

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PHO 693 171

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RECEIVED	DEC 1 1978
DATE ENTERED	JAN 29 1979

**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 The J.H. O'Rielly House

AND/OR COMMON

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 220 9th Street N.W.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
#1

CITY, TOWN Albuquerque

VICINITY OF

STATE New Mexico

CODE  
35

COUNTY  
Bernalillo

CODE  
001

**CLASSIFICATION**

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

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Prof. Hal Rhodes

STREET & NUMBER 220 9th N.W.

CITY, TOWN Albuquerque

VICINITY OF

STATE  
New Mexico

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Bernalillo County Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER 505 Central Ave. N.W.

CITY, TOWN Albuquerque

STATE  
New Mexico

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE State Register of Cultural Properties

DATE November 4, 1977

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office, P.O. Box 1629

CITY, TOWN Santa Fe

STATE  
New Mexico

# 7 DESCRIPTION

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

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

A fine example of turn-of-the-century Queen Anne style in Albuquerque, the O'Rielly House is a two-story brick and frame residence built about 1904 in the city's then-fashionable Robinson Park neighborhood. Located between the Hispanic adobe structures of Old Town, 10 blocks to the west, and the new brick and frame downtown buildings which grew up around the railroad tracks to the east after the railroad's arrival in 1880, the Robinson Park area became the site of many attractive homes built in prevailing Anglo-American styles. A block north of the park on its corner lot, the O'Rielly House is one of a small number of residences which remain, substantially unaltered, from the district's heyday.

The O'Rielly House is basically a rectangular building facing east to Ninth Street, but the squareness of the shape is offset substantially by two bays and by the entrance porch set on a diagonal to the corner of Ninth and Kent. The hip roof is penetrated by four gabled vents. All windows have double-hung wood frames; those on the lower, brick story are set into segmental arches with a rough-hewn stone sill (exterior doorways also have a stone sill). Several first-floor windows have diamond-patterned mullions and stained-glass top panels. The house sits on a rough stone foundation.

The exterior gains interest from the placement of the two bays and the entry porch. The south bay, a two-story projection from the main house block, adds to the play of textures with its zipper brick corners and eyebrow ridge in the window arches. The north bay is a later addition to the house, extending about ten feet north from the main structure, and capped with its own hip roof. A carefully matched addition, it features zipper brick corners, stone stills, and windows consonant in size and shape with the originals; only the cement foundation and dovetailing into the entry porch betray its later date, between 1924 and 1931, according to the Sanborn maps.

Between these two bays lies the frame entry porch, sited diagonally to the corner and topped by a small gable decorated with flat wood cut-outs. The porch leads to a small square brick diagonal entrance in which the carved wood entry door with its large bevelled glass window is set.

At the rear of the house is a two-story wooden addition, probably from the late 1920's, and very possibly from the same remodelling that added the north bay and altered the entry hall. Though somewhat out of character with the rest of the house, the addition, which adds two rooms to each story, is only barely visible from the street. On its south facade the addition has been faced with unmatching brick.

To the east of the main house is a small brick carriage house, now in use as an apartment, which also dates from ca. 1904. A plain, rectangular building, the carriage house has a gabled roof and segmental arch fenestration.

In the interior, the O'Rielly House has fine work from two periods - circa 1904, when the house was built, and the late 1920's, when the north bay and back additions were added and the entry hall remodeled.

(Cont.)

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The small entrance foyer between the outer and inner entrance doors features checker-board parquet outlined by a parquet border. The parquetry is continued in the large, fine entrance hall, where the parquet border indicates an earlier entrance to the south bay parlor, now walled in. In the 1920's remodeling fine built-in bookcases were added on the room's west side, overlapping the parquetry. They are distinguished by their delicate panelling and by Prairie-style stained glass windows, and match in style the remodelled staircase with a built-in bookcase beneath it on the east side. At about this time, but possibly some years later, the entry hall fireplace was covered by a full-length mirror set in an ornately carved Italianate frame. A fine Prairie-style brass and glass chandelier, originally a gas light, has been adapted to electricity.

Glass-paned double doors lead into the north bay, used as a dining room; the absence of the parquet border again shows this to be an addition. The south bay parlor, walled off from the entrance hall and used as a separate apartment, leads into a living room with a brick fireplace, which leads in turn to a bedroom in the frame addition (also with fireplace). The bedroom, and the main window in both bays, have stained glass upper windows, though the glass is not as fine in quality as that in the built-in bookcases.

At the northeast side of the house are a jumble of kitchens and entrances, the results of its alteration into a three apartment unit; presumably this was the original kitchen area. Upstairs the parquetry continues down the hall which leads to the four bedrooms of the original house (the master bedroom is in the southwest corner with its bay window), and to the north sleeping room of the frame addition. The south room of the addition is reached by a separate staircase in the back of the house.

Currently the O'Rielly House is in a bad state of disrepair; the front porch and north bay have both sunk away from the main frame, the second-floor shingling needs repair and painting, water has damaged parquetry and plaster, the foundation needs shoring, and the original lines of the interior have been obscured by its conversion into apartments. The new owner intends a thorough rehabilitation which will restore the unity of the main house (he will maintain apartments in the frame addition), stabilize the structure, and repair the damage left by years of neglect.

The O'Rielly House, important both as an example of Queen Anne styling in Albuquerque and for its fine interior work from the 1920's, is a handsome and distinctive residence, a landmark in the neighborhood.

# 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 1903-06

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The O'Rielly House is the best of three remaining turn-of-the-century residences in the block north of Albuquerque's Robinson Park between Eighth and Ninth Streets. Albuquerque's second city park (the first, the Depot Park, no longer exists), Robinson Park is a triangle of greenery created by the northward bend of Central Avenue (then Railroad Avenue), the road connecting the new railroad town with the adobe houses of Old Town, the original Albuquerque. Laid out in the early 1880's and named after a President of the Santa Fe Railroad, Robinson Park was bordered by a group of Victorian cottages as early as 1886, and the area became known as "Honeymoon Row."

The area between Old Town and New Town, the railroad center, developed slowly during the years between 1880 and 1910, reaching its peak as a residential area around 1910, when it became, and for long remained, the city's most affluent and desirable neighborhood. The O'Rielly House, built during a period of considerable growth in the area, is a fine "gentleman's residence," and a good example of late Queen Anne styling.

The lots on which the house stands, part of the New Mexico Town Company holdings, were first sold to W.S. Strickler in 1893. Strickler, at that time Vice President and cashier of the Bank of Commerce, was later to build an important downtown commercial structure, the Luna-Strickler building (now demolished).

In 1903 Strickler sold the lots for \$1200 to H.H. Tilton, a notary public and employee of the Citizen newspaper. Tilton came to New Mexico in 1895 and invested in real estate, building many cottages on Railroad Avenue (Central). He also owned the first warehouse used exclusively for storage in New Mexico. The O'Rielly House would appear to have been one of Tilton's building projects; it was built between 1903, when Tilton bought the property, and 1906, when the City Directory lists Joseph H. O'Rielly (spelling is correct) as the house's first resident. O'Rielly did not buy the property until 1909, but Tilton may have built it specifically for him and his family.

Joseph H. O'Rielly was an important and influential citizen of Albuquerque. He owned the J.H. O'Rielly Company, at the corner of Second and Gold downtown, billed in newspaper advertisements as "The Busiest Drug Store Between Denver and Los Angeles." Operating as both wholesale and retail druggists, the O'Rielly Company advertised the latest compounds for diabetes and liver complaints, and solicited mail orders. During the period of his residence at 220 9th N.W., however, O'Rielly left his business to the management of H.E. Fox, while he assumed the position of Secretary and General Manager of the Occidental Life Insurance Company. A June, 1907 article in The Albuquerque Morning Journal refers to him as the "well-known insurance man" in a story about his "miraculous" escape from a carriage accident in Bear Canyon (in the Sandia Mountains east of the town), a report carried next to an advertisement for the J.H. O'Rielly Drug Store.

(Cont.)

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Albuquerque City Directories  
 Bernalillo County Records  
 The Albuquerque Morning Journal  
 Donald Dreesen, Early Settlers of Albuquerque  
 Sanborn Insurance Maps  
 Albq. Historic Landmarks Survey files: The Old Occidental Building, The Occidental Life.  
 Ins. Co. Bldg.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 1/4 acre  
 UTM REFERENCES

A	13	349010	3882740	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

From a point at the intersection of the east right-of-way line of Ninth St. N.W. and the south right-of-way line of Kent Ave. N.W., thence 100 feet easterly along the south right-of-way line of Kent Ave., thence 92 feet southerly at a 90° angle from the south right-of-way line of Kent Ave., thence 100 feet westerly at a 90° angle from the previous line to intersect the east right-of-way line of Ninth St., thence northerly 92 feet to the place and point of beginning.

## 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

Susan V. Dewitt, Coordinator

ORGANIZATION

The Historic Landmarks Survey of Albuquerque

DATE

11-20-78

STREET & NUMBER

c/o Planning Department, P.O. Box 1293

TELEPHONE

(505) 766-4720

CITY OR TOWN

Albuquerque

STATE

New Mexico 87103

# 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

*Thomas W. Mel...*

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 11-30-78

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
<i>Charles W. Adams</i>	DATE <u>1-29-79</u>
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
ATTEST: <i>Marjorie...</i>	DATE <u>1-26-79</u>
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

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The Occidental Life Insurance Company, founded in 1906 with Joshua Reynolds as the President, was an important local institution. According to the Albuquerque Morning Journal in June, 1907, "Manager Joseph H. O'Rielly returned yesterday from an extended business trip through Arizona in the interest of the Occidental Life Insurance Company, the young home organization which in a few months has become a formidable rival of the old line companies which have been doing business in the territory for years. The success of the company, Mr. O'Rielly attributes to the fact that it has a board of officers and directors comprising the leading and most substantial and successful businessmen in New Mexico and Arizona. The fact that it is absolutely a home company and keeps territorial money in the territories has made it a popular concern from the first." Occidental Life was responsible for two of Albuquerque's handsomest commercial buildings, The Old Occidental Building, a handsome brick expression of Chicago School architecture, now demolished, and the Occidental Life Building, a Trost and Trost adaptation of the Doge's Palace in Venice to downtown Albuquerque (National Register, 1-30-78).

In 1917, O'Rielly sold the house to E.D. Sisk, who lived there a year and then sold it to Theresa and Emmett Vaughey. Vaughey, who was Vice President of the Stockmen's Guaranty Loan and Secretary-Treasurer and Manager of the Albuquerque Investment Company, died in 1919. His family continued to live in the house until 1926, when Theresa Vaughey sold the property to Frank and Florence May Stortz.

Stortz was manager of the Elks Club when he purchased the property; later he worked for the State Highway Department. He and his family lived in the O'Rielly House until 1950, and presumably were responsible for the remodeling in the late 1920's which added the south bay and the east frame addition, as well as the bookcases and staircase in the entry hall.

In 1950, the house was sold to Fred Perro, a carpenter, who sold it almost immediately to William and Alice Brennan. William Brennan, a bookkeeper for the State Department of Public Welfare, and Alice, office manager for the Albuquerque Bus Company, raised their family in the house, but later moved out and subdivided it into apartments. In 1978, the house was purchased from the Brennans by Prof. Hal Rhodes, a teacher of political science at the University of New Mexico who has been involved in neighborhood revitalization efforts. Prof. Rhodes, who has been studying rehabilitation techniques, plans a gradual and complete rehabilitation of the deteriorated O'Rielly House and a return of the main house to single family occupancy.

The O'Rielly House is most significant as a good example of architectural style in Albuquerque's finest residential district shortly after the turn of the century. The planned rehabilitation should restore to this fine residence its early distinction.