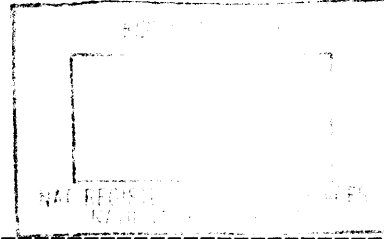


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name West Winds Motel

other names/site number

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number 623 Roger Miller not for publication N/A
city or town Erick vicinity N/A
state Oklahoma code OK county Beckham code 009 zip code 73645

=====

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

=====

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (N/A See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Bob Larkew 4-22-04
Signature of certifying official Date

Oklahoma Historical Society, SHPO
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (N/A See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

=====

4. National Park Service Certification

=====

I, hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register Edson H. Beall 5/27/04
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the _____
National Register
 See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the _____
National Register
 removed from the National Register _____
 other (explain): _____

Earl
Signature of Keeper Date
of Action

=====
5. Classification
=====

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u> 2 </u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<u> </u>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<u> </u>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<u> 1 </u>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
<u> 3 </u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) Route 66 and Associated Historic Resources in Oklahoma

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC/ Sub: hotel

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: VACANT / NOT IN USE Sub:

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH & 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Mission Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

roof ASPHALT

walls STUCCO

STONE

other

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====

8. Statement of Significance

=====

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or a grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance 1948-1954

=====

8. Statement of Significance (Continued)

=====

Significant Dates 1948

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====

9. Major Bibliographical References

=====

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository:

=====

10. Geographical Data

=====

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	14	420541E	3897061N	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

N/A See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

=====

11. Form Prepared By

=====

name/title Michael Cassity, Ph.D.

organization Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office date December 10, 2003

street & number 304 West Albuquerque telephone 918 451-8378

city or town Broken Arrow state OK zip code 74011

=====

Additional Documentation

=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====
Property Owner
=====

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Mr. Klaus Battenfeld, c/o Dorothy Alexander, Attorney at Law

street & number 706 North 4th telephone (580) 928-9544

city or town Sayre state OK zip code 73662-2214

United States Department of the Interior
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 9

West Winds Motel
Name of property
Beckham County, Oklahoma
County and State
"Route 66 and Associated Historic
Resources in Oklahoma"
Multiple property listing

Description

As Route 66 passed through the north part of the town of Erick, the street formerly known as Broadway became lined with service stations, cafés, and motels to serve the burgeoning traffic on that storied road. About five blocks west of the main intersection in the town, the West Winds Motel is positioned directly on the north side of Route 66, a location believed by many businesses in that day to have a commercial advantage since it would more easily draw in the west-bound traveler. The property consists of three features, two buildings and a highway sign. The white stucco buildings and red tile-shaped metal of the mansard roof of the West Winds Motel once formed an imposing structure in Erick. A neon sign that once flashed the name of the motel beneath a bucking bronco is located adjacent to the highway base in a rectangular planter made of decorative stone.

Two buildings at right angles create two sides to a courtyard and the owner's house on the west (a separate property not included in this nomination) forms the third side of the wide U configuration. A gravel drive loops around the courtyard so that there are two street exits/entrances as well as an inner loop that connects the west side to the office area in the east building.

The long rectangular building on the north contains four motel units separated by four open garage bays. Since access to the motel rooms is gained from within the garages, the south elevation of this row of motel units lacks doorways. Two double-hung windows flanked by decorative shutters and partially protected by awnings are centered in each motel unit. Wainscoting of flat decorative stone covers the elevation below the level of the windows; the wainscoting rises on each side of the garage bays, and then wraps around to the interior to create a border for the opening. Stucco completes the elevation above the wainscoting. The overall appearance of this building, with its open bays for garages, the gently arched entrances to the garages, and the wainscoting that rises to the arch suggests the contours of an arcade without actually presenting one.

The roof suggests mission revival parapet design with a roofing tile-shaped metal mansard trim between low relief, flat peaks that rise in steps above each motel unit. A vertical diamond, the same red hue as the tile, projects outward from the center of each peak.

The building on the east includes a parapet of the same design as that on the south, but the elevation below is different, lacking garage bays which means also that (1) the wainscoting follows the line of the window sills, and (2) the lodging units have visible doors on each the four units (including the southmost unit which is the office). The canopy that stretches forth along the building is not an arcade, with its steel piers and the wide metal band wrapping around the corners like an automobile grill, but it provides protection both for lodgers as they come and go from their rooms and for automobile parking. Although clearly added after the original construction, this piece appears to have been added, and used, during the period of historic significance.

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West Winds Motel
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The north building has been restored recently and in the process has recaptured much of its original luster. The east building appears to be awaiting similar treatment. Both buildings retain integrity of structure, materials, workmanship, location, appearance, feeling, and association.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Section 8 Page 11

West Winds Motel
Name of property
Beckham County, Oklahoma
County and State
"Route 66 and Associated Historic
Resources in Oklahoma"
Multiple property listing

Statement of Significance

Summary

The West Winds Motel in Erick is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places within the Multiple Property Nomination, "Route 66 and Associated Historic Resources in Oklahoma." Built shortly after World War II, the West Winds Motel was a tourist court located at a point where it could easily serve the tremendous volume of Route 66 traffic and the business provided lodging for travelers along U.S. Highway 66 throughout the period of historic significance. The motel is significant under Criterion C for its architectural significance as an excellent example of the Mission Revival style used in a motor court because it represents the property type, "Motels / Tourist Courts" in the Multiple Property Cover Document.

Historical Background

Located seven miles east of the Oklahoma border with Texas, the town of Erick is on the edge of the high plains that form much of the Texas panhandle in an open country with scattered trees and low rainfall. Lying south of the North Fork of the Red river, the area was claimed by Texas until a U.S. Supreme Court decision in 1896 granted it to the Choctaw Nation in Oklahoma Territory, and in 1901 the town of Erick was officially platted and the next year the town was filed and settled.¹ Despite the arid climate, the town served an agricultural economy in the early twentieth century that was augmented by some gas production from a nearby field and by 1929, when the city was incorporated it held a population of 2200. On the edge of the dust bowl with its economy suffering under the agricultural depression of the late twenties and thirties, Erick fell into hard times, and many residents moved to California and elsewhere. World War II rejuvenated the local economy and by the end of the war Route 66 with its burgeoning traffic offered new hopes for the future.

At the end of the war, the Erick Chamber of Commerce printed a circular to promote development in the town, proclaiming that "Erick is not a war spoiled town or just another boom town but a town with a half century of service" and the role of U.S. Route 66 in the economy was clear. At the time, the community had four tourist courts, two hotels, three auto supply stores, dealers for Ford and Chevrolet automobiles (as well as International Harvester, John Deere, Allis Chalmers, and Case) seven auto repair shops, and nine filling stations.² In the spring of 1946 Jack Rittenhouse offered a similar, but briefer, inventory when he surveyed the area for his guide book to Route 66, noting

¹ "Erick, Oklahoma," in Jerry Dickson, ed., *Prairie Fire: A Pioneer History of Western Oklahoma* (Elk City: Western Oklahoma Historical Society, 1978), 199.

² "Erick Needs You," folder in Erick vertical file, Oklahoma Historical Society Research Division, Oklahoma City.

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West Winds Motel
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that Erick is "the first town you encounter, going west, which has any of the true 'western' look, with its wide, sun-baked street, frequent horsemen, occasional side-walk awnings, and similar touches."³ It was into this growing Route 66 tourist-oriented economy that the West Wind Motel was born.

This motel is like many others in that property type since the records and memories providing a basis for reconstruction the history remain murky. Passing from a period in which overnight lodging businesses were on the margins of respectability to a period in which they became the dominant form of lodging for travelers the businesses never developed the personal and commercial identity of other main street businesses. Used primarily by people passing through the town, instead of by locals, the clientele was ephemeral and constantly changing so the institutions remained on the peripheries of commercial and social awareness in the town, unlike filling stations or garages that would form centers of social and business interaction for the community.

The exact date of construction of this motel—or as it was known for a good while, the tourist court—is not known, although all indications are that it was shortly after World War II. One neighbor places it within a couple of years of the end of the war and one resident who operated a service station on the highway confirms that general time period. Property records do not show actual construction, but between 1944 and 1948 the property had four different owners and the builders of the motel could have been any one of three families. Since it was not listed by Rittenhouse (who did make note of the DeLuxe Court and the Erick Court and Trailer Park) and this would have been a new, attractive establishment, it was most likely constructed after Rittenhouse's visit either by Ralph Fails or Floyd Pamplin. What is known and is clear in the documentary record as well as in local recollections is that the Pampkins operated the West Winds Motel for many years. Thus, while the motel appears to have been operating in 1948, it could possibly have been constructed as much as two years earlier. Alternatively, part of it could have been constructed in those two years and the other part soon afterwards.

Architectural Significance

The West Winds Motel is significant under Criterion C because it represents a distinct type and period of construction. The requirement for eligibility under Criterion C in the Multiple Property Nomination, "Route 66 and Associated Historic Resources in Oklahoma" is simply that "they are a good example of a type, style, or period of construction." This property meets that requirement.

The cottage court was a specific kind of lodging in the evolution of buildings that became modern motels, and came at a point following the tourist camps and cabins where camping facilities had evolved into separate cottages or cabins arranged in a pattern. The cottage court was followed by the motor court. As the standard account of the motel in

³ Jack Rittenhouse, *A Guide Book to Highway 66* (Los Angeles: privately published, 1946; reprinted by University of New Mexico Press, 2000), 61.

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West Winds Motel

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America notes, "Motor courts were structured like cottage courts except that room units were totally integrated under single rooflines usually as a single building."⁴ When they were arranged in a U or V, the interior courtyard served as a common space for interaction with other guests or for play for the children.

The West Winds Motel was such a motor court. Although the buildings were not arranged under a single roofline, the two separate lodging buildings, perpendicular to each other, each consisted of such integrated, linear lodging units. The residence to the west of the motel, which preceded the motel, but which is separate and not a part of this nomination, at one time served as the operator's residence and motel office, although the office ultimately moved to the southmost unit of the east wing of the motel. A courtyard was thus formed by the three buildings on three sides of a wide U facing Route 66 on the south. Until 2002, a children's swingset was located within the courtyard.

While the West Winds Motel reveals an important element of American commercial architectural history, providing a link between the days of the tourist camps and cottages on the one hand and the modern motel on the other, even within its own design it indicates subtle elements of evolution. Although the motel's two units are generally consistent in style, there is reason to believe that the north building (parallel to the roadway) may have been built slightly earlier than the east building. The spacing of the lodging units so that garages separate them and contain the entrances to the rooms is the mark of a broadly pre-World War II conceptualization of overnight lodging architecture. While there are no precise timelines separating architectural style, the north building with its garages echoes clearly the movement in the construction of earlier cottage courts. As Jakle, Sculle, and Rogers note of the cottage courts, "attached garages were popular after 1930 and it was not uncommon to find cottage-garage combinations linked wall to wall to form continuous façades, the integrity of each building preserved in individual roof lines, since the units were usually freestanding."⁵ In this building the units were not freestanding but integrated into a single structure; the garages provided the separation between them—much like the earlier cottages had been separated. The building on the east, however, without garages separating units, conforms more clearly to the later pattern of motor courts—a single long building with doors providing the main indication of separate units. The relevance of the West Wind Motel to the prevailing pattern is clearly, finally, in the general appearance suggested by the styling of the building. As Jakle

⁴ John A. Jakle, Keith A. Sculle, and Jefferson S. Rogers, *The Motel in America* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996), 43.

⁵ Jakle, Sculle, and Rogers, *The Motel in America*, 43.

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West Winds Motel

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Sculle, and Rogers note, "Motor courts with façades integrated around interior courtyards were reminiscent of Spanish haciendas, especially when they were constructed of stucco to [simulate] adobe. Motels with names such as El Rancho and Casa Grande appeared from coast to coast."⁶ The stucco, the arrangement, the linear buildings, the courtyard, and even the name mark this motel as a distinct type, at a certain period in history, and its association with Route 66 traffic passing by its entrance and its cowboy and bronco sign, firmly establish the significance of the motel.

Summary

The connection to Route 66 and the qualification of the West Winds Motel as a member of the property type "Motels / Tourist Courts" with Route 66 are both clear. The West Wind Motel in Erick, Oklahoma, has been historically associated with Route 66 and qualifies for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places because of its architectural significance under Criterion C within the Multiple Property Nomination, "Route 66 and Associated Historic Resources in Oklahoma."

⁶ Jakle, Sculle, and Rogers, *The Motel in America*, 45.

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West Winds Motel
Name of property
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Multiple property listing

Major Bibliographical References

- Anderson, Kathy, Jim Ross, and Gary Ray Howell, Oklahoma Route 66 Association, *Oklahoma Route 66 Roadbed Documentation Project (1926-1970): A Survey of Roadbed and Integral Structures* (Oklahoma City: Oklahoma SHPO, 2002).
- Belasco, Warren James, *Americans on the Road: From Autocamp to Motel 1910-1945* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1979).
- "Erick, Oklahoma," in Jerry Dickson, ed., *Prairie Fire: A Pioneer History of Western Oklahoma* (Elk City: Western Oklahoma Historical Society, 1978), 199.
- "Erick, Oklahoma," vertical file in Oklahoma Historical Society, Research Division collections, Oklahoma City.
- Interviews with Klaus Battenfeld, William Jefferson, and others unidentified in Erick, Oklahoma.
- Jakle, John A., Keith A. Sculle, and Jefferson S. Rogers, *The Motel in America* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996).
- Land Records, Office of the County Clerk, Beckham County Courthouse, Sayre, Oklahoma.
- Property Assessment Records, Office of the County Assessor, Beckham County Courthouse, Sayre.
- Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Erick, Oklahoma, 1932.
- Rittenhouse, Jack D., *A Guide Book to Highway 66* (Los Angeles: privately published, 1946; reprint, Albuquerque University of New Mexico Press, 1989, 2000).

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West Winds Motel
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Verbal Boundary Description

This property consists of the undivided area in the northwest corner of the T intersection of Roger Miller (old U.S Highway 66) and Birch and includes the three contributing features and is defined as including the area one hundred feet north of the roadbed of old Route 66 for a distance of one hundred feet west along that roadbed beginning at point fifteen feet east of the east building of the motel.

Boundary Justification

This boundary includes the property historically associated with the West Winds Motel.