
7. Description

Condition excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

This commercial building located on the northeast corner of 5th Street and South Boulder, has a rectangular plan, 100' wide (on Boulder) x 140' long. The height is 3 stories with a full basement, 5 bays wide and 7 bays along the length. Basement walls and columns are reinforced concrete with a structural steel skeleton above.

Exterior material consists of cream colored terra cotta walls, glass in metal frames, marble insets at entries for individual stores off the sidewalk and granite bases below the terra cotta. Strong vertical zig zag motifs are expressed on the exterior walls with the entrances providing visual attention. The 5th Street entrance is covered and bordered by a canopy with unusual terra cotta emphasis. The metal marquee on Boulder is more traditional with its metal design features and method of support which is rods with turnbuckles and anchored at the wall. The canopy also features curious light fixtures on the outside corners.

The flat roof above the third floor exposes the irregular tops of the parapet plus all protected column extensions to be used for a future addition of 10 stories. A built up membrane with gravel covers the roof and also supports the flat roofed elevator penthouse and water cooling towers.

The lobby is alive with art deco - zig zag features. Floor tile, wall tile, wainscoat decorative plaster ceiling with beams and haunches, are very colorful. Light fixtures, mezzanine windows and "skylight" glass is intricately etched and in good condition. Ground floor shop spaces have entrances into the lobby and mezzanines.

The grand stairway at the east end of the lobby has not been altered and is especially representative of art deco in the treatment of handrails, balusters, and mezzanine railing.

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 type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1929 **Builder/Architect** Edward W. Saunders
 Builder - Gillette-Tyrell

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Pythian Building is significant because of its Art Deco Style of Architecture. Completed in 1930 and originally designed for 13 floors (10 were completed), its appearance inside or out is different from any of the few buildings of this style remaining in Tulsa.

never
(see next
paragraph)

Located on the Northeast corner of West Fifth Street and South Boulder Avenue in Downtown Tulsa, this three story building was intended to be the base of a thirteen story office building. The additional ten stories were never constructed, but the three story building remains essentially in its original form as an example of the early zig zag phase of Art Deco Architecture.

In 1930 the architect of the Gillette-Tyrell Building described it as having several types of architecture faintly suggested in the building and its decoration, "But, as a whole, the type is distinctly Modern." This style is now recognized as the early phase of Art Deco architecture. The Italian, Spanish, and American Indian derived motifs in the exterior terra cotta work with its vertical emphasis and colorful zig zag decorations and in the interior decorations combine to provide a classic example of most of the basic elements of the Art Deco style.

Still remaining in the building is the original, richly decorated lobby with colorful tile wainscoting, ornately molded plaster coffered ceilings, mosaic tile floors, detailed cast iron railings, and etched glass windows and light fixtures. The ornate exterior terra cotta work is in good condition and is virtually unaltered.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Outlook - in Historic Conservation -- Nov./Oct. 1979
 Newsletter - March 28, 1930, page 15 - Tulsa Chamber of Commerce
 Tulsa County Library
 Junior League of Tulsa, Inc. Tulsa-Art Deco, An Architectural Era 1925-1942.

10. Geographical Data (1980)

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property less than one acre

ACREEGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle name Tulsa, Oklahoma

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	5	2	3	10	9	2	10	4	10	0	14	6	17	10
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing							

C

Zone		Easting				Northing							

D

Zone		Easting				Northing							

E

Zone		Easting				Northing							

F

Zone		Easting				Northing							

G

Zone		Easting				Northing							

H

Zone		Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

Original Town - Block 135 - Lot 5 and South 25 Ft. of Lot 6

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 James R. Witte - Consulting Architect; Editor - Bill E. Peavler, AIA

organization J.D. Young Co. date October 16, 1980

street & number 116 West Third Street telephone (918) 582-9955

city or town Tulsa 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature [Signature]

title [Signature] date 12-8-1981

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>[Signature]</u>	date <u>1/21/82</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	