

PH0369616

DATA SHEET

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Oklahoma
COUNTY:	Cleveland
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
JUL 0	1976

1. NAME

COMMON: President's House, University of Oklahoma

AND/OR HISTORIC: _____

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 401 West Boyd Street

CITY OR TOWN: Norman

STATE: Oklahoma CODE: 40 COUNTY: Cleveland CODE: 027

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	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"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: The State of Oklahoma

STREET AND NUMBER: State Capitol

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

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER: Cleveland County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Norman STATE: Oklahoma CODE: 40

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

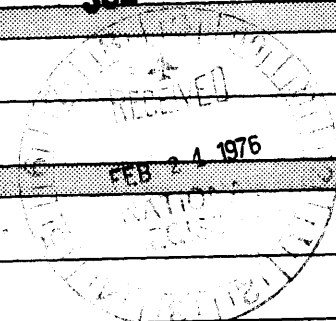
TITLE OF SURVEY: Special President's House Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1972 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Cleveland County Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER: P. O. Box 260

CITY OR TOWN: Norman STATE: Oklahoma CODE: 40



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Oklahoma

COUNTY: Cleveland

ENTRY NUMBER: 3016

DATE: _____

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

 Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

 Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

 Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The President's House was built around 1903 by David Ross Boyd. It was then basically a two-story, relatively plain box (34 x 55 feet), which it remained so long as Dr. Boyd owned it. After 1914 it acquired its two wings, a one-story wing (16 x 24 feet) on the east and a two-story (26 x 26 feet) addition to the west.

The residence stood pretty much as it does today by 1920. This includes the gracious classic entrance on the south with its balcony and massive ionic columns. It was added by President Stratton D. Brooks (1912-1923), at his personal expense, and there is no existing record to show that he was ever reimbursed. (A story, quite possibly true, is that Dr. Brooks, who moved out of the state after giving up the presidency, was allowed to send his children back to the university tuition free. At last, he is supposed to have confided to a friend, I've gotten my money back for those columns.)

Since 1920 the house remained virtually unchanged. University crews keep the building and grounds in excellent condition. Within the past few years, however, it has undergone some interior changes in connection with its current use.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) c. 1903 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 type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Solid, genteel, and comfortably conventional, the University of Oklahoma's "White House" might well serve as a symbol of Sooner State intellectual life. For more than half a century, from its corner site overlooking the campus, it housed the president of the state's primary institution of higher learning. Today, excellently maintained, it continues to serve the university as a setting for conferences, seminars, and a variety of other official and semi-official meetings.

The house was built around 1903 as a private residence by Dr. David Ross Boyd, president of the university when it opened its doors in 1892 with himself and three others as the entire faculty. In 1914 the property was purchased by the State of Oklahoma as official residence for the president. The sale called for the exchange of a piece of state-owned school land for the home property, together with a 60-acre tract adjacent to the campus. Every subsequent president of the university lived in the home until 1968, when another property was purchased and the "White House" was put to new uses.

From the beginning the gracious home -- which by 1920 had acquired its present size and classic lines -- has hosted a cross-section of state, national, and world notables as business, politics, culture -- and pleasure -- brought them to Oklahoma. And as they have brought onto the campus, from the outside, the varied aspects of their own backgrounds and careers, so have they taken away with them a keener awareness of life on the Oklahoma campus and perhaps a better understanding of that segment of Oklahoma's heritage being studied, preserved, interpreted, disseminated -- and, of course, added to -- by the diverse activities of a major university.

Overnight guests through the years have included all the governors of Oklahoma and the presidents of many other universities, from Dr. David Starr Jordan, Stanford's first, to the heads of the other schools of Oklahoma's Big Eight conference, including Dr. Milton Eisenhower. Other notables entertained at the "White House" include poets Edgar Lee Masters, Carl Sandburg, and Sir Rabindranath Tagore, scientists Dr. Niels Bohr and Sir Alexander Fleming, evangelist Billy Graham and screen star Van Heflin, philanthropist E. DeGolyer and band leader John Philip Sousa, and such political figures as Ex-Presidents William Howard Taft

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Data compiled by the Cleveland County Historical Society and kept on file in their office in Norman, Oklahoma.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		35° 12' 41"	97° 25' 46"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **0. one acre**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Loren N. Brown & Kent Ruth

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

STREET AND NUMBER:
Historical Building

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

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: *Sam W. Oliver* Title: *SA PD* Date: *FEB 20 1972*

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

Acting *Loren N. Brown*
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: *7/4/76*

ATTEST:
Acting *Charles Adams*
Keeper of The National Register

Date: *7-1-76*

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Oklahoma	
COUNTY	
Cleveland	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUL 6 1976

(Number all entries)

No. 8. Significance

President's House, University of Oklahoma

and Harry Truman, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Lord and Lady Halifax.

Yet another function of the president's house over the years has been to serve as congenial meeting place for groups, not of those already in positions of influence and important -- like legislators, civic and business leaders -- but of students perhaps destined to assume such positions. Both Dr. William B. Bizzell, president from 1924 to 1942, and Dr. George Cross, president from 1944 to 1968, had a President's Class or President's Leadership Class of selected honor students. These met regularly, especially during President Bizzell's era, in the home of the president, where the young, potential leaders were not only exposed to a smattering of the knowledge and culture of the past, but permitted to absorb something of the personality and character of the president -- and his wife -- in the intimacy of their home. As an "alumnus" of one such class, the preparer of this nomination can attest to the intellectual stimulation of this contact and the tremendous opportunity it provided for growth and maturity. A dozen to two dozen individual youths were involved each year, for many years. To the extent it served as setting for these contacts, and enriched them, the "White House" of the university, in this one function alone, has made a great contribution to the growth and development of Oklahoma.

