

PH 0680192

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

JUL 24 1978

RECEIVED

NOV 28 1978

DATE ENTERED

**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

Sinopoulo, John, House

AND/OR COMMON

Sundial

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

4000 N. Kelley

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Oklahoma City

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

No. 5

STATE

Oklahoma

VICINITY OF

CODE  
40

COUNTY  
Oklahoma

CODE

109 ✓

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

**OWNERSHIP**

**STATUS**

**PRESENT USE**

\_\_\_DISTRICT

\_\_\_PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

\_\_\_AGRICULTURE

\_\_\_MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

\_\_\_UNOCCUPIED

\_\_\_COMMERCIAL

\_\_\_PARK

\_\_\_STRUCTURE

\_\_\_BOTH

\_\_\_WORK IN PROGRESS

\_\_\_EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

\_\_\_SITE

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

**ACCESSIBLE**

\_\_\_ENTERTAINMENT

\_\_\_RELIGIOUS

\_\_\_OBJECT

\_\_\_IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

\_\_\_GOVERNMENT

\_\_\_SCIENTIFIC

\_\_\_BEING CONSIDERED

\_\_\_YES: UNRESTRICTED

\_\_\_INDUSTRIAL

\_\_\_TRANSPORTATION

\_\_\_NO

\_\_\_MILITARY

\_\_\_OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Byron Gambulos

STREET & NUMBER

805 NE 42

CITY, TOWN

Oklahoma City

VICINITY OF

STATE

Oklahoma

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Office of the County Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

Oklahoma County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Oklahoma City

STATE

Oklahoma

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Special Sinopoulo House 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 type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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

Sundial is a handsome Mediterranean villa with some 14 rooms on four levels. Its basic core is a two-story, 32 x 47-foot rectangle running north and south with a formal stone balustraded terrace fronting it on the south. Feature of this front facade is a soaring, two-story-high doorway-arching stained glass window combination. Beyond is the 18 x 28-foot living room with large Spanish-style fireplace and fireside seats. The library is on the north, on the second floor, overlooking the formal living room from behind its balcony.

Entrance to the house is through a vestibule on the west, under a carport that carries an upstairs bedroom with a balcony on the south. (Construction of Sundial began in 1915, was completed in 1919. Only structural change subsequently made on the house came in 1929 with addition of a large studio for Mrs. Sinopoulo, an artist, atop this carport bedroom and accessible from it.) Beyond the vestibule entrance is a large reception hall, opening to the right into the living room. To the left is the Italian-style circular staircase to the east-west hall serving the library and second story bedrooms.

Beyond the entrance is the dining room (adjacent to the living room), a breakfast room, kitchen and pantry. Projecting beyond the basic rectangle, to the east, is a sunny conservatory featuring a pool and fountain under a half-dome of glass open to the sky. There is also an informal Chinese room furnished with souvenirs of the Sinopoulos' travels. The basement of Sundial was completed in the Mexican style. Feature was a coral fireplace where Mr. Sinopoulo liked to prepare food and entertain guests. There was a game room, kitchen, and bath. It also boasted its own wine press.

Sundial would fit comfortably into almost any sunny Mediterranean setting - stucco walls and finials, red tile roof and heavily bracketed tile loops, balconies and stone balustraded terraces, many-windowed walls, spacious landscaped gardens (cf. No. 8). Entrance is from Kelly on the west through wrought iron gate and landscaped gateposts. The driveway, bordered by trees and shrubs, curves in gracefully past the formal front terrace with its stone steps to the protected carport entrance. Beyond, behind the house, is the detached garage with quarters above.

Original blueprints of house and grounds exist. The present owners - daughter and son-in-law of the Sinopoulos - are currently restoring the property.

# 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 **1919-1977**

BUILDER/ARCHITECT **John Ebersson, Chicago**

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

John G. Sinopoulo, who died in 1977 at the age of 101, is the traditional American success story, with a few significant differences. Although he made money, he is best remembered, not for his wealth, but for his many contributions to the entertainment and cultural aspects of life in Oklahoma City. And although he had a hand in construction of several structures that were landmarks in their day, his principal physical monument remaining today is a gracious Mediterranean-style house that reflects his homeland. Sundial, hereby nominated for National Register status, also reflects a certain degree of affluence. But it is not the overwhelming symbol of success that many immigrants-who-made-good-in-the-Promised-Land have over the years left behind them.

\* \* \*

Sinopoulo was born in Sparta, Greece. He came to this country in 1890 at the age of 14, first settling in St. Louis. He moved to Oklahoma City in 1903 - when the City was 14 years old and four years before Oklahoma became a state - to build historic Delmar Gardens. Antedating Disney-like family amusement parks by a half-century, Delmar was an entertainment center where citizens could picnic, ride a small excursion train, eat at refreshments stands, attend the theater, ride Ferris wheels and other carnival-type rides, skate on a roller rink. It also had a race track that once featured Barney And a John L. Sullivan fight. One of the biggest events at the Delmar was the second Oklahoma Constitutional Convention, held there in July 1905.

But citizens' tastes and needs change. Delmar Gardens closed in 1910. And Sinopoulo was quick to adapt, to come up with new projects. He built the Lyric Theatre, an open air dome and the first of its kind in Oklahoma. He subsequently bought the Overholser Opera House, which he remodeled and renamed the Orpheum in 1921. It featured the Orpheum Vaudeville Circuit. He organized the Midwest Enterprise Company, a conglomerate of five theatre groups, and ran it as president for 42 years. This gave him control of such one-time important city theatres as the Warner (the old Orpheum), Midwest (which in 1928 boasted Oklahoma City's first air conditioning unit), and Sooner.

Today, curiously enough, while virtually all of the downtown buildings he once owned have been Urban Renewed into oblivion, the City's master

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Arne, Sigrid, "Sundial," Oklahoma City Times, Aug. 2, 1927  
 ----- Oklahoma News, July 17, 1919

Interviews with Mr. & Mrs. Byron J. Gambulos, April 1978

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY c. 20 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 4	16, 3, 6, 7, 0, 8	13, 9, 3, 0, 7, 7, 0	B	1, 4	16, 3, 6, 7, 0, 8	13, 9, 3, 0, 4, 4, 7
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1, 4	16, 3, 6, 8, 0, 0	13, 9, 3, 0, 7, 7, 0	D	1, 4	16, 3, 6, 8, 0, 0	13, 9, 3, 0, 4, 4, 7
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

*See phone slip - 11-20-78*

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

DATE 11-1978

STREET & NUMBER

Historical Building

TELEPHONE

405/884-5456

CITY OR TOWN

Oklahoma City

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

*Harry G. Reynolds M.D.*

TITLE

DATE

*7-14-78*

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Charles Adams*

DATE

*11-20-78*

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

OFFICER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST

*Maudie Sharp*

DATE

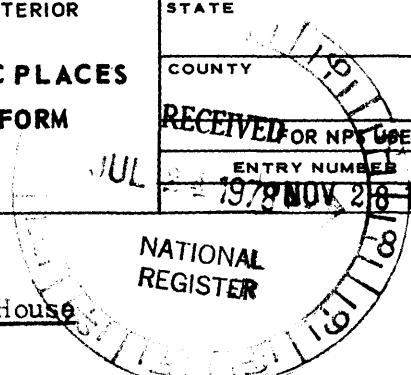
*11-16-78*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
COUNTY	
RECEIVED FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
1978	NOV 28 1978



(Number all entries)

Sinopoulo, John, House

redevelopment plan calls for an elaborate Myriad Gardens complex of restaurants, shops, theatres and other entertainment features not TOO different - in concept, if not in scale - <sup>100</sup> Sinopoulo's pioneering Delmar Gardens.

In 1919 Sinopoulo and his wife - Katharine Mary de la Montanye and one of the first women to graduate from the Chicago Institute of Art - built Sundial on a 20-acre tract on the then northeast edge of Oklahoma City. It was first built by Mrs. Sinopoulo in cardboard, turned over to Chicago architect John Ebersson for development. The design is in the gracious Mediterranean style, two stories over basement, with open balconies and terraces. The tile and stucco house itself was set amid a 20-acre green belt of fruit and nut trees, extensive vineyard, swimming pool, tiled goldfish and lily ponds, marble dotted landscaped gardens and walkways.

The Sinopoulos lived in Sundial until they died - she in 1976, he the following year. Over the years they were active in community affairs, in Oklahoma City as well as in Greece. Sinopoulo established a foundation in Magoula, Greece, which built a park, cemetery, library, school, church, and hospital. He was head of Greek war relief for Oklahoma and was knighted by King Paul of Greece. He was instrumental in establishing St. George's Greek Orthodox Church in Oklahoma City. Mrs. Sinopoulo cooperated with her husband on his charities and participated in several cultural activities in the city. She continued to paint all her life and many of her works now hang at Sundial.