

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	AUG 1 1979
DATE ENTERED	AUG 29 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

HISTORIC
Philtower
AND/OR COMMON
Philtower

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
427 S. Boston Avenue

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Tulsa

STATE
Oklahoma

VICINITY OF
CODE
40

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
1

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 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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<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
Philtower Ltd.

STREET & NUMBER
427 S. Boston Avenue

CITY, TOWN
Tulsa

VICINITY OF

STATE
Oklahoma

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Office of the County Clerk

STREET & NUMBER
500 Civic Center

CITY, TOWN
Tulsa

STATE
Oklahoma

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Oklahoma Comprehensive Survey/Tulsa Historic Preservation Office Inv.

DATE
1978/1977-1978

— FEDERAL STATE — COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS Tulsa Historic Preservation Office, 411 S. Denver

CITY, TOWN
Tulsa

STATE
Oklahoma

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The twenty-three story Philtower office building is located in the center of Tulsa's downtown business district. Vertically organized into setbacks, the central portion of the tower terminates in a highly visible polychromed tiled hipped roof topped with a lantern. Bands of cream colored terra cotta Gothic ornamentation at each setback contrast strongly with the brown brick of the towers and further emphasize the Art Deco inspired stepped facade. The fenestration pattern is primarily paired windows stacked in vertical bays with the exception of the ground levels which carry contemporary Chicago type windows. The Boston Avenue main entrance consists of a twenty-five feet high tunnel vault flanked by gargoyles and trimmed with interlocking tracery.

The entrance lobby reinforces the Gothic ornamentation with a series of fan vaults which spring from brackets along interior walls. Floors, walls and ceiling are travertine marble. Large brass lanterns echoing the structure of the building's stepped facade hang from each boss.

Gothic ornamentation is carried throughout the rest of the building in newel posts, ballustrades, doorway moldings and light fixtures. Monogrammed ("WP") brass elevator doors and doorknobs remain. Halls throughout the building are marble wainscotted. The ground floor arcade accomodates specialty shops. The substantially unaltered Philtower is excellently maintained. The installation of air conditioning equipment (1938) and automatic elevators (1957) represent the only significant alterations.

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 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 1928

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Keen and Simpson in collaboration with Edward Buehler Delk

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Tulsa's second cathedral of commerce was built in 1928 by Waite Phillips, financier and philanthropist. Designed by Kansas City architects Keen and Simpson in collaboration with Edward Buehler Delk, it represented the growth and development of the Tulsa based oil industry. Though historically conservative in design, it is significant for its enthusiasm and it opened the door for bolder design, particularly Art Deco. This Tulsa landmark with its colorful roof and ornate lobby has remained remarkably intact and is still a prestigious downtown office location.

Phillip's offices occupied the entire twenty-first floor and were his primary office space from the time of construction until he donated the building to the Boy Scouts of America in 1941. The other Tulsa structure prominently associated with Phillips is his house, Philbrook, at 2727 S. Rockford, designed by Edward Buehler Delk (entered in National Register of Historic Places, 1 December 1978).

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Philtower Building, c. 1928
The Philmont Story; National Council, Boy Scouts of America, 1961
Tulsa Tribune, "Phillips Twin Not a Part" 13 October 1976

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Tulsa

QUADRANGLE SCALE 7.5 minutes

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,5 2,3,11,3,0 4,0,0,4,7,6,0

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot 4, Block 137, Original Townsite

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

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Jan Jennings, Director; and staff Edited by Kent Ruth 405/884/5456

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Tulsa Historic Preservation

May 1979

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

411 S. Denver

918/585/2681

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Tulsa

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

TITLE

Harry F. Simpson III

DATE

7-13-79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

8-29-79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

8/29/79

Bell Groover