

PH 0504840

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED	SEP 26 1977
DATE ENTERED	FEB 7 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Van Tuyl Homeplace

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Porter

STATE

Oklahoma

VICINITY OF

CODE

40

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

COUNTY

Wagoner

CODE

145

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Charles D. Van Tuyl

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Porter

VICINITY OF

STATE

Oklahoma

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the County Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

Wagoner County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Wagoner

STATE

Oklahoma

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Special Van Tuyl Survey

DATE

1977

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Oklahoma Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Oklahoma City

STATE

Oklahoma

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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

Statistically, the Van Tuyl Homeplace is undistinguished. A two-story frame farmhouse, it was erected in 1905 with three essentially square (16' x 16') rooms downstairs, three upstairs. A single chimney serves all six rooms from the center of the block "T" of the house. The stairway divides the cross of the "T" on both floors.

Perhaps the house's single distinguishing architectural feature - but an extremely important one in an age that knew no air-conditioning other than Mother Nature's own breezes - is that same "T" arrangement. Each of the house's six rooms could thus boast a window on three sides, thereby enabling it to capture whatever cooling summertime breeze might be blowing. The refreshing benefits of this arrangement can be fully appreciated only by one old enough to have survived an Oklahoma summer before electricity.

The house is built on stone supports, which also allowed the air to circulate freely under the house. A slight elevation of the site permits rainfall to drain quickly, thereby tending to preserve the house. As a result it is in quite good condition today, despite the fact it has been vacant for more than ten years.

A porch and kitchen, added to the back of the house in the 1930s, has been removed, restoring the original configuration. Although some of the tongue and groove siding has been lost because of three quarters of a century of exposure to the weather, it is still available and will be replaced. The roof of the house is open to the supporting beams, which are of native oak, and are quite handsome. The original lath and plaster have been removed because of deterioration. They will be replaced with sheetrock. However, the interior had been painted - but for the kitchen, which was papered - and since the daughter-in-law of the builder is still living, original colors and wallpaper styles will be used to restore everything as nearly as possible to its original condition. The house, of course, never had running water or indoor plumbing. However, the original well still stands behind the house.

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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1905 to the present BUILDER/ARCHITECT Jonathan Van Tuyl, Jr.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Van Tuyl Homeplace is no Mount Vernon. It is, however, a good example of the well-built, comfortably substantial farmhouse erected at the turn of the century in far-from-affluent Indian Territory. If quite plain in design, it nevertheless gave its builder and his large family a maximum of usable space at a relatively reasonable cost. And overall the two-story frame structure had good lines and was not unpleasing to the eye. Additionally it offered, this in a pre-refrigerated-air era, an ingenious architectural trick for taking the greatest possible advantage of nature's own air-conditioning. Finally, if the house was far from unique when built, it is, nonetheless, rather unusual today in that it has survived. And that it remains in the hands of the same family.

Jonathan Van Tuyl, Jr. brought his wife and family to the Porter area of Indian Territory in 1904 - from Illinois via Kansas. Purchasing 200 acres of land, he and his sons promptly fashioned a log cabin in a grove of trees immediately behind the present house. Once it was built, they started work on the Homeplace, which was completed in 1905. The log structure then became the Van Tuyl School with daughter Mattie as teacher ... the first school in the Porter area. (Mattie and three more of the nine Van Tuyl children died that same year in a typhoid fever epidemic that swept the community.)

The Van Tuyl Homeplace was regarded as one of the area's most attractive in its early years. But Jonathan, who had become a prosperous farmer, died in 1919. His wife died in 1929. The house stayed in the family, but it changed hands several times. Finally, in 1966, it fell vacant. In 1976, however, a great-grandson acquired the old house, began restoring it to its original appearance. In time he hopes to make it a kind of living museum to reflect the rural lifestyle of Indian Territory in the first years of the 20th century.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Miscellaneous Material gathered primarily from the Van Tuyl family and now in possession of the Oklahoma Historical Society.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY c. one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	5	2	7	0	6	4	5	3	9	1	7	8	9	8	0
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING							

B

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING							

C

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING							

D

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING							

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Kent Ruth, Deputy

ORGANIZATION

Oklahoma Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER

Historical Building

CITY OR TOWN

Oklahoma City

DATE

June 1977

TELEPHONE

405/884-5456

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

Harry L. Dupree Asst. Dir. SHPO DATE 9-16-77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

2-7-78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Charles H. ...

DATE

2-1-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER