

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received NOV 14 1986
date entered DEC 23 1986

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Oscar B. Jacobson House

and or common same

2. Location

street & number 609 S. Chatauqua Avenue n/a not for publication

city, town Norman n/a vicinity of

state Oklahoma code 40 county Cleveland code 027

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	n/a in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	n/a being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name University of Oklahoma Board of Regents

street & number 660 Parrington Oval

city, town Norman n/a vicinity of state Oklahoma 73109

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Cleveland County Courthouse

street & number 200 S. Peters

city, town Norman state Oklahoma 73069

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Oklahoma Comprehensive Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1986 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Oklahoma City state Oklahoma 73105

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 type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

This building is a simplified example of an eclectic Italian Renaissance style which was popular in the United States from the 1890's to the 1930's. Its one story configuration, however, is unusual. The house is flat-roofed with a brick chimney penetrating the roof. The garage to the north is free-standing with a gabled roof. The house has a roof parapet running continuously, just below which is a wide projecting eave with a tongue and groove soffit. This eave runs continuously around the west, north and east elevations, breaking on the east side for the rear deck.

All exterior walls are stucco with wood-framed 4/4 double-hung rectangular windows in single, double or triple window sets or groupings. Doors are wood panel type, some with glass sidelites and some with glass panels. Wood-framed insect screens were used on all window and door openings originally. Both front (west) and rear (east) entrances have columned porticos with tongue and groove wood decks. Both are three risers above grade. The rear entrance has a sloped tile roof.

The south side has a large sleeping porch with a shallow sloping roof. This room is fully screened.

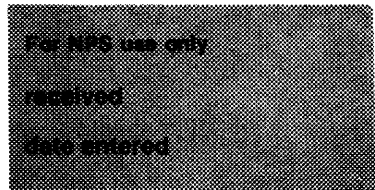
Another interesting element is a full height tile-capped wall joining the house on the northeast corner with the garage. This wall gives privacy to the courtyard and has an arched gate to the garage entrance.

Artistic and classical decorative elements include four urns on the west elevation, Roman Doric columned east and west porches, a bas relief medallion on the west wall and a niche on the east wall of the sleeping porch.

Except for some weathering of surfaces, rotted and missing boards, and re-roofing, the present physical appearance is essentially the same as the original (see photographs). The house is 40'0" deep with a 60'0" frontage with a 12'0" by 18'0" garage to the side.

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Oscar B. Jacobson House

Contributing Properties:

<u>Type</u>	<u>Number</u>
Building	One (1)

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 checked="" 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 1918–1936 **Builder/Architect** Oscar B. Jacobson

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Oscar B. Jacobson House is architecturally and historically significant because (1) it is a unique example of eclectic Italian Renaissance architecture in Norman, Cleveland County, Oklahoma and (2) it is historically associated with Oscar B. Jacobson who, as director of the University of Oklahoma's School of Fine Arts, revolutionized the course of art study for the university.

Jacobson designed his house, completed construction in the summer of 1918, and lived there until his death on September 18, 1966. Based on a survey conducted in 1983, of and in Norman by Dr. Arn Henderson, AIA, Professor of Architecture at the University of Oklahoma, this is the only house of this style in Norman, Oklahoma. The architectural significance of the Jacobson house rests in its simple understated elegance. This building blends classical and traditional design elements in a light color scheme to create quantities of open space in a small one story structure. Key elements of the building are a flat roof, wide projecting eaves, use of Roman Doric order details, stucco wall covering and rectangular window and door penetrations. Certainly the most remarkable feature of this house is a unified procession of spaces extending from front porch inside to main living area to rear deck to open courtyard and landscaped areas. In an era when an east-facing front porch was considered desirable, Jacobson chose to focus outdoor living on the cool, private rear courtyard while placing his front porch on the west, facing the street. The romantically eclectic style of the house, which Jacobson termed "Pompeian," reflects both his international background as well as his involvement in the New Mexican art scene. Architecturally speaking, however, this building is a simplified example of eclectic Italian Renaissance style prevalent in the U.S. between 1890 and 1936. In a one story structure, this style is unusual.

Oscar B. Jacobson was an internationally known artist and educator whose influence extended far beyond his local environment. As director of the University of Oklahoma School of Fine Arts from 1916 to 1945, Jacobson revolutionized the course of art study, replacing the Academic style of old copy work with the fresh attitude and palette of the French moderns. (see Good 1947)

Jacobson's own work was strongly influenced by artistic currents circulating in the New Mexican artistic communities:

Professor Jacobson, as Director of the University of Oklahoma School of Art during the 1920's and 1930's, spent his summers as a resident of the Santa Fe and Taos art colonies. There he refined his personal talent as a landscape painter. Many of his renderings, emphasizing the unique Oklahoma milieu, hang today in private collections across the nation. (Gibson 1986)

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS 9/1, 9/2.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Norman, Oklahoma

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	4	6	4	1	1	4	0	3	8	9	7	3	3	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D

Zone				Easting				Northing						

E

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H

Zone				Easting				Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 41, 42, 43 & 44 Block 2 Bessent addition to Norman, Cleveland County, Oklahoma

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state n/a code county code

state n/a code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title William A. Mathes AIA / Mathes Architectural Associates

Jacobson House Committee,

organization Carol Whitney, Chair date 9/1/86

street & number 429 S. Flood Avenue telephone (405) 329-3012

city or town Norman state Oklahoma 73069

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 C. E. Metcalf date 11/4/86

title _____ date _____

For NPS use only

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

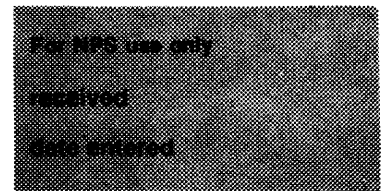
for William B. Bushong date 12/23/86
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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Jacobson is perhaps best known, however, for his pivotal role in the history of Plains Indian art:

An additional derivative of Jacobson's annual New Mexican sojourns was exposure to the incipient art movement in Indian art taking place in the Rio Grande pueblos. Jacobson became the carrier, the transmitter, of this Native American muse revival to Oklahoma. He drew on many local resources to involve as many Oklahoma-based tribesman as possible. (Gibson 1986)

As its Director, Jacobson was instrumental in opening the doors of the School of Fine Arts to a group of young Plains Indian artists. Through his sponsorship, in 1928 five young Kiowa painters were accepted into the University as special students. This would prove to be a seminal event in the history of Plains Indian art:

In the late 1920's a new school of Indian art emerged at the University of Oklahoma. The "Kiowa Five" artists, under the direction of Oscar B. Jacobson, became leaders in a movement considered to be the "renaissance" of Southern Plains Indian art. The interest spurred by showings of paintings by Spencer Asah, James Auchiah, Jack Hokeah, Stephen Mopope, Lois Smoky and Monroe Tsatoke was a turning point in the promotion and acceptance of Indian art in the United States and Europe. (Zahrai 1985)

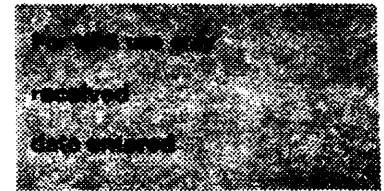
Jacobson enthusiastically promoted the Kiowa Five and arranged for traveling exhibits of their work that toured the United States in school year 1927-1928. In 1928 he introduced their work to Europe by sending their paintings to Prague, Czechoslovakia, where they received immediate acclaim. In 1929 he co-authored the publication of a portfolio of the Kiowa Five paintings with his wife Jeanne d'Ucel. To borrow the words of the noted Western historian Arrell Morgan Gibson, "Under Jacobson's sustained dominion, Indian art, with emphasis on painting, became a cause celebre." (Gibson 1986)

During the Depression, Jacobson acted as technical advisor to Roosevelt's Public Works of Art project in Oklahoma. Through his influence, many murals executed by Oklahoma Indian artists were commissioned for state post offices and schools as well as the Oklahoma Historical Society building and a public building in Washington, D.C.

Jacobson's astute recognition of significant art forms led to the acquisition of several outstanding collections by the University of Oklahoma and the Oklahoma State Museum. One of the finest collections of early Plains Indian art came into the possession of the University of Oklahoma through Jacobson's timely purchases and donations. Jacobson was also responsible for arranging the donation of the Matzene-Wentz oriental treasures to the University of Oklahoma. In addition, he donated his own collection of World War I and II posters, recognized as outstanding examples of the use of art in war propaganda, to the Oklahoma State Museum.

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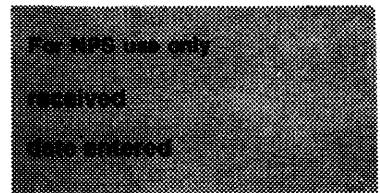
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In the 1920s and 1930s, the Jacobson House became a focal point for the artistic and literary ferment arising out of the interaction between the Norman, Santa Fe, and Taos artistic communities. The Jacobson's home was frequently the scene of art showings and gatherings of talented and creative people from all over the world. As Leonard Good noted, "The Italian Count de Sforza, the arctic explorer Vilhjamur Stefansson and best selling Sinclair Lewis made themselves at home in differing ways at different times." (Good 1947)

Thus the Jacobson House is worthy of presevation not only because it is architecturally significant, but also because it was the home of a man who, through his work as Director of the School of Fine Arts University of Oklahoma, revolutionized art study there and encouraged tne career development of some of the best known Plains Indian artists of the era.

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- Gibson, Arrell Morgan. "The Oscar Jacobson Legacy: A Preservation Imperative." Unpublished manuscript. (1986).
- Good, Leonard. "Jacobson Roams the World, but Sticks to Art." The Daily Oklahoman. (April 27, 1947).
- Silberman, Arthur. "Early Kiowa Art." Oklahoma Today 23:1 (Winter 1972-73). 4-11.

Other

Exhibition Brochures:

- "Oscar Brousse Jacobson Retrospective Exhibition." Norman Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Museum of Art. (September 17 - October 8, 1961).
- Zahrai, Kay. "Things of the Spirit: Art by the Kiowa Five." Oklahoma Historical Society, Layton Gallery. (September 7, 1984 - January 18, 1985).

Personal Journals:

- d'Ucel, Jeanne. Personal journals. Oklahoma Historical Society Archives, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

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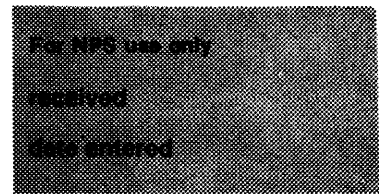
- Good, Leonard. Interviewed by Carol Whitney. (August 27, 1986).

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Letters

- Cate, Lee. (State Senator, District 16). Letter to Oklahoma Historic Preservation Review Committee. (September 4, 1986).
- Cross, Leo S. Letter to Phyllis Dowling. (April 24, 1986).
- Goins, Robert. (Chairman, Department of Regional and City Planning, University of Oklahoma). Letter to Carol Whitney. (April 8, 1986).
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- Henderson, Arn. (Member, AIA). Letter to Carol Whitney. (May 23, 1986).
- Hobbs, Joe F. (Director, University of Oklahoma School of Art). Letter to Carol Whitney. (April 22, 1986).
- Logan, Leonard M. III. (Ph.D.). Letter to the Jacobson House Committee. (April 1986).
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- Olkinetzky, Sam. (Director Emeritus, University of Oklahoma Museum of Art). Letter to Phyllis Dowling and Carol Whitney. (April 24, 1986).
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