

PH035 000

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED OCT 24 1975
DATE ENTERED OCT 22 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
Kingfisher College *site*
AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
c. 1 m. E of
CITY, TOWN
Kingfisher VICINITY OF
STATE
Oklahoma CODE
40 COUNTY
Kingfisher CODE
073

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Emmanuel Vieth
STREET & NUMBER
1 Windswept Hill
CITY, TOWN
Kingfisher VICINITY OF
STATE
Oklahoma

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Oklahoma Historic Sites Survey
DATE
1958 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS
Oklahoma Historic Society
CITY, TOWN STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<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 type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED (virtually)		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

As an educational institution Kingfisher College began in 1890 as an academy. At first - as academy and, after 1894, as college - it found housing in a variety of rented facilities in Kingfisher. A barren 120-acre prairie site about a mile east of the town was purchased in 1894 to provide a permanent location. The cornerstone of Parker Hall was laid in May 1896. The not quite completed building was moved into in September 1897 and for several years it WAS Kingfisher College ... college, dining room, kitchen, chapel, music room, and dormitory.

Parker Hall was a substantial, not unhandsome stone block ... essentially a two-story structure over a raised basement, rectangular in shape with a detached three-story square tower that served as entrance. Gilbert Hall (for Miss Julia Gilbert of Connecticut, a benefactor) was dedicated in 1900 as a dormitory for boys. Of brick, it too was a plain two-story affair over a half-raised basement. Roughly similar, though boasting a modest porch for ornamentation, Osgood Hall (for another eastern benefactor) was built in 1901. It served as dormitory for the young ladies. A fourth structure, Seay Hall (for Territorial Governor A. J. Seay) was completed in 1908.

"Our first glimpse of the college was rather disheartening," says Mrs. Frederick L. Drake, whose husband came in 1906 to take over the music department and make it one of the best in the state. "There was no walk to the main entrance of Parker Hall, just a criss-cross of gullies washed deep by some recent storm . . ." The prairie had changed little in the sixteen years since the school's founding. And it was not to change significantly in the sixteen years that were to follow before it closed. The physical plant of Kingfisher College was always modest. Its claim to fame lies elsewhere (see No. 8).

The Pentecostal Holiness Church bought Kingfisher College after it closed in 1922, operated it for a few years as King's College. Parker Hall was destroyed by fire in the early 1930s and King's soon closed for good. The other buildings were eventually razed, the site sold to private owners. Today only a few scattered stones mark the site as the land returns to basically agriculture use.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1890 - 1922

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Kingfisher College owes its position of eminence in the history of higher education in Oklahoma, not to the length of its existence (less than 30 years) or to the impressiveness of its physical plant (four relatively modest ~~buildings~~ buildings), but rather to its dedication to high academic standards (particularly in the field of music) and Christian ideals. It opened its 4th year Sept. 20, 1897, at last in its own building, Parker Hall. Unplastered, without essential windows and flues, the two-story brick structure (see No. 7) was nonetheless dedicated. And, according to one of its teachers, "to the accompaniment of hammer and saw, we sang, 'Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow,' and the old Puritan hymn, 'Oh God, Beneath Thy Guiding Hand,' as Oklahoma's plains never heard before and maybe never will again."

* * * * *

The college began, actually, as an academy, in rented quarter in downtown Kingfisher, this in 1890, a year after Old Oklahoma was opened to settlement. Founder was the Rev. J. H. Parker, who had come to Oklahoma Territory the previous year as the Congregational mission representative. When in 1894, the Oklahoma Association of Congregational Churches decided to establish a college, it selected Kingfisher, partly because of Rev. Parker's efforts there and partly because Kingfisher itself was then one of the territory's most promising towns.

The college charter was dated Sept. 26, 1894. Rev. Parker himself signed the promisory for \$2,500 with which a 120-acres site was purchased about a mile east of Kingfisher. The school opened that fall - though in a rented building downtown, with Mrs. Parker moving in to serve as matron. It was not until 1896 that the cornerstone was laid for Parker Hall, not until the following year [it] [was] ready (or nearly so) for use.

From the first the school stressed both academic standards and Christian ideals. In 1907 Frederick L. Drake came to the campus to take over the music department and make it one of the best in the young state. Eventually he had a Choral Society with over a hundred members. The Glee Club gave concerts all over the state. And a local paper, The Daily Midget, was soon reporting he had "already achieved impossibilities."

The college had only 22 graduating classes (it closed its doors, due to financial difficulties, in 1922) - an aggregate of only 117 graduates. Yet of this modest

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Echoes of Eighty-Nine. Compiled by the Kingfisher Study Club, 1939.
 (Included are contemporary newspaper accounts and reminiscences of early faculty members.)

An Attempt to Reconstruct a History of Kingfisher College. A Report presented at the Kingfisher College reunion, May 26-28, 1974, at Kingfisher, Oklahoma

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY c. 3 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>1, 4</u>	<u>5, 9, 8</u>	<u>5, 4, 5</u>	<u>3, 9</u>	<u>6, 9</u>	<u>6, 2, 5</u>	B						
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	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

September 1975

TELEPHONE

405/884-5456

STATE

Oklahoma

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

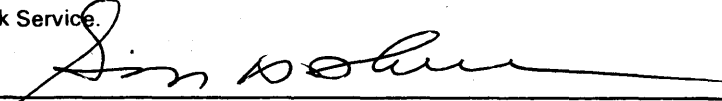
NATIONAL

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



TITLE

SPO

DATE

OCT 20 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

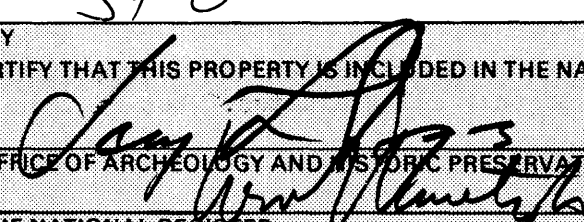
10/22/98

ATTEST:

DATE

10/22/76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

Kingfisher College

total, three became Rhodes scholars, three more were qualified but eventually not chosen! It is doubtful that record can be equaled by any school in the country. In addition, 75 percent of the graduates went into either religion or educational work. "In fact," says one historian, "I do not know of a single graduate of Kingfisher College who is not a useful and worthy citizen."

* * * * *

Kingfisher College lives today in the Kingfisher College Chair of the Philosophy of Religion and Ethics at the University of Oklahoma in Norman. The chair was established in 1951 and a bronze plaque commemorating the merger of the two schools -- which took place actually in 1927 -- now hangs in the Bizzell Memorial Library, to which Kingfisher's not inconsiderable collection of 6,500 books was given. Curiously enough, to show that it maintained a notable collegiate balance, Kingfisher also competed successfully in football, tennis, and track. And with the largest schools in the state ... twice playing now-mighty OU's grid team to scoreless ties.

The college has been closed for more than a half-century now. And its buildings have long since disappeared. But Kingfisher College was a notable educational/spiritual beacon the relative few years it served a new, ambitious state.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

OKLAHOMA: Kingfisher County

Kingfisher College

With this supplemental sheet and the three enclosed pictures we would amend the Kingfisher College nomination so as to include two physical evidences of its existence.

* * *

Finances were always a problem at Kingfisher College. In the summer of 1905 a "self-help" industry was set up on campus to try to alleviate the situation. It was a cement stone "factory" in the basement of Julia Gilbert Hall. A mixture of sand, cement and water was compressed into blocks, allowed to dry slowly and thus become building material. The two houses shown in the accompanying photos were built of these basement-made blocks. They housed Dr. J. W. Scroggs and Prof. H. G. Titt, both on the KC faculty. Arrangements were made for the output of the "factory" to be handled by the Kingfisher lumber yards. During that first winter 1,800 cement blocks were manufactured for Prof. Titt's house at the rate of about 200 stones per week. (This information is from An Attempt to Reconstruct a History of Kingfisher College, edited and compiled in 1974 by William Claude Vogt, Class of 1908.)

Photo No. 1. This was Dr. Scroggs' house. It is now owned by Simon Wilczek, Route 2, Kingfisher. A square, two-story affair with a full attic, it contains four large rooms downstairs and a screened back porch. Upstairs are three rooms, a bath, and a sleeping porch. The house has handsome ornamental stonework at the four corners, a rather unusual stone balustrade on the front porch. It is well preserved.

Photo No. 2. Prof. Titt's house sits approximately 300 feet north of Dr. Scroggs' and is now owned by J. E. Bedell, Route 2, Kingfisher. It is basically the same house, though not quite as handsome and not quite as well preserved.

Photo No. 3. This generally southwesterly view over the ruins of Kingfisher College shows Dr. Scroggs' house (left) and that of Prof. Titt some 600 feet away.

With the above additions we are increasing the acreage requested for the site (No. 10) to 7 acres more or less.

