an early day mayor. From 1926 to the 1940s the upper floors served as headquarters for the Freemasons, and the symbol is still visible. From 1930-1938 the Clift brothers operated the Peyton Furniture store in this location, and several other furniture stores followed. During the 40s the Freemasons left the building, and the VFW took over the upper floors into the 50s.
13. **Greiner and Cooper Harness** was located at **901 South Main**. The Greiner Bros. started their shop across the street at **902 South Main**, but by the 20s had moved to this location. Charles H. Cooper got a job in the shop and met his future bride Angela Greiner. They lived in two other towns before returning to Stillwater, and Cooper bought a half interest in the harness shop. The Cooper family bicycle shop started when Charles M. Cooper was allowed by his father to have a small counter for bicycle repair. After World War II, he built **Cooper's Bicycle Center** at **220 South Main** where it remains today.

**The east side of the 900 block**



14. As you **turn right** and go to **107 East Ninth** you will see the **Citizens State Bank Building**. Amon Swope founded the Citizens State Bank in 1894. It was built by Joshua Brock who made the run in 1889 and specialized in stone masonry. This structure is on the National Register of Historic Places, and is the oldest commercial building still standing in Stillwater.

**As you pass the alley after 111 East Ninth, look back towards the Lytton Building and notice the pulley system that is still behind it.**

15. **Myers Livery Stable**, built by Lon and Louis Myers, was at one time located at **113 East Ninth**. It was one of the first “taxi” services in Stillwater and provided service to trains at places like Orlando and Perry before the railroad came to town. Later, the wooden building was torn down, and Louis Jardot built the **C.E. Hull and Sons Motor Co.** building in 1926. Jardot ran the first brickyard in Stillwater and built many early structures.
16. Before the siding was put on the building at **123 East Ninth**, it looked quite different. Although for most of its history it has been the home of various retail establishments and offices, and the second location of the **McConkey Hatchery**, it has the dubious distinction of being the location of the **Ku Klux Klan Hall** during the 20s.

**The south side of East Ninth**



17. Although the **south east corner of Ninth and Lewis** is an empty lot now, it was once the location of both hotels and a hospital. Louis Jardot built the **Payne Hotel** here in 1902. After a time he sold it to John Linden and it became the **Linden Hotel**. W.C. Whittenberg, a beloved Stillwater doctor, took over the hotel for use as a hospital in 1917, before building another one where City Hall is now. It was later remodeled into the Rex Apartments.

### **The Linden and Rex Apartments**



**Proceed east on Ninth, crossing to the sidewalk opposite.**

Notice the **brick street** that still exists at the intersection of **Ninth and Lewis**, extending east. In 1911, this was the first street to be paved in Stillwater. Main was the only other brick street- the rest were paved in concrete. Main was not resurfaced until the 50s.

18. **The National Guard Armory** is located at **315 East Ninth**. The armory was dedicated in June of 1937, and was a WPA project. Its primary function was to be the home of the local National Guard Company, but was also available for civic activities. In 1984 the **Stillwater Parks and Recreation Department** moved its offices into the building.
19. At **401 East Ninth**, you will see the **Stillwater Santa Fe Depot**. In its early days, Stillwater had to fight hard to keep its position as the county seat and remain the location of the Oklahoma A & M College. One of the reasons was that there was no rail service into town, and travelers had to endure buggy rides over bumpy prairie to

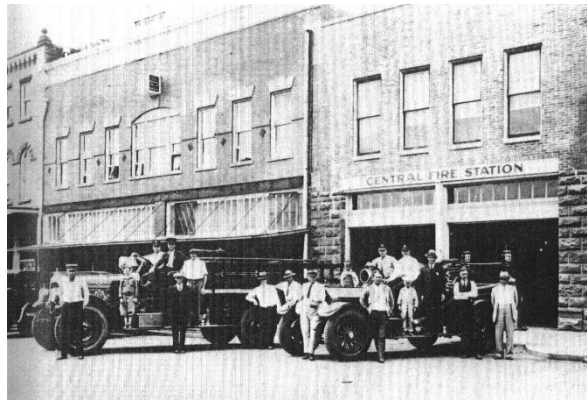


get in and out of Stillwater. Citizens breathed a sigh of relief when tracks were finally laid into town in 1900. At the time, the depot was a wooden frame structure, but in 1911 the Santa Fe Company agreed to build a new brick depot if the city would make necessary improvements in the area, which included the brick street. Passenger service to and from Stillwater ended in 1957. After several years as a restaurant, the building now serves as headquarters for the **Kappa Kappa Psi Fraternity** and the **Tau Beta Sigma Sorority**. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980.

**Now head back west on Ninth Avenue.**

20. **Fire Station No. 1** was once located at the **northwest corner of Ninth and Lewis**. There is a sign commemorating it and the history of the International Fire Service Training Association. After the fire in the 900 block of South Main in 1893, M.J.W. Holt, a jeweler, implored the town board to buy fire fighting equipment. The board purchased an old barn and moved it here. The first fire wagons were horse drawn, and the horses were stabled at Meyer's Livery across the street. In 1900 a brick building was built, and Holt became Stillwater's first Fire Chief. This building was the Fire Department headquarters until 1974.

**Fire Station No.1**



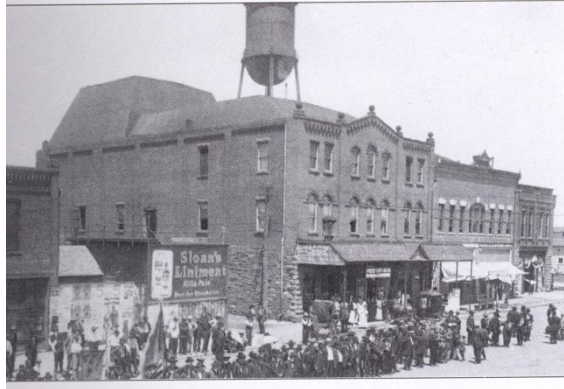
**North of the empty lot**, you can still see remains of the base of the old **city water tower**. It stood downtown between 1900 and 1966.

21. **The Opera House** which was formerly at **116 East Ninth** has changed a lot since its early days, but you can still see the original brick on the west side in the alley. It was constructed in 1900 by Louis Jardot. James Blouin provided financing and operated a furniture store on the ground floor, while the theater was on the second floor. It brought nationally known entertainers to Stillwater. In 1910 Charles Beery took over, and began showing movies as well as continued live performances. He had a store on the ground floor that sold flour, feed, coal, wool, and salt. He also changed the name to the **Grand Opera House**. For a time after it began showing movies, it was known as the **Isis** and the **Hollywood**. It closed as a theater some time during the 20s.

**The Opera House**



**The water tower is a looming presence in many early pictures.**



22. At the **northeast corner of Ninth and Main**, **Chris Salmon Plaza** is named for Christine F. Salmon who made history in 1982 when she became Stillwater's first female mayor, defeating Bill Thomas. She died in 1985 after a battle with cancer. Previously, the corner was the site of **Charles Knoblock's barber shop** in the 1890s. He went on to become city clerk and mayor. Later, it was the site of the **Model Grocery**, owned by Harry and Ernest Selph. Their family was from Ingalls. They were nephews of Dr. D.H. Selph who gained notariety for treating members of the Doolin gang after the famous gunfight at Ingalls.

**The Model Grocery is on the far right**



**Turn right to the east side of the 800 block.**

23. **Murphy's Hardware** has been in the same location at **815 South Main** since 1926. Previously it was **Loy Reed Hardware**. The facade of the building was uncovered several years ago and the original windows were intact. You can see the names of Tinker and Jones and the date of the building at the top. An Andrew Tinker is listed in the 1922 Stillwater Directory as having an office in this building and dealing in oil leases and real estate.
24. **811 South Main** is one of the few buildings to retain its original look. It began as the **Pearson Brothers Bakery and Cafe** around 1910.
25. The **southeast corner of Eighth and Main** was changed drastically in 1967, when for the first time in 73 years the **Stillwater National Bank** was no longer located here. The bank was founded by Shelly W. Keiser in 1894. In 1909 he sold his interests to the Berry family who controlled the bank for years. James E. Berry had his offices here during his tenure as Lieutenant Governor from 1935-1955. The original building was torn down in 1925 and a new one was built. After the bank moved to the corner of Sixth and Main in 1967, it was replaced by the **Eight Main Place** structure.

#### **The Stillwater National Bank buildings**



26. Across the street on the **southwest corner of Eighth and Main**, **BancFirst**, previously known as the **First National Bank of Stillwater**, has been in almost the same location since 1899. In 1900 it moved from the center of the 800 block to the

corner. A new building replaced the original in 1924, and this was replaced yet again with the current building in 1964.

### **The First National Bank Buildings**



27. The first telephone company in Stillwater was located at **814 South Main**. The **Arkansas Valley Telephone Company** was over the **Stallard and Reed Saloon** in 1899, and then moved to **724 South Main** in 1901 and became known as the **Pioneer Telephone and Telegraph Company**. The company moved again in 1911 to **702 South Main**. In 1931, it became **Southwestern Bell Telephone** and the company built a new building at 502 South Main.

### **A view of the west side of the 800 block**





28. **Turn right on east Eighth** and imagine a small house in the middle of the street. When World War I started, the **War House** was the center of local war efforts, and was the headquarters for the Red Cross, the war bond drive, sales of savings stamps, and patriotic rallies.

**The War House**



29. **113 East Eighth** was built in 1926 and was originally the Stillwater Savings and Loan Building.
30. The southwest corner of **Eighth and Lewis** was **Ward Chevrolet** for many years.

**Ward Chevrolet**



31. Looking to **723 South Lewis** you can see the **Municipal Building** which was built in 1939. Before, the **Whittenberg Hospital** was here from 1920-1938. After Dr. W.C. Whittenberg passed away, his hospital was torn down and the city built its first municipal hospital at 1510 West Ninth. Several additions have been made to City Hall since the 30s.

**The Whittenberg Hospital**



**Turn back to Main and cross the street to the east side of the 700 block.**

32. **721-723 South Main** was originally the **Youst Hotel**. John Youst built the first brick hotel in Stillwater in 1894, and in 1899 added a 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, possibly to compete with the Hueston down the street. The Stillwater Gazette called it “the most complete hostelry east of the railroad in Oklahoma.” Later, it became the **Scott Hotel** in 1921, and then from the 30s to the 50s, the **C.R. Anthony** department store occupied the bottom floor, while the **Hotel Stillwater** was on top.

**The Youst Hotel**



33. **719 South Main** was a theater for several years. From 1914-1952 it was the **Camera Theatre**, and then it became the **Crest** until 1955.

### The Youst and Camera



### The Crest



34. The long time Stillwater business **Bates Brothers** got its start at **715 South Main** in 1946. They moved across the street in the 50s to 704 South Main, and the store was there until 2007.
35. **709-711 South Main** began in 1889 as **Field's Furniture and Undertaking**. Ownership changed hands a few times and included Jacob Katz. The Strodes bought the business in 1914 and in 1928 **Strode Funeral Home** moved to its present location on Duncan Street. 709 South Main then became **Woolworths** from the 30s until 1961.
36. **Katz Department Store** at **701 South Main** was one of the longest running businesses in Stillwater. Jacob Katz came to the US in 1887 from Frankfurt, Germany and to Stillwater in 1894. He started his business in 1896 in the 800 block of Main, and then moved to the west side of the 700 block before moving to the east side. He then took over the corner of Seventh and Main in 1913. This was originally the **Stillwater Dry Goods Co.**, owned by the Selph Brothers before they moved down the street and opened the Model Grocery. They had a pool hall on the second floor, and later Katz had a dance hall. Jacob Katz died in 1968, and the store closed for good in 2005.

**Stillwater Dry Goods on the corner of Seventh and Main**



**Changes in Katz over the years**



**Look back to view the west side of the 700 block.**



The building on the left is 702 South Main when it was the Pioneer Telephone Co.



37. **704 South Main** was the location of **Bates Brothers Clothing Store** from 1955 until 2007.

38. **706 South Main** was the early day location of **Tiger Drug** until the 50s. The name came from the Oklahoma A&M Tigers, the team name before they were changed to the Cowboys in 1923.

39. **708-710 South Main** was the location of various department stores over the years, including **Sam Miller's**. His was the first department store in Stillwater, starting in the 800 block, and then moving to the 700s. He was a friend and competitor of Jacob Katz. Later, the **Fisher Department Store** was there, and then **JC Penney's** from the 30s to the 70s.

**Sam Miller's, the date at the top of the building is 1913**

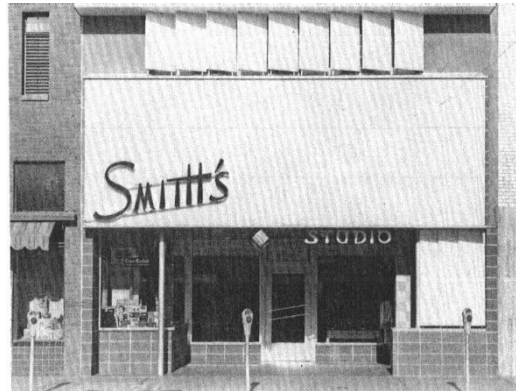


**The block when J.C. Penney's was in the building**



40. **712 South Main** was **Smith's Studio** for many years.

**Smith's Studio**



41. **714 South Main** was a shoe store for most of its history. **The Booterie** was located here from around 1939 to 1969. Then **Brown's Shoe Fit Company** was there from 1970 into the 90s.

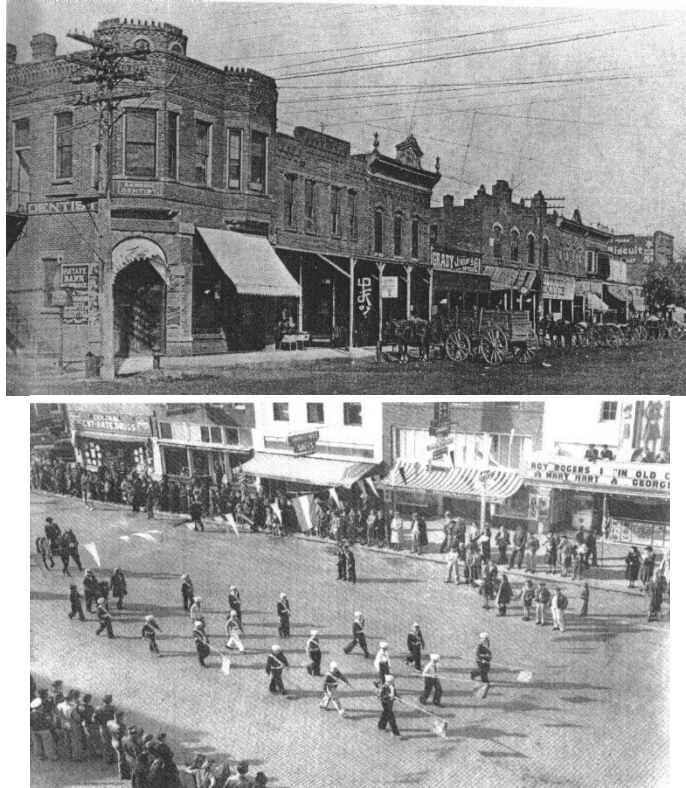
42. **716 South Main** was the location of another downtown movie theatre. It began as the **Garden Theatre** in 1918, and then changed to the **Abbott Theatre** in the 1920s. It was the **Mecca** from 1926-1954. While other theatres showed "class a" movies, the Mecca was known for showing mysteries, science fiction, and westerns, and was popular with kids on Saturday afternoon.

**The Mecca Theatre**



43. **720 South Main** retains its early day look. Robert A. Lowry and his son Chester had offices on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. The **Diamond Pharmacy** was located here from around 1910 to the late 30s, and then **Earnest Brothers Shoes** was here into the 70s. **Cotton-Tail Originals** was here for many years.
44. **Central Drug Store**, now located at **722 South Main**, has been in business since 1932, but was at one time at **724 South Main**.
45. Frank Wikoff, Stillwater's first city attorney, and an important participant in the founding of Stillwater and Oklahoma A&M, also founded the **State Bank of Commerce** at **724 South Main**. The **Pioneer Telephone Company** was above the bank between 1901 and 1911.

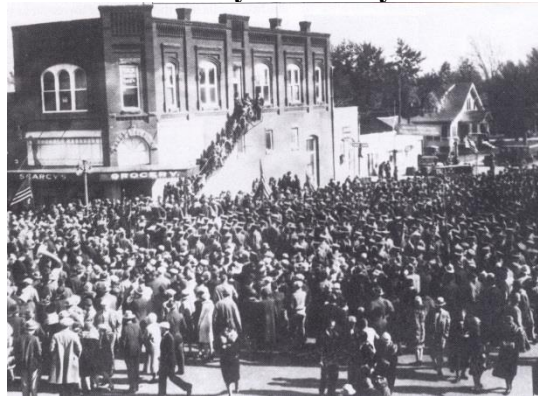
**Views of the west side of the 700 block**



**Now cross the street to the east side of the 600 block of Main.**

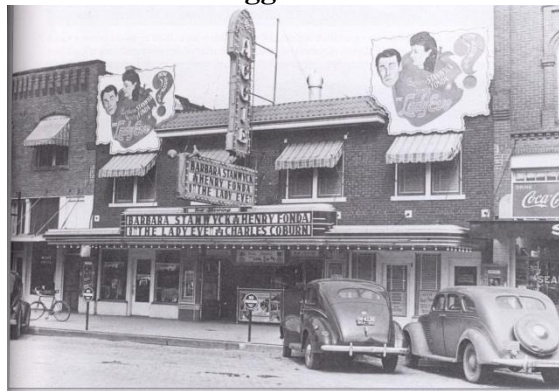
46. **623 South Main** was the fifth location of the **post office**, and then became M.G. **Searcy's Grocery** from the 20s to the 40s. The **Chenoweth and Green Music Store** was located here from the 40s to the 90s when Teubner & Associates took over.

### Searcy's Grocery



47. The **Aggie Theatre** was located at **619-621 South Main** from 1926-1980. The building was built by Dr. D.H. Selph and leased by the Leachman and Griffeth Brothers. In 1980 it was changed to the **Centre Twin** theatre, but closed in 1987. In 1994, the building that housed the Aggie and Centre Twin was demolished, and Teubner & Associates took over the space, while maintaining the old theater look.

### The Aggie Theatre



### The Centre Twin and Chenoweth and Green



48. **617 South Main** from 1926 until the 50s was the home of various eating establishments, including **Dewey's Grill**. Kids would hang out there while waiting for the movie to start.



49. At **607-611 South Main** stands the **American Legion Building**, built in 1925. Post 129 was named for Carter C. Hanner in honor of the first Stillwater boy to die in France during WWI. Later, the name of Mamon G. Sharp was added when he died in the Phillipines during WWII in 1942.
50. From 1924 to 1996 the Thomas family owned the **Ford dealership** on the **southeast corner of Sixth and Main**. The transition from all car dealerships being downtown, to being located on west 51 began during the 90s. Thomas Ford was known as the longest continually owned Ford Agency in Oklahoma until December of 2015 when it finally changed hands.
51. Although a Walgreens now occupies the **northeast corner of Sixth and Main**, many long time Stillwater residents remember the **Smith Building** which was here from the 20s until December 23, 1994 when it was destroyed by fire. At various times it was the site of a garage, bus station, café, and a bail bond business.

**The Smith Building**



52. Looking to the west side of the 400 block, at **424 South Main**, the Furniture Showcase retains much of the original look, inside and out, of the **Leachman Theatre**. The Leachman opened its doors in 1948 and remained open until 1985. Like the Centre Twin, the Leachman closed down after competition from the Carmike on Perkins Road became too much.

### The Leachman



53. The Tudor revival building at **502 South Main** was the **Southwestern Bell** building from 1931 into the 50s.
54. **Look to the southwest corner of Sixth and Main.** For many years the **Grand Hotel** occupied this location. Built in 1926, it was torn down in 1967 to make way for the **Stillwater National Bank** building. The Grand was a favorite stopping place for business people.

**A view looking north on the 600 block. The Grand Hotel is on the right.**



**Walk back to the intersection of Seventh and Main as you view the west side of the 600 block.**

55. **614 South Main** was the location of **The Advance-Democrat**, an early Stillwater newspaper. Irving Owen Diggs started the Daily Democrat before 1900. It merged with the Advance and was published by G.R. Gould, the father of Chester Gould (creator of Dick Tracy). Diggs' wife Malinda was his partner and a founder of the first Stillwater Public Library. Their daughter was Cynthalice Diggs Berry, and their grandchildren include Tom D. Berry and Malinda Berry Fischer.
56. **620 and 622 South Main** both housed the **Stillwater Gazette** at one time, as well as print shops. The Gazette ran from 1889 to 1960.

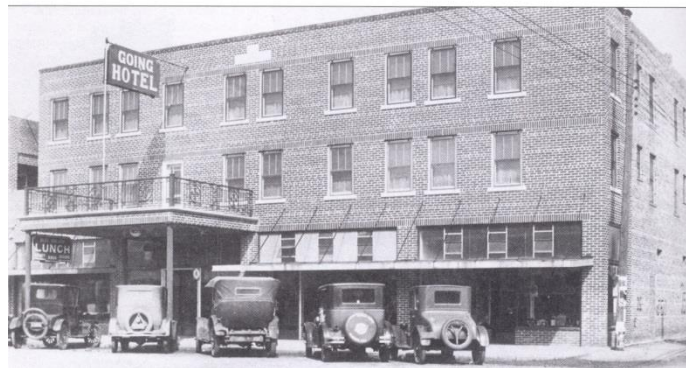
57. From the 20s until 1969, **624 South Main** was the home of various drug stores, including **Kennicut's**, and **Tiger Drug #2**. In 1969, **Hallmark** occupied the store and was there until 2007.

**Looking north from Seventh and Main**



58. **Crossing the street and going to 112-118 West Seventh**, you will see the former **Going Hotel**, built in 1926. The Going had 60 rooms, half with a private bath and half without (\$2.25 and \$1.25 respectively). The original tile floor that says “hotel” was uncovered by a dress shop owner in 2007.

**The Going Hotel**



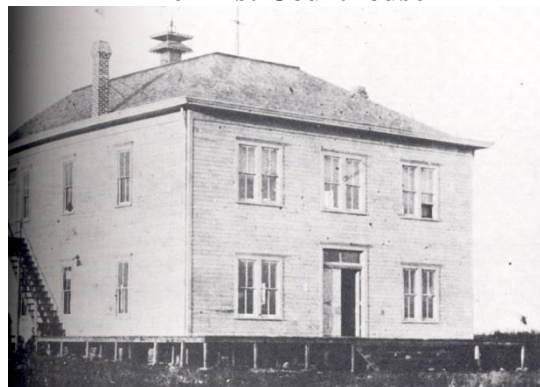
59. **McNeff's Pure Food Market** was built in 1919 by J.A. McNeff at **124 West Seventh**. It was built on the site of the First Christian Church which was established on this corner in 1898. The church then moved to the south west corner of Seventh and Husband from 1918-1959 when the present church was built at Duck and Matthews.

**Looking to the south side of West Seventh**, you will see the Walker, Selph and Hoke Buildings. These were added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1983, due to the restoration efforts of Winfrey and Barbara Houston.

60. The **Walker Building** at **117-119 West Seventh** was built in 1914 by J.A. McNeff, and was used as his grocery store before he moved across the street. In 1919 he sold the building to Schuyler R. Walker who ran a grocery and bakery.

61. The **Selph Building** at **123 West Seventh** was built by Dr. D.H. Selph (famous for treating members of the Doolin Gang in Ingalls) and Dr. L.A. Cleverdon. In 1915 Dr. Selph took over Dr. Cleverdon's practice. Dr. Selph continued to practice medicine, on the second floor, until his death in 1928.
62. G.E. Moore constructed the first portion of the **Hoke Building** at **125-129 West Seventh** in 1914. In 1919, J.P. Hoke purchased the building. In 1922 Roy T. Hoke added the back part, plus the third floor. Professional offices were on the second floor, while the third floor was a ballroom, mainly for college and high school dances. Hoke was known for his civic contributions and for the Roy T. Hoke Lumber Co. He died in 1987.
63. **As you turn right onto Husband and look north**, you can see the old **Stillwater Public Library Building** at the **northwest corner of Sixth and Husband**. The Public Library was founded in 1922 by the Stillwater Women's Club in the former parsonage of the United Brethren Church. In 1938 this building was completed, and the Library was here until 1994 when it moved to Twelfth and Duck.
64. **Looking across the street to 606 South Husband**, is the **Payne County Courthouse**. The first courthouse was a wooden frame structure built in 1891. It was destroyed by fire on December 26, 1894 which caused a tragic loss of important documents. The rebuilt courthouse was an exact duplicate of the first, except that this time it included a fireproof vault. In 1916, a grand jury looking into the condition of the courthouse called it ugly and unfit to be a courthouse, and the jail unfit for habitation. The new courthouse, which is still a part of the whole, was officially opened on January 25, 1919. The total cost of the courthouse project was \$153,000. In 1966, a bond for \$995,000 passed and the money was used to build the west end addition. The building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984. In 2007 construction began on a new jail, as it was once again found unfit for habitation.

**The First Courthouse**





65. **Walking back to 720 South Husband**, you can view the former federal building, which was the home of the **Post Office** from 1933-1980. The inside of the building was converted to offices after the closing of the post office and became the OSU Museum of Art in 2014.

**Walk back to Seventh and turn left, heading to Duncan.**

66. At **701 South Duncan**, the present **Baptist Church** building dates from 1952. Originally the Baptist congregation bought lots at Ninth and Duncan in 1896 for a church, but moved to this corner in 1909.
67. **Looking to the north at 524 South Duncan** you can see the **First Presbyterian Church**. The city first assigned this location to the church when they were planning the town, but the Presbyterians thought it was too far out of town. They sold the lots and moved to south Lewis Street across from where the Post Office is now. First services were held in 1891. In 1907, they moved back to Sixth and Duncan and have been there ever since. The present brick church dates from 1924, and has undergone a recent expansion.
68. Across the street at the **northeast corner of Sixth and Duncan**, the original building is gone, but this was the site of the **Congregational Church** where the first Oklahoma A&M classes were held in 1891. This was Stillwater's first church building.
69. **Continuing west on Seventh**, the **Sheerar Museum at 702 South Duncan** was originally the **First Church of Christ Scientist**. It began as a wood frame building in 1895, but in 1927 the structure that you see now was built. The Sheerar Cultural and Heritage center opened its doors here on May 7, 1973 after a donation of \$25,000 was made for the purchase by Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Sheerar. The Stillwater Arts and Humanities Council made a matching contribution. The First Church of Christ Scientist is now at Seventh and Ridge.
70. **Looking across the street north**, you can see the **Strode Funeral Home**. In 1928, it moved from the 700 block of Main to this location. Previously, **St. Andrews Episcopal Church** was located here from 1893 to 1922 when it moved to Third and Knoblock.

**Proceed west to Duck Street.**

71. **Across Duck Street at 400 West Seventh**, is the **Methodist Church**. The Methodists were the first congregation to organize in Stillwater and at first met in the Swopes Building. Later, they were on the south east corner of Eighth and Duncan starting in 1892. In 1923 they left that location for the one you see today.

**Turn left and go south.**

72. **711 South Duck** was the home of Dr. J.B. Murphy. Murphy was elected to the city council in 1889, and served as mayor for a brief period in 1891. He was the city's first elected city clerk, the first registered pharmacist and the first coroner. He helped found the Masonic Lodge, Odd Fellows, Elks, and Modern Woodmen of America in Stillwater. He died May 19, 1924.

**Continue south to the 800 block.**

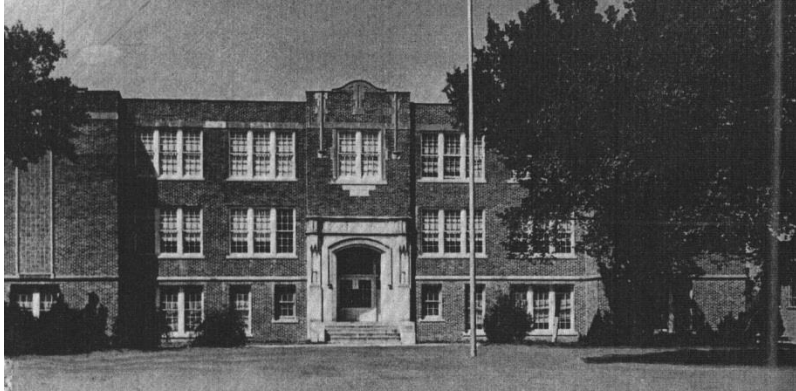
73. For almost a hundred years, this was the location of both primary and secondary schools. The **Carey** frame building first opened on this lot in 1893. **Alcott School** opened in 1896, which was the city's first High School. It was built by Louis Jardot. It was very controversial at the time because people thought it was too big and a waste of money, but it was soon outgrown. **Horace Mann** replaced the Carey building in 1910. It became the High School and Junior High, and Alcott became the elementary school. The **Stillwater Junior High**, which is still a part of the current structure, replaced Horace Mann in 1921. Alcott stayed on site into the 20s. During WWII, the Junior High became North High, while South High at Twelfth and Duck became the Junior High. As the new high school was being built in the 60s, North High became the middle school until 1987 when the current one on Sangre Road was built. Now this structure has become the **Community Center** and the home of the **Stillwater High School Alumni Association and Stillwater High School Museum**.

**Horace Mann and Alcott Schools. Horace Mann is on the left, facing Duck and Alcott is on the right facing Duncan.**



74. Continuing to **1107 South Duck**, **Old South High** looks much the same on the outside, but has been completely remodeled inside. It was constructed in 1919 and continued functioning as the high school until 1942. South High became part of the Stillwater Public Library when it opened at this location in 1994, and is now used as a meeting facility.

**Old South High**



**The south entrance of the school is now the entrance to the meeting room wing and is enclosed in a lobby.**



**Sources used for the tour:**

Bivert, Raymond E. *My Town Stillwater*. Stillwater, OK., Copy & Art, 1989.

Chapman, Berlin Basil. *The Founding of Stillwater*. Oklahoma City, OK, Times Journal Publishing Co., 1948.

Cunningham, Robert E. *Stillwater: Where Oklahoma Began*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. Perkins, OK: Evans Publications, 1979.

Cunningham, Robert E. *Stillwater: Through the Years*. Oklahoma City, OK, Metro Press Inc., 1974.

Newsom, D. Earl. *Stillwater: One Hundred Years of Memories, a Pictorial History*. Norfolk: The Donning Company/Publishers, 1989.

Newsom, D. Earl. *The Story of Exciting Payne County*. Stillwater, OK, New Forums Press, 1997.

Newsom, D. Earl. *Stillwater History: The Missing Links*. Stillwater, OK, New Forums Press, Inc., 2000.

Newsom, D. Earl. *Hilarious History: The Funniest True Stories and Legends of Stillwater and Payne County*. Stillwater, OK, New Forums Press, 1999.

Newsom, D. Earl. *Stillwater: a Cradle of Oklahoma History*. Stillwater, OK. New Forums Press, Inc., 2007

Bassler, Clarence. *Oklahoma Scrapbook*, Reference Storage, Stillwater Public Library

Stillwater History Folders, Vertical File, Stillwater Public Library

Stillwater City Directories, Reference Storage, Stillwater Public Library

*History of Strode Funeral Home*, <http://www.strodefh.com/>

Dorothy Carmain, volunteer, Stillwater Public Library

Leon Wood, employee, Stillwater Public Library

Susie Kessler, proprietor of Sadie Bryner

Mike and Karen Campbell, proprietors of MK's Portrait Studios

Staff of the Sheerar Museum

Dr. William Bryans, Oklahoma State University

**Special thanks to:**

Cindy Gibson, Administrative Coordinator, City of Stillwater Development Services



