

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received APR 5 1982
date entered MAY 11 1982

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Robb, Andrew W., House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 1321 Boston

N/A not for publication

city, town Muskogee

vicinity of

congressional district

state Oklahoma

code 40

county Muskogee

code 101

3. Classification

Category

- district
- building(s)
- structure
- site
- object

Ownership

- public
 - private
 - both
- Public Acquisition**
- N/A 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 John A. Dill

street & number 1321 Boston

city, town Muskogee

vicinity of

state Oklahoma 74401

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the County Clerk

street & number Muskogee County Courthouse

city, town Muskogee

state Oklahoma

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Oklahoma Comprehensive Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1981 federal state county local

depository for survey records Preservation Office, Oklahoma Historical Society

city, town Oklahoma City

state Oklahoma

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Robb House is a well built, relatively restrained Victorian structure - a two-story brick affair with a basement and a floored attic. It is roughly 40-x-40 feet in size, with a ballustrated wrap-around porch on the front and a plain back porch. The roof line is broken by a single dormer and two brick chimneys, one for the basement furnace, the other serving back-to-back fireplaces in the living room and dining room and a third one in an upstairs bedroom.

Built in 1905, the house had (and retains) many good, solid turn-of-the-century features. These would include plaster walls, eight-foot native oak doors with brass hardware, fine woodwork, leaded and stained glass windows, the three fireplaces, rather impressive steam radiators and 1904 hot water heater that still works, copper light fixtures.

Room layout is comfortably Victorian. In addition to the large adjoining living room and dining room there's a small parlor off the front entry. And, tucked away demurely in a corner behind the well designed stairway, a courting room with convenient benches. Off the back entry are the kitchen and pantry (and basement stairway), a small interior office, and the back stairs to the second floor. Upstairs are four large bedrooms, one with an adjoining sewing room, and two-and-a-half baths - all off a central hallway. Generous closets, not always found in this period, also attest to the generally above average design and construction of the house.

Present condition of the house is only good to fair, but it is structurally sound. It has undergone almost no significant change, inside or out, and the present owner hopes to restore it to its former condition, as he is able. It is a good neighborhood with a number of other substantial houses of comparable size and vintage.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1905-1906

Builder/Architect

Robb had it built, may very well have helped to design it.

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Robb House has both historical and architectural significance. Andrew W. Robb is believed to have built the first house in Muskogee, in 1871. He was an active community leader (business, banking, education, local politics) until his death in 1909, at 69. This two-story brick Victorian house was built for him in 1905-1906. It still retains the standard features of relatively affluent living in turn-of-the-century Indian Territory - fine interior woodwork, leaded and stained glass, fireplaces and steam radiators, copper light fixtures and brass door hardware. In short, the house is a fine Territorial structure, with almost total integrity, built and lived in by a man who played an active role in the growth and development of the Muskogee area for nearly a half-century.

*

Robb was born in Pennsylvania in 1840. Coming to Kansas in 1860, he entered military service at the start of the Civil War, acquiring eventually the rank of 1st Lieutenant in the Indiana Horse Guards. He was a quartermaster at Fort Gibson - across the Arkansas River from present Muskogee - when he left the service in 1865. (He married in 1864 and his third daughter, Jessie, born in December 1872, is believed to be the first white child born in Muskogee.)

For several years Robb had transportation contracts with the federal government, delivering some of the first supplies to newly established Fort Sill. From 1869 to 1871 he was in business in Baxter Springs, Kansas, moving back to Indian Territory when arrival of the M-K-T Railroad led to establishment of Muskogee. There he built what may have been the town's first home and entered the mercantile business, remaining active in it until shortly before his death.

Robb was also active in the development of Muskogee. He helped establish the city's first school, its first church, and other public institutions. (A relative, Retta Robb, taught the first school.) He became interested in politics and was elected to the first city council in 1898. For a time he served as president of the Territorial Bank and Trust Company.

He built his last house on property purchased from the old Henry Kendall College site in 1905. (Kendall College moved to Tulsa and is now Tulsa University.) He died in Muskogee Nov. 24, 1909. Interestingly enough, his widow moved after a few years and the Robb House was occupied from 1917 to 1926 by George H. Walker, who from 1920 to 1924 was mayor of Muskogee. So the house was closely

9. Major Bibliographical References

West, C. W., Muskogee, I. T., Queen City of the South and Persons and Places of Indian Territory, both privately printed.
Muskogee City Directory, years 1904 to 1910.
Muskogee Daily Phoenix, Nov. 25, 1909, other dates.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Northwest Muskogee

Quadrangle scale 7.5 minute

UMT References

A 15 284319 3958128
 Zone Easting Northing

B
 Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

A parcel of land described as being the West 100 ft. of Lot 142, Block 150, KENDALL PLACE ADDITION, Muskogee, Muskogee County, State of Oklahoma.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kent Ruth - Deputy

organization Oklahoma Historical Society date December 1981

street & number Historical Building telephone 405/884-5456

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.

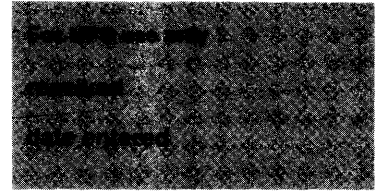
State Historic Preservation Officer signature *C. M. Mately*

title _____ date 3.29.82

For NPS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.
B. L. ... 5/1/82
 Keeper of the National Register
 Attach: _____ Date _____
 Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet

Item number 8

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Andrew W. Robb House

associated with the city's civic leaders for many of its early years. It is that community leadership role of its early owners, and the architectural integrity of the structure itself, that underlie this request for National Register status.