

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED DEC 28 1979

DATE ENTERED

MAR 3 1980

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Tuton's Drugstore

AND/OR COMMON

John's Grocery Store

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1st and Main

CITY, TOWN

Arcadia

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5

STATE

Oklahoma

VICINITY OF
CODE

40

COUNTY

Oklahoma

CODE

109

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☒ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Eula "Toodie" Teuscher

STREET & NUMBER

(1)

Route 2 Box 215

CITY, TOWN

Edmond

VICINITY OF

STATE

Oklahoma

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Oklahoma County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

320 Robert S. Kerr

CITY, TOWN

Oklahoma City

STATE

Oklahoma

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Oklahoma County Commercial Sites Survey

DATE

1978

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☒ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Shirk Collection, Oklahoma City University Library

CITY, TOWN

Oklahoma City

STATE

Oklahoma

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR
☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Tuton's Drugstore is a two-story sandstone commercial building measuring 25' x 70'. Although constructed in 1917, the structure's exterior is typical of territorial architecture once common to central Oklahoma Territory. The lower floor is symmetrically designed, with two arched doorways on the southeast corner of the building and two larger arched windows on either side. This balance is repeated on the western half of the south side, with arched windows on either side of a door. A row of symmetrically arranged rectangular windows on the south side visually draw the two sections together. Two arched windows on the second floor of the east side likewise complement the elements on the first level.

All of the windows still have the original double-hung wooden sashes. The heads and sills of the arched windows and the heads of the doors also are sandstone. The voussoirs of the arched windows and entrances are marked by extended keystones. All of the window units are in good condition. On the west end of the building is a wooden staircase leading to an apartment on the second floor. Below this landing is another door. The north side of the building is broken only by a row of rectangular windows. The sandstone is in good condition, having been cleaned in 1978.

The interior has been extensively altered. Wallboard has been placed over the plastered walls and a new ceiling has been added. The original furnishings of the old drugstore have been removed, but they are stored at the owner's house.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE
☐ 1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER
☐ 1800-1899	☒ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION
☒ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)
		☐ INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1917-1979

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Tuton's Drugstore is the only surviving commercial structure in the old downtown business district of Arcadia. Although leased to a grocer, the building is still owned by the descendants of the business' original owner, B. F. Tuton. When combined with the architectural value of the sandstone structure, the commercial and familial heritage of Tuton's Drugstore makes the building worthy of preservation.

The land surrounding what is now Arcadia was opened to settlers by the land run of 1889. Although situated in the fertile Deep Fork River Valley, the town of Arcadia before 1900 was merely a post office serving the farmers in the region. Not until the railroad was built to Arcadia in 1903 did the town develop a commercial district. One of the earliest businessmen was Benjamin Franklin Tuton. Tuton had made the land run of 1889, claiming and farming 160 acres of good bottom land. When the railroad connected Arcadia with Oklahoma City, however, Tuton entered the drug business with George Blake. Operating from a small frame building east of Main Street, the Blake and Tuton Drugstore prospered. In 1909 they added a fountain and began selling soft drinks and ice cream. By 1917 wartime prosperity and rising cotton prices were generating new commercial activity for merchants such as Tuton, brightening the hopes of Arcadia's businessmen.

Prompted by this economic boom, the First State Bank of Arcadia purchased the lot at 1st Street and Main for construction of a new building. In the Spring of 1917 construction workers began cutting sandstone on the Ogle farm, which was one mile west and one-quarter mile south of Arcadia. Hauling the stone by horse and wagon, the workers erected the two-story building on the west side of Main Street. The resulting structure with arched doorways and windows was typical of architectural styles which had been popular in central Oklahoma since the early 1890s.

The bank occupied the building for less than two years, however, before selling to the prospering firm of Blake and Tuton for \$3,400. By that time Tuton's two sons had returned from military service. Roy was a barber; the other son, Thomas,

(cont.)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Edmond Booster (Edmond, Oklahoma), August 12, 1976, p. 3.

Remember Arcadia (Arcadia, Oklahoma: Arcadia Reminiscence Association, 1978), throughout.

Interview with Toodie Teuscher, granddaughter of B. F. Tuton, August 14, 1979.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Circa 1 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Arcadia, Oklahoma

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 14 651 605 3947 685

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

E

G

B

D

F

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point 12' southeast of the building, proceed 90' west along the street to a point 10' beyond the southwest corner

(cont.)

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Dr. Bob L. Blackburn, Project Director

ORGANIZATION

Oklahoma County Historical Society

DATE

August 15, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

3801 N. Shartel

TELEPHONE

405-528-5091

CITY OR TOWN

Oklahoma City

STATE

Oklahoma

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ☐

STATE ☐

LOCAL ☒

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

12/11/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

March 3, 1980

ATTEST:

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

2/27/80

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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CONTINUATION SHEET 1

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

helped his father with the drugstore. In 1921 B. F. Tuton purchased Blake's half of the business, whereupon Thomas entered into partnership with his father. Thomas and his wife Ethel then moved into the apartment above the store.

In June of 1924 disaster struck Arcadia when a fire destroyed every commercial structure on the east side of town; the only permanent building in town surviving the holocaust was the Tuton and Son Drugstore. The disaster compounded problems besetting the small town, for the cotton industry had been declining since 1920 and urbanization was just beginning to take its toll. Tuton's Drugstore continued, however, operated by Thomas, Ethel, and their only child, Eula, better known as Toodie. After Thomas' death in 1934, Ethel kept the drugstore open until 1941, when the task became too great. The store sat empty until 1945 when it was leased to a grocer. Today, the store is still occupied by a leasee. Despite the demise of Tuton's Drugstore, Ethel Tuton retained ownership of the sandstone building. In 1979, at the age of eighty, she still resides in the second floor apartment. Her daughter, who now lives in Edmond, has preserved the original fountain, furniture, cash register, and scales from the old drug store, awaiting the day when the drugstore might again serve the citizens of Arcadia.

Continuous family ownership and local commercial significance are not the only reasons to preserve the structure, for it is only one of three sandstone commercial structures surviving in Oklahoma County. The practise of cutting local sandstone for commercial buildings was once common in central Oklahoma, where formations of soft sandstone appear near the earth's surface; the advent of cheap factory-fired brick, the development of more efficient transportation, and the rising cost of local labor, however, destroyed the economic incentives for using locally cut sandstone. Thus, sandstone for the past sixty to seventy years has been used rarely. The presence of this rare building material, when combined with the simple but balanced design of the structure, makes Tuton's Drugstore building worthy of preservation.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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CONTINUATION SHEET 2

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

of the building. Then proceed 45' through the backyard to a point 10' beyond the northwest corner of the building. Then proceed 90' east through a vacant lot to the curb on Main Street, which is 10' beyond the northeast corner of the building. Then proceed 45' along the curb to the point of departure.

80003278

Property Tutor's DrugstoreState Ok, Oklahoma Working Number 12.28.79.2988

TECHNICAL

CONTROL

Photos 3
Maps 1

Downtown Arcadia's oldest surviving commercial structure (only one predating 1924
year); representative of town's brief period around the time of WWI; 1 of only
3 surviving sandstone commercial structures in the county. Although once popular
in this area, the use of locally cut sandstone was superseded by the advent of
cheaper, factory-fined brick.

accept
Grosvenor
2/27/80

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

accept
B. Grosvenor
2/27/80

BRANCH CHIEF

concur with Both Grosvenors

accept
Vlovich
3/3/80

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____
Federal Register Entry 2-3-81Send-back _____
Re-submit _____Entered MAR 3 1980



Tuton's Drugstore, Arcadia,
Oklahoma *Oklahoma Co,*
View from the east

MAR

3 1980

DEC 28 1979

Shot in July, 1979



Tuton's Drugstore, Arcadia,
Oklahoma *Oklahoma Co.*
View from the south

MAR

3 1980

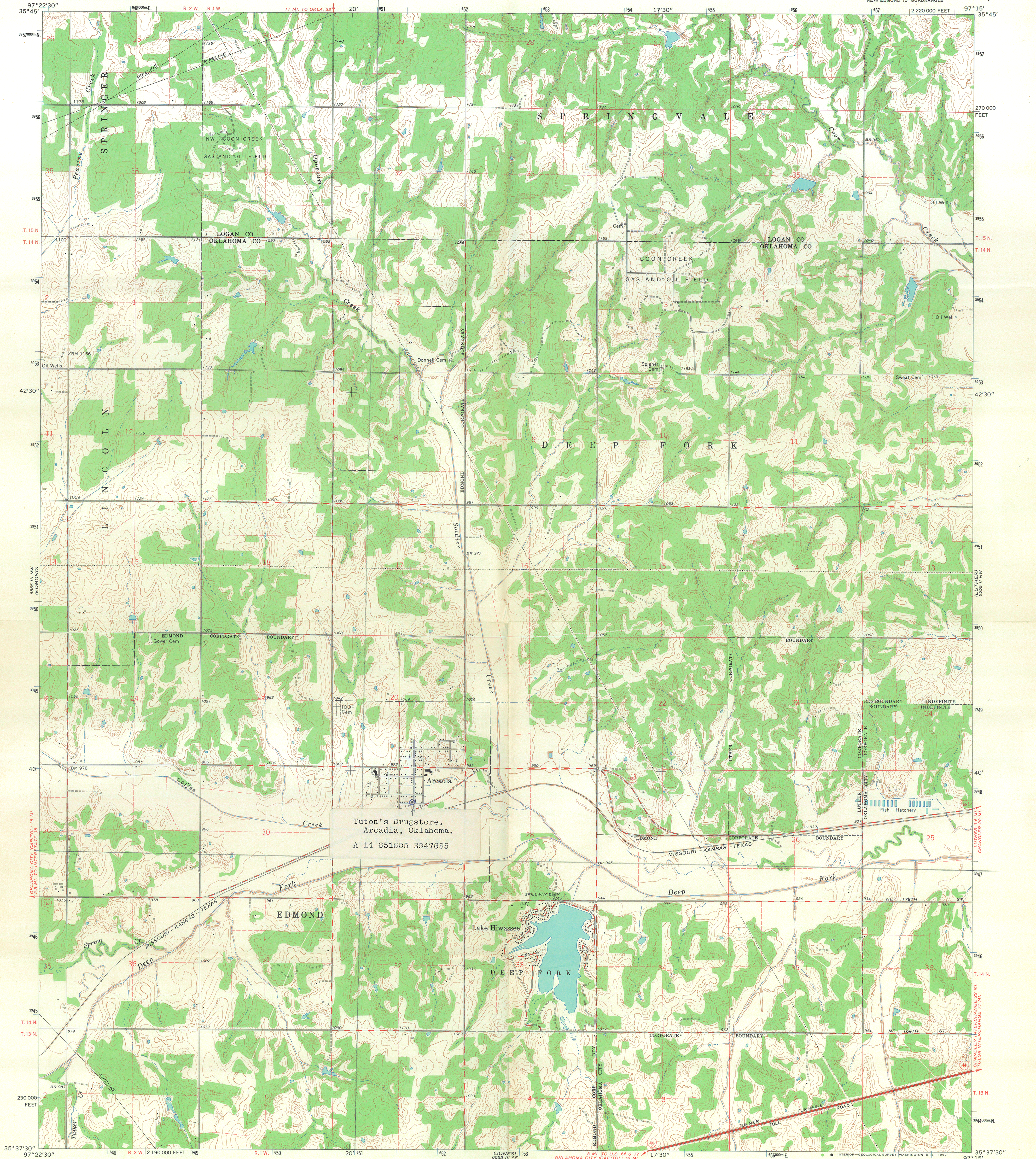
DEC 28 1979

Shot in July, 1979

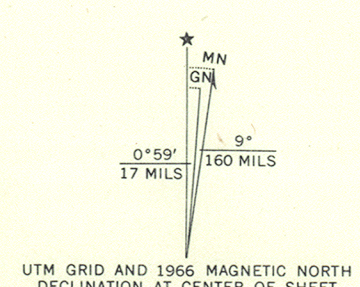


Tuton's Drugstore, Arcadia,
Oklahoma **DEC 28 1979**
Historic photograph
Circa 1930

Oklahoma County **MAR 3 1980**



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1964. Field checked 1966
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Oklahoma coordinate system, north zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 14, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



SCALE 1:24 000
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
Interstate Route	U. S. Route

ARCADIA, OKLA.
NE/4 EDMOND 15' QUADRANGLE
N3537.5—W9715/7.5
1966
AMS 6555 III NE—SERIES V883
MAR 3 1980

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

RECEIVED
DEC 28 1978
NATIONAL
REGISTER



United States Department of the Interior

HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO: 661

3

Dear Property Owner:

The property you own has been nominated for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register is the government's official list of historic buildings and other cultural resources worthy of preservation. This nomination is pending in our office.

If your property is depreciable and is listed in the National Register, there are certain benefits and provisions of the Tax Reform Act of 1976 that may apply to you. We are enclosing information about this law and a general description of the National Register program.

Soon we will be considering whether your property should be listed, using as our guidelines the "Criteria for Evaluation" shown in the enclosed material. If you wish to comment on whether your property should be listed, we would be pleased to hear from you. Send your comments within 30 days of the date of this letter to me, Carol D. Shull, Acting Keeper of the National Register, Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, Department of the Interior, Pension Building, 440 G Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20243 (Attn: NOM). Please include the name and address of the property as shown on the address label on this letter. If you have questions about the National Register program or the enclosed material, you should also address them to me.

In the enclosed material you will note references to standards for rehabilitating old buildings. These standards are a list of do's and don'ts for people who are fixing up old buildings. If the owner of a building listed in the National Register, either individually or as part of a district, wishes to take advantage of the Tax Reform Act benefits, these standards must be followed. A copy of these standards is available from Technical Preservation Services, Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, Department of the Interior, Pension Building, 440 G Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20243. Questions about the standards should also be addressed to that same office.

Sincerely,

Carol D. Shull

Carol D. Shull
Acting Keeper of the National Register

Eula "Toodie" Teuscher
Route 2 Box 215
Edmond, OK

RE: Tuton's Drugstore

*(Reply & 2 enclosures)
Thanks. E. Teuscher*

Dr 2/4/80
THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

JAN 22 1980

DATE REC'D _____

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE (ATTACHED)

INFORMATIVE MATERIAL SENT

TELEPHONE CALL (ATTACHED)

DATE ACTION TAKEN _____

INITIALS _____

Tutor's Drug store

1/8/80

OK CO

OK

Yp

Edmond, Okla.
January 14, 1980

Carol D. Skull
U.S. Dept of Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Ms. Skull;

When Eula "Foodie" Lutton and her best friend, Maxine Rogers, decided to carve their initials on something 45 years ago, they decided it would be wise to put their initials on the sandstone blocks of the Drugstore building in Arcadia, Okla. where Foodie lived. The building was old at that time (having been built in 1917-18). Since we were not the first to have the idea of initial carving, the sandstone building has varied initials carved and dated by early day residents of Arcadia, who often made the town "Drugstore" the hub for visiting their friends as they picked up their mail, bought

drug items and sundries.

Since 1918 the "Drugstore" has been and still is a gathering place in Arcadia.

Briefly may I refer to your letter dated January 3, 1980. Referral reply # 661 RE: Tutor's Drugstore.

Significance in following:

History: Over B. F. Tutor was in the historical Oklahoma Land Run, April 22, 1889. He homesteaded 160 acres in the Arcadia area. 80 acres which remains in the Tutor family. A son, Thomas Henry Tutor born on the homestead, later served in France and Germany during World War I was in business with his father after the war. After Tommie's death, Ethel Rogers Tutor was owner of the store building. The building is still owned by heir of B. F. Tutor, Eula "Foodie" Tutor Zenschew.

Architecture: 1917-18 Two story sandstone building, on Arcadia's Main Street. app. 25 x 75 feet. Doubled arched entrances. Arched Windows.

(P. 3)

Workmanship: Sandstone quarried from a farm $1\frac{1}{2}$ S.W. of building site. Stones were hand hewed; mortar was hand mixed; stones carried by man, mule, & wagons.

Setting: Site is one block off of U.S. Hwy. 66 on black-top street (Main) in Arcadia, Okla. This building stands tall and erect in the shadows of another unique building located 1 bl. south, the Round Barn. One-half mile east of the "Drugstore" is a marking of one of Washington Swings' campsites. Five miles east, is the marker of the east boundary of the Okla. Land Run of 1889. One and half miles west is the dam site of Arcadia Lake, to be built under the supervision of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers beginning in 1980. All of these places are located on Hwy #66.

Feelings: Grandfather B. F. Tuton started the drug business in 1918 in this building; the exterior has remained unchanged. Two years ago I had the building sand-blasted in order to show the original hue of the stone. The interior now houses John's Grocery.

This building has had a commercial⁽⁴⁾ business housed within its walls since 1918.

The eight large rooms in the living quarters upstairs is still the home of my mother, Ethel Rogers Tuton, age 80! She moved into the upper level of the drugstore as a bride of Tommy Tuton in 1921. She was a school teacher in the Arcadia Public Schools, and later the Registered Pharmacist at the Drugstore. She was the fifth woman in the state of Oklahoma to receive a Pharmaceutical Degree from the University of Oklahoma. Her Pharmacist degree is number 3622 dated November 22, 1922, issued by the Okla. State Board of Pharmacy. She was awarded her 50-year pin of Pharmacy in 1972 at University of Oklahoma. Association: Local history buffs and reporters, and many who travel Hwy 66, have stopped, taken pictures, and have written articles about this grand old building (See two enclosures).

Ms. Shull, it has been my pleasure to reply to your letter Ref. # 661. It's been good to recall family history and write to you and the committee about this building which was my home until my marriage to Charley Teuscher.

Thanks to you and the committee members who are interested in preservation of landmarks in our state and nation.

My mother, Ethel Lutton, my husband Charley Teuscher, our two daughters, Sally Teuscher Richards, and Peggy Teuscher Timmons, appreciate the nomination of the "Drugstore" for listing in the

National Register of Historic Places. (6)

We are grateful to the Okla. State Historical Society and to Mr. Bob Blackburn for their concern and interest.

Hope you will enjoy reading more history and information from the enclosed news-paper articles and that the committee will feel that the "Drugstore" building would be suitable as a historic and interesting place to see and visit while driving on highway 66!

Sincerely,

Eula "Foodie" Tuton Zenscher
Route 2 Box 215
Edmond, Ok 73034

RE: Tuton's Drugstone
Reply Refer to #661

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

DATE REC'D JAN 22 1980

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE (ATTACHED)

INFORMATIVE MATERIAL SENT

TELEPHONE CALL (ATTACHED)

DATE ACTION TAKEN

INITIALS

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE OKLAHOMA

Date Entered

3

Name

Location

Stillwater Santa Fe Depot

Stillwater
Payne County

Tuton's Drugstore

Arcadia
Oklahoma County

Harbour-Longmire Building

Oklahoma City
Oklahoma County

Pioneer Building

Oklahoma City
Oklahoma County

Engels' Dry Goods Store

Luther
Oklahoma County

Also Notified

Honorable David L. Boren

Honorable Henry L. Bellmon
Honorable Glenn English
Honorable Mickey Edwards

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. H. Glenn Jordan
Oklahoma Historical Society
Historical Building
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

NR Byers/bjr 3/6/80

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.

RE: Tuton's Drugstore - Arcadia, Ok.
Replies Refer to # 661

The Night Arcadia Burned...

'Toodie' Teuscher Doesn't Remember It;
She Wasn't Born Until Later That Night

By Linda Jones
Sun & Booster Staff Writer

The small community of Arcadia was once a thriving town. It had many businesses and was the hub of the cotton industry in this area with three cotton gins located there.

Tutons Drug Store was a popular place to meet and visit with friends and neighbors.

Benjamin Franklin Tuton bought

a half-interest in the Blake Drug Store in 1909 and the building remains in the Tuton family today.

Frank Tuton's daughter-in-law, Ethel Rogers Tuton, still lives in the upstairs apartment. The old fountain from the drug store and the cash register used for so many years are treasured items in the home of his grand-daughter, Eula Tuton Teuscher.

"Toodie," as she is known to her friends, has installed the fountain

and other mementoes from the store in the den of her home. The small pharmacy scales, tobacco cutter and her mother's pharmacy license are all treasures from the early days of the store.

Frank Tuton made the run in 1889 and homesteaded a 160 acre farm south of Arcadia. When he bought a half interest in the drug store, the name was changed to Blake and Tuton Drug Store.

Frank had earlier dropped the

"e" from Teuton.

The business was first housed in a frame building on the east side of the main street in town. Blake and Tuton moved the building and enlarged it and added more stock. A fountain and awning were added sometime during 1909.

Business was good and the drug store prospered and another move was made into the two-story sandstone building on the corner of First and Main. The building was first used as the First State Bank of Arcadia and now houses the Cleek Grocery today. The post office was in the rear of the store.

Tommy Tuton and Ethel Rogers were married in Guthrie March 21, 1921.

Frank Tuton and Tommy and his new bride lived in the upstairs floor of the drug store. "At that time the drug business was good," said Ethel Tuton.

"Mr. Tuton, Tommy and I decided that with all the trade area around Arcadia and the closest drug store at that time with a registered pharmacist in Edmond, I needed to try to get a degree in pharmacy," Ethel said.

She enrolled in the school of pharmacy at the University of Oklahoma in Norman. "I would catch the train, the Katy, about 4 a.m. to Oklahoma City. From Oklahoma City to Norman I would ride the interurban, meet my classes, then catch the interurban back to Edmond."

"It was late in the evening by the time I

would get back home," Ethel recalls. "Tommy would meet me in Edmond and we would drive back to Arcadia," she said.

"Tommy was anxious for me to become a registered pharmacist so I kept that kind of schedule until Nov. 22, 1922, when I received my degree from O.U.," Ethel said.

Toodie, the couple's only child, was born June 5, 1924, the morning after a memorable night for the town. On the evening of June 4 the town burned.

Every building on the east side of main street between First and Second seemed to be aglow with flames. Many of these buildings were never replaced.

Firemen from Edmond were called to fight the blaze and one building was dynamited to stop the

advance of the flames.

The drug business stayed good and the family survived the great depression. "Success was nice to enjoy," said Ethel.

Frank Tuton died in 1932 and Tommy and Ethel were owners of the drug store until Tommy's untimely death in 1934. He was only 39 years old when he died from appendicitis.

The drug store still stands at the center of town as it has for many years. Ira Cleek has rented the downstairs and operates a grocery store there. People still come to this store bulbuilding, buying and visiting each day.

Ray Rogers and Ray Cleek, Arcadia residents who served in France in WWI, still come to the building to do business. They began as customers

many years ago of Frank Tuton.

The soda fountain has been saved from the building but the ornate copper and marble counter was sold for scrap.

"I'm pleased to tell you my story," said Ethel. "I'm proud of the fact that as a bride in 1921 I lived upstairs in the drug store building.

I've never moved. I still live upstairs in the year 1976 and was 77 years young last March."

The drug store and 80 acres of the Tuton farm homesteaded in 1889 remain today in the Tuton family.

"My daughter Eula Tuton Teuscher and I are still the owners of the great old building standing in the shadows of the old round barn, another landmark of this area."



The soda fountain from her father's drug store now stands in the den of Toodie Teuscher.

EDMOND BOOSTER

Section 3

August 12, 1976



The Tuton Drug Store was already a landmark in Arcadia when this picture was taken in 1938. The local post office was in the back of the store.

*The "Drugstore" was not destroyed in the fire! It is still a commercial store - John Tuton
Ref. Reply #661 RE Tuton's Drugstore
June 4, 1924 Marks Tragedy For Small Town*

Sunday, May 27, 1979, EDMOND SUNDAY, Section B, Page 9

Residents Still Recall The Night Arcadia Burned

By Linda Jones
Sun Staff Writer

Life in Arcadia, Okla., was good in 1924. The little cotton town had a thriving business district, its own post office and a depot for the M.K.&T. railroad, affectionately known as the "Katy."

Farmers and townspeople could do business at the local bank and then trade at one of several mercantile stores. Russell Sweat operated one of the general stores and also the adjoining undertaking parlor.

Frank Tuton and his son, Tommy, operated the Tuton and Son pharmacy. Tommy's wife, Ethel, was the registered pharmacist.

Long an integrated community, blacks and whites were both members of the business community. Children of the town

attended both elementary and high school and were proud of their basketball team.

Farmers from the surrounding farm made a practice of bringing their milk and cream to the Snyder Brothers store for testing before shipping it out each day on the Katy. It was the testing of that cream that caused a gigantic fire from which the city has never recovered.

It was a balmy spring day on June 4, 1924, when a farmer brought in his milk to be tested at Snyder's. Being a general mercantile store, kerosene was also sold and the tank was being filled that day.

In the cream testing process, an open flame is used. Fumes from the kerosene being pumped into the tank were ignited by the cream testing flame and an explosion resulted that set the store on fire.

According to "Remember Arcadia," published by the Arcadia Reminiscence Association, the great fire which resulted destroyed every building on the east side of the main street between 1st and 2nd. Many of these buildings were never replaced.

Fire fighting units were called from Edmond and Oklahoma City but the fire had such a head start, it was useless. After the flames had burned most of the day and began threatening the remaining businesses, dynamite was used to stop the spreading fire.

Ethel Tuton, who lived with her husband over their pharmacy across the street, began to despair of saving her home. Her husband and friends carried all their belongings down into the neighboring yard

of Kate and Russell Sweat.

Only a bed and a few chairs were left in the Tuton's upstairs living quarters. Late in the day, Ethel began having labor pains and early the following morning, their daughter, Eula Lorene was born.

According to a report published the next day in the "Edmond Enterprise," four store buildings were completely destroyed, "three of which were filled with goods."

"The business portion of the town would probably have been wiped out, had not the building adjacent to the Snyder store been dynamited," said the news story.

The mercantile stores kept the flames raging. Lola Baker, who lived north of town, could see the smoke from her house. "I remember the day well," she said.

Along with the stores that burned were a doctor's office and a barber shop. Through the efforts of the firefighters and the dynamite, the rest of the town was saved and the flames were kept from crossing the street.

The pioneer spirit was still strong in the town settled in the run of 1889. "Snyder Brothers at once started another stock of goods to Arcadia and opened up another store this morning," said the newspaper account.

Eula Tuton, now known to her many friends as "Toodlie" Teuscher, says being born the morning following the great Arcadia fire has its disadvantages. "Everyone remembers how old I am," she said with a laugh.