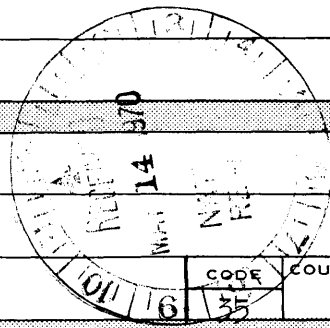


**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Oklahoma	
COUNTY: Oklahoma	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70.6.35.0005	DATE 6/22/70



1. NAME

COMMON:
The Overholser House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
405 N. W. 15th Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Oklahoma City

STATE: Oklahoma CODE: 35 COUNTY: Oklahoma CODE: 109

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"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input checked="" 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
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
David Jay Perry

STREET AND NUMBER:
405 N. W. 15th Street

CITY OR TOWN: Oklahoma City STATE: Oklahoma CODE: 35

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
County Clerk

STREET AND NUMBER:
Oklahoma County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Oklahoma City STATE: Oklahoma CODE: 35

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Overholser House

DATE OF SURVEY: 1969 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Oklahoma Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
Historical Building

CITY OR TOWN: Oklahoma City STATE: Oklahoma CODE: 35

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Oklahoma

COUNTY: Oklahoma

ENTRY NUMBER: _____

DATE: _____

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input 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 Overholser House has been called "the product of an artist's eye." The description is not unapt. Conceived as a permanent residence that would need no future alterations, it has carried itself into the last half of the 20th century with undiminished dignity and untarnished beauty. It is unchanged on the outside. But for electricity in the elaborate (once gas) lighting fixtures, the interior is much the same as when the mansion was opened to admiring friends with a gala reception in early 1904.

The three-story house has 16 rooms - or 20, depending on how one counts them. (A reporter at that first inaugural party counted "52 apertures," including pantries, hallways, foyers, cupolas, and closets, some "large enough for rooms.") In almost every detail it remains as it was 65 years ago. With few exceptions the brocaded silk draperies and imported curtains of lace and linen are still at windows and doors. With only a minimum of repair work walls and ceilings are still hung with the hand-painted canvases produced by an artist who "lived in" while completing the task. The original hand-loomed carpets and Oriental rugs still cover polished hardwood floors. The gleaming woodwork of Antwerp oak and mahogany remains, as does most of the period furniture, the urns and vases, the crystal and cutglass, the Chinese porcelain and jade, the collections of Meissen, Dresden and Sevres.

Mrs. Overholser decorated her home, according to one observer, "in a manner which combined French antique, flamboyant Oriental and the finest furnishings of the era - so that guests at her reception in 1904 were viewing a 'contemporary home' with both continental and Oriental influences."

It was (and is) one of the finest homes in the city. There are formal entrances on the east, through massive double doors, and on the south, under the porte cochere. Hand-carved teakwood chairs, table and screen accent the east entrance hallway. The drawing room, called the "gold room" by Mrs. Overholser, is furnished in the Louis XV and Louis XVI manner. The high, arched ceiling is canvas hung, the hand painting is Baroque. More flamboyant, yet more intimate, too, is the "red room," featuring a corner fireplace and chimney piece, intact with its three-piece Sevres porcelain clock set. The house contains nine fireplaces in all.

There are two stairways, the main one soaring up gracefully from the entrance hall with no visible supports. Two windows on a landing are unusual. Containing leaded glass, each is decorated with a life-size Greek woman musician. One holds a violin, the other a tambourine. Much of the third floor of the house is given over to a ballroom. A carriage house, once holding as many as ten vehicles, stands to the west of the house. Two-story and also of buff brick, it now serves as garage and servant's quarters. Driveways and walks are gracefully laid out; the grounds are simply landscaped and carefully tended. Outside and in, today as in 1904, the home reflects gracious, comfortable elegance.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1903 to present

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Overholser House -- a chateau-type mansion built in 1903 and standing today virtually without change inside or out -- is a handsomely impressive monument to an Oklahoma City pioneer (he arrived on opening day, April 22, 1889) and to the city his vision and energy helped to create (he brought with him to the embryo city ten carloads of lumber, **some working capital**, and unwavering faith in the new state being carved out of Indian Territory.)

Henry Overholser was born in Ohio in 1846, thrown on his own at the age of 16. Having built up a modest fortune in the mercantile business in several Midwestern states, he was attracted, with thousands of others, to the new territory opened by "run" in 1889. He began building at once - materially, but also, with his strong confidence in the future, in a more social and cultural sense. "When others were driving tent-stakes," reads the National Cyclopedia of American Biography, "he was erecting substantial two-story houses. When others had reached the wooden stage he was at work on a three-story brick block. When the families of the pioneers came, and the town needed forms of amusement other than faro and roulette, he built an opera house which for years remained the most substantial in the new territory. Subsequently he built the Overholser Theatre, known to all the great artists who have played in America, the first hotel (Grand Avenue), and helped more than any one man in building the First Presbyterian Church. His faith was contagious, and instead of an aggregation of flimsy structures Oklahoma City at the end of its first summer was, contrary to the rules in town-building, substantially constructed."

His interests, activities, and social concerns were wide-spread. He was a good citizen, in all that homely cliché implies. He organized the first water works system in the territory. He helped to assure the city rail service from both the (present) Rock Island and the Frisco. He played a strong role in the successful struggle to move the state capital from Guthrie to Oklahoma City, in the revival of the Oklahoma State Fair, in organizing the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce (he was its first president), and in other community projects.

When he got around to building his permanent residence, Overholser showed the same strong faith in the future. A man of vision, he determined to build a house that would not only meet the present needs

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Phillips, Mrs. N. L., "The Henry Overholser Home," A Personal Interview, Oct. 11, 1937.
 Walker, Elviretta, "City's First Mansion Is Still A Lavish Showplace," The Daily Oklahoman, Aug. 7, 1960
 -----National Cyclopedia of American Biography, Vol. 17, pp. 23-24

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
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	35°	29'	06"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	97°	30'	45"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: c. 0.5 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

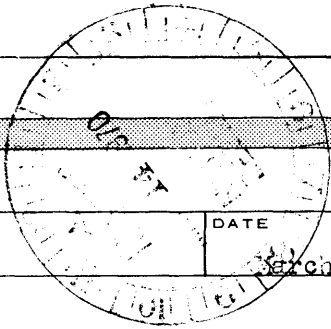
11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Kent Ruth

ORGANIZATION: Oklahoma Historical Society DATE: March 1970

STREET AND NUMBER: Historical Building

CITY OR TOWN: Oklahoma City STATE: Oklahoma CODE: 35



200
217M
HF

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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: [Signature]

Title: Liaison officer for Okla

Date: _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

[Signature]
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: **JUN 22 1970**

ATTEST:

[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: **MAY 27 1970**

Oklahoma

Oklahoma

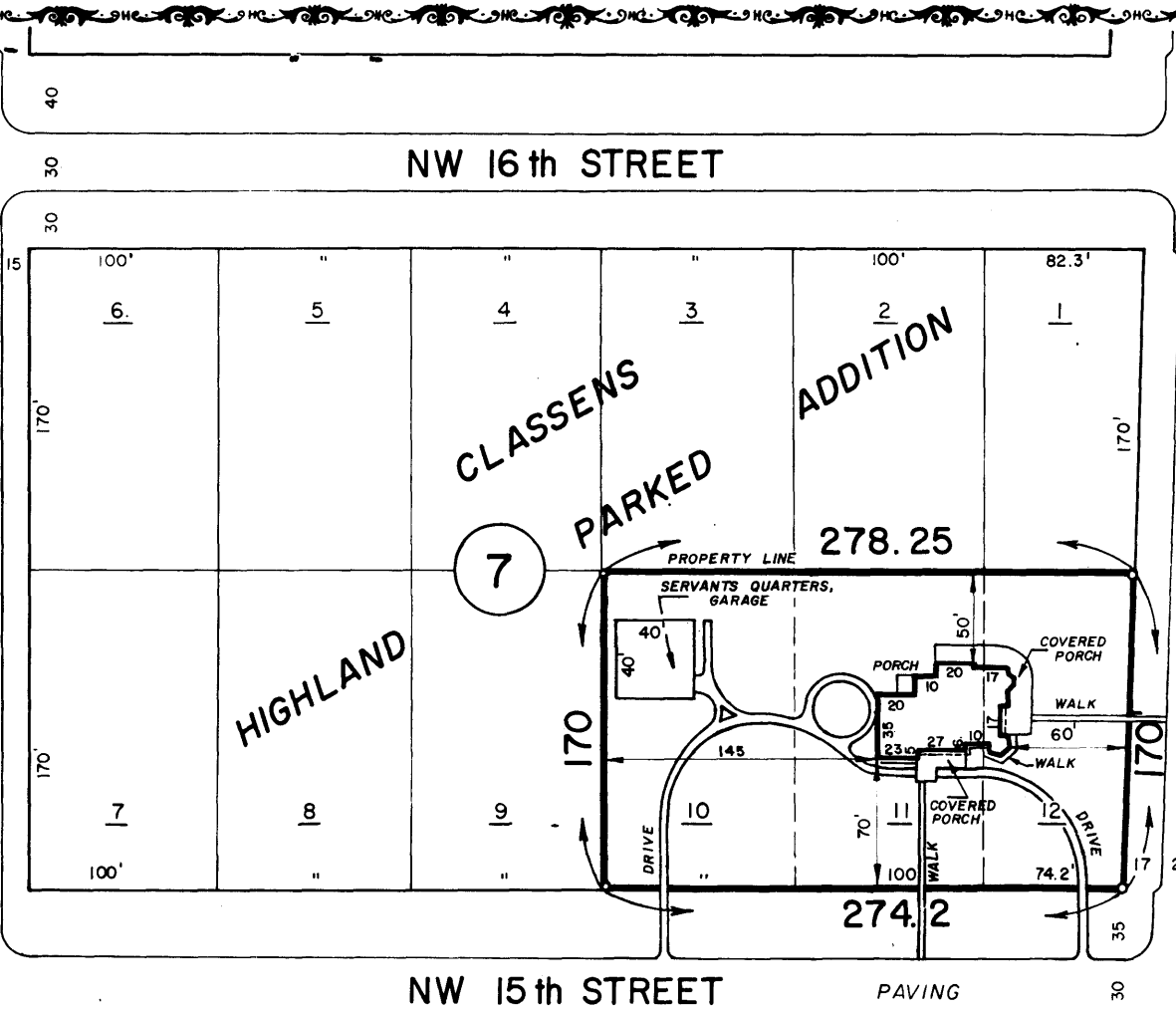
THE OVERHOLSER HOUSE

8. Historical Significance - 2

of his family but those of the years to come. Confident in the growth of the city, he bought a homesite a mile north of the business district. This was in 1901. A pioneer architect, W. S. Matthews, was engaged to draw up plans for the 16-room mansion. After the house was built, in 1903, an interior decorator helped Mrs. Overholser with the appointments and furnishings. When opened officially with a reception in the spring of 1904 the home was "out in the country" surrounded by a cornfield. But the city soon spread north to embrace the buff brick, red tile "castle" at the corner of 15th Street and Hudson. By the time he died in 1915 Oklahoma City was well on its way to fulfilling the confidence he had always had in its future. (His son, Ed, was also active in civic affairs, once served as mayor of Oklahoma City.)

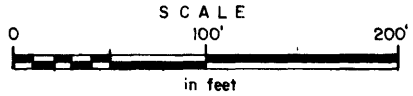
Henry Overholser was, in the words of one respected Oklahoma historian, himself the son of a well known pioneer family, "without a doubt the city's foremost early day leader."

1915
OCT 15 1915
RECEIVED



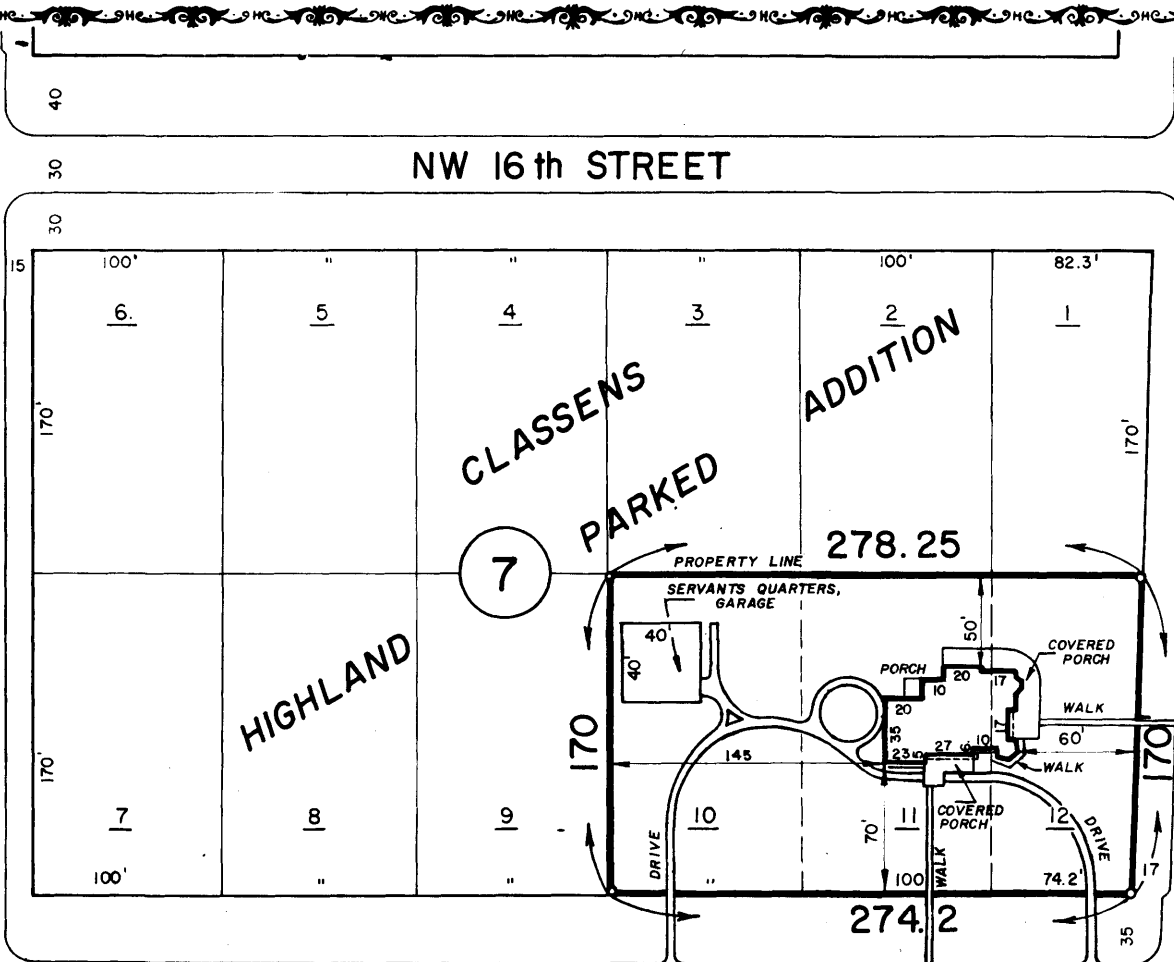
The Querholzer Home

405 Northwest 15th Street
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma



Dec. 1969

REV. : May 19, 1970



NW 16th STREET

WALKER AVE.

HUDSON AVE.

HIGHLAND

CLASSENS

ADDITION

(7)

PARKED

278.25

SERVANTS QUARTERS, GARAGE

COVERED PORCH

PORCH

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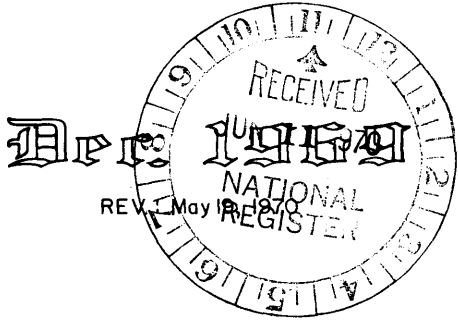
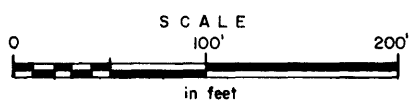
WALK

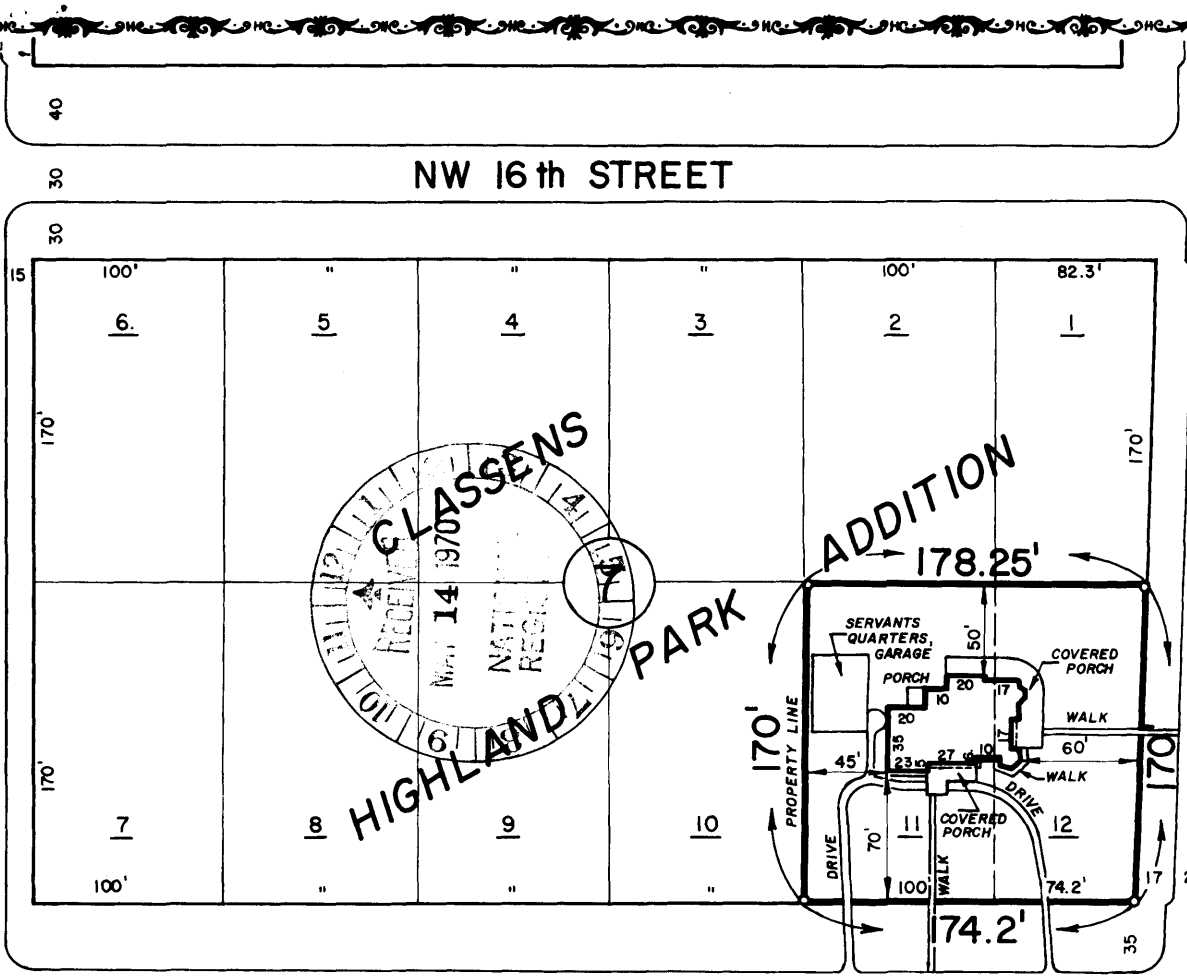
NW 15th STREET

PAVING

The Querholzer Home

405 Northwest 15th Street
 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma





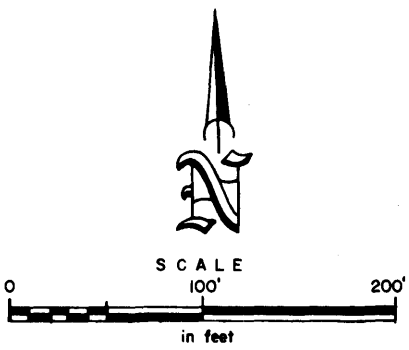
NW 15th STREET

PAVING

The Overholzer Home

405 Northwest 15th Street
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Dec. 1969

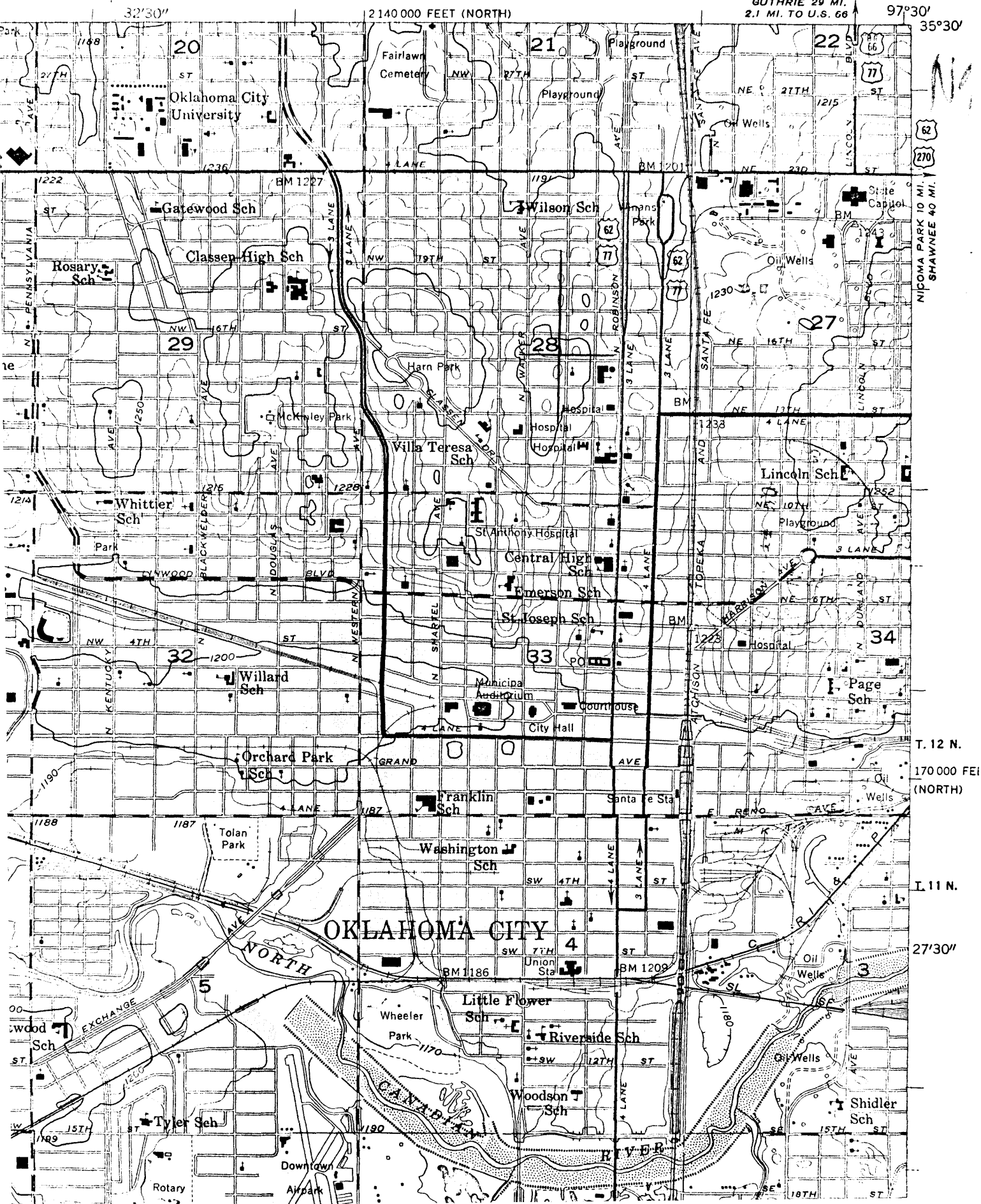


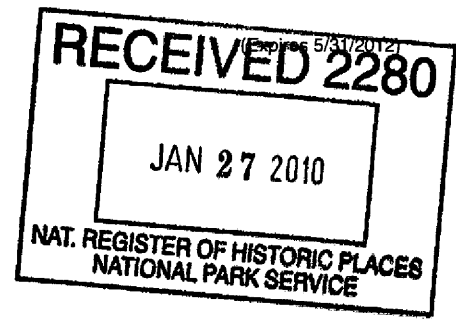
Wamolsen House: Latitude: 37° 29' 00"
Longitude: 97° 30' 15"

7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

NE/4 OKLAHOMA CITY 15' QUADRANGLE
GUTHRIE 29 MI.
2.1 MI. TO U.S. 66

(SPE)





United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

72080536

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Overholser House (additional documentation)

other names/site number Overholser Mansion

2. Location

street & number 405 Northwest 15th Street not for publication

city or town Oklahoma City vicinity

state Oklahoma code OK county Oklahoma code 109 zip code 73103

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this 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 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 local

Bob Seanku
Signature of certifying official

1/25/2010
Date

Title

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

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:) Additional Documentation Approved

Joe Edson N. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

2-24-10
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

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	0	buildings
0	0	district
0	0	site
1	0	structure
0	1	object
3	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single Dwelling

Domestic: Secondary Structure

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture: Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Chateausque

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: Stone

walls: Brick

Wood

roof: Clay Tile

other:

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Overholser Mansion, constructed in 1903 at 405 NW 15th Street, is a three-story with basement Chateausque residence situated on one quarter of a city block in an older residential neighborhood of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The grounds of the property are bounded on the south by NW 15th Street and the east by Hudson Avenue.

The Overholser Mansion was originally listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1970, for its association Urban Planning and Social/Humanitarian and for its architectural significance. The purpose of this additional documentation is to amend the nomination for the following reasons:

- 1) The previous documentation did not include a full architectural description for the property
- 2) Additional historical significance has been documented
- 3) Period of Significance has been amended

Narrative Description

House (Contributing):

The Overholser Mansion is a three-story with a basement Chateausque residence. Chateausque is a rare style used primarily for architect-designed landmark houses. Clad in buff-colored brick laid in a stretcher bond, the house has decorative brick quoins, and stone foundation clad with a smooth stucco finish. The lentil of the first and second floor windows and the sills of the second floor windows create a belt course. The tile roof of the main house is hipped with gabled dormers on each elevation. Each dormer features a triangular pediment with dentils and bargeboard at the eaves, dentilated cornice and two engaged square Ionic columns on either side of a one-over-one window. The dormer walls are clad in wood siding.

The primary façade, east elevation, has a tower at the southeast corner and brick quoins at each corner. The eight-sided tower has five one-over-one double hung windows with stained glass transoms on the first floor. There is a belt course and trim which creates a frieze over the windows. Between the first and second floor of the tower is a band of decorative terra cotta. The second floor has five one-over-one double hung windows. Located between the second and third floor is a band of fleur-de-lis, brackets and a frieze. The third floor has five one-over-one hung windows. The top pane is arched and has a brick header course surrounding the arch. At each corner of the tower on the third floor is an engaged column. The tower is capped with an eight-sided tile roof and a finial at the peak.

See Continuation Sheet

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)

Property is:

- 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture _____

Politics/Government _____

Period of Significance

1903-1915 _____

Significant Dates

1903 _____

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

Henry Overholser _____

Cultural Affiliation

N/A _____

Architect/Builder

W. S. Mathews _____

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins with the date Henry Overholser purchases the property to the date of his death.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria)

The Overholser House in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma was originally listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1970 for its direct association with Henry Overholser as a humanitarian and for his role in Urban Planning. It was also listed for its architecture. The Overholser House is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with Politics and Government, Criterion B for its association with Henry Overholser and under Criterion C as a rare local example of Chateauesque Architecture.

Narrative Statement of Significance (provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance)

See Continuation Sheet

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

See Continuation Sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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 # _____

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): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.1 acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	<u>14</u> Zone	<u>634314</u> Easting	<u>3927857</u> Northing	3	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing
2	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing	4	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

Classen Highland Park Addition, Block 007, Lots 10, 11 & 12

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The boundary includes all of the property associated with the Overholser House.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Allison Marshaus/Survey Coordinator & Lynda Schwan/National Register Program Coordinator
organization OK SHPO date October 14, 2009
street & number 2401 N Laird telephone 405-521-6249
city or town Oklahoma City state OK zip code 73105
e-mail _____

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Overholser House
City or Vicinity: Oklahoma City
County: Oklahoma **State:** Oklahoma
Photographer: Lynda B. Schwan
Date Photographed: September 25 and October 15, 2009

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

No.	Subject	Dir.
0001	Overholser House Façade	NW
0002	Overholser House East Façade	W
0003	Overholser House Rear Elevation	NE
0004	Interior, Parlor	
0005	Second Floor Stained Glass Windows	
0006	Carriage House	W

Overholser House
Name of Property

Oklahoma, Oklahoma
County and State

Property Owner:

(complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)

name Oklahoma Historical Society

street & number 2401 N Laird Ave telephone _____

city or town Oklahoma City state OK zip code 73105

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 18 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.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property Overholser House

County and State Oklahoma, Oklahoma

Name of Multiple Property Listing (If applicable)

Section number: 7 page: 9

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (CONTINUED)

House:

Located at the northeast corner of the primary façade, is a two-story bow window. The first floor of the bow window has three one-over-one double hung windows, each with a stained glass transom. The second floor has three one-over-one double hung windows. The remainder of the first floor has a French wood panel entry door and a one-over-one double hung window with a stained glass transom. The second floor has two one-over-one double hung windows. Between the second floor and the roof is a band of fleur-de-lis and brackets under the eave. Located in the roof are two gable front dormers. This elevation has a full width porch supported by both columns and engaged columns with Corinthian capitals.

The secondary façade, south elevation, is dominated by a porte-cochere in the center and the tower at the southeast corner. The corners of the porte-cochere have brick columns that resemble quoins that are capped with composite capitals. It has a simple, unornamented frieze. The south elevation has three arched openings supported by square columns. The center arch has a keystone. The east and west elevations of the porte-cochere has one arch.

The remainder of the south façade has a central entrance on the first floor, recessed under the porte-cochere. The door has glass and panel side lights and a three part transom. The façade has a bump-out at the southwest corner. The basement level has two one-over-one double hung windows. The first floor of this bump-out has two, one-over-one double hung windows with a stained glass transom. East of the central entrance are two one-over-one double hung windows with a stained glass transom. The east portion of the façade has a deck surface that extends to the east and north elevations. Where there is no porch roof, the deck has a masonry baluster. The south elevation also has a partial porch roof that is supported by both columns and engaged columns with Corinthian capitals. Located at all the corners on both the first and second floors are brick quoins. The second floor has three one-over-one double hung windows in the bump-out and three one-over-one double hung windows in the main body of the building. In the wall, between the main section of this elevation and the tower are two stained glass windows, each depicting a Greek female musician; one playing a violin and the other a tambourine. Between the second floor and the roof is a band of fleur-de-lis and brackets under the eave. Located in the roof are two gable front dormers. There are four shaped chimneys rising above the roof.

The north elevation has brick quoins at each corner. The first floor has four one-over-one double hung windows with stained glass transoms under the wrap around porch. The porch is supported with Corinthian capitals. The second floor of this section has four one-over-one double hung windows. Between the second floor and the roof is a band of fleur-de-lis that extends only half way around this elevation and brackets under the eave. Located in the roof

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are two gable front dormers. The recessed section of this elevation has two one-over-one double hung windows with leaded glass transoms, two stained glass windows that follow an interior stairway and a wood and glass door on the first floor. The entry has a vestibule area that is sided with wood clapboards and has a one-over-one double hung window. The second floor has four one-over-one double hung windows and two stained glass windows that follow an interior stairway. The eave has brackets. Located at the basement level are two one-over-one double hung windows.

The west elevation has five one-over-one double hung windows at the basement level. The first floor has five one-over-one double hung windows with stained glass transoms. The second floor has five one-over-one double hung windows. Located in the eaves are brackets. Located in the roof are two gable front dormers.

Interior:

An L-shaped hallway connects the main entrances on the east and north elevations. The entries have flush wood panel doors. The entrance on the east elevation also has an entry vestibule. In the main hall, from the east entrance, there is a fireplace with a blue tile surround and wood mantle. Entrances to the drawing room, across from the fireplace and staircase leading to the second floor, on the east side of the house, have Corinthian columns and engaged columns. The fireplace in the drawing room has Ionic columns with an unornamented frieze as a mantle. The south entrance is located between the sitting room and the dining room. A scaled down staircase leads to the second and third floors at this location. The second floor has bedrooms, bathrooms and the nursery. The third floor features multiple open rooms.

With minimal repair work, the walls and ceilings of first floor are covered with canvas and painted or stenciled by an artist from the Kensington Academy which are original to the house. Hamilton lived at the house while hanging the canvas and painting the walls.

The house appears to have windows by the Ford Brothers Glass Company whose locations were in Kansas City, Minneapolis, and Chicago. The range of window options in the house reflects the use of the rooms. The stairwell windows on the north side of the house exemplify simple pattered opalescent. The pattern is designed and appropriate colors cut from selected sheets of textured opalescent glass. On the second floor, in the stairwell on the south elevation, are excellent examples of what was sometime referred to as "Lady Windows," an image of graceful women, welcoming or exemplifying some laudable attribute. Here the window is a combination of opalescent - glass with variegated color within it - some antique - clear color glass and color. The painting includes enamels. The grape-trellis windows of dining room are

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superb example of design and skill; the windows show excellent three-dimensional rendition of grapes and leaves.¹

Carriage House (Contributing):

The Carriage House was constructed at the same time as the main house. This buff colored brick building has an asphalt shingled cross gable roof. Dentils are located in the eaves surrounding the entire building. Located at the peak of the roof is a square ventilator capped with a copper roof and finial.

The façade, east elevation, has a wood panel door, a single fixed pane window with a stone sill and a large sliding wood door. The window and pedestrian door have a flat arch masonry lintel. The first floor also has brick bump-out north of the sliding door. The area has no roof and a small opening directly in the center. This was used for manure storage. The second floor has an opening that once functioned for pulling hay into the loft area but is now a window and a one-over-one double hung window with a stone sill and lintel. Located in the gable peak is a one-over-one hung window. The top pane is arched and has a two-row header lintel.

The north elevation has a wood panel door at the northeast corner and a single story, shed roof brick addition at the northwest corner. The addition dates to 1998 and has an entry door on the west elevation. The second floor has two one-over-one double hung windows with stone sills and lintels. The west elevation has only three one-over-one double hung windows with stone sills and lintels on the second floor. The south elevation has three one-over-one double hung windows with flat arch masonry lintels and stone sills on the first floor. The second floor has three one-over-one double hung windows with stone sills and lintels. Located in the gable peak is a one-over-one hung window. The top pane is arched and has a two-row header lintel.

Interior:

The interior of the carriage house has brick walls and a pressed metal ceiling. Four Dutch doors leading into stables are located on the north portion of the room. Stairs are located on the south side of the building leading to the hayloft.

Cistern (Contributing):

Located off the northwest corner of the house is a cistern. The cistern is rock lined and has a cast cover over the opening. The cover has a door with "Made By Oklahoma City Foundry" located at the bottom edge.

Fountain (Non-Contributing):

¹ Virginia Raguin, Letter to OK SHPO, 06 June 2004.

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Located between the house and carriage house, the fountain was installed in 1999. The circular fountain is a non-contributing resource.

Setting/Landscaping:

The house is surrounded by decorative bushes. Located along the drive, on the south side of the property are large deciduous trees. Between the public sidewalk and the property, along the east side, are located deciduous trees. The area around the 1999 fountain is heavily landscaped with vines, annuals, perennials and deciduous trees.

Alterations

House:

Exterior work to the house included repair of the terra cotta roof and windows repairs in 2009. On the interior, plaster continues to be repaired and the kitchen was altered in the mid-twentieth century.

Carriage House

The Carriage House has been converted to exhibit space on the first floor and offices on the second floor. The one-story addition on the rear elevation was constructed in 1998.

Landscaping

The western most driveway was constructed in 1998.

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HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

Henry Overholser was an early capitalist in the Oklahoma Territory, who went on to become one of Oklahoma City's most influential community leaders. Henry Overholser was born in Ohio in 1846. After graduating from College in 1866, he began his career as a dry goods merchant in Sullivan, Indiana. Henry Overholser later tried mining silver in Colorado, and trading iron ore along Lake Superior, before his arrival in the Oklahoma Territory.²

In April of 1889, Henry Overholser came by train to the area that was developing into Oklahoma City. On April 22, 1889 an estimated fifty thousand people surrounded the Unassigned Lands of the Oklahoma Territory and at the strike of noon the run began. Chaos erupted as eager settlers attempted to stake claim to the land made available through the Homestead Act of 1862.³ Henry Overholser's previous explorations helped prepare him for what to expect in the Oklahoma Territory. Henry arrived a few days after the initial run with lumber, prefabricated buildings, and plenty of capital to finance his undertakings. Henry purchased lots along Grand (now Sheridan) and Robinson and quickly assembled six two-story buildings.⁴ The buildings offered residential space above a first floor commercial space.

Henry Overholser was recognized for this entrepreneurial mindset in May 1889 as he was elected President of the Board of Trade, the precursor to the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce.⁵ He also continued construction by building the three-story Grand Avenue Hotel, the brick United States Courthouse, and the Grand Avenue Opera House; all completed by 1891.⁶ These investments in the community perpetuated Overholser's popularity amongst the residents of the booming city. Beyond these profitable ventures, Henry also played a vital role in public contributions to the community.

Overholser partnered with C.G. Jones to lobby for the extension of the Frisco railroad line from Sapulpa to Oklahoma City. Overholser worked to secure funding from both public and private sources. Meanwhile, C.G. Jones worked with farmers along the route to donate land for the

² Blackburn, Bob L and P.B. Strasbaugh. A History of the State Fair of Oklahoma. Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Heritage Association, 1994. pg 68

³ <http://digital.library.okstate.edu/encyclopedia/entries/L/LA014.html> Hoig, Stan. *Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture: Land Run of 1889*. Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Historical Society.

⁴ Blackburn, 68.

⁵ Oklahoma City, OK, Oklahoma Historical Society Research Center, Chamber of Commerce Collection 1897-1988.

⁶ Oklahoma Magazine, The. 1912. pg 4

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right-of-way and lumber for the ties.⁷ Their work was successful and the Frisco arrived in Oklahoma City in 1897. Connecting Oklahoma City to Tulsa, Kansas City, and St. Louis through the railroad allowed for expeditious growth, tripling the population of Oklahoma City by 1900.

Henry Overholser also played a role in many of Oklahoma City's early achievements; from promoting the first streetcar line that encouraged growth beyond the downtown core to assisting with the establishment of waterworks to provide fire protection for the city. Overholser also played a key role in moving the Oklahoma State Capitol from Guthrie to Oklahoma City. In 1889 a bill was introduced to the territorial legislature to provide for the construction of a capitol building in Guthrie; it appeared the bill would pass. Overholser understood if this bill passed, Oklahoma City would lose its chance to house the State Capitol. Henry called a meeting of the Board of Trade and arrived the next morning in Guthrie with \$25,000.⁸ He laid the money on the speaker's desk with a promise the money would be forfeited to the Territory if they would build the capitol in Oklahoma City. Although the Territory never accepted the money, the boldness of Henry Overholser's actions continued the debate.

Henry Overholser not only longed for Oklahoma City to be a center of government, he also wanted the city to offer entertainment for Oklahoma City citizens. He took it upon himself to provide residents with entertainment. His first venture into entertainment was the construction of the Overholser Opera House and later the Overholser Theater; both were located on Grand Avenue (now Sheridan). Another part of his endeavor was achieved with the Oklahoma State Fair. Henry Overholser sought to make the fair financially stable. In an effort to increase attendance, he sought to provide better transportation routes to the fair grounds. The road leading to the fair grounds was dirt, causing problems in the unpredictable weather of an Oklahoman Autumn. Henry envisioned a streetcar line and paved road to the fair grounds.⁹ However, the owner of the abutting properties refused to approve the paving, so Overholser bought the lots himself creating the necessary majority. Still the paving company was not convinced; they refused to start work until Henry backed it with a bond pledge. The road to the fair grounds was paved and a streetcar line was constructed allowing Oklahomans to visit the fair and increase profitability of the State Fair.

Henry Overholser also served the community through public office. Henry Overholser's first position in public office was by appointment. The Assessor struggled to obtain accurate

⁷ *Daily Oklahoman*, April 22, 1910.

⁸ *Oklahoma Magazine*, The. 1912. pg 4

⁹ *Daily Oklahoman*, April 22, 1910.

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assessments of the residents stock and the value of their real estate. The Assessor offered to resign his position only if Henry Overholser would replace him.¹⁰ Henry accepted the position of assessor and many were amazed with the accuracy of his estimate and his knowledge of the value of goods. Henry was later elected County Commissioner; a powerful position and one held in an effort to stabilize the finances of Oklahoma County. When the affairs of the county were permanently established on a sound financial basis Henry resigned from office. He was not always successful in his runs for public office. He ran for Mayor of Oklahoma City twice and was defeated in both elections.

Henry had four children by two different wives. Henry's first marriage ended in divorce in approximately 1880.¹¹ The couple had two children Elizabeth and Edward (he went by Ed). Ed joined his father in Oklahoma City on April 2, 1890.¹² Ed began his career as the operator of the Overholser Opera House. Eventually he followed in his fathers lead and became a distinguished leader of Oklahoma City.

In October of 1889, six months after arriving in Oklahoma Territory, Henry was married to Anna lone Murphy, the daughter of Samuel Murphy the first Territorial Treasurer. The couple initially resided in the Grand Avenue Hotel before construction of their house. The couple had two children; in 1891, a son Henry Samuel who died in infancy; and on April 5, 1905, a daughter Henry lone. Anna frequently entertained and was involved in many social affiliations, including the Chafing Dish and Five O'Clock Tea. Along with these meetings, she frequently entertained at the house.¹³

While on a tour of Europe in 1911, Henry Overholser suffered a stroke. He lingered as an invalid until his death on August 25, 1915.¹⁴ Anna continued to live in the house until her death in 1940. Henry lone also resided there with her husband David J. Perry until her death in 1959.

¹⁰ Oklahoma Magazine, The. 1912. pg 4

¹¹ Everett, Dianna. *Oklahoma Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture: Henry Overholser*. Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Historical Society

¹² Fugate, Tally D. *Oklahoma Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture: Edward Graham McLain Overholser*. Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Historical Society

¹³ Fugate, Tally D. *Oklahoma Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture: Anna lone Murphy Overholser*. Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Historical Society.

¹⁴ Everett.

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ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Overholser House is an exceptional local example of the Chateausque architecture in Oklahoma City. Chateausque is a rare style used primarily for architect-designed landmark houses. Scattered examples are found throughout the country the trend persisted through the first decade of the twentieth-century.¹⁵ The Overholser House exemplifies the Chateausque style. The details that contribute to the styles emphasis on vertical elements include: steeply pitched roofline, triangular pedimented dormers with dentils and bargeboard at the eaves, tall decorative capped chimneys, and octagonal tower capped with a sharply pitched octagonal roof completed with a finial. The decorative elements further illustrate Chateausque style with the elaborate fleur-de-lis cresting along the roofline, decorative brick quoins, and bow windows.

W.S. Mathews, an architect trained at London's Kensington Academy designed the Overholser House.¹⁶ W.S. Mathews was a member of the Kansas City chapter of the AIA in 1891.¹⁷ Mathews not only designed the house, he also oversaw the construction and furnishing. Overholser constructed his house to convey his believe in the permanence of Oklahoma City.

In 1972, the house was acquired by the Oklahoma Historical Society through funds raised primarily by the Oklahoma Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. Restoration and operation of the house has been aided through the efforts of the National Society of Colonial Dames of America; Historical Preservation, Inc.; the Women's Architectural League; and Friends of the Overholser. The house is operated by Preservation Oklahoma, a private non-profit dedicated to preserving Oklahoma's historic places.

SUMMARY

The Overholser House is an Oklahoma City landmark, a legacy to the late Henry Overholser and the City he helped create. It is also an architectural attraction, designed by an accomplished architect using quality materials to create a high style residence. The Overholser House is also a rare example of the Chateausque style in the community. The National Register of Historic Places listing for the Overholser House should be amended to include additional architectural and historic documentation of the property.

¹⁵ McAlester, Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*. (New York: Knopf, 1984,) 373.

¹⁶ Everett.

¹⁷ Adler, Dankmar, *Proceedings of the Twenty-Fifth Annual Convention of the American Institute of Architects*. Chicago: Inland Architect Press, 1892.

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