

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received APR 9 1986  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Johnson Hotel and Boarding House

and/or common Same

**2. Location**

street & number 314 West Mulberry N/A not for publication

city, town Duncan N/A vicinity of

state Oklahoma code 40 county Stephens code 137

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	N/A 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 Mrs. R. M. Mitchell

street & number 314 Mulberry

city, town Duncan N/A vicinity of state Oklahoma 73533

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of County Clerk

street & number Stephens County Courthouse

city, town Duncan state Oklahoma 73533

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1984  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Oklahoma City state Oklahoma 73105

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed				

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Johnson Hotel and Boarding House is a rectangular-shaped, detached, wood frame, commercial building. The two-story structure has gabled roof covered with composition shingles and clapboard wall finish.

The front, or north side, has a two-story porch supported by square wood columns. First and second story openings are identical. Two wood 1/1 double-hung windows flank a centrally located wood panel door with light in upper half.

Fenestration in the west side includes six wooden 1/1 double-hung sash windows, three on each floor. A seventh 1/1 double-hung window is located on first floor to the south of the others.

The rear, or south side, has an enclosed back porch on first story and partially enclosed porch on second story. First floor openings include a centrally located wood panel door with light in upper portion, a band of three single sash windows to east of door, and single wooden 1/1 double-hung windows in east and west walls. The upper portion of second story has screened openings which wrap around all three sides of porch.

East side first story consists of paired wooden 1/1 double-hung windows at northern end and single wooden 1/1 double-hung windows in central and southern sections of wall. There are three wooden 1/1 double-hung windows in second floor.

The only architectural features are the exposed rafters in the overhanging eaves and the two-story porches attached to front and rear.

Other than aluminum storm windows and doors which cover original openings, there have been no changes in the nominated property.

The Johnson Hotel and Boarding House has retained its architectural integrity for over 60 years.

CONTRIBUTING PROPERTIES

One (1) 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 type="checkbox"/> economics	<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/
<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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) (Ethnic)

**Specific dates** 1924- 1934      **Builder/Architect** Builder-Fred Johnson

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Johnson Hotel and Boarding House is historically significant because it is the only remaining commercial building associated with the black community of Duncan, Oklahoma.

Duncan was a trading post near the Chisholm Trail in the Chickasaw Nation of Indian Territory. The town, however, was not officially platted until 1892 when the Rock Island Railroad extended its tracks through the area south to the Red River. The first official census for towns in Indian Territory in 1900 showed that Duncan had a total population of 1,164. Of that population, there were approximately 100 black residents.

Black settlement in Duncan was a result of the freedmen agriculturists who had secured allotments of land in the area following the Civil War. The Chickasaws, like the other four tribes of the Five Civilized Tribes, were slaveholders and, when the Emancipation Proclamation was issued in 1863, black slaves of the Chickasaws were given from 40 to 160 acres of land. Thus many of the black freedmen remained in the region because of its excellent potential for cotton production.

Duncan's black residential section evolved in the early 1900s in the southeast section of town, commonly referred to as "the Hill." Duncan's population remained around 2,000 until the oil boom of the early 1920s. Black inhabitants of Duncan also stabilized at approximately 200 during the first two decades of the century.

With the discovery of oil fields southwest and east of Duncan, the town's population soared and black population reached over 1,000. A separate high school was constructed for blacks and lodging facilities for black oil field workers were solely needed because of racial discrimination in housing.

Fred Johnson, a long-time resident of Duncan's black community, financed and built the only hotel and boarding house on "the Hill." Completed in 1924 at the peak of the boom, the Johnson Hotel housed blacks who worked in oil-related industries as well as the fields. By 1930, Duncan had two large petroleum-related businesses--Magnolia Pipe Line Company and Halliburton Services. Blacks were among the over 2,400 employees working for these two firms.

From 1924 to 1934, the Johnson property served the black community as a hotel and rooming house. During recent years, it has been used as a private residence.

The Johnson Hotel and Boarding House stands as a historic reminder of the period in Oklahoma's history when blacks were denied public housing privileges during an era of racial separatism. For over 60 years, it has retained its architectural integrity.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Interview: Edward Hooks, July, 1984

Tolson, Arthur L., The Black Oklahomans, A History: 1541-1972. New Orleans: Edwards Printing Co., 1972.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Duncan South, OK

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

A 

1	4	5	9	6	2	9	5	3	8	1	7	3	4	5
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

Lots 6, 7, & 8, Block 34, Head Addition to Duncan, OK.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mark C. Miller Supervised by Dr. George Carney

organization Department of Geography date February, 1985

street & number Oklahoma State University telephone 405 624-6250

city or town Stillwater state Oklahoma 74078

## 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

*C E Metcalf* 3-31-86

title date

### For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for *William B. Bushong*

Keeper of the National Register

date *5/14/86*

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration