

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received **OCT 27 1982**  
date entered

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

**1. Name**

historic MAHONEY-CLARK HOUSE

and/or common Clark House

**2. Location**

street & number 513-515 West Gore Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Lawton vicinity of

state Oklahoma code 40 county Comanche code 031

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	N/A being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: Vacant

**4. Owner of Property**

name Lawton Heritage Association, Inc.

street & number Box 311

city, town Lawton vicinity of state Oklahoma 73502

**5. Location of Legal Description**

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

street & number Comanche County Courthouse

city, town Lawton state Oklahoma

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Oklahoma Comprehensive Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1981  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Preservation Office - Oklahoma Historical Society

city, town Oklahoma City state Oklahoma

---

## 7. Description

---

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<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

An unusual feature of the Mahoney/Clark House is its "up and down duplex" design. The first and second floors are identical, each providing some 1,300 feet of floor space. From the entry way (where stairs give access to the second floor entry) a hall leads directly through the house to the bath at the back. To the left of this dividing hallway are two bedrooms. On the right are living room and fireplace (Picture No. 7), dining room with built-in china closet (Picture No. 6), and kitchen. There is a back porch off the kitchen, a greenhouse/solarium area off the dining room on the lower floor, (The second floor has a three-sided bay; otherwise the flats are alike.) The house also has a large attic and a basement.

The floors, as noted, are virtually identical ... china closets with leaded glass doors, marble fireplaces with beveled mirrors, large sliding doors between living and dining rooms. The original lighting fixtures, functioning both as gas and as electric (Picture No. 8), are still in place. The bathroom fixtures are also original.

Exterior of the buff brick structure is relatively plain. It is an adaptation of the Spanish Colonial style, with Mediterranean influences. Architect Guy Dale was well known in early day Lawton and he designed many of the young city's better homes. In drawing up these plans, however, he was almost surely following some of Mrs. Mahoney's personal preferences.

Distinguishing exterior features of the house are the curvilinear gables and corbelled shoulders. Of brick, the latter are capped with stone finials. Ohio stone also caps the gable parapets and towering chimney, and is used for the window sills. On the south (Front) gable stone also provides decorative window lintels (Picture No. 2) and, for the crowning window, a bracketed base for the wrought iron, ballustrade-like grille. There is a turned wood ballustrade on the front porch and surviving section of Dale's house plans calls for a similar balluster for the second floor level that has not survived.

## 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** 1909

**Builder/Architect**

Architect: Guy Dale

Builder: Walter Spitler

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Significance of the Mahoney-Clark House lies in its rather unusual design- a strong, distinctive adaptation of the Spanish Colonial style and in the fact that its ownership remained for nearly three quarters of a century in a single prominent pioneer family. From the beginning Mrs. Mahoney and the Clarks (her daughter and husband) played strong roles in the development of the then young city of Lawton. This pattern of civic responsibility and philanthropy was carried on by the third generation owners. Only within the past year has the house been transferred, with an endowment, to the Lawton Heritage Association by the grandson of the builder as a memorial to his parents and his grandmother.

\*

Johanna (Mrs. John C. ) Mahoney had this impressive buff brick house built in 1909, just eight years after the town of Lawton was laid out. She died in 1911, but not before she had persuaded her daughter Loretta and son-in-law Philip Henry Clark to join her in a real estate venture. She had learned that many pioneers (this former Indian reservation was opened to settlement in 1901) were unable to buy lots in Lawton or farmland in Comanche County because of prevailing loan shark interest rates. The informal family business partnership located a source for low-interest loans in Illinois, from whence both families had come to Oklahoma. These funds that "re-invested" in hard-working pioneers who were thus enabled to buy homes and establish productive farms.

Mrs. Mahoney is remembered in Catholica circles for her financial support in the building of Blassed Sacrament Church and St. Mary's School. In addition to her support of religious projects, she also contributed generously to the cultural and business growth of early-day Lawton. The Clarks, who moved into her house on Mrs. Mahoney's death, continued her work. Clark practiced law until his death in 1945. Mrs. Clark lived in the house until she died in 1963. Their only child, Edward Clark, also an attorney, has been active over the years in oil, real estate, and agriculture.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Interviews with Edward Clark, grandson of Johanna Mahoney, for whom the house was built; Audrey Routh, Lawton historian/journalist; Paul McClung, long-time Lawton Constitution columnist.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Lawton

Quadrangle scale 7.5 minute

### UTM References

A 

1	4	5	5	5	3	6	8	3	8	2	9	6	9	1
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 9-10, Block 62, North addition, City of Lawton

### 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 Kent Ruth - Deputy, Melvena Thurman - editor

organization Oklahoma Historical Society date March 1981

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 C. E. Metzger date 10/21/82

title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

For NPS use only

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

Beth Grosvenor date 12/8/82

In Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 1

The Mahoney-Clark house is a "stacked flat" - a vertical duplex,, so to speak - two identical floors with a basement and a large attic. The exterior is a rather unusual Spanish Colonial adaptation. Features would include stone trim on parapets, window sills, some window heads, brackets under parapet shoulders and balcony, scrolls at the base of the east gable, and stone supporting the porch on the south and east. It is virtually unchanged from its 1909 appearance. The interior, although in a deteriorated condition after many years of neglect, retains its original lighting and plumbing fixtures, marble fireplaces, and built-in china closets.

The Mahoney-Clark House is the only structure of this style in Lawton. The house, now owned by the Lawton Heritage Association, is undergoing rehabilitation.