

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section _____ Page _____

=====

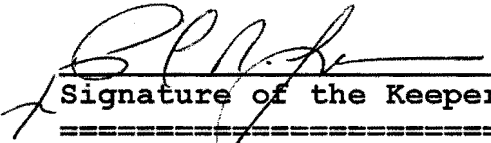
SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 15000328 Date Listed: 6/03/2015

<u>Czech Hall of Oklahoma City</u>		
<u>Lodge Laska</u>	<u>Oklahoma</u>	<u>OK</u>
Property Name	County	State

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

	<u>6/3/15</u>
Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

State Certification:
The SHPO certification box was not completed. The Applicable NR Criteria should read : A and C.
[This is consistent with the narrative content.]

Current Function:
The Current Function is amended to read: Religion/ Religious Facility. [The property is currently owned and operated as a religious facility serving the local neighborhood.]

Significance:
The appropriate Areas of Significance should read: *Ethnic Heritage-European (Czech), Social History, and Architecture*. [The building's unique contribution towards supporting Bohemian/Czech culture and social history in Oklahoma City justifies inclusion under the area of Ethnic Heritage.]

Criteria Consideration A should be checked as the property is owned by a religious institution and is used for religious purposes. [The property meets the criteria consideration because of its association with important secular activities by previous, non-religious owners.]

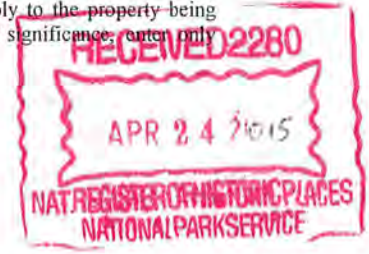
These clarifications were confirmed with the OK SHPO office.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: Czech Hall of Oklahoma City, Lodge Laska

Other names/site number: Bohemian Hall

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 515 Southwest 6th Street

City or town: Oklahoma City State: OK County: Oklahoma

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,


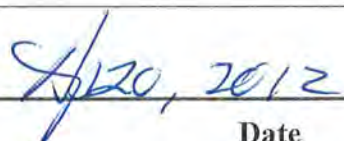
I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A ___ B ___ C ___ D

 Signature of certifying official/Title:	 Date
_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
_____ Signature of commenting official:	_____ Date
_____ Title : State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

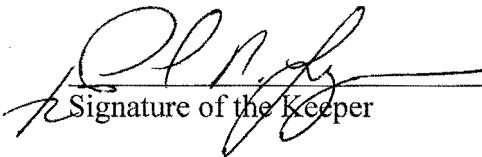
Czech Hall of Oklahoma City, Lodge Laska
Name of Property

Oklahoma, Oklahoma
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) _____


Signature of the Keeper

6/3/2015
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Czech Hall of Oklahoma City, Lodge Laska
Name of Property

Oklahoma, Oklahoma
County and State

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Social: Clubhouse

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Social: Health Care

Czech Hall of Oklahoma City, Lodge Laska
Name of Property

Oklahoma, Oklahoma
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

No Style

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Wood

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Located on the north side of Southwest 6th Street at the intersection with South Walker Avenue, is the Czech Hall of Oklahoma City, Lodge Laska building (here after referred to as Lodge). This social hall is located at the edge of an industrial area to the east and residential area to the west. The one-story building has no definitive architectural style but features an elaborate false front. The organization had its founding in Oklahoma City in 1903 with the present building constructed in 1924. Very little has changed on the building therefore it maintains excellent historic integrity.

Narrative Description

The Lodge is a rare, surviving, intact early 20th century social hall that represents the early immigrants to Oklahoma City. It is a one-story, balloon frame building with a one story historic addition on the rear elevation. The building is clad with wood clapboards and has a modern metal roof.

Czech Hall of Oklahoma City, Lodge Laska

Name of Property

Oklahoma, Oklahoma

County and State

The façade, south elevation, has a central, flat-roof porch over the central entry doors. Four concrete steps lead to the central doors. On either side of the steps are brick knee walls. The porch roof is supported by two square wood columns. The two entry doors are wood panel. Located on either side of the entry is a one-over-one double hung wood window. The balcony level has four, one-over-one double hung windows. All of the windows on this elevation are covered with wood. The false front component of the façade has a wood, clapboard column at each corner that extends above the gable roof. The false front, which conceals the gable front roof, has an arched section in the center and steps down to connect to the columns at the corners.

The side gable portions of the east and west elevations are identical. There are exposed rafter ends at the eaves. Each elevation has four paired one-over-one double hung wood windows. The rear elevation is concealed by a historic (unknown date) hipped roof addition.

The hipped roof addition has three one-over-one double hung windows on the north elevation. The east elevation has a central wood panel entry accessed via three concrete steps. On either side of the door is a one-over-one double hung wood window that has been covered with wood. The west side has one panel wood door at the northwest corner.

Interior:

The main room has a wood floor that served as meeting space and a dance hall. At one end of the main room is a raised stage. At the south end is a balcony that extends the full width of the building. At the north end, behind the stage, is a kitchen.

Integrity

While the building has had historic additions, it still maintains historic integrity. The current owner has covered the historic windows with wood panels to protect them from vandalism. The building is located in an area of Oklahoma City that has been redeveloped by industrial businesses and has seen demolition of historic resources. A new metal roof was installed in 2007 but no other changes have occurred. The building maintains excellent historic integrity.

Czech Hall of Oklahoma City, Lodge Laska
Name of Property

Oklahoma, Oklahoma
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Czech Hall of Oklahoma City, Lodge Laska
Name of Property

Oklahoma, Oklahoma
County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Social History

Architecture

Period of Significance

1924

Significant Dates

1924

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Kyzivat, Josef

Czech Hall of Oklahoma City, Lodge Laska

Oklahoma, Oklahoma

Name of Property

County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Czech Hall of Oklahoma City, Lodge Laska is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under Criteria A for its role in Social History for its association with the Czechoslovakian social/humanitarian fraternal organization, established to enable newly arrived immigrants to encourage and assist fellow immigrants while preserving their distinctive ways in their adopted country. It is also eligible under Criteria C for its architectural merit. The period of significance begins in 1924 when the current building was constructed and its role was secured in the Czechoslovakian immigrant culture in Oklahoma City.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Zapadni Česke Bratske Jednota is the name of the fraternal association of Czech Americans founded in 1897. The association provided its members burial insurance, social and ethnic activities. In 1899, women were admitted as insured members and in 1919, juveniles became insurable.¹

The Zapadni Česke Bratske Jednota (Western Czech Brotherhood Association), Lodge Laska (Lodge of Love) No 109 (Czech Hall of Oklahoma City, Lodge Laska), was chartered in 1903, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma Territory. While it was founded as a community support and meeting point for the Czechoslovak immigrants, the organization required each member to save into a burial fund to insure that death of a family member did not cause hardship or financial destitution, a widespread plague of the times. To the city at large, it was seen as a weekend dance hall with live band. While it is unclear how the organization came to own the property, it is clear from Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps² that by 1922 the “Bohemian Hall” existed in this location. Records from the organization state that they had outgrown their existing building and a new building was constructed in 1924 which is also clearly indicated on the Sanborn Maps.

Oklahoma City Czechs were like other Czech Americans throughout the Midwest. They used their organization/building as a center for social activities such as meetings, dances, picnics, and various festivals. Dances became a regular and popular feature of this facility due to its specifically designed floor for the activity. For many in Oklahoma City, the Lodge was also a ceremonial location as it hosted weddings and funerals. Although many immigrants worked hard to learn the language of their new country, the use of the Czech language was encouraged at the Lodge. A conscious effort was made at the Lodge to hold onto the customs and folkways of the Czechs who first settled in Oklahoma City.

¹ Website. In 1971, the name changed to Western Fraternal Life Association.

² 1904, 1906, 1922, 1922-1949

Czech Hall of Oklahoma City, Lodge Laska

Oklahoma, Oklahoma

Name of Property

County and State

As an organization, the Lodge in Oklahoma City traces its roots to this neighborhood; roots that lasted in this location until 1983. The Lodge is the best site to represent and illustrate the growth of Czech immigrants in Oklahoma City. Other sites in Oklahoma City do not have the ability to convey the story of this fraternal organization. Therefore the Lodge is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A for its association with the Social History of the Czech people in Oklahoma City.

This building, while still representing the fraternal organization, stands as a strong physical link to the Czech culture and a representation of early vernacular architecture in Oklahoma City. Few houses or buildings are left in the area from this timeframe. The small, temporary buildings associated with early settlement have been demolished and replaced with large industrial buildings or larger houses. The largest impact to the area, however, is the overall change in land use; largely a change to industrial and commercial.

This building exhibits many common details from early settlement. The front gable roof concealed by a false front, the interior room arrangement and the simple wood clapboarding are all indicative of that period. The false front design was intended to create the impression of a more imposing façade. This building type was easily expandable with rear and side additions. The Lodge exhibits only the rear addition.

As the Lodge is the only resource of this type left in this neighborhood in Oklahoma City, it is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under Criteria C as an excellent example of an early false front vernacular building from the settlement period of the Czechs in Oklahoma City.

Czech Hall of Oklahoma City, Lodge Laska
Name of Property

Oklahoma, Oklahoma
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Fogelson, Robert M. *Downtown: Its Rise and Fall, 1880-1950* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2001).

<http://www.wflains.org/history.html>, accessed 30 October 2014.

Longstreth, Richard. *The Buildings of Main Street: A Guide to American Commercial Architecture*. Walnut Creek, CA: Alta Mira Press, 2000.

Machann, Clinton. "Czechs," *Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, <http://digital.library.okstate.edu/encyclopedia> (accessed October 2014).

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. 1904, 1906, 1922, 1922-49, 1922-50 & 1922-1955.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

Czech Hall of Oklahoma City, Lodge Laska
Name of Property

Oklahoma, Oklahoma
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than 1 acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 35.459248 | Longitude: -97.521955 |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Lots 27 and 28 of Block 13 in the Orndale addition to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The stated boundary includes all property historically associated with the Czech Hall of Oklahoma City.

Czech Hall of Oklahoma City, Lodge Laska
Name of Property

Oklahoma, Oklahoma
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Dr. Dwight George Sulc/edited by Lynda Ozan
organization: OK/SHPO
street & number: 3321 N. Virginia Ave/800 Nazih Zuhdi Dr
city or town: Oklahoma City state: Oklahoma zip code: 73118/73105
e-mail dwight.sulc@gmail.com/lozan@okhistory.org
telephone: 405/225-1071 & 405/522-4478
date: October 29, 2014

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Czech Hall of Oklahoma City, Lodge Laska

Oklahoma, Oklahoma

Name of Property

County and State

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Czech Hall of Oklahoma City, Lodge Laska

City or Vicinity: Oklahoma City

County: Oklahoma

State: Oklahoma

Photographer: Lynda S. Ozan

Date Photographed: 30 October 2014

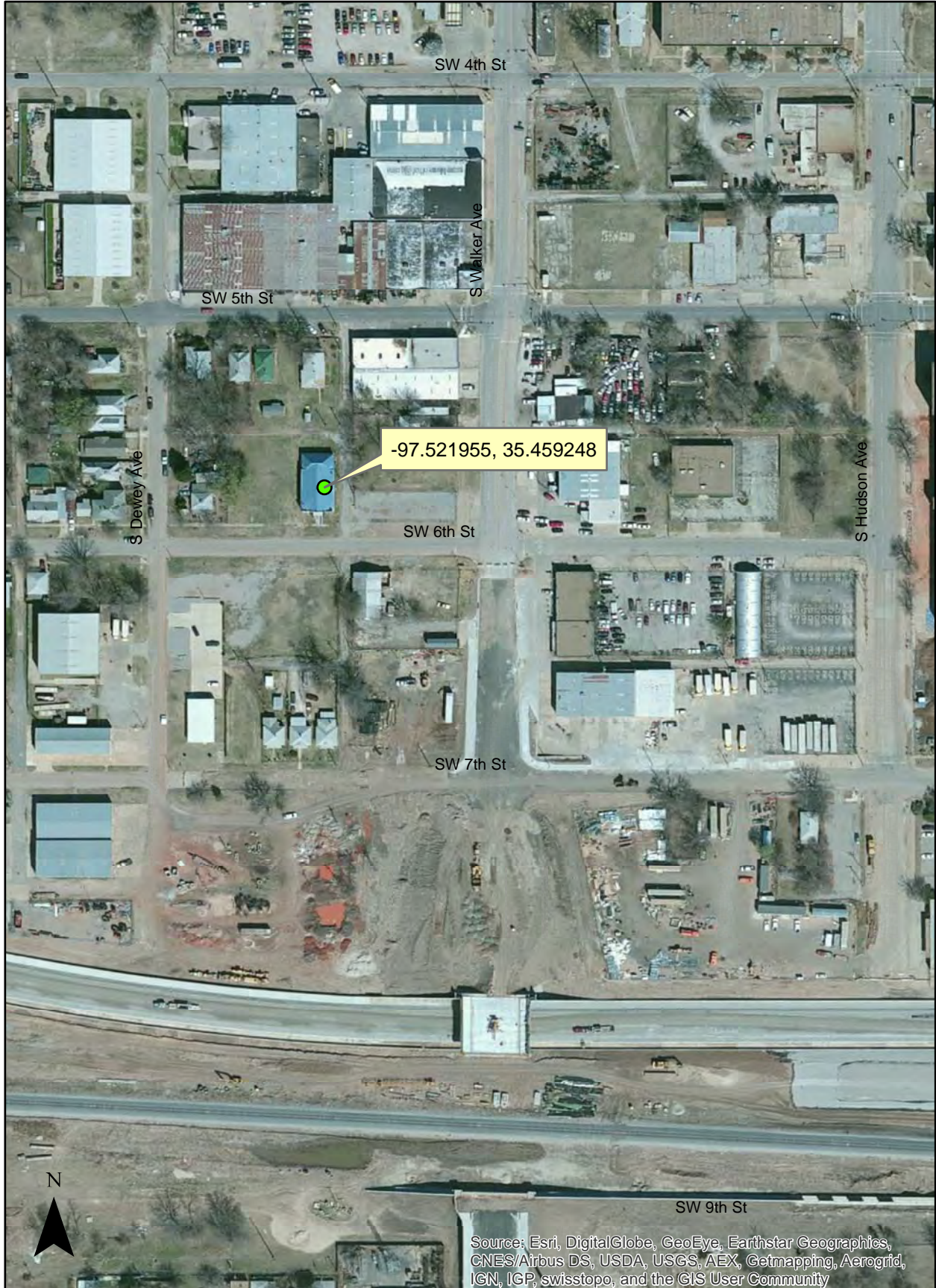
Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photograph Number	Subject	Direction
0001	Façade	North
0002	Façade and West Elevation	Northeast
0003	Façade and East Elevation	Northwest

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Czech Hall of Oklahoma City, Lodge Laska
515 Southwest 6th Street
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County, Oklahoma



0 0.025 0.05 0.1 Miles



FOUNTAIN
OF
FAITH



FOUNTAIN
OF
FAITH



FOUNTAIN
OF
FAITH

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Czech Hall of Oklahoma City--Lodge Laska

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: OKLAHOMA, Oklahoma

DATE RECEIVED: 4/24/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/19/15
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/03/15 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/09/15
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000328

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

___ACCEPT ___RETURN ___REJECT _____DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

The Czech Hall of Oklahoma City-Lodge Laska is locally significant under National Register Criteria A and C in the areas of Ethnic Heritage-European (Czech), Social History, and Architecture. Built in 1924, the modest, wood-frame building served as the central meeting place and social hall for Oklahoma City's Western Czech Brotherhood fraternal association. Chartered in 1903 with the first substantial wave of Bohemian/Czech immigration into Oklahoma and the Oklahoma City region, the fraternal benevolent association provided many of the city's ethnic Czech immigrants with access to insurance, as well as social and cultural activities (dances, weddings, plays)--many conducted in the Czech language. The building's vernacular, false-front design represents a relatively rare extant example of early twentieth century fraternal hall design in Oklahoma City. Bohemians (later Czechs) began settling in Oklahoma in large numbers at the end of the nineteenth century, reaching upwards of 7000 residents by around 1910. Many families worked in agriculture as farmers or in mills and small service-related businesses in larger communities. Social halls such as this played an important role in maintaining the Czech community's cultural identity during the early twentieth century.

RECOM. /CRITERIA Accept Criteria A+C

REVIEWER Paul Lusignan DISCIPLINE HISTORIAN

TELEPHONE _____ DATE 6/3/15

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

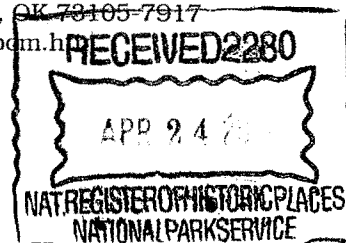


Oklahoma Historical Society

Founded May 27, 1893

State Historic Preservation Office

Oklahoma History Center • 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive • Oklahoma City, OK 73105-7917
(405) 521-6249 • Fax (405) 522-0816 • www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpom.htm



April 21, 2015

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief
National Register and National Historic Landmark Programs
National Park Service 2280, 8th floor
1201 "I" (Eye) Street, NW
Washington D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

We are pleased to transmit four National Register of Historic Places nominations for Oklahoma properties. The nominations are for the following properties:

Hays-Kennedy/Rivoli Theater Building, Blackwell, Kay County
Comer, C.A., House, Dewey, Washington County
Elizabeth Manor, Tulsa, Tulsa County
Czech Hall Oklahoma City, Laska Lodge, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County

All members of the Historic Preservation Review Committee (state review board) were present for the public meeting at which each of these nominations was considered and the recommendation to the State Historic Preservation Officer was formulated. Therefore, the member possessing the requisite professional qualifications for evaluation of each nominated property participated in the recommendation's formulation.

We look forward to the results of your review. If there may be any questions, please do not hesitate to contact either Lynda S. Ozan of my staff or myself.

Sincerely,

Melvena Heisch
Deputy State Historic
Preservation Officer

MKH:lso

Enclosures