

Ponca City's
Historic Properties

The City of Ponca City has been fortunate to have progressive City Commissioners with vision and foresight, and who, through the years, have vigorously pursued and supported historic preservation efforts. In 2007 Ponca City was designated as a "Preserve America Community" in recognition of its continuing commitment to preserving and using its cultural and natural resources for the benefit and enjoyment of the public.

Ponca City has one National Historic Landmark, along with twenty-seven properties listed in the National Register, WPA buildings and two historic districts. This driving tour offers you an overview of these properties and our City's growth and valuable historic resources.

The City of Ponca City is a proud supporter of historic preservation in our community. We encourage you to discover the interesting local history, beauty and hospitality that contribute to the quality of life in our great city. Enjoy the sights you will experience here and visit us again often.

For additional information, please contact
City of Ponca City's website:
www.poncacityok.gov

1 Ponca City Milling Co. Elevator

Independently owned and operated by the locally-prominent Donahoe family for most of its productive years, the Ponca City Milling Company Elevator is a complex that includes a single-story office/flour storage area, a six-story flour mill, concrete grain elevator, and a large set of concrete, cylindrical grain storage bins. Together, this complex was a symbol of widespread agricultural prosperity in north-central Oklahoma during the early twentieth century.

2 Poncan Theatre

The Poncan Theatre, completed in 1927 and designed by the Boller Brothers of Kansas City, is an excellent example of the Spanish Colonial Revival Style. The Boller Brothers designed over a hundred atmospheric theatres throughout the Midwest including the Burford Theatre in Ark City and the Coleman in Miami, OK. During the era of live performances at the theatre such famous entertainers as Will Rogers, Mary Pickford, and Ethel Barrymore appeared onstage.

3 Soldani Mansion

The Godance Soldani house was designed by architect G.J. Cannon, and built by O.F. Keck, one of the city's first and finest builders. It was constructed in 1925 (in a style that has been described as "Early Oil") at a cost of $92,000. From the domed tornado-proof basement to the roof with its glazed green tiles from France, the house reflected the quality of materials and workmanship. The Soldani Brothers, Sylvester and Godance, both took prominent roles in the affairs of Ponca City as well as the Osage Nation.

4 Daniel J. Donahoe House

Designed by Solomon L. Layton, the Daniel J. Donahoe House is a textbook example of the "Craftsman" style home. Built from stone, brick, and real wood, the Daniel J. Donahoe House makes a big statement with its low-pitched overhanging roof and column-heavy front porch. Mr. Daniel J. Donahoe was an active and influential community leader in Ponca City for more than 50 years. The home was built by O. F. Keck, Ponca City's first and most prolific home builder.

5 Downtown Historic District

The Downtown Historic District is a commercial district covering 22 blocks in the central business district. A total of 143 buildings are included within the district. Most buildings within the district are commercial or governmental in function. The District retains a high degree of historic integrity with 81% of the properties considered contributing resources. The Poncan Theatre located at 104 East Grand is perhaps the most decorous façade on Grand Avenue and in the City is located within the District. It was listed on the National Register in 1984 due to its stunning architecture.

6 E. W. Marland - Paris House

Designed by Solomon Layton, this one-time home of Oklahoma's 12th governor is more than a magnificent mansion ordered into existence by a millionaire oilman. It is a majestic monument in stone to one of the last of a breed – a fantastically successful wildcatter, a rags-to-riches individualist, an ambitious empire builder who created on the frontier a classic European villa.

7 Henry Hatashita House

The Hatashita House was designed by John Duncan Forsyth in 1927. The home was constructed for Henry C. Hatashita at the expense of E. W. Marland during construction of the nearby Marland Mansion. This home is significant for its association with landscape designer, Hatashita, as well as being a notable example of the Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival style.

8 E. W. Marland Mansion

The E. W. Marland Mansion, often called the "Palace on the Prairie", is a 55-room Italian Renaissance Villa, designed by John Duncan Forsyth. The Marland Mansion is located in the heart of Ponca City on a 30-acre complex. As a National Historic Landmark, the Mansion is significant as the home of E. W. Marland, an entrepreneur who contributed greatly to the development of the petroleum industry in the United States.

9 Blaine Stadium & Fieldhouse

The Blaine Stadium and Fieldhouse are WPA facilities constructed between 1936-1937. At the depth of the Depression and the onset of the Dust Bowl, construction of the facility paid wages of 32,000 man-hours of labor into the local economy, helping to revitalize the main street hit by the decline of the oil industry and the devaluation of agricultural products. As a WPA facility its construction demonstrated the breadth of the agency's definition of a "useful" project, suggesting that recreation and athletic contests were critical to recovery from the Depression.

10 Temple Emanuel

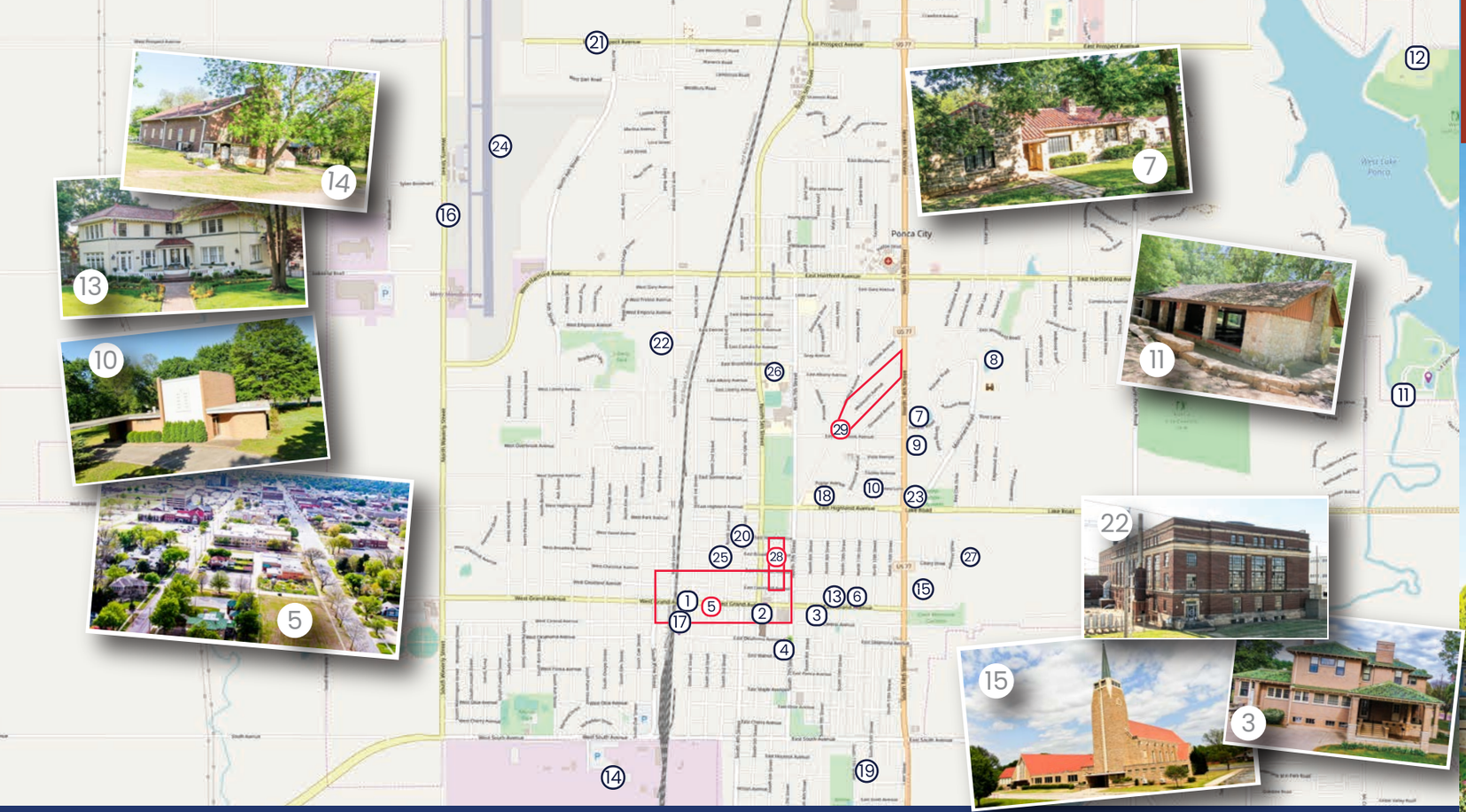
Temple Emanuel was designed by Ponca City architect G. Harold Kanady and was constructed in 1964. The temple represented the structural center of worship for a small, but thriving, Jewish community in Ponca City and the surrounding area by the mid-twentieth century. Minimal and simple in its design, Temple Emanuel has become a local landmark in large part due to the two-story tall parabolic brick structure at its center, which indicated the location of the temple sanctuary.

11 Lake Ponca Duck Pond Historic District

The Lake Ponca Duck Pond Historic District was a work relief and public works program of the "New Deal" under President Franklin D. Roosevelt. It is an outstanding example of National Park Service Rustic architecture and landscape design as applied to a municipal park. The district consists of PWA-financed reservoir construction including the spillway and stock ponds, restrooms, picnic shelters, the "Crow's Nest" shelter, numerous fire pits, picnic tables, bench sets, footpaths, loop road and parking areas, drainage structures, and retaining walls. The Park has been in continuous use since the CCC construction was completed in 1938.

12 Wentz Camp

Wentz Camp, built between 1928 and 1953, is a historic district listed in the National Register of Historic Places for its association with recreation in Ponca City and its association with Lew Wentz, a nationally recognized oilman and philanthropist, who built the camp for the children of Ponca City. It is also an outstanding example of Romanesque Revival architecture reflected in the cottages.



1. **Ponca City Milling Co. Elevator** *114 W. Central Ave.*
2. **Poncan Theatre** *104 E. Grand Ave.*
3. **Soldani Mansion** *819 E. Central Ave.*
4. **Daniel J. Donahoe House** *302 S. 7th St.*
5. **Downtown Ponca City Historic District** *Bounded by Pine St., Chestnut Ave., 7th St, & Central*
6. **E. W. Marland – Paris House** *1000 E. Grand Ave.*
7. **Henry Hatashita House** *1408 Pioneer Rd.*
8. **E. W. Marland Mansion** *Monument Rd.*
9. **Marland Estate Gate House** *747 N. 14th St.*
10. **Temple Emanuel** *1201 E. Highland Ave.*
11. **Lake Ponca Duck Pond Historic District** *L.A. Cann Dr. & Edam Rd.*
12. **Wentz Camp** *L. A. Cann Dr. & East Prospect Ave.*
13. **Charlotte Marland House** *919 E. Grand Ave.*
14. **St. John Baptist Church & Rectory** *1009 S. 11th St.*
15. **First Presbyterian Church** *1505 E. Grand Ave.*
16. **Ponca City Municipal Airport Hangar** *2231 Waverly St.*
17. **Santa Fe Depot** *S. 1st and W. Oklahoma*
18. **Roosevelt Elementary School** *815 E. Highland Ave.*
19. **Attucks Community Center** *1001 S. 12th St.*
20. **James J. McGraw House** *400 N. 4th St.*
21. **101 Rodeo Arena** *2600 N. Ash St.*
22. **Ponca City Power Plant** *1420 N. Union St.*
23. **Pioneer Woman Statue** *Monument Cir.*
24. **Darr School of Aeronautics Hangar No. 3** *SW of Jct. of Darr Park Dr. & Lindsey Road St.*
25. **First Church of Christ Scientist** *300 N. 3rd St.*
26. **Blaine Stadium & Fieldhouse** *5th & Brookfield St.*
27. **Jack and Helen Cleary House** *13 Hillcrest Dr.*
28. **Gateway Historic District** *600 block between Cleveland Ave. & Hazel Ave.*
29. **Whitworth Historic District** *Whitworth Ave. between Virginia Ave. & 14th St.*

For a map, photos and full descriptions of each historic property in Ponca City, download our Historic Driving Tour app, available for iOS and Android.

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City of Ponca City Oklahoma

Historic Driving Tour

National Register of Historic Places