

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED **JAN 4 1980**
DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Elks Lodge Building
AND/OR COMMON ONG Building

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 401 N. Harvey St. __NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CITY, TOWN Oklahoma City CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 5
STATE Oklahoma VICINITY OF CODE 40 COUNTY Oklahoma CODE 109

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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Oklahoma Natural Gas Corporation
STREET & NUMBER 401 N. Harvey
CITY, TOWN Oklahoma City STATE Oklahoma
VICINITY OF

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Oklahoma County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER 320 Robert S. Kerr
CITY, TOWN Oklahoma City STATE Oklahoma

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Oklahoma County Commercial Sites Survey
DATE 1978 __FEDERAL __STATE COUNTY __LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Shirk Collection, Oklahoma City University Library
CITY, TOWN Oklahoma City STATE Oklahoma

7 DESCRIPTION

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

The Elks Lodge Building is a five-story limestone office building measuring 105' x 144'. The dominant architectural style is Italian Renaissance. The ground level facade consists of a series of window and entryway openings and blocks of cut limestone. Above the openings, and formed by limestone blocks, are flattened arches. The shape of the blocks is accented by deep reveals.

The second level has a symmetrically arranged row of double-arched windows. A minor engaged column separates the windows in each bay, while a major engaged column separates each bay. Above the window units are larger arches filled with red tile and a medallion. Also adorning these windows are projecting wrought-iron balconies. Above the third level, which is marked only by a row of rectangular double-hung windows, is a massive projecting architrave and cornice. This element at first glance appears out of place, giving the impression that the top two levels were added after initial construction. The present exterior facade, however, is original. Its unusual design is the result of erecting only five levels of a projected twelve-story building. If the building had been completed as designed, the projecting architrave would have formed a distinctive horizontal band near the base instead of an unusual cornice near the roof.

The exterior facade is in near-original condition. The only alteration has been the replacement of window units at ground level. On the upper floors the windows are original wooden double-hung units. The stone and tile also are in good condition. The interior of the building has been changed extensively, undergoing remodeling in 1932, 1947, and 1951. The original meeting hall on the second floor has been altered radically, with lowered ceiling and removal of the stage.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1925-1979

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Sorey, Hill, and Sorey

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Elks Lodge Building is important to the history of Oklahoma City and the state in several ways. One, it is an architectural oddity, the result of completing only five levels of a projected twelve-story building. Another reason for its significance is the association between the building and its owners. The first owner was the Elks Lodge of Oklahoma City; the second was General William S. Key, military hero and civic leader in Oklahoma; the third was Oklahoma Natural Gas Company, the largest distributor of natural gas in the state. Each of these owners, operating from the Elks Lodge Building, played significant roles in the development and history of Oklahoma.

The Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks organized their first lodge in Oklahoma City in 1898. For the next twenty-seven years the order occupied rental space in lieu of a permanent lodge. This problem was solved in 1925 when general economic prosperity coincided with an upsurge in social and fraternal organizations, prompting a fund-raising campaign for a new building. With more than \$500,000 pledged, the Elks Lodge began plans for the structure.

Designed by the architectural firm of Sorey, Hill, and Sorey, the structure was to be a twelve-story building with Italian Renaissance features. Begun in March of 1926, the progress of construction was halted after erection of the fifth level, however, due to lack of sufficient funding. Although the projecting architrave between the 3rd and 4th levels seemed out of place, the architects and owners agreed to terminate the building at the fifth floor. Riding the crest of fraternal activity during the latter 1920s, the Elks Lodge prospered in their new building for the next five years, until the economic depression adversely affected membership roles and the lodge's ability to raise money for maintenance of the large building. As a result, the Elks sold their lodge building in 1932 to General William S. Key.

(cont.)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Oklahoma City Times, August 28, 1934, August 29, 1934, August 30, 1934, August 31, 1934, September 1, 1934, September 3, 1934.

Interview with Corydon Hatt, ONG District Manager for Marketing, August 8, 1979.

Muriel Wright and Joseph Thoburn, Oklahoma: A History (Chicago: 1922).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA **ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED** **UTM NOT VERIFIED**

p. 96

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Circa 1 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Oklahoma City

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A	14	03	4	34	0	3	9	26	0	90
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING						
B										
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING						
C										
D										
E										
F										
G										
H										

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the curb on the northwest corner of 3rd and Harvey, which is approximately 10' southeast of the building, proceed west 125' (cont.)

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

Dr. Bob L. Blackburn, Project Director

ORGANIZATION

Oklahoma County Historical Society

DATE

August 10, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

3801 N. Shartel

TELEPHONE

405-528-5091

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

H Glenn Jordan

TITLE

DATE

12/11/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

for *Billy G Oldh*
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 ATTEST: *Beth Groves*
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

3/10/80

DATE

3/4/80

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CONTINUATION SHEET 1

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

By 1932 Key was one of Oklahoma's leading military and business figures, having attained the rank of General of the Oklahoma National Guard and the reputation as a good businessman. He had initially gained fame during World War I, when he fought in four major battles as a colonel in the American Expeditionary Force in France. After the war he returned to Oklahoma and his business interests. By 1932 he had accumulated extensive oil field properties, an oil and gas distributing company, and several farms. To house his enterprises and to invest some of his earnings, he purchased the Elks Lodge. General Key remodeled the auditorium on the second level to accommodate office space, but did not alter the exterior facade. With his corporate offices occupying only one floor, Key leased the other floors to the Oklahoma Natural Gas Company.

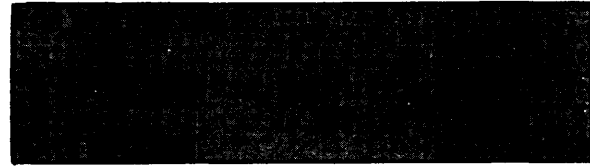
Although ONG did not enter the Oklahoma City market until 1928, the utility company had been organized in 1906 by Dennis Flynn, who had been territorial delegate to the U. S. Congress, and C. B. Ames, his law partner. To 1906 most towns in Oklahoma, including Oklahoma City, received only manufactured gas, an expensive and inefficient derivative of oil; ONG was organized to transport natural gas, which was plentiful in the oil fields of northeastern Oklahoma, to the towns and cities of the state. The first pipeline constructed by ONG connected the Hogshooter gas field near Nowata with Tulsa. In 1906 a pipeline costing \$1,700,000 was laid to Oklahoma City; on December 28, 1907, the first natural gas flowed into Oklahoma City. Natural gas was essential to the growth of Oklahoma City, for it was inexpensive, efficient, and clean burning. Thereafter, this cheap source of energy served as added incentive to lure businesses to Oklahoma City.

By 1928 ONG distributed natural gas in more than forty cities, but the company only transported gas to Oklahoma City, for distribution was monopolized by Oklahoma Gas and Electric Company. That year, however, O, G, & E sold all distribution facilities to ONG for \$13,600,000, making ONG the largest gas dealer in the state. With this acquisition ONG moved many of its operations personnel to Oklahoma City. To house them, ONG in 1932 leased office space from General William S. Key in the old Elks Lodge Building; ONG purchased the building in 1947 and have been there since that time.

(cont.)

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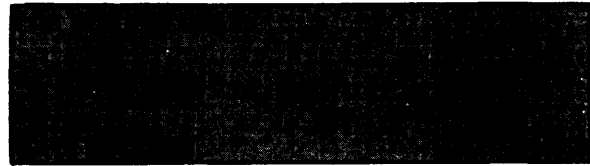


CONTINUATION SHEET 1 ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

The contributions of the natural gas industry to the economic development of Oklahoma City and the state are undeniable. As the largest of the state's gas distributors, ONG has played a major role in that development. As the district headquarters for ONG, and as the temporary corporate home of General Key, the old Elks Lodge Building has become one of the most important structures in Oklahoma City. When combined with its architectural significance, the old Elks Lodge Building assumes a significance which should be preserved.

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CONTINUATION SHEET 2

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

along the curb to a point 10' beyond the west face of the building. Then proceed north 164' through a parking lot 10' west of the building to a point in the middle of the alley on the north side of the building. Then proceed 125' east down the middle of the alley to the curb on Harvey Avenue. Then proceed 164' south along the curb to the point of departure.