

SEP 12 1978

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

(Continuation Sheet)

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

(Number all entries)

Significance - 2

residential area, Kaiser's was a popular gathering spot for young and old alike. In a period when automobiles were just beginning to come into their own it naturally offered "curb service." And when people couldn't come to the shop, Kaiser would pack his cream in salted ice and deliver it all over the city in his Model A Ford.

Another aspect of the firm's tradition was Kaiser's artistry in the manufacture of exotic ice creams, ices, punches, and frozen puddings. And in creating ice sculptures. Hundreds of molds were used to shape ice cream. Fruit molds of all kinds were made with the peach a favorite - perfectly formed, even to the peach pit, which Kaiser made from chocolate. The Kaiser tradition also called for only pure ingredients - milk, cream, sugars, fruit and juices. No extracts or substitutes were ever used.

The purity of the ice cream has led over the years to requests from hospitals around the country, including famed Johns Hopkins. Years ago there was even one woman, among the first civilians allowed to take massive doses of the then-new penicillin, who credited Kaiser's raspberry sherbert with saving her life! Because of its natural ingredients it was the only dessert her doctors would allow her. The firm's confections are upon occasion still packed in ice and shipped by air to hospitals and to former customers who just can't manage without their Kaiser's.

Along with the purity of ingredients there remains a purity of atmosphere, too. A relatively minor "modernization" in the 1950s - principally a lowered ceiling that hid from the view of customers inside the parlor its distinctive stained glass windows - was later removed. The new owner has completed the restoration. Gone is the nickel cone and 30-cents-a-quart ice cream of the early days - with the hand-cranked freezer. And soup and sandwiches are now available, in a realistic attempt to thicken somewhat the economic life blood of the business. But retained virtually intact are the essential elements of the "Kaiser tradition" - the pressed iron ceiling with its ceiling fans, ornate back bar, stained glass windows, round tables and bentwood chairs. Most customers of the 1920s, were they to drop in today, would likely feel right at home in the "new" Kaiser's.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 068 4245

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RECEIVED	SEP 12 1978
DATE ENTERED	NOV 28 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
Kaiser's Ice Cream Parlour
AND/OR COMMON
Kaiser's

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
1039 N. Walker Ave.

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Oklahoma City

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

— VICINITY OF

No. 5

STATE
Oklahoma

CODE
40

COUNTY
Oklahoma

CODE
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 checked="" 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 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
Larry Burke ✓

STREET & NUMBER
1039 N. Walker

CITY, TOWN
Oklahoma City

STATE

— 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
Oklahoma City

STATE

Oklahoma

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Oklahoma Comprehensive Survey

DATE
1978

— 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 basically	<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

But for the vintage of the cars parked in front, Kaiser's today looks much as it did in 1919 when it opened, at its new location. A modest one-story brick building, with generous glass walls (windows) on the north and east, facing 10th Street and Walker Avenue, its exterior is distinguished only by stained glass above those windows and old-fashioned roll-down canvas awnings.

The scene inside is also traditional for the ice cream "parlour" of the day, except perhaps for the stained glass windows, imported from Italy. A misguided modernization in the 1950s saw the ceiling lowered to hide them from the view of patrons inside the parlor. But it has since been removed to reveal, not only the windows, but the ornate pressed iron ceiling with its engraved molding as well. Ceiling fans, small round tables, and familiar "soda fountain" chairs, with bentwood back and hard wooden seat, complete the "decor" ... but for the magnificent mahogany fountain and back bar with its engraved mirrors. The Kaiser ice cream "factory" - modern only to the extent that electricity now substitutes for the hand crank - occupies the west half of the building. Larry Burke, the new owner, still uses Kaiser's traditional techniques. "We're probably the only substantial maker who still freezes ice cream with rock salt and ice," he said recently, "and one of the very few which hand packs its products."

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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" 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 1910 to the present

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Anthony J. Kaiser

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Painstakingly fabricated ice cream "parlours" are the franchised darlings of the eat-out industry today. But Oklahoma City is fortunate enough to have an almost 60-year-old "parlour" that still stands in all its mahogany-and-glass-back-bar elegance - intact but for hand-cranked freezers - and operates commercially at a profit. Kaiser's Old Fashion Ice Cream Parlour & Factory is that happy museum-piece business which has, largely through quality, survived the deadly "old fashioned" stage to emerge into fashionable and economically viable quaintness. National Register status for it is being sought, then, not so much to protect it, as to recognize its success.

*

It all began in 1909 when, as a young man, Anthony J. Kaiser arrived in Oklahoma City with 50 cents, a three-quart ice cream freezer, and a head full of "secret" family recipes and formulas. The following year he bought a bankrupt confectionery and ice cream parlor a few blocks from the site of Kaiser's today, to which he moved in 1919. The Kaiser family operated the business until 1977. The new owner, an Oklahoma City native with an almost mystical attachment to Kaiser's, has pledged himself publicly to preserve the "Kaiser tradition" in both fact and name. "I want his name to dominate this place, not mine," Larry Burke says in explaining his restoration and preservation plans. "I realize it takes a certain kind of love and ambition to carry on a family tradition as rich as that of the Kaiser's. But that is exactly what I intend to do."

*

The "Kaiser tradition" began in Chur, Switzerland, more than a century ago when Kaiser's grandfather, believed to have been one of the country's first commercial bakers and confectioners, began to experiment with confections and frozen fruit. His recipes were passed on to Kaiser's father, Bernard, who left Switzerland in 1889 to open an ice cream parlor in Dubuque, Iowa. As Bernard's only son, Anthony inherited the family's ice cream recipes and techniques and in Oklahoma City Kaiser's, with its 36 different flavors, soon became something of a household word.

On a convenient corner where five streets came together, strategically located between the downtown business district and the new city's finest

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bayless, Glen, "New Owner Says . . ." Oklahoma City Times, July 20, 1977
 Zeaman, Janeice, "'Kaiser Tradition' Continues," The Daily Oklahoman,
 August 19, 1973

Miscellaneous other newspaper stories

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 14 | 634178 | 3926928
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 C | |

B | |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 D | |

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

March 1978

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. DeFrees, M.D.

DATE

9-8-78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST:

Charles [Signature]

DATE

11-20-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Maudie [Signature]

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

11-27-78