Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

# PH0369748

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED APR 5 1976

INVENTORI	NOMINATION I	- OKM	ENITAED POT		
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AND/OR COMMON					
2 LOCATION	I				
STREET & NUMBER					
	and Lincoln Boulevard		NOT FOR PUBLICATION  CONGRESSIONAL DISTRI	ICT	
CITY, TOWN	~	VICINITY OF	No. 5		
Oklahoma Cit	<b>y</b>	CODE	COUNTY	CODE	
Oklahoma		40	Oklahoma	109	
CLASSIFIC	ATION				
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESI	ENT USE	
DISTRICT	XPUBLIC	X.OCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM	
XBUILDING(S)	PRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK	
STRUCTURE	ВОТН	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDENCE	
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS	
OBJECT,	IN PROCESS	XYES: RESTRICTED	<b>X</b> GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC	
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATION	
		NO	MILITARY	OTHER:	
OWNER OF	FPROPERTY				
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The State of	Oklahoma	**************************************			
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	e Capitol Survey				
DATE DATE	- ACTION DOTAGE				
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DEPOSITORY FOR					
SURVEY RECORDS	Oklahoma Historical	Society			
Oklahoma Cit	45		STATE Oklahoma		
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#### CONDITION

CHECK ONE

**CHECK ONE** 

XEXCELLENT \_\_GOOD

\_\_DETERIORATED

X.UNALTERED
....ALTERED

XORIGINAL SITE

DATE....

\_\_FAIR

\_\_RUINS

\_\_\_MOVED

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

Oklahoma's domeless Capitol was started in 1914. Its cornerstone, of Tishomingo granite, was laid, fittingly enough, on Statehood Day - Nov. 16, 1915. It was completed in 1917. The massive structure is six stories high, with its full basement. However, it has only five "working" floors, as the legislative chambers and the unfinished dome are two stories high.

The Capitol is in the form of a cross with projecting central pedimented pavilions at the front and rear. A low central tower, over the crossing, is the base of the dome that was included in the original design, but never built for reasons of economy. The east-west section is 434 feet in length, 136 feet in width. The north-south section is 304 feet long, 88 feet wide. At the time it was built it was said to be the largest reinforced concrete building in the world.

Exterior of the building is of Georgia granite to the second-floor level; the superstructure is of Indiana limestone. Entrances were originally provided on all four sides of the building, with the main entrance on the south (and a grand staircase extending to the fourth floor). The west entrance, however, has long since been closed to permit use of the west corridor for offices and to provide access to the basement for service behicles. The north and south facades have Corinthian porticoes; the east and west have Corinthian pilasters.

The Capitol's interior is decorated with classic features in harmony with the exterior. Lobby floors, stairs, and balustrades are of light-colored marble. Columns, pilasters, painted beams, lunettes, and Italian eliptical vaulted ceilings adorn the various offices. The second and fourth floors are the most elaborate in the building.

### 8 SIGNIFICANCE

#### AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW **PERIOD** \_\_COMMUNITY PLANNING ....LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE ....RELIGION \_\_PREHISTORIC \_\_ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC \_\_CONSERVATION \_\_ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC \_\_LAW \_\_SCIENCE \_\_1400-1499 XECONOMICS (oil!) \_\_1500-1599 \_\_AGRICULTURE \_\_LITERATURE \_\_SCULPTURE \_\_ARCHITECTURE \_\_EDUCATION \_\_MILITARY \_\_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN \_\_1600-1699 \_\_ENGINEERING \_\_MUSIC \_\_THEATER \_\_1700-1799 \_\_ART \_\_EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT \_\_PHILOSOPHY \_\_TRANSPORTATION \_\_COMMERCE \_\_1800-1899 X POLITICS/GOVERNMENT \_\_OTHER (SPECIFY) **X**1900-\_\_COMMUNICATIONS \_\_INDUSTRY \_\_INVENTION

SPECIFIC DATES 1914 to present

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

S. A. Layton

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Most state Capitols boast an impressive dome atop a determinedly classic superstructure. Oklahoma's Capitol is different. It is traditionally classic in design. But its dome is underground ... and filled with oil. The appeal, if not visual is at least fiscal.

The long, oil-bearing Nemaha Ridge - of which the Capitol "dome" or reservoir is a part - stretches from southeastern Nebraska across Kansas into Oklahoma. The southern end of this vast oil trap lies about 6,500 feet below the Capitol itself. The dome was first tapped Dec. 4. 1928, when the ITIO Oklahoma City No. 1 blew in some six miles to the south. Drilling spread steadily north and westward toward Oklahoma City until by 1930 the forest of derricks had reached the city limits. By 1936 oil wells had crept west to within blocks of the downtown business district. north to the Capitol grounds. And when the Oklahoma City council finally refused to enlarge the drilling zone still farther so as to include the state-owned land around the Capitol, Governor E. W. Marland, himself a successful oilman, went into action. He put the area under martial law and issued drilling permits in defiance of the city government. Twentyfour wells went down immediately, some within a few yards of the Capitol and of the governor's mansion. Many of these are still producing. And few pictures of Oklahoma are more familiar, particularly to envious out-of-staters, than that of its domeless Capitol, one or more oil wells in the foreground busily pumping black oil into state coffers.

The Francis No. 1 is Oklahoma's "glamour" well. Painted white, blue, and gold, it stands north of the Capitol, across 23rd Street. It was completed in September 1936 and has produced more than 1,300,000 barrels of oil. In the Capitol rotunda is a display containing a model of the Capitol Site No. 1. The actual well is situated on the south plaza, near the Capitol's main entrance, and draws oil from a level 6,618 feet directly beneath the building. Demonstrating this "whipstock" or directional drilling technique, the 1,200-pound model is a popular feature of guided tours of the Capitol.

\* \* \*

Oklahoma City was caught by surprise with the sudden removal of the state capital from Guthrie in 1910. (The city won the referendum authorizing the removal, but the move of the government itself had not been expected until 1913.) Final selection of a site had to be made first. This was resolved when two city leaders - William Fremont Harn and John James Culbertson - each gave adjacent 40-acre sites on the city's northeast side. And, when each understandably pushed for actual location of the

### 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hurst, Irvin, "It Happened Like This," The Sunday Oklahoman, June 9, 1957 Montgomery, Ed, "Moods of Our Capitol," Oklahoma's Orbit, Nov. 16, 1969 Ruth, Kent, et al., Oklahoma: A Guide to the Sooner State, University of Oklahoma Press, 1957, pp. 179-193

HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER  DATE 10/8/56  DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORY BRESE VATION					
LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES  STATE  CODE  CODE  STATE  CODE  COUNTY  CODE  STATE  CODE  COUNTY  CODE  TORM PREPARED BY  NAME/ITILE  KENT RITCH, Deputy  ORGANIZATION  OKlahona Historical Society  STREET AND MORE  Historical Building  CITY OR TOWN  OKlahoma City  OKlahoma City  OKlahoma City  STATE  CODE  COUNTY  DATE  HISTORICA 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 Serpice.  STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE  TITLE  STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE  STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE  DATE  PROPERTY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS USED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER  DATE  DATE  DATE  DATE  DATE  PAGE  DATE  PAGE  CODE  LIST ALL STATE OR COUNTY  CODE  CODE  TO DATE  AS THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE  DATE  DATE	10 GEOGRAPHICAL D	ATA			Bá-per nite
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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  DATE APR 2 1975  PRINPS USE ONLY I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS DESIGNATION DATE  DATE APR 2 1975	THE EYALU	ATED SIGNIFICANCE OF	THIS PROPERTY WIT	HIN THE STATE IS:	
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Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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**CONTINUATION SHEET** 

ITEM NUMBER 8

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#### Oklahoma State Capitol

Capitol on his donated parcel, Judge Edgar S. Vaught is said to have fathered the Solomonic decision to center the Capitol-to-be on Lincoln Boulevard, the half-mile line of Section 27, thereby sharing the honor!

Work on the Capitol began in 1914. The cornerstone was laid Nov. 16, 1915. The building was officially completed on June 30, 1917. For nearly 60 years it has watched over virtually every phase of the growth and development of the state - the passage of its laws, the administration of its justice, the inauguration of its governors (and impeachment of two of them), the burial (or at least lying-in-state) of its famous sons (like Wiley Post) ... all the routine comings-and-goings of state government. The governor's office and reception room are on the second floor, as are courtrooms and offices. On the top floor are the two chambers of the state legislature. Features of the rotunda include heroic portraits of four of the state's best known men: Sequoyah, Will Rogers, Jim Thorpe, and Robert S. Kerr, all by Oklahoma artist Charles Banks Wilson. Currently being readied for placement by the same artist are four giant murals portraying the history and development of the state.