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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED MAR 19 1979  
DATE ENTERED MAY 16 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

**1 NAME\*** *Walterson - Nacemunders Building* *Name Change OK by Kent Rusk 3-21-79 CE*  
 HISTORIC Triton Insurance Company Building  
 AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**  
 STREET & NUMBER 615 Delaware Street \_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
 CITY, TOWN Perry VICINITY OF No. 6 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
 STATE Oklahoma CODE 40 COUNTY Noble CODE 103

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**  
 NAME Mr. Norman Boone  
 STREET & NUMBER 815 Cedar Street  
 CITY, TOWN Perry VICINITY OF OK STATE OK

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**  
 COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. County Clerk's Office  
 STREET & NUMBER Noble County Courthouse  
 CITY, TOWN Perry STATE OK

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**  
 TITLE Oklahoma Comprehensive Survey  
 DATE 1978  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL  
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Oklahoma Historical Society, Preservation Office  
 CITY, TOWN Oklahoma City STATE OK

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Triton Insurance Company Building, located on the ~~west~~<sup>nor</sup> side of the downtown square in Perry, was built in 1900 by T. E. Wollenson, a sailor and merchant from Denmark who settled in Perry. Wollenson utilized naval motifs to decorate the building, a rarity in those days in landlocked Oklahoma.

The building consists of two stories. The upper floor has received little modifications since it was built but the lower floor's original architectural style was covered during renovation in the early 1960s. The original facade is underneath. The alterations to it were done by the Triton Insurance Company when it occupied the building to project a modern outlook. The alterations on the facade of the first floor consist of a light concrete veneer over the brick and sandstone wall.

The original facade of the first floor was similar to that of the second floor, which suggests Richardsonian Romanesque with straight-topped windows, divided into rectangular lights by brick mullions and transoms. The second story still retains Romanesque arches decorated lintels, which are supported by colonnettes. Each of these colonnettes has a lion's head, suggesting the carved figures which adorned the prows of ancient seagoing vessels. Wrought iron railings, painted in black, protect the windows. The name "Triton" appears on the topmost part of the building. Roof dormers, reduced to "eyebrow" form, with upper caps in a romanseque style, adorn the roof.

The building is constructed of red brick and sandstone. The interior of the upper floor consists of several rooms with wallpapered divisions which were used by the Triton Life Insurance Company as offices. Four elongated windows provide ventilation to the upper floor. The lower floor consists of two large separate rooms which are occupied by the Elwell Auto Supply Store. A large double door with a horseshoe "rosette" on its top provide access to the building. A large map of Oklahoma decorates the building's outer wall. The maps shows the various stages of the history of Oklahoma and it was painted, together with other paintings that decorate the interior, by Adriano Ceciloni and Charles Wysocki.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1900

BUILDER/ARCHITECT T. E. Wollenson

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Triton Insurance Company Building in Perry stands as a monument to the noble and untiring efforts of early pioneer businessmen of Oklahoma Territory who wanted to organize commercial, business, and trade institutions in an area which was still struggling for survival and was mostly a settler's camp. It also represents a vivid insight of the molding of the western frontier into business ventures.

The Cherokee Strip attracted more than 100,000 individuals when it was opened for settlement on September 16, 1893. During this time an estimated 25,000 people decided to settle in the town of Perry, crowding the existing facilities and limiting available space considerably. In spite of the problems, Perry soon developed into a townsite of 320 acres. As historian Cunningham has described it "the 'shakedown' took several years. From an almost indescribable pandemonium, Perry emerged with what may be considered the select of the mob, and went about building a future that kept only a few of the predictions of the prophets. Perry did not aspire to become the largest city between the gulf and Great Lakes, as predicted, but her citizens did want to create a delightful place to call home."

Among those who arrived at Perry was T. E. Wollenson, a sailor and merchant from Denmark. He purchase a lot on the north side of the townsite and there he built the original building which later was occupied by the Triton Insurance Company. For many years a Mr. Nacewonder occupied the building with a clothing store which later was sold to N. C. Chapman, who established a dry goods store there. In the early 1950s the building was occupied by P. Scobill who organized a tire and auto supply store.

In the 1960s the attractive building on the north side of the Square became the headquarters for the Triton Insurance Group, an expansive and affluent organization, rated among the top half dozen insurance groups doing business in the area. Normally an organization of this magnitude would be based in a large city, but the Triton Group, and its subsidiary, the First Union Life Insurance Company preferred Perry as a commercial base. The company added considerable beauty to the building by redecorating the interior with many objects of art, many of them from the Museum of Art in San Jose, California. The Triton Insurance Company also added a huge map of Oklahoma to the building's outer wall that shows the various historical events of the past, and art by such well-known artists as Adriano Ceciloni and Charles Wysocki.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interview: Mr. Martin Robinson, Perry, Oklahoma. (8-31-78).  
 Mrs. Milly Highfill, Cherokee Strip Museum Director, Perry, Oklahoma.  
 (6-27-78).  
 Mr. Sam Henderson, Noble County Courthouse, Perry, Oklahoma. (6-27-78).

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY under one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Perry, Oklahoma

QUADRANGLE SCALE 7.5 min.

UTM REFERENCES 19 20

A 14 653885 4016975

B         

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property nominated is located on lots 49 and 50, Block 12, townsite of Perry, Oklahoma. The size of the ground occupied by the property is 150 by 100 feet, approximately.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Enrique Ramirez, Sr.

Kent Ruth, editor

ORGANIZATION

Oklahoma Historic Preservation

DATE

9/78

STREET & NUMBER

Oklahoma State University

TELEPHONE

405/884-5456

CITY OR TOWN

Stillwater

STATE

OK

# 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

Harry L. Dempsey Ph.D.

DATE

3-8-79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST:

Charles [Signature]  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

5-16-79

[Signature]  
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

5/16/79

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In 1974 the Triton Insurance Group left Perry. Since then the lower story of the building has been occupied by several commercial concerns. The second story has remained vacant.

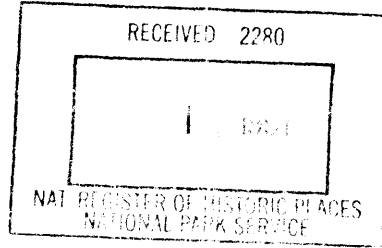
79-2004

NPS Form 10-900  
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM



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1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Wolleson-Nicewander Building

other names/site number Triton Insurance Company Building

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2. Location

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street & number 615 Delaware Street not for publication N/A  
city or town Perry vicinity N/A  
state Oklahoma code OK county Noble code 103  
zip code 73077

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page     

Wolleson-Nicewander Building  
name of property  
Noble County, Oklahoma  
county and State

Wolleson-Nicewander Building

(Listed on the National Register of Historic Places 05/16/79)  
Perry, Noble County (103), Oklahoma (OK)

Correction of Historic Name and Address of Property:

The Wolleson-Nicewander Building was originally listed on the National Register of Historic Places as the "Wollenson-Nacewonder Building," located at 611 Delaware Street, Perry, Oklahoma. Additional information from newspaper articles and the local telephone directory demonstrate that the correct name of the building is "Wolleson-Nicewander Building" and the correct address is 615 Delaware Street, Perry, Oklahoma.

Therefore, this documentation is submitted to establish the correct name and address of the building as the Wolleson-Nicewander Building at 615 Delaware Street, Perry, Oklahoma.

13 January 1997  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
J. Blake Wade  
State Historic Preservation Officer