

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received AUG 5 1986  
date entered

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

1. Name

historic PHILCADE BUILDING

and/or common AMOCO North Building

2. Location

street & number 511 South Boston Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Tulsa N/A vicinity of

state Oklahoma code 40 county Tulsa code 143

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name AMOCO Production Company

street & number 511 South Boston Ave.

city, town Tulsa N/A vicinity of state Oklahoma

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Tulsa County Courthouse

city, town Tulsa state Oklahoma

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Oklahoma Landmark Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1980  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Oklahoma Historical Society

city, town Oklahoma City state Oklahoma

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" 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 thirteen story Philcade Building is located on the southeast corner of Boston Avenue and Fifth Street in Tulsa's central business district. Its construction was began in 1929, directly across Fifth Street from the Philtower (NR listed Aug. 29, 1979) which it was built to complement. The Philcade is of brick construction over reinforced concrete with terra cotta and metal decorative appointments.

The Philcade Building was intially designed to be a six story structure, this was changed however to nine floors before foundation work was begun. As work began to progress, this design was once again changed to the present thirteen floors and construction was completed in 1931.

As previously stated it was the intention of Waite Phillips that the Philtower Building, built in 1927, would be complemented by the newer Philcade, which would serve as additional general office and rental space for W. Phillips' companies. To ensure this end, the design of the Philcade was kept purposely less ornate than the highly decorative, Neo-Gothic style Philtower.

The Philcade Building represents the more demure use of art deco in the city of Tulsa. The ground floor, mezzanine and second floor were designed as arcades to serve commercial and retail services. This area of the facade is covered with a carved terra cotta and cast iron envelope. Ornamentation is in relief with minimal projection. The terra cotta detail at the second floor level and at each corner consists of stylized flora and fauna designs. The detail at each corner above the arched mezzanine windows consists of zoophorus frieze containing rabbits, turtles, frogs, lizards, squirrels and birds.

At the two primary entrances, the terra cotta detailing is more formal. Each entrance is flanked by fluted columns which merge into an ornate terra cotta beam. At the center of the beam is a crest of vines, fruits and flowers with the initials "WP" prominently displayed. The formal treatment of the entryway continues upward through the second floor and terminates in the elevated base relief details at the upper mezzanine level.

The large ground level showcase windows and entrances are also very formal. A raised panel at the mezzanine floor level is designed for discrete advertising for the shops within. Below this is a reveal designed to conceal the awnings when not in use. Above, at the top of the mezzanine windows, a series of scrolls form a wave pattern which begin and end with an eagle design.

On the north and west facades, the exterior elevations possess a pattern of alternating pilasters with raised details, originating

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about half way up the lower terra cotta girdle, with a transition to brick at the third floor and a return to terra cotta at the roof line. The raised elements merge into floral and geometrical designs extending into high parapet caps of terra cotta. Between these high parapet caps are stylized columns with disproportionately large capitals. These columns support a beam decorated with scroll in a wave pattern.

In the intervening area between the lower terra cotta of the first three floors and the continuation of the terra cotta at roof line the envelope consists of brick masonry walls. The walls are punctuated with large, double hung, steel windows. The wing and well configuration design was initially intended to provide reasonable comfort in this pre-airconditioned era building. Air circulation to the densely populated arcade areas of the first and second floors was provided by a system of exhaust fans.

The continuation of exterior to interior design is accomplished by means of the glass and bronze insets above the primary entrances at the interior airlock line. They consist of zig-zig designs featuring the wings of progress and floral designs. The interior ground floor arcades of the Philcade Building are ornately lavish. The fourteen foot pedestrian ways open both on to Boston Avenue and Fifth Street. They were designed to be conducive to the foot traffic necessary to support the commercial and retail establishments located on these levels.

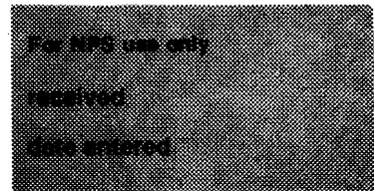
Pilasters of fluted and polished marble support an ornamental plaster frieze at the mezzanine level covered with gold leaf. Plaster frieze arches form a ceiling also covered with gold leaf and hand-painted geometric designs executed in muted tones of red, blue, green, purple and brown. From the center of each design is suspended an elaborate bronze filigreed chandelier. The ceiling treatment is continued into the store front units by use of mahogany, glass and bronze as well as the tan and black terazzo floors.

The areas of the building above the second floor possess only minimal characteristics of the lower levels, being mostly repetitive, multi-use office space. The penthouse level, on the thirteenth floor, was completed in 1937 as Waite Phillips primary residence. Highly decorative contemporary design features are mixed with minimally retained period appointments. Some rooms feature extensive use of hardwood panelled walls and ornate decorative details, but relate very little to the art deco style in the lower arcade and ground floor commercial spaces.

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Alterations to the building include: (1) enclosure on the south elevation of the two wings of the "H" to accommodate air conditioning system, plumbing and mechanical as well as rest room facilities and additional office space, 1937; (2) the construction of a penthouse atop the new infill on the south elevation, 1937; (3) conversion of the building's manual elevators to automatic, 1960; construction of cooling towers atop the two wings, 1968.

The infill of the south side of the building in 1937 is one bay wide. This addition as well as the penthouse apartment built atop the infill was designed by the original architect and executed with matching materials as used in the original building. The penthouse was built to serve as the primary residence for Waite Phillips and his wife. Finished in 1937, these two alterations have now attained sufficient age to possess historic integrity as products of their time.

The change of the elevators was essentially mechanical with little alteration visible in the public portion of the building and minimal affect on the decorative elements of the building.

Th construction of the cooling towers atop the two wings of the Philcade, while minimally visible from the street level, do not detract from the appearance of the building.

Contributing Properties

No. of Properties

Property Type

One (1)

Building

# 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/
<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 type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1929-1931      **Builder/Architect** SEE CONTINUATION SHEET PG 4

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Philcade Building is architecturally significant because it represents an important phase of the Art Deco style in Tulsa.

The Philcade Building was built by Waite Phillips to supplement office and commercial rental space of the more ornate, Gothic style Philtower Building built in 1927. Phillips' intention was the Philcade would complement, but not compete visually with the Philtower.

The use of matching brick, alignment of street level entries and connection of the two buildings with a tunnel show the intent of Phillips to create the Philcade as a companion structure to the Philtower. The simplified form of Art Deco design on the exterior of Philcade Building fulfilled Phillip's intention to avoid visual competition between the two buildings.

This flattened, more understated phase of the Art Deco style is attributed to the timely influence of the French Moderne school of design. This influence, at its peak at the time of the design of the Philcade Building, was due to trendsetting of the Northwestern Terra Cotta Company of Chicago, Illinois. This company had brought to the United States a number of French Terra Cotta modelers as company craftsmen. The designs produced by these individuals made use of repetitive geometric shapes, stylized and used as accent ornamentation.

This influence is seen in the stylized flora and fauna designs reflected in the Egyptian motifs seen on the Philcade. These details include the use of a variety of naturalistic forms such as plants, clouds, water and animals.

The Art Deco style decorative exterior elements are manifested mainly in the facade at the ground, mezzanine, second floor arcade and the roof parapet areas which are covered with the carved terra cotta and cast iron envelope.

Connection between these low and high areas, on the primary facades is achieved with raised features on alternate pilasters. These raised features originate in the terra cotta covering of the mezzanine level, change to brick above the second floor and end with a transition back to terra cotta at the parapet level.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET PG 3

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET 5 and 6

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property c. 1 acre

Quadrangle name Tulsa

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

1	5	2	3	10	9	13	10	4	10	0	14	6	12	10
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification Northerly Fifty (50) feet of Lot five (5), all of Lot Six (6), and all of Lot Seven (7), Block 147, of the original Townsite of the City of Tulsa, Tulsa County, Oklahoma, according to the recorded plat thereof.

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

state N/A code county code

state N/A code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Bert R. Danielson Architect/ Project Manager

organization AMOCO Properties, Incorporated date January 17, 1986

street & number 511 South Boston Ave. telephone (918) 581-3229

city or town Tulsa 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. E. Metcalf* 7-28-86  
title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

### For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for William B. Bushong date 9/18/86  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
Chief of Registration

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As is usually seen in the Art Deco style the exterior pattern of design is carried over to the interior. Here the restraint of lavish design on the exterior is forgone. The interior space of the arcades is defined by marble pilasters that frame ornate wall panels. The pilasters support lavish lintels attaching to elliptical ceiling arches, which in turn support reed motif moulding that defines the ceiling panels. Each panel features a octagonal centerpiece medallion, which in turn support a filagreed chandelier.

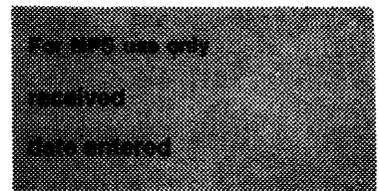
The use of the naturalistic motifs as seen on the exterior are also present in the interior in the friezes, ceiling panels and appointments such the air grills and returns. These designs are used in combination with various geometric designs and motifs throughout the arcade areas. The use of gilt is extensive. The areas of the building above the second floor, while possessing some minimal decorative elements of the lower level are repetitive, multi-use office spaces.

In the penthouse level, which was completed in 1937 for Waite Phillips primary residence, ornate contemporary and period design features can be found. Though the rooms do feature extensive use of hardwood panelled wall and ornate decorative details related to the Art Deco style in the lower portion of the Philcade, the appearance of this space does not add greatly to the significance of the building.

The Philcade Building is significant as a very good example of one phase of the Art Deco design style as it was manifested in Tulsa. Its retention of integrity as originally constructed in excellent and evidences it place among other buildings of the general Art Deco style in Tulsa.

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BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Architect: All Phases  
Smith, Senter & Smith  
Leon B. Senter -- Partner in Charge

Builder:

Phase I: Basement through 9th floor.  
(1929 - 1930)  
Charles M. Dunning of Tulsa and Oklahoma City --  
General Contractor

Phase II: 10th Floor through 13th Floor  
(1930 - 1931)  
R.M. Grimshaw -- General Contractor

Phase III: 14th Floor Penthouse and Mechanical Additions  
(Air Conditioning)  
(1937)

Clifford H. Carr -- Consulting Engineer  
R.M. Grimshaw -- General Contractor  
Refrigeration by Frick

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#9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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Tulsa Art Deco, An Architectural Era, 1925-1942.  
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(Indiana), C. 1984, Emmett Dedmon, The Mobium Press, Chicago, Illinois.

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May, 1931

II. NEWSPAPERS

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Tulsa World, July 18, 1925, Page 1

Tulsa World, July 25, 1925, Page 1

Tulsa World, August 15, 1925, Page 1

Tulsa World, December 23, 1928, Page 12

Tulsa World, March 10, 1929, Section 2, Page 1

Tulsa World, June 16, 1929, Section 2, Page 1

Tulsa World, June 23, 1929, Section 2, Page 1

Tulsa World, July 4, 1929, Section 2, Page 1

Tulsa World, August 11, 1929, Section 2, Page 4

Tulsa World, August 25, 1929, Section 2, Page 1

Tulsa World, September 8, 1929, Section 2, Page 1

Tulsa World, November 3, 1929, Section 1, Page 3

Tulsa World, November 10, 1929, Section 2, Page 1

Tulsa World, October 12, 1930, Section 2, Page 1

Tulsa World, November 9, 1930, Section 2, Page 1

Tulsa World, November 23, 1930, Section 2, Page 1

Tulsa World, November 30, 1930, Section 2, Page 1

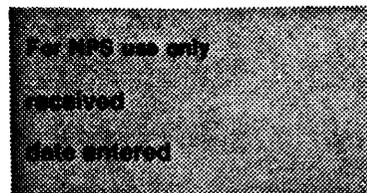
Tulsa World, December 7, 1930, Section 2, Page 1

Tulsa World, January 25, 1931, Section 2, Page 1

Tulsa World, April 19, 1931, Section 2, Page 1

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#9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Cont.)

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- Tulsa World, May 17, 1931, Section 2, Page 1  
Tulsa World, January 10, 1937, Section 1, Part 1, Page 1  
Tulsa World, January 10, 1937, Section 3, Page 1  
Tulsa World, May 30, 1937, Section 2, Page 1  
Tulsa World, May 30, 1937, Section 2, Page 4  
Tulsa World, May 30, 1937, Section 2, Page 7  
Tulsa Tribune, January 28, 1964, Section 1, Page 1  
Tulsa Tribune, October 13, 1976, Article by Barbara Mills.  
"Phillips Twin Not A Part Of 66", Page 2B.

III. INTERVIEWS

Dennis Manasco - Architect.  
(Last partner of Leon Senter)  
4921 East 15th Street  
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74112

F. Randolph Yost  
Executive Vice President  
Standard Oil Co. (Ind.) Retired  
511 South Boston Avenue  
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74102