**Walking Tour of Watonga Sites on the National Registry of Historical Places**

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/index.htm>

**Watonga National Guard Armory,** 301 W. Main.

The Watonga National Guard Armory was built by the Works Progress Administration between 1935-37. The project utilized 36 previously unemployed workers for sixteen months, but the high-quality workmanship including brickwork is exemplary of the WPA era armories. The building provided a home for the Headquarters Battery and Combat Train, 189th Field Artillery, 45th Infantry Division of the Oklahoma National guard. It is one of three remaining WPA buildings in Watonga (School at 9th and Noble and Scout Hut at 6th and Leach. <https://npgallery.nps.gov/AssetDetail/NRIS/94000491> Today, it hosts the annual Watonga Cheese Festival and Watonga EMS.

**Noble Hotel**, 112 N. Noble. The Noble Hotel, built in 1912 with a rear addition in 1937 is an excellent example of Prairie Commercial Style architecture. The original building is 25 feet wide and 65 feet deep. In 1937, an addition to the east side enlarged the building to 130 feet. The hotel was strategically placed between two rail depots. The exterior blond bricks were left over from the construction of the nearby Blaine County Court House. Brickwork over the windows is arched. The building served as the last of five downtown hotels until 1985 when closed. It was later restored including the second story balcony by a private group. It is presently a privately owned Bed and Breakfast and serves many civic organizations including the Lions and the Health, Community and Education Club, as well as private functions. The building was accepted on the National Registry of Historical places in 1996 <https://npgallery.nps.gov/AssetDetail/NRIS/96000491>

**United States Post Office,** 121 N. Noble. The United

States Post Office in Watonga, Oklahoma was built in 1936 and occupies the southwest corner of the intersection of North Noble Avenue and First Street. It is a brick-clad building designed in the Colonial Revival style with one and one-half stories and a basement. A short flight of stairs flanked by lamp post and planter leads to the entrance. Above the entrance, two 9 x 9 arched windows give light. Above the sign *United States Post Office, Watonga, OK 73772* is a cornice decorated with lentils. A stone lined drainage ditch built by the WPA borders the north.

In the interior hangs a mural named “Roman Nose Canyon” painted by Edith Mahier as part of the WPA artists program. Chief Henry Roman Nose is picture with his family along with other Cheyenne in the canyon where Roman Nose live 1856-1917. White settlers in a Conestoga wagon are in the background signaling an end to some aspects of traditional Cheyenne life. <https://npgallery.nps.gov/AssetDetail/NRIS/09000213>

**Blaine County Court House** Located on Court House Square on N. Weigel between 1st and 2nd streets was built in 1906, the year before statehood, and accepted to the National Register of Hist. Places in 1984. It is a four-story structure with basement topped by a dome. The pedimented design above the entrance is repeated above the cornice. The building has particularly fine brickwork. A subtle composition of raised open squares and rectangles empathizes the patterning of the windows. A slightly recessed arcade of three windows on the third and fourth floors emphasizes the central façade of the building above the front entry. The triple arch of the arcade draws the viewer’s eye upward to the dome. The Blaine County Courthouse remains the center of county government and law enforcement and hosts other government functions.

<https://npgallery.nps.gov/AssetDetail/NRIS/84002972>

**Thompson B. Ferguson Home Museum** 521 N. Weigel St.

Mr. Ferguson was appointed Sixth Territorial Governor of Oklahoma serving 1901-1906 by Theodore Roosevelt <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thompson_Benton_Ferguson> . He and his wife, Elva, had this 10-room, three-story structure constructed beginning 1901. The Fergusons came to Watonga in 1892 and published *The Watonga Republican*. The Fergusons hosted the famed author Edna Ferber for three weeks as she wrote her 1930 book “Cimarron”. <https://npgallery.nps.gov/AssetDetail/NRIS/73001555> The book parallels the life of the Fergusons and was made into a 1931 movie “Cimarron” which won an academy award for best picture. The site also hosts the 1897 Watonga Jail, and a Calvary Remount structure from the North Canadian River west of Watonga where soldiers stayed while keeping peace between the Northern and Southern Cheyenne. Today the home is a museum receiving many local and out of town visitors. NRHP since May 17, 1973

<https://www.tbfergusonhome.org/>

**J.H. Wagner House**, 521 N. Prouty Avenue. Built in 1903, this three-story frame home with clapboard siding painted white is an excellent example of the Victorian Queen Anne-Free Classic style of architecture. It is noted for the unique two-story octagonal corner tower with a modified cupola and Tuscan porch columns. A small Palladian widow highlights the attic. The home was listed in the National register March 10, 1983. <https://npgallery.nps.gov/AssetDetail/NRIS/83002077>

For more information on these and other National Registry of Historical Places in Blaine County, visit [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National\_Register\_of\_Historic\_Places\_listings\_in\_Blaine\_County,\_Oklahoma](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Register_of_Historic_Places_listings_in_Blaine_County%2C_Oklahoma)

