

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0684252

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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
Skelly, William G., House
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
2101 S. Madison

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Tulsa

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
No. 1

___ VICINITY OF

STATE
Oklahoma

CODE
40

COUNTY
Tulsa

CODE
143

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
___ DISTRICT	___ PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	___ AGRICULTURE ___ MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	___ UNOCCUPIED	___ COMMERCIAL ___ PARK
___ STRUCTURE	___ BOTH	___ WORK IN PROGRESS	___ EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
___ SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	___ ENTERTAINMENT ___ RELIGIOUS
___ OBJECT	___ IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	___ GOVERNMENT ___ SCIENTIFIC
	___ BEING CONSIDERED	___ YES: UNRESTRICTED	___ INDUSTRIAL ___ TRANSPORTATION
		___ NO	___ MILITARY ___ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Brooks Walton

STREET & NUMBER
2101 S. Madison

CITY, TOWN
Tulsa

___ VICINITY OF

STATE
Oklahoma

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET & NUMBER
Tulsa County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN
Tulsa

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	<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

The Skelly House is a three-story affair over a full basement with some 10,000 square feet of floor space. It faces WNW from a spacious, wooded corner lot. Its masonry exterior walls are faced with red brick. The roof is of green tile. The severe front entrance has a classic architrave with a transom of clear leaded glass. It is flanked by carriage lights believed to have come from an early-day hearse. The entranceway is protected by a classic two-story portico supported by white cut stone columns with lotus style capitals. The portico is flanked on either side by a pair of double French doors opening onto the terrace. Each doorway has semi-circular transom panels above. Interesting exterior feature at the rear of the house - perhaps added some time after the house was built - is a large second floor veranda with iron rail and iron staircase offering access to the yard. (Inside are other features designed to make summertime living more enjoyable in an age that had not yet discovered the joys of refrigerated air.)

The first floor has a large entrance hall with painted wood wainscoting and a grand staircase with twisted spindels and large newel post. Living room and music room flank the foyer to span the front of the house. Each has large plaster ceiling molds with shell motif. The French windows onto the terrace are topped by the Palladian transoms. These rooms also have the original French crystal basket type chandeliers with bronze fittings. Adjoining sunroom has four original wall sconces in bronze and crystal. A small library off the music room has marble floor, painted panels above the doors, and original crystal chandelier.

Main feature of the ground floor is the 40-foot dining room with murals in insert panels and arched mirrors with plaster mold frames in the French style. The floor is a wood mosaic. There is a black marble fireplace with carved flower motif at one end. (The first floor has three fireplaces and there is another on the second.)

Unusual feature of the second floor: ornate half-circle ceiling grilles through which the third floor exhaust fan sucked cool air into the bedrooms. The grilles have a fruit and flower design. Each bedroom also has a wall-mounted electric fan. The master suite consists of sitting room, sleeping porch, bedroom, and two bath/dressing rooms. Mrs. Skelly's bath has lavender tile and matching bath fixtures with gold-plated fittings. Mr. Skelly's bath has bronze lighting fixtures (ceiling and wall), natural woodwork with carved door panels. Interior doors throughout have decorative plaster insert panels in flower and bird design.

The third floor has two servant rooms and a bath. Features of the basement are a ballroom with beamed ceiling, a walk-in vault with steel door and combination lock.

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 1923 to present

BUILDER/ARCHITECT John T. Blair

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The pattern is a familiar one ... in Oklahoma and especially in Tulsa, the self-styled (and with considerable justification) "Oil Capital of the World." Easterner with business acumen, ambition, adventurous spirit - and often no little luck - is attracted to the Southwest by the excitingly expanding oil industry. He strikes it rich in one or more of a seemingly endless succession of fabulous discoveries, builds a petroleum-based industrial empire that usually bears his name, and then spends his latter years dispensing his wealth in a variety of philanthropic projects. Oklahoma names that generally fit this pattern include E. W. Marland, Lew Wentz, Harry F. Sinclair, Joshua S. (Josh) Cosden, Frank Phillips, Waite Phillips ... and William G. Skelly.

Along the way these men usually built a notable home or two (Wentz is an exception). Most of them have been or are being nominated for the National Register. Now it is Bill Skelly's turn ... and it is sheer coincidence that this is being written almost exactly 100 years after his birth!

*

William G. Skelly, oil producer, refiner, and marketer, was born on a farm near Erie, Pa., June 10, 1878. He went to work for the Oil Well Supply Company at Oil City, Pa., in 1894, at 16, was associated with that company until leaving for the Spanish-American War in 1898. Following his discharge he returned to the oil and gas business in Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. In 1911 his company moved into the Electra Field in North Texas. In 1913 he located in Tulsa and there he remained until his death April 10, 1957. His operations in Oklahoma, Texas, and Kansas were exceptionally successful. In October 1919 he merged his individual and partnership production holdings into the Skelly Oil Company.

Skelly played an active role in the development of Tulsa from overgrown town to major city. He was president of the Tulsa Chamber of Commerce in 1927 and 1928. During this period he bought a pioneer (1925) radio station, brought it to Tulsa as KVOO (The Voice of Oklahoma), where it remains today as one of the state's most respected. (In 1947 he established KWGS-FM at the University of Tulsa.) In 1928 he was a leader of those who formed the Tulsa Airport Corporation to boost aviation in the growing city. That same year he organized the Spartan Aircraft Company which developed in time an internationally famed aeronautical school

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Tulsa 75 - A History of Tulsa, Oklahoma, The Metropolitan Tulsa Chamber of Commerce, 1975
Who's Who in Tulsa - 1951
 "Bill Skelly, Tulsa's No. 1 Citizen, Dies," The Daily Oklahoman, Oklahoma City, April 12, 1957

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>15</u>	<u>23,18,3,1</u>	<u>4,0,2,6,2,0</u>	B	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	D	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	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

DATE

June 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 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 L. DeFuria, III

DATE

7-14-78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

Marcella Shuff

DATE

11-28-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

11-27-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

SEP 12 1978

Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
COUNTY	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	NOV 28 1978

(Number all entries)

No. 8. Significance - 2

and also became one of the country's largest mobile home builders. In 1930 he was again a leader of those giving Tulsa University its 18,000-seat Skelly Stadium.

Skelly bought the three-story, neo-classic "Skelly House" in 1923 while it was still under construction by a family named Travis. It remained in the Skelly family until 1968. From 1968 to 1978 it was owned by James R. Jones, presently U. S. Representative from Oklahoma's 1st district. As this is being written it has been bought by Tulsa architect John Brooks Walton, who plans a careful restoration. National Register status for the house is sought because of its architectural features (cf. No. 7) and the role of its principal owner in the oil industry and in the development of Tulsa.