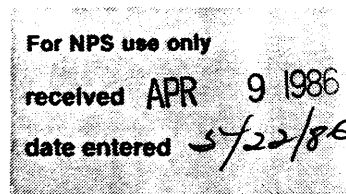


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HISTORIC HOMES OF ARDMORE PETROLEUM EXECUTIVES TR

2. Johnson Home (Photo Nos. 7-13 and No. 2 on Sketch Map).

Location: 400 Country Club Road
Ardmore, Oklahoma 73401
County: Carter Code: 019

Owner of Property: Dr. Otey Johnson Estate
400 Country Club Road
Ardmore, Oklahoma 73402

Description: Simplified Richardsonian Romanesque vocabulary dominates the Roy M. Johnson Home. Primary architectural characteristics are: a multi-level, Spanish red-tiled, low pitched, cross-hipped roof; arched doors and windows; partially enclosed, covered porches and patios set off by arcades supported by columns; and casement windows. The home is constructed in the shape of "U" with the facade forming both the base of the "U" and its south side. On either side of the arms of the "U" are flat-roofed wings with stone balustrades. The one-story, detached residence is constructed of coursed ashlar granite with a watertable and boxed cornices.

The facade (south side) of the home is actually broken into three different surfaces because of the way the front entry was constructed in the form of a pavilion extending from the main exterior wall (see diagram, section A). The front of the pavilion consists of bands of casement windows on either side of the front door. The bands of casement windows are identical, single light, double type with transom lights, granite lug sills, and granite label moldings. The entry door consists of a double, 15 light French door with plain lintel, offset by granite mullions, 10 light, side light windows, and topped with a large, narrow, fan light. Decorative elements include the label moldings, a semi-elliptical arch with keystone, the fan light, and a string course and undecorated frieze just below cornice level.

At right angles to the front of the pavilion are the two end walls of the pavilion. They face east and west and contain identical, 15 light double French doors with fan lights and granite hood moldings that form round arches. A single granite step leads to the porch.

The exterior walls on either side of the pavilion are symmetrical also. They each contain a band of windows made up of a single light, double casement window with transom, set between granite mullions and single light, casement side lights with transoms. These windows are framed by granite heads and lug sills. Significant to the overall design of the facade is the extensive uncovered porch that follows the contours of the front and provides a large, exterior lounging area on the east side of the front (see diagram, Porch A). The porch foundation is composed of coursed ashlar granite. The floor of the porch is red tile. A series of finished granite urn-shaped cornerstones and balustraded railings provide decoration and define the limits and extent of the porch. At the center of the porch, opposite the front door, is a granite staircase that extends onto the front lawn. It too is offset by a simulated marble railing.

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Because of the east wing that extends out from the main exterior wall, the east side consists of three parts (see diagram, section C). The east wall of the wing contains two bands of windows composed of single light, double casement windows with granite lug sills. At right angles to the east wall of the wing are two walls that face north and south respectively. The north wall contains a 2 light, double hung window with granite sill, while the south wall overlooking the porch contains a band of windows that consist of a single light, double casement window flanked by single light, single casement windows. The east wall to the south of the wing contains a single light, panel door with transom, flanked by single light, single casement windows with single light transoms. The east wall to the north of the wing contains two 1/1, double-hung windows with granite lug sills. Decorative elements include the string course and undecorated frieze that are present in this section and continue around to the rear of the building.

The rear (north) side of the structure has five exterior wall surfaces (see diagram, Porch B). Two of these sides are formed by the ends of the arms of the "U" shaped main building. These walls each have identical 2/2, double-hung windows with granite lug sills. The only decorative features are the string course and the undecorated friezes that are present just below cornice level on both walls.

The rear inside walls that face the rear patio (facing east and west) are quite intricate. A series of arcades on each side of the patio produce a pair of exterior, covered walkways which are adjacent to the patio. The west covered walkway contains three double 15-light French doors to these different areas of the "U" shaped main building. Features of these walls include round arches supported by unfluted, Tuscan-like granite columns with unadorned bases and capitals, keystones, and round arches. The east covered walkway contains a 15 light double French door. There is also an 8 light window with an air conditioner under it. It was originally a 16/16 double hung window. Also on the east wall is a pair of 3-light casement windows, one of which is single and the other is double. The east and west rear walls of the patio have identical 1/1 double-hung windows.

The north wall adjacent to the patio contains an arched door flanked by pilaster strips and arched windows with the entire wall forming an arcade. The central door is a 10 light French type flanked by 3 pane side lights and topped with a small fan light. The arched windows are composed of pairs of 2/2, double-hung windows topped by an eight pane fan light. Again, the rounded arches are topped by large keystones. At the far east and west corners of the north wall, there are single 15 light French doors.

The rear patio itself is floored with square red tiles identical to those on the front patio floor. The center of the rear patio contains a large, ornate, green fountain surrounded by statues.

The west side of the house is also broken into a number of different sections. (see diagram, section B). The wing on the west side of the house is actually a porte cochere supported by coursed ashlar granite columns with unadorned cement capitals. A waist high, coursed ashlar wall with granite coping runs between the two exterior columns. On the inside wall that separates the porte cochere from the house, there are two 1/1, double hung windows; a square, two panel coal chute door with granite sill; and a 15-light French door to the interior. There are two horizontal bands of

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windows on the western side of the house, one on either side of the porte cochere. To the north there are bands composed of both casement type and sash type windows with transoms under a continuous head or string course that extends around the rear of the structure.

To the south of the porte cochere, on the west side of the house is a band of casement windows. This band consists of a double, single light casement window with transom surrounded by a pair of single light casement windows with transoms and granite mullions.

Although some windows have been altered to accommodate air conditioners and the wooden elements of the residence are in need of paint, the overall architectural integrity has been retained since its construction in 1915. Many exterior light fixtures have been removed.

Statement of Significance: The Roy M. Johnson Home is both historically and architecturally significant because: (1) its historic association with Roy M. Johnson, co-founder of the Crystal Oil Company, the first such operation to purchase leases and drill wells in the Healdton Oil Field, one of Oklahoma's richest petroleum discoveries, and (2) it is the best remaining example of Richardsonian Romanesque vocabulary as applied to a dwelling in Ardmore.

In 1907, the year of Oklahoma statehood, Johnson moved from Texas to Ardmore where he started a weekly newspaper, the Ardmore Statesman. During the next eight years, he promoted the potential of petroleum in the Ardmore vicinity. Finally in 1915, he and two fellow Ardmore businessmen (Galt and Franklin) formed a development company which drilled the first well in the Healdton Oil Field, which dominated the petroleum industry of Oklahoma for the next decade. Following the discovery of oil in 1915, Johnson had accumulated sufficient wealth to build a mansion in the Country Club section of Ardmore. From 1915 until his death in 1960, Johnson and his family resided in the nominated property. His most productive years were in the 1920s and 1930s when he served as treasurer of the Crystal Oil Company, County Commissioner of Carter County, a member of the first Oklahoma Highway Commission, financed the first skyscraper in Ardmore (Simpson Building), director of the Oklahoma State Chamber of Commerce, and director of the Ardmore National Bank. He was also known for his philanthropic activities having donated land for both the Ardmore Memorial and Ardmore Adventist Hospitals.

The Johnson Home features a simplified Richardsonian Romanesque vocabulary. Noteworthy elements include the rock-faced coursed ashlar wall finish giving the dwelling an overall sense of heaviness and rough texture, arched openings in front and rear, stone voussoirs and keys, numerous casement windows, and short columns. Additional decorative elements consist of lunette-type windows, balustraded deck and front patio, French-type doors with sidelights, and Spanish red tile roof

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Johnson's most significant contributions to the historical development of city of Ardmore and state of Oklahoma were made while residing in the nominated property. The home is currently owned by the Otey Johnson Estate (Otey was one of Roy's children) thereby continuing its historic association with the Roy Johnson family.

Major Bibliographic References:

- Rister, Carl Coke, Oil! Titan of the Southwest. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1949, pp. 126-127, 130, 132, 185, 251, 257-258, and 373.
- Forbes, Gerald, Flush Production: The Epic of Oil in the Gulf-Southwest. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1942, pp. 34-35 and 187-188.
- Franks, Kenny A., The Oklahoma Petroleum Industry. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1980, pp. 80, 82, 132, 144, 174, and 229.
- Goodnight, Marjorie C., Pioneers in the Development of Carter County. M.A. Thesis, Oklahoma State University, 1939, pp. 61-77.

Quadrangle Name: Ardmore West, Oklahoma

Scale: 1:24,000

UTM: 14/671850/3787360

Verbal Boundary Description: Block 4, Dornick Hills Addition to Ardmore, Oklahoma. Beginning at a point 467' south and 134' west of the northeast corner of the NE 1/4, NE 1/4, NW 1/4 of Section 18, T4S R1E, which is at the northeast corner of said property, proceed west 134', thence south 134', thence east 134', thence north 134' to point of beginning (see attached sketch map). The nominated property lies within these boundaries.

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DIAGRAM OF JOHNSON HOME

