

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Oklahoma	
COUNTY	
Oklahoma	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 13 1973

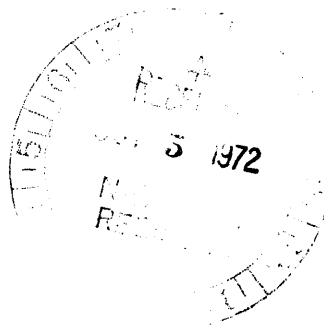
(Number all entries)

No. 8. Significance

Harn Home

bringing indictments for perjury against some 150 illegal settlers. Approximately two thirds of these were subsequently convicted. Several attempts were made on his life, but he persisted and the problem of perjury was soon eliminated. One of the federal judges who sat on the cases later called it the most remarkable series of prosecutions that had come to his attention on account of the preparedness of the prosecutors to meet every maneuver of the defense.

As Special Agent Harn also represented the Interior Department at several subsequent openings of Indian reservations. Later he served as district court clerk. As Oklahoma City began to grow he became increasingly influential in various civic efforts, helping to bring railroads to the capital city and to promote a street railway system. He became a land owner, donating forty acres of his holding to the state. The Capitol and other state buildings now stand in part on former Harn farmland. In the meantime he built the two-story frame house that still stands a few blocks southwest of the Capitol. Harndale, an addition in the fashionable Heritage Hills section of Oklahoma City, also attests to his role as an early developer.



Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Oklahoma	
COUNTY: Oklahoma	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 18 1972

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Harn Home *House*

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
N. E. 17th Street & Stiles

CITY OR TOWN:  
Oklahoma City

STATE: Oklahoma CODE: 40 COUNTY: Oklahoma CODE: 109

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum (to be)	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence (now) <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
City of Oklahoma City

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Municipal Building

CITY OR TOWN: Oklahoma City STATE: Oklahoma CODE: 40

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

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

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Oklahoma County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Oklahoma City STATE: Oklahoma CODE: 40

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Oklahoma City Historic Preservation Commission

DATE OF SURVEY: 1972  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Oklahoma City Parks Department

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Municipal Building

CITY OR TOWN: Oklahoma City STATE: Oklahoma CODE: 40

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Oklahoma

COUNTY: Oklahoma

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER: 403

DATE: APR 18 1972

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent  Good  Fair  Deteriorated  Ruins  Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered  Unaltered

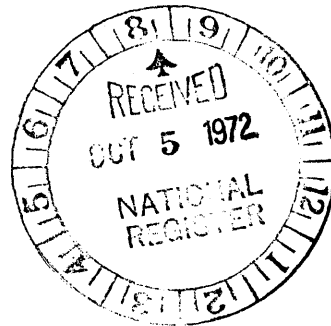
(Check One)

Moved  Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Harn Home, a comfortable two-story frame farmhouse when built on the northeast edge of Oklahoma City in 1904, is quite typical of its era. Exterior is subdued Victorian - lap siding and shingles with a minimum of ornamentation on porch railings, upstairs balcony, and cornices. Inside the first floor contains six rooms, including the entrance foyer from which a "Queen Anne" stairway ascends to the second floor with its three large bedrooms. There is also a finished attic. Rather ornate woodwork is found throughout the house.

Harn died in 1944, leaving the property to his niece, Miss Florence Wilson. She lived in the home until 1967, when she donated it to the City of Oklahoma City. It has now been designated a landmark by the Oklahoma City Historic Preservation Commission and the city parks department plans to develop it as a museum. The house and grounds will be restored as nearly as possible to recreate the appearance and mood of a typical Oklahoma Territory home before statehood. Wildflowers and native grasses common to the area at time of settlement will be planted. Authentic items for display inside the home are already being collected. With 14 other historic buildings in Oklahoma City the Harn Home will be marked with a metal plaque to note its importance.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

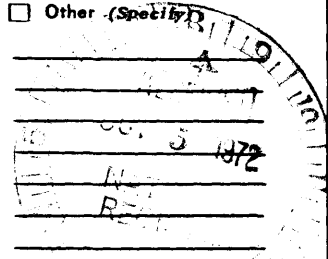
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |                                       |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |  |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1904 to present

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal     | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science              |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture            |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   |   |   |  |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the Harn Home lies primarily in the importance of the role its builder played in the development of both Oklahoma and Oklahoma City.

William Fremont Harn, born in Ohio in 1859, was sent to Oklahoma early in 1891 as a Special Agent of the General Land Office. Specifically he was charged with assisting the United States Attorney in the prosecution of perjury, then widespread in connection with conflicting land claims following "the run" of April 22, 1889. A brief outline of conditions existing at the time Harn arrived in Oklahoma City is in order for a proper understanding and appreciation of the role he played.

To guarantee an equal opportunity to all would-be homesteaders on these one-time Creek and Seminole Indian lands, Congress had ordered the territory cleared of all who had no official right to be there. This order, however, was widely disobeyed and the U. S. Army was unable to do much about it. As quickly as illegal settlers were rounded up and dispelled from one area, other settlers flooded into yet another area. Gradually the word "sooner" became a part of the American vocabulary - for those who had picked out and occupied their claim "sooner" than the law allowed.

In many cases those making the run, following the April 22 pistol shot at noon, arrived on a quarter section only to find a "sooner" already occupying it, sometimes with ground worked and garden vegetables beginning to show! Then it was possible only to squat on the land, file an official contest, and hope for the best. Affidavits, corroborated by two witnesses in writing under oath, had to be filed. It was here that perjury began to appear with increasing frequency. Sooners formed organizations, drilled would-be witnesses in the testimony they were expected to give in particular cases. Thus it often became possible for illegal settlers to round up such a preponderance of perjured testimony on behalf of their claims as to overwhelm those who had legally staked the claim.

The situation was so bad by the fall of 1890 that John W. Noble, Secretary of the Interior, appointed W. F. Harn as Special Agent and sent him to Oklahoma to assist the U. S. Attorney in the prosecution of perjury. In his brief career as prosecutor he was instrumental in

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Harn, William Fremont, An Interview (undated), Indian-Pioneer History, Vol. 74, Oklahoma Historical Society, pp. 298-299  
 Hill, Luther B., History of the State of Oklahoma, Vol. 1, 1909, pp. 255-263  
 Nelson, Mary Jo, "Old Farmhouse Becomes Monument," Oklahoma City Times, Aug. 2, 1972, p. 28

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		35° 29' 11.4"	97° 30' 23.8"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **C. one acre**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Kent Ruth, Deputy**

ORGANIZATION: **Oklahoma Historical Society**      DATE: **August 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Historical Building**

CITY OR TOWN: **Oklahoma City**      STATE: **Oklahoma**      CODE: **40**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name *[Signature]*  
 Title SLO  
 Date 3-X-72

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

*Robert M. Utley*  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date APR 18 1973

ATTEST:  
*[Signature]*  
 Keeper of The National Register  
 Date 4/11/73

No  
 UTM  
 FF  
 SEE INSTRUCTIONS