

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Oklahoma</b>	
COUNTY: <b>Payne</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER <b>71.7.40.0010</b>	DATE <b>7/27/71</b>

1. NAME

COMMON:  
**Old Central**

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**The College Building**

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: **Southeast area of Oklahoma State University Campus, near Knoblock Street and University Avenue**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Stillwater**

STATE <b>Oklahoma</b>	CODE <b>40</b>	COUNTY: <b>Payne</b>	CODE <b>119</b>
--------------------------	-------------------	-------------------------	--------------------

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <b>Three rooms now used in part, temporarily, by Oklahoma Social and Rehabilitative Services.</b>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
**State of Oklahoma**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**State Capitol**

CITY OR TOWN: <b>Oklahoma City</b>	STATE: <b>Oklahoma</b>	CODE: <b>40</b>
---------------------------------------	---------------------------	--------------------

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Payne County Courthouse**

CITY OR TOWN: <b>Stillwater</b>	STATE: <b>Oklahoma</b>	CODE: <b>40</b>
------------------------------------	---------------------------	--------------------

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Oklahoma Historic Sites Survey**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1958**     Federal     State     County     Local

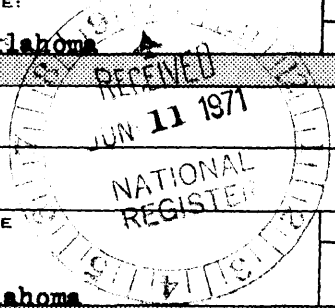
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Oklahoma Historical Society**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Historical Building**

CITY OR TOWN: <b>Oklahoma City</b>	STATE: <b>Oklahoma</b>	CODE: <b>40</b>
---------------------------------------	---------------------------	--------------------

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: <b>Oklahoma</b>
COUNTY: <b>Payne</b>
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE



FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

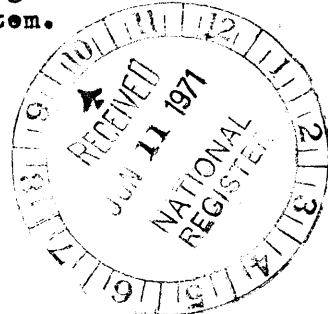
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The building, of local pressed red brick and native sandstone, was approximately sixty-seven feet square. It consisted of two floors over a full basement. The main entrance, on the first floor level, was on the south. On the northwest corner a stone stairway also led to the first floor level. An outside sub-ground level stairway under the main south entrance served the basement. The basement was eight feet above ground, four feet below. The structure was covered by a gabled roof, topped by a belfry and bell, a ventilation tower, and two chimneys. Gutters and downspouts drained the roof.

The structure contained sixteen rooms. In the basement was the chemistry laboratory, chemistry classroom, the gas machine, various storerooms, and the furnace room. The first floor contained two classrooms, a reception room, the college library room, and the administration offices. The second floor housed two classrooms, two apparatus rooms, the College Assembly Hall, and a storeroom. The Assembly Hall was forty by fifty feet in size. Interior stairways served the basement, the second floor, the attic space, and belfry. A narrow hallway ran north and south through the basement. A wide hallway ran north and south through the first floor. The rooms on the second floor fronted on the Assembly Hall. The building had a central hot water heating system served by a boiler located in the basement.

Old Central's exterior is basically unaltered. The only changes are the removal of the exterior portion of the main chimney, the small wooden bannister railings in the belfry, and the metal ridgepole ornamentation on the roof. Even the guttering and downspout system serving the roof remains completely intact. All window and door openings are as they were at the time of construction.

The building's interior is also basically unaltered. Virtually all original partitions, door jambs, and doors remain. Several of the large original rooms on each floor have been divided with temporary partitions; the original woodwork, including the wainscoting, remains undisturbed, however. Even the original fireplace and mantle in the President's office remains unchanged and is still functional. The structure is centrally heated with hot water, as in the beginning, but it is connected with the university power plant system at present. The building is now centrally cooled during the summer. It is served by a modern fire protection sprinkler system.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

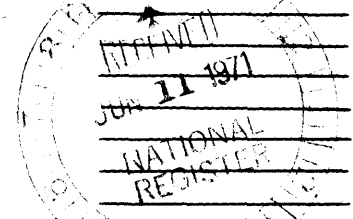
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |  |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1894 to present**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Old Central was the first permanent building on the campus of present Oklahoma State University, the land-grant institution of the state. It was dedicated June 15, 1894, and called the College Building - the pride of students and townspeople alike. For three years prior to its erection the college had rented quarters in town for instruction, used temporary frame buildings on the institution's 200-acre site, donated by Stillwater homesteaders, for its Agricultural Experiment Station work.

Stillwater people raised the \$10,000 required to capture the Oklahoma Territory land-grant college, invested it in construction of Old Central to insure the institution's permanent location. As the building cost but \$14,948, it was largely Stillwater's creation, which tended to lessen the likelihood the town, though twenty miles from a railroad, would lose the college. This extra security was appreciated Sept. 16, 1893, when opening to settlement of the Cherokee Outlet drained the town of half its population - and the most advanced college class half its students. Fortunately, the contract for Old Central had been let on June 30 of that same year. Many of the first students worked their way through school in part by helping with the construction.

The structure has served faithfully a multitude of land-grant educational purposes during its long life. It was the answer to the hopes of the first students for a permanent building. It is the only landmark on the campus known to all the institution's thousands of graduates. Oklahoma Territory's first college graduates were educated primarily in it. Showing what the institution was like in the beginning, it is the one campus structure that ties the university to its past. Nothing else illustrates so well the growth of its physical plant, for it started the university's extensive building program. It early became the physical symbol of the university. Yet more than bricks and mortar, Old Central reflects the very spirit and soul of the institution.

Originally Old Central housed the administration offices, the library, and components of all departments. For some years the Assembly Hall was used for all commencement exercises and most other programs of the college. A number of academic departments

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Chapman, Berlin Basil, "Old Central of Oklahoma State University," The Chronicles of Oklahoma, Vol. XLII, No. 3 (Autumn 1964), pp. 273-290.  
 Chapman, Berlin Basil, ed., Old Central in the Crisis of 1955 (no place, no date), 121 pages, passim.  
 Cunningham, Robert E., Stillwater: Where Oklahoma Began (Stillwater, 1969), pp. 139-156.  
 Hastings, James K., "Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College and Old Central," The Chronicles of Oklahoma, Vol. XXVIII, No. 2 (Summer 1950), pp. 81-84.  
The O'Collegian and Oklahoma State University Annual Catalogs.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	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	° ' "	° ' "		36° 07' 14"	97° 03' 59"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **0 0.5 acre**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**LeRoy Fischer & Kent Ruth**

ORGANIZATION:  
**Oklahoma Historical Society**

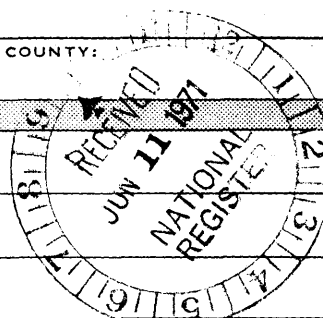
STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Historical Building**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Oklahoma City**

STATE:  
**Oklahoma**

DATE:  
**February 1971**

CODE:  
**40**



**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

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 Don W. [Signature]

Title Liaison Officer for [Signature]

Date 11/20/71

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

James A. Connolly  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 7/27/71

ATTEST:

William [Signature]  
Keeper of The National Register

Date 7/1/71

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Oklahoma	
COUNTY Payne	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71.7.40.0010	DATE 7/27/71

(Number all entries)

No. 8. Significance

Old Central

and student services have been housed in the structure over the years. Only recently, because of new construction, has the need for these traditional uses of Old Central diminished. Present plans are to completely rehabilitate, restore, furnish, and equip the structure to its condition at time of dedication in 1894. A museum portraying the history of Oklahoma State University will be housed in several of the large classrooms. The remainder of the building will display the institution's restored educational facilities and equipment housed in its original permanent setting.

