

PH0508012

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED OCT 31 1977
DATE ENTERED MAR 29 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
Hales, W. T., House
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
1521 N. Hudson *Circle* ___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Oklahoma City ___ VICINITY OF No. 5

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE
Oklahoma 40 Oklahoma 109

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 type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> 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
Archdioces, Roman Catholic Church

STREET & NUMBER
1521 N. Hudson

CITY, TOWN STATE
Oklahoma City ___ VICINITY OF Oklahoma

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Office of the County Clerk

STREET & NUMBER
Oklahoma County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN STATE
Oklahoma City ___ VICINITY OF Oklahoma

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Special Hales House Survey

DATE
1976 ___ FEDERAL STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS Oklahoma Historical Society

CITY, TOWN STATE
Oklahoma City ___ VICINITY OF Oklahoma

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input 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 (basically)	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Hales home at 1521 N. Hudson, considered one of the finest in Oklahoma City when completed in 1916, was designed by the local firm of Hawk and Parr. George Hodel of Chicago was responsible for the furnishings. An estimated \$125,000 was spent on the house itself, an equal amount on the interior. The three-story structure was built of Bedford stone and special gray brick imported from Greece.

The house with its formal entrance portico, supported by eight massive Corinthian, faces the east. On the north is a more restrained, but none the less formal, portico over the horseshoe-shaped carriage entrance. A covered service entrance is on the west, beyond which stretches the garden with its fountain and flower beds. (The Shrine at the end of the garden against the west property line was added after the Catholic church acquired the home in 1939.) The driveway in from Hudson skirts the south side of the house to serve a two-story garage/service quarters structure of similar design and construction.

There is a great hall in the center of the main floor which can comfortably accommodate a hundred people. At the north end is the grand staircase, flanked by two carved wooden lions, that leads to the second floor. There originally was another large hall, but it has now been converted into a chapel.

Adjoining the grand hall on the east is a large music room. This room is accentuated by a delicately carved white molding around the ceiling. An oval of white carved roses on the ceiling encircles a large chandelier. The white carving is further seen on the fireplace mantle above a marble hearth. On the south end of the room a door leads into a small entrance hall leading off the east entrance. Beyond that is the library with fireplace and marble hearth. Immediately to the south of the great hall is the Italian dining room. Wood wainscoting to eye level is seen along with a beautiful mantle of wood featuring carved grapevines. Again the fireplace is equipped with marble hearth. Doors lead from the dining room into the office, morning room, and great hall. Northeast of the great hall is a sitting room featuring yet another marble fireplace. Also on the main floor is the kitchen, a smaller dining room, and a sewing room.

On the second floor, in addition to the large hall (now converted into a chapel), were several bedrooms and baths. An interesting feature: the carved wooden gargoyles on the ceiling molding. The third floor accommodates a grand ballroom roughly the same size as the downstairs great hall. Rooms which were originally designed as anterooms for musicians or porches where guests could relax have been converted into living areas. There is also a small chapel located at the north end of the third floor. At the time the Catholics bought the house it contained six bathrooms.

The Hodel furnishings included hand-tufted rugs imported from Ireland, Austria, and China. Drapery fabrics were woven to order in France and Italy. Most of the furniture was made of French walnut. The house also featured a \$10,000 elevator and an 8 x 10-foot vault for the storage of valuables.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 1916 to present

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Hawk and Parr

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Time was when a teenager considered "cute" by fond relatives - and "smart alec" by those burdened with no such natural prejudice - would upon occasion (that is, when in the presence of his peers) answer the phone with a crisp "Mule Barn." The current bishop of the Oklahoma Diocese of the Catholic church is that rare adult who could - but almost surely would not - pick up the telephone in his Queen Anne bedroom/office and startle his caller with a similar greeting. His official residence is, in reality, a mansion built by mules.

* * *

William T. Hales was 17 when he came to Oklahoma City from Missouri in 1890 ... in a covered wagon with a dog, a pistol, and a rifle. He began selling horses and mules, eventually owning what was said to be the largest mule barn in the state. As he made money, he invested it wisely - in real estate, oil, and other ventures, this in a new and growing city and state - and became one of Oklahoma City's financial leaders. He was also a banker and played an important role in establishing the meat packing industry in the city. Just before and during the early years of World War I, when the horse and mule business was especially lucrative, Hales filled important contracts with both the U. S. and foreign governments. At last he was ready to move on beyond wealth to yet another of his goals in life - to own the largest home in Oklahoma City. He did, moving into in July 1916. And the handsome Hales Mansion, sold to the church in 1939 following Hales' death in 1938, clings to its "largest" status even today.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Howell, Joseph E., "Bishop of Tulsa and Oklahoma City in \$250,000 Mansion,"
The Tulsa Tribune, June 18, 1939
 Stewart, Roy P., Born Grown, Oklahoma City, Fidelity National Bank, 1974, p. 196

Miscellaneous materials from the Oklahoma Historical Society and the Oklahoma City Historic Preservation Commission

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	114	634338	3927719	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Kent Ruth, Deputy

ORGANIZATION

Oklahoma Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER

Historical Building

CITY OR TOWN

Oklahoma City

DATE

September 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 X

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 G. Douglas M.D.

DATE

10-25-1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST

W. M. Cole
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

3-29-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

3-76-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CONTINUATION SHEET Oklahoma ITEM NUMBER No. 8 PAGE 3

Hales, W. T., House

W. T. Hales was a strong, ambitious man who did not believe in doing things by halves. By spirit he was admirably suited for the frontier, arriving in year-old Oklahoma City at 17. As city, territory and, after 1907, state grew, Hales had the vision and energy to grow along with them. As noted, he got his start dealing in horses and mules, all-important on the frontier. But he was soon moving into other areas of the community's business life. In 1915 he bought half interest in an investment company, one of the properties of which was what is now known as the Hales Building, a 12-story office building in downtown Oklahoma City. (In 1928 he acquired the balance of the company. With other acquisitions he became for a time the largest property owner in the city's business district.)

Curiously enough, the Hales Building (built by Edward H. Cooke) and the nearby Colcord Building (Charles F. Colcord) are the only two major structures remaining in Oklahoma City's downtown business district erected by veterans of the "Run" of 1889 that gave birth to the city. Though he did not actually make the run, Hales followed in their footsteps at least in spirit. The Colcord Building is already in the National Register. The nomination for the Hales Building is ready for submission. (The impressive Colcord House was, unfortunately, torn down as the National Register project was getting under way.)

If the Hales Building stands today as a fitting downtown monument to Hales the businessman, his solidly classic "mansion" remains an even more appropriate memorial to Hales the man. He boasted he would someday own the biggest house in the city. He did. And were he alive today he could repeat the boast. But size and cost alone do not tell the whole story. Architect Arn Henderson describes the house this way:

The Hale Residence in Oklahoma City is an outstanding example of Italian Renaissance Revival style architecture. The building has great dignity and grandeur; all the elements are carefully articulated; and the craftsmanship is truly extra-ordinary. In my judgment, it is a fine work of architecture and deserves inclusion in the National Register from that standpoint alone.

In short, as the Hales Building helped to anchor the downtown business district in its day, the handsomely styled Hales House helped to anchor the magnificent residential district a mile to the north that is now the Heritage Hills Historical Preservation District.