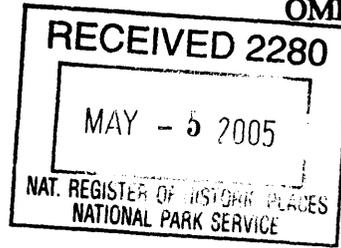


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NPS Form 10-900  
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Warden's House

other names/site number Oklahoma State Penitentiary Warden's House

**2. Location**

street & number Penitentiary Blvd. & West Street. not for publication N/A  
city or town McAlester vicinity N/A  
state Oklahoma code OK county Pittsburg code 121 zip code 74501

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.)

 5-20-05  
Signature of certifying official Date

Oklahoma Historical Society, SHPO  
State or Federal agency and bureau

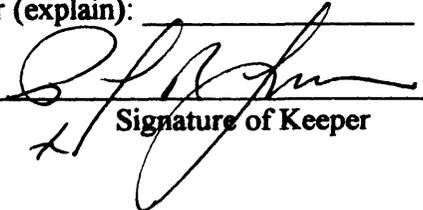
In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
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 \_\_\_\_\_  
 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): \_\_\_\_\_

 6/17/05  
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

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5. Classification

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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>	<u>    </u> buildings
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> sites
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> structures
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> objects
<u>  2  </u>	<u>  0  </u> 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.)  
  NA  

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6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: single dwelling

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: single dwelling

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

roof TERRA COTTA

walls STUCCO

other \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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8. Statement of Significance

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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)

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT  
ARCHITECTURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance C. 1911-1955

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8. Statement of Significance (Continued)

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Significant Dates \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder Weathers, P. H., Architect  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(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: \_\_\_\_\_



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Property Owner

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

name Ron Ward, Director  
Oklahoma Department of Corrections

street & number 3400 Martin Luther King Avenue telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Oklahoma City state OK zip code 73111

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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Warden's House  
name of property  
Pittsburg County, Oklahoma  
county and State

The Warden's House of the Oklahoma State penitentiary is located in the city of McAlester, Pittsburg County, in southeastern Oklahoma. The State Penitentiary comprises 1,556 acres on the northwest edge of the city. The Warden's House is located directly south of the main gate of the penitentiary, in a large, landscaped lawn, near the east edge of the penitentiary property. The white, stucco-clad house faces north, with a curved driveway approaching the *porte cochere* on the east side and leading to a small, brick garage. The house, completed in 1911, is 2 ½ stories in height and features a full-width porch. Alterations to the house include the addition and later enclosure of the sleeping porch over the *porte cochere*.

**Description**

**Exterior**

The Warden's House at the Oklahoma State Penitentiary was completed in 1911. Designed by State Architect Patrick E. Weathers, the house is not atypical of large house designs of the time. Strong horizontal lines and smooth surfaces hearken to the Prairie School that was popular at the time, while the tile roof, arcaded porch, and scalloped parapet over the porch entrance reflect a Mediterranean influence.(photo 1)

The Warden's House was described in *Harlow's Weekly* soon after construction as an "...imposing structure of concrete...well appointed and modern throughout...built to harmonize with the other buildings..."<sup>1</sup> Constructed by prison labor and matching much of the construction of the prison itself in the liberal use of concrete, the Warden's House is at once both elegant and formidable. Measuring eighty-one feet by fifty-five feet, there are 11,871 square feet of living space in 2 ½ stories.

The house is capped by a low-pitched hip roof. There are hipped dormers centered on the front and rear elevations. The roof is clad in red, barreled Spanish tiles. There are four chimneys on the principal roof, one on each side elevation located near the front of the house and two on the rear, flanking the dormer. The chimneys are red brick with corbelled caps. The *porte cochere*, located on the east side of the house, has a lower roofline. Clad in the same tile as the main roof, it is also hipped, and like the main roof, features an integral gutter system. A new, massive brick chimney is located on the east end of the *porte cochere*, added during a 1970's remodel.(photo 3) The roof has a wide overhang with boxed eaves. Downspouts emerge from the soffits at the four corners of the house.

The dormers are centered in the front and rear elevations. The low pitch of their roofs matches that of the main roof. The walls of each dormer are slightly battered and each features three small round arch windows slightly recessed in

<sup>1</sup> "State's Greatest Permanent Improvement," *Harlow's Weekly*, Oklahoma City, Vol. 1, No. 10, October 19, 1912.

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Warden's House  
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the front walls Currently, a window air conditioning unit is located in the center window of each dormer.(photo 2 & 6)

The walls of the house are stucco over poured concrete. The foundation is poured concrete. The stucco has a light texture and is stark white. A wide frieze board caps the wall. Fenestration is balanced on all elevations with the exception of the rear, where a pair of small, enclosed porches or bays disrupt the symmetry. Centered in the main, or north, elevation on the second floor is a recessed triple window. The three windows are 1/1, with the flanking sashes slightly narrower than the center sash. The mullions consist of pilasters. Flanking this central window set are two 1/1 windows to each side. These windows have plain surrounds and slightly projecting sills. The first floor features a large central entry, slightly recessed. The entry has a wide, central door flanked by sidelights. A transom is matched over the door and each sidelight. The door and window surrounds are unpainted, dark stained wood, possibly walnut. The door has a large, single light and a paneled kicker plate. The single pane sidelights and the door light have an egg and dart mold. (photo 8) Matching the pattern of the second floor, 1/1 windows flank the central entry.

A porch spans the front of the property. A very low pitch tile roof is carried by heavy, arcaded piers forming elliptical arches. There are seven arches across the front and additional arches as the porch wraps around the east and west corners. A low wall pierced with three round arched openings spans each arch of the porch. The floor of the porch is a newer, red, 4" square tile laid directly on concrete and raised three steps above grade. Above the central arch, breaking the eaveline of the porch roof is a shaped parapet. Centered in the parapet wall is a *bas relief* cartouche.(photo 2)

The west elevation features three 1/1 windows on the second floor. The central window is smaller and is partially obscured by a window air conditioning unit. The first floor has a pair of 1/1 windows located near the south, or rear section of the wall; a small pent roof shades these two windows. The balance of this elevation is dominated by the wrap-around porch. Three elliptical arch sections are visible on this side; the last two sections have been infilled with casement windows, creating a solarium. Each arch space has two eight pane casements flanking three nine pane casements.(photo 5)

The east elevation has not only the wrap around porch, but also the *porte cochere*. The porch wraps around in two arched segments, then centered on the elevation is the *porte cochere*. To the south of the *porte cochere* the main body of the house has a single 1/1 window on each floor. The window on the lower floor is obscured by a window air conditioning unit. The *porte cochere* extends out from the house at a right angle. It features two arches, similar to those of the porch, but with the outermost arch much wider. The second floor of the *porte cochere* is an enclosed sleeping porch. This sleeping porch is not original to the house – it was added on at an unknown date prior to 1935. It was enclosed, and a large chimney stack added to the east end of the structure, in the 1970s. The sleeping porch area of the *porte cochere* is marked by a rank of five 1/1 windows on the north and south sides. The east side is dominated by the chimney.(photo 3 & 4)

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The rear elevation of the house is the most complicated. Much like the north elevation, there is a large central window flanked by two 1/1 windows to each side. However, unlike the front, the rear elevation is not one unbroken plane. The western 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the wall is stepped back from the main plane of the house approximately eight inches. This is not reflected in the eave of the roof, though. Also, the spacing of the windows is different, with the outermost rank set closer to the corner of the house. In addition, the large central window set is larger than that of the front elevation. Three 1/1 windows have matching transoms. On the first floor, there are two 1/1 windows in the stepped-back portion of the wall, aligned with the second floor windows. Two flat-roofed projections contain the rest of the fenestration of the first floor. Off-center, offset below the large window set is a flat-roofed bay with a triple window set. This bay projects out about five feet from the main wall; a second bay, also with a flat roof, is located immediately east of it. This bay, added after the original construction, projects out about three feet from the wall. It features a large window set in a Chicago window configuration but with an elliptical arch; the arch matches those of the porch. Only the four transom lights of the arch are visible – the balance of the window is obscured with louvres or the gabled roof that shelters the entry to the basement. An entry door is located on the east side of this bay.(photo 6 & 7)

#### Interior

The house features a full basement, two main floors and a finished attic. For the most part, the ground floor is viewed as “public space” and has had few substantive changes. The second floor and the attic are living quarters and have been altered to some degree by succeeding occupants. The basement is semi-finished and has also been reconfigured over time.

The first floor is the “show” floor. Here formal and informal guests are entertained. There is a large entry hall; to the left and right are parlors and directly ahead is the grand staircase. The walls are plaster trimmed in stained hardwood. At one time, this trim had been painted, but has been stripped and re-stained. Entry into either parlor is gained through wide pocket doors. The east parlor, referred to as the piano parlor, is the smaller of the two. It has a fireplace on the east wall. The fireplace has a simple mantel shelf supported by Doric columns, all painted white. The fireplace surround is glazed tile.(photo 12) The larger parlor is to the west. From this parlor access is gained to the dining room and to the solarium. Fireplaces in the parlor and dining room match those of the piano parlor. The entry from parlor to dining room is marked by a wide opening with two, heavy wood columns supporting a stained oak beam.(photo 11) The solarium, on the west side of the house, has a tile floor and white-painted walls. The casement windows that light the room are fronted with interior screens. Above the west wall windows are fan molds inset into the elliptical arches of the window openings.(photo 13)

A kitchen, modernized in the 1970s, and a small pantry/prep area are also located on the first floor, east of and behind the staircase. These rooms have been updated in décor and appliances, but remain true to their footprints.

The staircase is the main feature of the first floor.(photo 9) Two Ionic columns on octagonal bases flank the staircase

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itself. Ionic pilasters on the walls define nooks to either side of the staircase. Each nook has a small bench seat and is lighted by a wall sconce.(photo 10) The eastern nook has a telephone. The stairs have a simple stick balustrade and turn 180 degrees at a landing. The landing is lighted by the large, transomed window set on the rear of the house. A bench seat is also located at this landing.

The second floor has bedrooms and closets. Some alteration has been made to the configuration of these spaces. Also, from this level access to the old sleeping porch over the *porte cochere* is gained. This room now serves as the living room for the quarters. A fireplace is located on the east wall. Next to the entry to the living room area is a narrow staircase leading to the attic room. Basically a large open space, the attic features small nooks located in the dormers that served as sleeping alcoves for the female domestic servants (inmates).

The basement, which housed domestic servants (also inmate trustees), is semi-finished. Numerous rooms for storage, coal storage, and recreation are located within a labyrinth of a floor plan.

#### Grounds

Mature trees dot the landscape around the Warden's House. A wide sidewalk leads from the front entry directly north to the main entry of the penitentiary. Behind the house a privacy fence encloses the rear patio area. Planting beds are scattered in the enclosed area and along the perimeter of the house. At the terminus of the driveway on the east side of the house is a simple garage, constructed between 1918 and 1927. The garage has a flat roof, slightly sloping to the rear but hidden by a parapet. A modern overhead door dominates the front, but segmental arched windows are located on the east and west walls. The garage is constructed of prison-made bricks, covered in stucco. The west wall shows signs of deterioration and the bricks are readily visible.(photo 14, 15, & 16)

A rock retaining wall separates the rear of the property from another part of the prison grounds. There is a four foot grade change with the Warden's House sitting above a greenhouse and an old henhouse now used for storage that would be outside the boundaries of the nominated property.

#### Integrity

The Warden's House retains excellent integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, association, and location. The most visible change to the building is the new chimney and enclosed sleeping porch. While these changes were made in the 1970s, they do not detract from the building's ability to convey its significance over time as the center of administrative and political activity at the Oklahoma State Penitentiary.

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Warden's House, ca. 1930 (OHS 5745.273)

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View of penitentiary, looking northwest, with Warden's House in foreground, 1916 (OHS 6407.4)

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Summary

The Warden's House at the Oklahoma State Penitentiary is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, for its significance in the political/governmental history of Oklahoma. Constructed soon after completion of the penitentiary, the Warden's House stands as a symbol of the new state's desire for the best, most modern state institutions and of the political patronage system that grew with the new state government. Designed by architect P. H. Weathers, the house is also eligible under Criterion C. It is an excellent example of the Renaissance Revival style, constructed of concrete by prisoners.

History and Significance

Prior to statehood in 1907, prisoners from the Oklahoma and Indian Territories that weren't kept in local jails were shipped under contract to a penitentiary in Lansing, Kansas. For a fee of \$.40 per day per prisoner, the prisoners were housed, fed, and clothed. They were also required to work, sometimes under poor conditions. This caught the attention of Kate Barnard, the Commissioner of Charities and Corrections for the Twin Territories. She pushed, unsuccessfully, for the creation of a reformatory and penitentiary system.<sup>2</sup> After the state of Oklahoma was created out of the Twin Territories on November 16, 1907, the new legislature began the business creating the framework of state government. It was the second legislature that set about divvying up the state institutions. Guthrie, the capitol of Oklahoma Territory, was the capitol of the new state. The legislature that convened there was besieged by boosters from cities and towns across the new state, looking for the location of some sort of governmental institution. The prize acquisitions seemed to be schools; towns performed a game of one-upsmanship in vying for a state Normal school. For example, in competing for the girl's industrial school, the city of Ardmore offered land worth "fifty dollars an acre and all utilities for five years." The city of Chickasha countered with land "worth one hundred fifty dollars an acre and utilities in perpetuity."<sup>3</sup> What eventually became the Oklahoma College for Women ended up in Chickasha.

McAlester, located in the southeastern part of the state, was in competition with the town of Granite, located in the southwest, for the location of a new state penitentiary. Each offered land and other considerations, but McAlester's size and location on two rail lines helped decide the matter. The first Commissioner of Charities and Corrections was Kate Barnard, the first woman to hold state office in Oklahoma. Her displeasure with the treatment of prisoners from Oklahoma by the Kansas authorities, and the displeasure with Oklahoma prisoners by the Kansas authorities led to the return of prisoners to Oklahoma in 1908 before any State prison facilities had been constructed. The Legislature agreed

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<sup>2</sup> *Report of State Commissioner of Charities and Corrections, 1908-1909*; also, see *Oklahoma State Penitentiary: The First Eight Years*, Thurman Shuller, unpublished manuscript, n.d.

<sup>3</sup> *McAlester News-Capital*, 3/1/09. There are a number of small, sometimes humorous reports on the lengths towns would go to in order to be awarded a plum state institution.

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to the location of the penitentiary in McAlester, buoyed by the promise of land by the city. Even as the prisoners were being transferred out of Kansas, the legislature quickly passed a law that allowed for the use of convict labor on public road and building projects.<sup>4</sup>

Funding, though, was slow in coming. A bill, backed by Warden Robert W. (Bob) Dick, asked for \$300,000. Reported in the *McAlester News-Capital*, "Representative McCalla wanted to cut the appropriation to \$100,000, saying 'I am opposed to maintaining six or seven hundred well-fed convicts in idleness while honest labor is building their home. Let them get the benefit of work in the open air, and let the state save a hundred or so thousand dollars by using them.'"<sup>5</sup> With no resolution to the funding, Warden Dick accepted the transferred prisoners into a wooden stockade. He set the prisoners to work, constructing a barracks-like building described as a "World's Fair building" in which to house the twenty-five 18.5'X6.5' wagon cages.<sup>6</sup>

Work on the wall for the prison commenced almost immediately. Massive amounts of earth were moved and the 24' walls of the prison began to rise. The architectural firm of Layton, Smith, & Hawk with Smith & Parr as associate architects prepared plans for the modern cell blocks and administrative buildings. Wrangling in the state legislature over appropriations for the facilities at the penitentiary continued for the next few sessions and money was parsed out as needed.<sup>7</sup>

Never mentioned in the newspaper, nor in the Commissioner's reports to the governor, is a description or discussion of housing for the staff of the penitentiary. The early reports to the governor went to great lengths to describe progress on the penitentiary and factory buildings, but no mention of the housing is made. Nevertheless, by 1912, a large, imposing house for the warden was completed. Standing directly across a street from the main entrance to the prison, it and the deputy warden's house were described by *Harlow's Weekly* as "...imposing structures of concrete and wood, well appointed and modern throughout."<sup>8</sup> The magazine identifies P.H. Weathers as the architect of the two houses. Weathers was the State Architect, designing Constitution Hall in Guthrie, among other important buildings in the early years of statehood, but by the time the article was printed, he was identified as "former state architect."

The lack of mention of a direct source of funding for the Warden's House has led to speculation that it was done "off the books." This is speculative, at best. It can be assumed that the materials were paid for out of the general appropriation for the prison itself and that convict labor was used as a matter of course. Still, the political situation in

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4 *Ibid.*; 1/29/09

5 "McCalla Will Find It Cheaper to Build a Penitentiary Right in the First Place," *McAlester News-Capital*, 2/13/09. Commentary by the editor.

6 "Made Safe Trip," *McAlester News-Capital*, 2/6/09. Some prisoners were dropped off in Vinita; others sent to Ardmore and Atoka. They were later returned when the stockade and cages were completed.

7 "The Bill Passed," *McAlester News-Capital*, 3/1/09. The Legislature approved \$400,00 for the prison, but only appropriated \$150,000.

8 "State's Greatest Permanent Improvement," *Harlow's Weekly*, Oklahoma City, Vol. 1, No. 10, 9/10/1912. This article goes into much detail on the layout and construction of the penitentiary.

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the area has historically led to the most nefarious assumptions. Politically, the southeastern quadrant of Oklahoma—"Little Dixie" has been a "stepchild" of the state. It is distant from the central government in Oklahoma City, and its isolation seems to have fostered a certain independence in its political figures, some of whom have been gone on to greatness (e.g., Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Carl Albert—the "Little Giant"), and some of whom have barely avoided being institutionalized in the Oklahoma State Penitentiary which was the geographical legacy of the region.

Speculation regarding the funding for the Warden's House aside, it nonetheless was built and occupied by the fall of 1912, when the *Harlow's Weekly* report was published. The Warden of the State Penitentiary was to be appointed by the Governor, with the consent of the state senate.<sup>9</sup> Until 1982 when the Merit System was adopted by the State of Oklahoma, employment at the State Penitentiary was on the basis of patronage. Until the Department of Corrections was established in 1968, the prison wardens were appointed by and served at the pleasure of the governor. An example: In 1955 Warden Jerome Waters resigned in the face of increasing pressure from patronage-hungry legislators and finally from the governor [Raymond Gary] himself.<sup>10</sup> Subsequent to 1968, Wardens are appointed by the Department of Corrections Board of Directors. In 1982, the patronage system for lesser system employees (classified positions) was replaced by the Merit System.

The Warden's House serves two functions: it is the primary residence of the chief administrator of the State Penitentiary and it serves as the public face of the institution. The private quarters of the warden are contained in the upper floors; the first floor is "public space." This is reflected even in the furnishings of the house. Upper floor furnishings are the private property of the warden while the state owns the furnishings on the first floor. Since its inception, the Warden's House has hosted receptions, meetings, and events. It has served an important function in the political climate of prison administration, especially in the days of patronage.

The Warden's House stands as a symbol of the political, administrative and social influence of the position of Warden of the Oklahoma State penitentiary. Standing across from the main administrative gate of the prison, it is a stark sentinel that bespeaks the importance of its resident and warrants inclusion in the National register under Criterion A.

#### Architectural Significance

The architect for the Warden's House was Patrick Henry (P.H.) Weathers, who served as State Architect during the first years of statehood. Weathers had acquired some notoriety as an architect who specialized in governmental buildings. In addition to Constitution Hall in Guthrie, he was noted for county courthouses. He designed the Ellis,

<sup>9</sup> "The Bill Passed," *McAlester News-Capital*, 3/1/09.

<sup>10</sup> Wooldridge, Clyde, "It Happened in February," *McAlester News*, 2/6/2005.

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Warden's House  
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Logan, and original Washington County courthouses in Oklahoma as well as courthouses in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Missouri. Ten of these courthouses are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

As his choice for architectural style for the Warden's House, Weathers did not veer from the prevailing styles of the day. The balance and symmetry of the house, combined with the tile, hipped roof, wide eaves, and arcaded porch places the house into the Period Revival category, specifically the Renaissance Revival. The prison labor may have lacked certain construction skills; this might account for the lack of ornate ornament on the exterior of the house. The parapet wall, scalloped and highlighted with a cartouche, that interrupts the line of the porch is the only real decorative element of the body of the house. The door surround, with bead and reel molding, is not incompatible with the style.

A survey of McAlester in 1999 did not reveal any other houses of this style. An example of the Prairie School style, located at 349 East Washington Avenue, has similar lines – notably in the wide eaves and low-pitched hip roof, but it is of wood frame construction and lapped siding.<sup>11</sup> The Warden's House, with its construction date of c. 1911, remains a unique example of a style of architecture that was more prevalent in larger communities. Its poured concrete walls, completed with prison labor, make it a distinct example of not only the style but the method of construction. These factors contribute to its eligibility for the National Register under Criterion C.

The Warden's House at the Oklahoma State Penitentiary is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, for its significance in the political/governmental history of Oklahoma. Constructed soon after completion of the penitentiary, the Warden's House stands as a symbol of the new state's desire for the best, most modern state institutions and of the political patronage system that grew with the new state government. Designed by architect P. H. Weathers, the house is also eligible under Criterion C. It is an excellent example of the Renaissance Revival style, constructed of concrete by prisoners.

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<sup>11</sup> Greiner, Alyson, "Reconnaissance Level Survey of McAlester, Oklahoma 1998-1999," prepared for Oklahoma SHPO. The survey highlights National Register eligible buildings, sites, structures, objects, and districts. The penitentiary was located outside of the survey area, so the Warden's House was not specifically addressed. No examples of the Renaissance Revival style in domestic architecture was identified, however, the 1926 Pittsburg County Courthouse (NR 1984), designed by Layton, Hicks, & Forsyth is a notable example.

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Verbal Boundary Description

From the east corner of Penitentiary Boulevard and the paved driveway of the Warden's House, proceed west 250' to the east edge of the Deputy Warden's driveway, then south 300' to the rock retaining wall, then east along the wall 250', then north to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries include the house and garage and sufficient yard to convey the setting of the property. The paved street and driveways and the stone wall are permanent and visible boundaries.