

619

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

RECEIVED 2280

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Klingensmith Park Amphitheater
Other names/site number: Bristow Amphitheater, Lake Massena Amphitheater
Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: West 7th/West 5th & Country Club Drive
City or town: Bristow State: OK County: Creek
Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local
Applicable National Register Criteria:
 X A B C D

[Signature] July 25, 2016
Signature of certifying official/Title: Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official: Date

Title : State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Klingensmith Park Amphitheater
Name of Property

Creek County, Oklahoma
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
 determined eligible for the National Register
 determined not eligible for the National Register
 removed from the National Register
 other (explain:) _____

Joe Gibson K. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

9.12.16
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
Public – Local
Public – State
Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
District
Site
Structure
Object

Klingensmith Park Amphitheater
Name of Property

Creek County, Oklahoma
County and State

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u>22</u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>22</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/outdoor theater

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/outdoor theater

Klingensmith Park Amphitheater
Name of Property

Creek County, Oklahoma
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH/EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Mission

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: STUCCO/CONCRETE

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Klingensmith Park Amphitheater, located at the intersection of West 7th Avenue, West 5th Avenue, and Country Club Drive in Bristow, Oklahoma, is located in a park adjacent to a residential area on the west side of town. The setting remains as original. Built in 1936, the amphitheater is an entertainment venue comprising a contributing building in the form of a theater area (wood-frame stage house with a projecting Mission-style parapet, attached elevated concrete stage, and several hundred concrete benches), and a contributing site in the form of the surrounding landscaping, comprising a ring of trees enclosing the building, benches, and grassy access areas. These two resources constitute a historic district. Alterations have been made to the stage house and comprise the replacement of two doors, infilling of two windows, and placing supporting posts under an overhanging awning on the main elevation. These were accomplished at an unknown date. All elements of the district retain a high degree of integrity of location, setting, design, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association.

Klingensmith Park Amphitheater
Name of Property

Creek County, Oklahoma
County and State

Narrative Description

The Klingensmith Park Amphitheater, a small historic district located at the intersection of West 7th Avenue, West 5th Avenue, and Country Club Drive, in Bristow, Oklahoma, dating from 1936, is situated on the west side of town, in a large park adjacent to Lake Massena. West 7th and Country Club Drive are the amphitheater's main access streets. Created in the early 1920s, the park grew over time to include a large lake, a boat dock and boathouse, a swimming pool, picnic areas, pavilion (auditorium) building, and ball fields. The amphitheater is placed on the far east side of the park, directly west of a residential area that extends eastward toward Bristow's downtown. A hospital was erected in the park, north of the amphitheater, in the 1950s. The location and setting have retained integrity since the theater's time of construction and the addition of the hospital.

The amphitheater property, a historic district, has two contributing resources: the first is the stage house, with its attached stage, and the seating area, with more than six hundred concrete benches and aisles for spectator access. These are counted together as one contributing building because these elements create the "theater" proper. The second contributing resource is the grassy slope and the ring of cedar trees (of unknown age, but fully mature and some in decline) that surrounds the whole. The slope and its vegetation barrier are counted together as a site. The two resources comprise the historic district.

The amphitheater's design is a modest, functional interpretation of the outdoor theater concept that was popular in the 1920s and 1930s. Requisite to the design is a gentle, uniform, in this case natural, slope that provides for a proper viewing angle descending toward the stage. Also requisite is a stage of some kind, set either at grade or elevated, and seating, either on the ground, on benches, or on bleachers/"risers." Like others, but not all, of its kind, the Bristow facility incorporated a "stage house," or dressing room, for performers. The dressing room was not a stage house, in the classic sense, as it did not provide a lift mechanism for manipulating curtains or scenery. In the Bristow example, the stage house is set directly behind the stage, at about the same height above grade and built on an older stage platform and foundation, which is connected to the new stage's platform.

The 1936 amphitheater stage and stage house rest on a foundation that is an earlier outdoor stage constructed in 1922. This earlier structure was a simple, 30-foot-by-30-foot concrete platform on a massive, one-foot-thick rubble-stone wall as a foundation. The original stage was oriented so that performances could face an audience seated to the southeast (facing northwest). The new stage, poured in 1936, more than doubled the performance area and oriented it west to east, with the front of the stage on the east. This placed the new stage at a forty-five-degree angle to the original. The audience now sits to the east of the stage and faces west. The new design used the east one-half of the old stage platform as a triangular partial support for the new stage pour. The new stage floor is a slab approximately three inches thick that rests on a substructure of four regularly spaced, ten-inch-thick concrete beams supported by nine-inch-by-ten-inch, five-foot-tall concrete columns. Where new and old stages join, the new beams "ride" on the original stage floor. The stage house was erected on the west half of the original stage platform, and to enter the building one must step down approximately one foot from the new platform onto the original stage floor, which now forms the floor of the stage house.

The stage house is a flat-roofed, wood-frame, stuccoed building with a tall front pediment that projects upward approximately five feet above the roof and is braced by boards attached to the roof. At the top the pediment is shaped into three gentle arches, in a stylistic reference to Mission. The building is triangular in footprint (because it uses the west half of the original stage as its floor). The east elevation measures 43 feet north to south (parallel to the seating area), and the northwest and southwest elevations, or sides of the triangle, measure 30 feet. On the east, a pent or awning projects four feet outward from the

Klingensmith Park Amphitheater
Name of Property

Creek County, Oklahoma
County and State

building's wall and extends one foot past the sides of the stage house. The awning is original to the building, and the underside is shiplap. Four-by-four wooden posts and a four-by-four beam carry the weight of the awning; the support members may have replaced the originals at an unknown date. The awning is protected by several layers of shingles, the most recent added circa 2014. The original roofing material is unknown. Photos from March 1937 indicate that the east elevation had not yet been stuccoed but otherwise has retained its historic appearance.

The northwest and southwest elevations of the stage house ride on the original stage's stone foundation, which is visible. The walls remain stuccoed, as original. They have been altered by the infilling of two windows in each wall. The walls and foundation are painted white.

The stage house's interior walls are unfinished, with open studs. Each dressing area has an entrance doorway, each with a nonhistoric wooden slab that opens from the stage to two wooden steps down into the room. Each of the 30-foot side walls has two window openings, visible now only in the interior. The openings are boarded and stuccoed on the exterior. A framed partition wall divides the triangle into two right-triangles, separating the area into separate dressing rooms for men and women. The partition has been opened, at an unknown date, by a nonhistorical doorway between the two rooms. The frame and door are of newer materials. Original tubes for knob-and-tube wiring as well as new wiring conduit are present, and in the southeast corner a junction box controls operative lighting fixtures and electrical outlets.

The concrete stage measures 43 feet, 9 inches east to west and 44 feet north to south. The platform is elevated approximately six feet above the ground and is open across the front, parallel to the seating, and a berm has been created to block access. On the north and south sides, the area beneath the stage is fully accessible, and there is also access to the open area inside the "old" stone foundation. The stage platform is accessed from the ground at the east end via a set of four-foot-wide by six-foot-deep concrete steps at each corner. The steps are enclosed by a concrete barrier.

The audience seating and circulation network begins fifteen feet east of the stage's edge. The whole seating area measures 150 feet east to west and 106 feet north to south. Seating comprises separated sections of benches, with sections aligned 5 across (north to south, parallel to stage) and 4 deep (east to west), totaling 20 sections, with grassy aisles. Each section is rectangular and eighteen feet wide, but sections vary in the number of rows. The front rank comprises 5 sections of 9 rows and one of 8; a number of benches appear to be missing, indicating that other rows may have existed here. The other sections have either 11 or 12 rows; a few benches are missing. Each row comprises 3 six-foot-long, eighteen-inch-tall concrete benches with twelve-inch-deep caps. Each bench sits on two concrete legs. There is a present total of 635 benches. The benches are pitted, chipped, and crooked but serviceable. East-west aisles between the sections are approximately 6 feet wide, and north-south aisles are 4.5 feet. On the north, south, and east of the seating sections are grassy areas approximately eighteen to twenty feet wide that presently accommodate ground seating or lawn chairs. Historical descriptions from 1936 indicate that originally the seating totaled 720 benches; there may have been benches present in the grassy areas north, south, and east of the present seating.

The theater (stage house, stage, and seating) has retained a high degree of integrity since its 1936 completion.

Landscaping of cedar trees forms a ring encircling the theater area. The trees range in height from thirty to forty feet and appear to be of various ages. The canopy begins approximately eight feet from the ground. The ring "begins" at the back of the stage (front of the stage house) and extends around in an ovoid shape to join the stage on the other side. The landscaping functions to provide a sound and light barrier. Other, apparently younger, cedars are aligned three feet apart close to the stage along its north and south sides, protecting performers against a six-foot drop to the ground.

Klingensmith Park Amphitheater
Name of Property

Creek County, Oklahoma
County and State

Noncontributing resources (22) of unknown age but apparently not original, include three light poles, two of wood and one steel, near the stage, two rusted metal "speaker boxes" on wooden poles, also near the stage, 16 rusted-steel canopy poles placed regularly outside and between the seating sections, and a concrete "light and sound" platform with steel railings.

Still in use, the Klingensmith Park Amphitheater property retains a high degree of integrity. The property is in fair condition, except for elements of the stage house's front parapet and awning, which are weathered. Alterations have been minimal and include the replacement of awning support posts, a new awning roof of composition shingles, new stage house doors, and infilling of windows on northwest and southwest walls. The boundaries of the property are drawn to include the landscaping and the encircled stage house, stage, bench seating, and grassy seating areas.

Klingensmith Park Amphitheater
Name of Property

Creek County, Oklahoma
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.) N/A

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Klingensmith Park Amphitheater
Name of Property

Creek County, Oklahoma
County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ECONOMICS
ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

Period of Significance

1936-1966

Significant Dates

1936

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

Klingensmith Park Amphitheater
Name of Property

Creek County, Oklahoma
County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Klingensmith Park Amphitheater, located at the intersection of West 7th Avenue, West 5th Avenue, and Country Club Drive in Bristow, Oklahoma, and erected in 1936, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, for its significance as a local example of an Entertainment/Recreation facility exemplifying the philosophy of parks and recreation in the 1920s and 1930s. It is also eligible under Criterion A for significance in Economics as a local example of a park facility constructed by the New Deal's Works Progress Administration as a remedy for unemployment during the Great Depression. The entertainment venue remained in use throughout the period of significance, 1936–1966, is unique to the park and to Bristow, and continues in limited use.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Entertainment/Recreation Significance:

Creating a large, city-owned recreational park on the outskirts of Bristow, Oklahoma, in the early 1920s corresponds with a national trend in urban park development around the United States. Klingensmith Park emerged during two historic periods of park building in America. The City of Bristow conceived of its west-side park during the era of "Reform Parks," a corollary of the Progressive Movement, from 1900 through the late 1920s. Urban planners deemed natural areas with recreational facilities such as playgrounds, swimming pools, bandstands, and civic pavilions/auditoriums to be good for providing healthful and educational activities for all children and adults. In truly urban areas, grass and trees took second seat to playgrounds and buildings, but in smaller cities like Bristow, parks on the edge of town could have green space as well as playgrounds and entertainment venues such as amphitheaters.¹ In this era, a park-goer's experience was largely self-directed.

Bristow, founded in 1897 in the Creek Nation on the St. Louis and San Francisco Railway, was platted in 1901. Bristow's economy initially focused on the cotton trade; however, after a decade and a half as a trading center, Bristow was blessed with an oil boom between 1914 and 1922. Located east of the Cushing-Drumright Field, Bristow and its merchants were positioned to provide the oil field and its workers with services of all kinds. In a flush economic environment, the City of Bristow was able to make many civic improvements, including paving, a new water and sewer system, and a new school. Bristow's city fathers established a small park within the town during the early 1900s.²

The year 1922 was significant for the city park movement in Bristow. The City had acquired property west of the city limits for a park circa 1914. Improvements were planned in 1920, money did not come, and the

¹ This periodization was proposed as early as 1921 by landscape designer S. Herbert Hare. See S. Herbert Hare, "Trend of Park History: Development in America Through Four Periods," *Parks and Recreation* 5 (September-October 1921), 61–63. See also Galen Cranz, *The Politics of Parks: A History of Urban Parks in America* (Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 1982), 62–80.

² Linda D. Wilson, "Bristow," *Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture* (Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Historical Society, 2009), 175; Bobby D. Weaver, "Cushing-Drumright Field," in *ibid.*, 375; *Bristow Record* [weekly], 30 October, 6 November, 20 November 1919.

Klingensmith Park Amphitheater
Name of Property

Creek County, Oklahoma
County and State

park area remained overgrown and unused, although a large parcel of land was added to it in 1922. By that year the oil boom slowed, and a number of vagrant oilfield hands and veterans began to congregate there, creating a “squatters’ town.” In April, \$20,000 in bonds were available for park work; the Parks Commission prepared a program to develop the area for citizens’ use and hired a landscape architect from the University of Oklahoma. A cleanup ensued, conducted by citizen volunteers and prisoners from the city jail (including many of “the squatters”). In late June the city issued a contract for a park pavilion, and West 6th Street was paved to the park. In August boulevards were graded around the area to make a three-quarter-mile circular drive inside the park.³

In addition, a bandstand with stone foundation and concrete stage was constructed. This is the Reform Park—era recreational feature that is now incorporated as the foundation of the WPA—built Klingensmith Park Amphitheater’s 1936 stage and stage house. The city hoped to induce civic groups to offer regular Sunday-afternoon concerts there. The park improvement bonds also provided for playground equipment, picnic tables and shelters, “comfort stations,” a small dam and lake, an athletic field, and formal entrances at 6th and 8th Avenues. In 1922 the park was finally named “Klingensmith Park,” in honor of Cpl. Peter W. Klingensmith, a Bristow man who had died in combat in World War I.⁴

In the 1930s America’s urban parks program picked up speed when federal and local governments cooperated to combat the Great Depression. The 1930s park-building era, called by some historians the “Recreation System” period, was a time in which municipalities institutionalized their parks boards and offices and accepted responsibility for systematized, organized public programming, a professional park staff, and hierarchical management, because parks were maintenance heavy. Larger-scale facilities such as baseball fields and tennis courts, as well as amphitheaters and recreation centers, became popular. The park became a destination for city-directed athletic and educational pursuits. The concept implies that the parks commission and civic organizations would cooperate to budget money and create organized programs for regular citizen participation in activities throughout the park.⁵ At this juncture, during the Great Depression, Bristow undertook to expand its park and in 1936 built the Klingensmith Park Amphitheater. This would not have been accomplished without the recreation philosophy embraced by the New Deal’s Works Progress Administration “make work” program, which augmented the park-based Entertainment/Recreation context for Bristow, for the state of Oklahoma, and the nation. In Oklahoma the WPA created 27 entirely new parks, improved 17 playgrounds, built 24 horseshoe courts, 197 tennis courts, 19 wading pools, 26 croquet courts, and innumerable picnic tables and benches, and designed and erected 205 recreational buildings (other than auditoriums and gymnasiums), 4 outdoor theaters, and 4 band shells. Bristow’s Klingensmith Park received a number of these recreational facilities, including the 1936 amphitheater.⁶

Economics Significance:

Bristow, Creek County, Oklahoma, was young when the Great Depression began and felt its effects as severely as any community of nearly seven thousand. In spring 1934 more than 33 percent of Oklahoma families were on relief, and in Creek County the number stood at 29.6 percent, or 4,523 families, in September. The Federal Emergency Relief Administration, created by Congress in May 1934, applied its programs to Creek County, including construction projects by the Works Progress Administration, created

³ *Bristow Record* [weekly], 22 January 1920, 5 February 1920, 10 April 1922; *Bristow Daily Record*, 20, 22, and 25 May 1922; *Bristow Record* [weekly], 20 April 1922, 1, 18 and 20 June 1922, 20 July 1922, 24 and 31 August 1922.

⁴ *Bristow Daily Record* [weekly], 30 May 1922; *Bristow Record* [weekly], 20 July 1922, 31 August 1922; *Daily Oklahoman* (Oklahoma City), 27 August 1922.

⁵ See Hare, “Trend of Park History.” See also Cranz, *The Politics of Parks*, 102–119.

⁶ Federal Works Agency, Work Projects Administration for Oklahoma, “Final Report of Activities and Accomplishments [typescript],” Archives of the Work Projects Administration and Predecessors, 1933–1943, Series One: The Final State Reports, 1943 (Microfilm; Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1987).

Klingensmith Park Amphitheater

Name of Property

Creek County, Oklahoma

County and State

in May 1935. These reduced the number of families on relief to 3,969, or 26.8 percent, by September of that year.⁷

Between March 1933 and April 1936 the FERA poured more than \$916,000 into Creek County projects, with the county and towns matching in the amount of \$377,000, most of it in and around Bristow.⁸ Over those three years the FERA and WPA employed primarily unskilled labor, drawn from the ranks of the unemployed, of whom Bristow claimed approximately three hundred. They worked on many projects, rebuilding the Park Pavilion/4-H Building as a Youth Center for the NYA, erecting a new U.S. Post Office building, repairing or paving streets, repairing schools, and so forth.⁹ Part of the medicinal effect of federal-local projects was due to work in Klingensmith Park; the enlargement of the dam and lake began in 1933 with public and private funds.

In January 1935 the FERA awarded the City a grant of \$51,300 for park improvements, including the construction of a new amphitheater, changing the City Pavilion/4-H into an NYA center, and building playground equipment, all for a final total of \$60,000. The money was assigned to the WPA as part of \$650,000 in projects after WPA's creation in May 1935.¹⁰ Park work began in February 1936, and by March 27 the amphitheater's substructure and a new stage were ready to be poured. By May 28 the facility was complete except for framing the stage house and setting the seats in place, which was done in early September, and by September 9 only the finish work—stuccoing and roofing—remained.¹¹ The first of hundreds of events were held there on September 10, 1936, when Bristow High School's band played during the free fair.¹²

The amphitheater's first year was capped by the arrival of First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt in Bristow on March 17, 1937, on a tour of the state's works projects. In Bristow she dedicated the new NYA Center, refurbished from the old City Pavilion/4-H Building. Afterward, she gave a speech from the stage of the new amphitheater, still wanting its stucco and roofing but serviceable. It was her thirty-second wedding anniversary. There was a concert, a speech by State WPA Administrator Ron Stevens, and other presentations.¹³ Exterior finishes were apparently provided for the stage house later that year and the building was complete.

The Bristow park project was one of the WPA's most comprehensive "outdoor recreational facilities" endeavors, involving multiple categories of construction. More than 800 separate resources were built by the agency in Oklahoma during its primary period, 1935–40. The Klingensmith Park Amphitheater was one of four constructed in Oklahoma.¹⁴ The others were in Norman, Clinton, and Drumright; four band shells were also built or reconstructed in parks. The Bristow venue was regularly used throughout the

⁷ "Relief Picture in Oklahoma Looks Brighter," *Daily Oklahoman*, 29 September 1935. See also C. Roger Lambert, "Dust, Farmers, and the Federal Government," in *Hard Times in Oklahoma: The Depression Years*, ed. K. E. Hendrickson, Jr. (Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Historical Society, 1983), 71–72, 78–79, 81; and W. David Baird, "Final Report: WPA Structures Thematic Survey (Phase 111)," 1987, State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma Historical Society, 5.

⁸ *Daily Oklahoman*, 27 September 1936; see also *Bristow Daily Record*, 16 January 1936.

⁹ *Bristow Daily Record*, 3 January 1935 and 16 January 1936, and various issues 1936 and 1937; W. David Baird, et al., "Northeastern Oklahoma (Region 3) Oklahoma Properties Nominated to the Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory," 1985–86, State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma Historical Society, at www.okhistory.org/shpo/wpa.htm, accessed on 15 February 2016.

¹⁰ *Bristow Daily Record*, 16 January 1936.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, 5 and 6 February 1936, 27 March 1936, 28 May 1936, 6, 10, and 21 September 1936.

¹² *Ibid.*, 21 September 1936.

¹³ *Ibid.*, 13, 16, and 17 March 1936; photos of Roosevelt at the amphitheater and the event program were courtesy Rick Vyper and *Bristow News Record Citizen*; see also Eleanor Roosevelt, "My Day, [syndicated news column]," 18 March 1937, Eleanor Roosevelt Papers, George Washington University, Washington, D.C., digitized at www.gwu.edu/erpapers/myday, accessed on 17 February 2016.

¹⁴ "Final Report of Activities and Accomplishments [typescript]," see also Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory, Resource, "amphitheater," at www.okhistory.org/shpo, accessed on 22 February 2016.

Klingensmith Park Amphitheater
Name of Property

Creek County, Oklahoma
County and State

period of significance, 1936–66. Annual county fair concerts, summer musical programs, church camp sessions, Fourth of July events, outdoor banquets, and high school graduations graced its stage through the 1960s and into the 1990s. It is still used occasionally by local groups.¹⁵

During its first two decades Klingensmith Park grew to include facilities for fishing and boating, more picnic and play areas, a public swimming pool (paid for by local businessmen in 1936–37), tennis courts, soccer and baseball fields, and a rodeo arena, among others. Also within the park area is a hospital and an associated helicopter pad, both 1950s addition. Forming the location and setting for the amphitheater and integral to its concept and design, the park remains much as it was in 1936, despite the razing of the City Pavilion and various picnic amenities. The Klingensmith Park Amphitheater retains a high degree of integrity of location, setting, design, workmanship, and materials. Within the Entertainment/Recreation context it still reflects the feeling and association of a small city's urban park planning during two important periods of park theory and philosophy and of citizens' use of this part of town for recreation and entertainment. Within the Economics context it reflects the associations of a time in local history when federal and local economic cooperation helped the unemployed and held a nation together. In these contexts, it is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A, exemplifying two important patterns in our history.

¹⁵ See for example *Bristow Daily Record*, 24 June 1937 (Sinclair Oil Co. picnic), 17 May 1945, (softball and weekly singing in park); 2 June 1953, (summer band program); 18 September 1956, (County Fair's free shows); 1992 Bristow High School Graduation invitation, and collateral interview with Rick Vyper and Letha Caudle, Bristow, Oklahoma, 16 February 2016, by Dianna Everett, notes in possession of author.

Klingensmith Park Amphitheater
Name of Property

Creek County, Oklahoma
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Baird, W. David. "Final Report: WPA Structures Thematic Survey (Phase III)." 1987. State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma Historical Society,

Bristow Daily Record, 1935–1937.

Bristow News Record Citizen, photograph files, 1937.

Bristow Record [weekly], 1919–1923.

Cranz, Galen. *The Politics of Parks: A History of Urban Parks in America*. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 1982.

Daily Oklahoman (Oklahoma City), 1922.

Eleanor Roosevelt Papers, George Washington University, Washington, D.C. Digitized at www.gwu.edu/erpapers/myday. Accessed on 17 February 2016.

Federal Works Agency. Work Projects Administration for Oklahoma. "Final Report of Activities and Accomplishments [typescript]." Archives of the Work Projects Administration and Predecessors, 1933–1943. Series One: The Final State Reports, 1943. Microfilm; Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1987.

"Northeastern Oklahoma (Region 3) Oklahoma Properties Nominated to the Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory." 1985–86. State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma Historical Society.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

Klingensmith Park Amphitheater
Name of Property

Creek County, Oklahoma
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one (1) acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 35.832600 | Longitude: -96.402200 |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Klingensmith Park Amphitheater
Name of Property

Creek County, Oklahoma
County and State

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The point of beginning is on the West side of the feature at a point 10 (ten) feet due West of the junction (corner) of the Northwest and Southwest walls of the Stage House. From this point of beginning, proceed due South for 30 (thirty) feet; turn Southeast and (keeping the tree line always on the left) proceed 130 feet; turn due East and proceed 175 feet; turn due North and proceed 225 feet; turn due West and proceed 175 feet; turn Southwest and proceed 130 feet; turn due South and proceed 30 feet, having described an enclosed polygon measuring approximately 300 feet East-to-West and 225 feet North-to South, with truncated corners on the West.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries are drawn to include only the park land historically associated with amphitheater: the stage and stage house; the concrete bench seating; the sloped, grassy ground seating area where, historically, additional benches may have been placed; and the surrounding tree plantings that provide shade and an ambient light and sound barrier.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Dianna Everett, Consultant
organization: for Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.
street & number: 2510 Countrywood Lane
city or town: Edmond state: OK zip code: 73012
e-mail weaver25@cox.net
telephone: 405-348-4679
date: 30 March 2016

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

Klingensmith Park Amphitheater
Name of Property

Creek County, Oklahoma
County and State

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Klingensmith Park Amphitheater

City or Vicinity:

County: Creek

State: Oklahoma

Photographer: Dianna Everett

Date Photographed: February 16, 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 0001. Stage house and stage, East elevation, West view.

Photo 0002. Seating and audience circulation, East view.

Photo 0003. Stage, stage house Northwest elevation, and landscaping trees, South view.

Photo 0004. Stage house, Northwest elevation, Southwest view.

Photo 0005. Substructure of new stage and old stage foundation, South view.

Photo 0006. Stage house, Southwest elevation, North view.

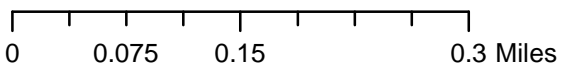
Klingensmith Park Amphitheater
Name of Property

Creek County, Oklahoma
County and State

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Klingensmith Park Amphitheater (overview)
West 7th/West 5th & Country Club Drive
Bristow, Creek County, Oklahoma



Klingensmith Park Amphitheater (detail)
West 7th/West 5th & Country Club Drive
Bristow, Creek County, Oklahoma



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

0 0.0375 0.075 0.15 Miles













UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Klingensmith Park Amphitheater

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: OKLAHOMA, Creek

DATE RECEIVED: 7/29/16 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/18/16
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/02/16 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/13/16
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000619

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 9-12-16 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



Oklahoma Historical Society

Founded May 27, 1893

State Historic Preservation Office

Oklahoma History Center • 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive • Oklahoma City, OK 73105-7917
(405) 521-6249 • Fax (405) 522-0816 • www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpom.htm

July 26, 2016

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief
National Register and National Historic Landmark Programs
National Park Service 2280, 8th floor
1201 "I" (Eye) Street, NW
Washington D.C. 20005

RECEIVED 2280

JUL 29 2016

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

Dear Mr. Loether:

We are pleased to transmit eight National Register of Historic Places nominations and one additional documentation for Oklahoma properties. The nominations are for the following properties:

Fort Towson (additional documentation), Fort Towson, Choctaw County
Central Fire Station, Lawton, Comanche County
Klingensmith Park Amphitheater, Bristow, Creek County
Lincoln Park Bathhouse, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County
Mutual Savings and Loan Association Building, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County
Pruett House, Stillwater, Payne County
Downtown Claremore Historic District, Claremore, Rogers County (owner objection)
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Oklahoma Building, Tulsa, Tulsa County
Downtown Tulsa YMCA, Tulsa, Tulsa County

The member of the Historic Preservation Review Committee (state review board), professionally qualified in the fields of architecture was absent from the public meeting at which each of these nominations was considered and the recommendation to the State Historic Preservation Officer was formulated. However, the member possessing the requisite professional qualifications for evaluation of each nominated property was present and participated in the recommendation's formulation.

We look forward to the results of your review. If there may be any questions, please do not hesitate to contact either Lynda S. Ozan of my staff or myself.

Sincerely,

Melvena Heisch
Deputy State Historic
Preservation Officer

MKH:lso

Enclosures