

P140369748

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED APR 5 1976  
DATE ENTERED OCT 8 1976

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  
 AND/OR COMMON  
Oklahoma State Capitol

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER  
22nd Street and Lincoln Boulevard  
CITY, TOWN  
Oklahoma City  
STATE  
Oklahoma  
VICINITY OF  
No. 5  
COUNTY  
Oklahoma  
CODE  
40  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
109

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input 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  
The State of Oklahoma  
STREET & NUMBER  
State Capitol  
CITY, TOWN  
Oklahoma City  
STATE  
Oklahoma

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Office of the County Clerk  
STREET & NUMBER  
Oklahoma County Courthouse  
CITY, TOWN  
Oklahoma City  
STATE  
Oklahoma

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE  
Special State Capitol Survey  
DATE  
1976  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
Oklahoma Historical Society  
CITY, TOWN  
Oklahoma City  
STATE  
Oklahoma

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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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 vehicles. 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 elliptical vaulted ceilings adorn the various offices. The second and fourth floors are the most elaborate in the 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS (oil!)	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> 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. Twenty-four 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

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY ~~less than 10 acres~~ *approximately 5 acres*

*30 - per note  
 from Kent RHR  
 7/9/76*

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 4	6 3 5 7 7 9	3 9 2 8 4 6 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Kent Ruth, Deputy

ORGANIZATION

Oklahoma Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER

Historical Building

CITY OR TOWN

Oklahoma City

DATE

February 1976

TELEPHONE

405/884-5456

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

*[Signature]*

TITLE

SHPO

DATE APR 2 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting

*[Signature]*

DATE

10/8/96

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

9/29/76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

Oklahoma State Capitol

Capitol on his donated parcel, Judge Edgar S. Vaught is said to have fathered the Solomonian 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.