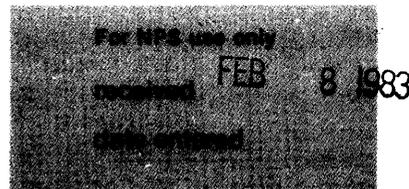


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



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

1. Name

historic Mendenhall's Bath House

and/or common Keller's Bath House

2. Location

street & number 601 East 7th Street

NA not for publication

city, town Claremore

vicinity of

congressional district

state Oklahoma

code 40

county Rogers

code 131

3. Classification

Category

- district
- building(s)
- structure
- site
- object

Ownership

- public
- private
- both
- Public Acquisition**
- NA in process
- NA being considered

Status

- occupied
- unoccupied
- work in progress
- Accessible**
- yes: restricted
- yes: unrestricted
- no

Present Use

- agriculture
- commercial
- educational
- entertainment
- government
- industrial
- military
- museum
- park
- private residence
- religious
- scientific
- transportation
- other: Vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Keller Bathhouse Inc.

street & number 312 S. Muskogee

city, town Claremore

vicinity of

state Oklahoma 74017

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the County Clerk

street & number Rogers County Courthouse 219 South Missouri

city, town Claremore

state Oklahoma

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1981

federal state county local

depository for survey records Oklahoma Historical Society - State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Oklahoma City

state Oklahoma

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Mendenhall Bathhouse nomination is composed of two buildings and two structures: the bathhouse, the well house, and two storage tanks. The bathhouse consists of bathing facilities and guest rooms, the well house contains the artesian well used to pump mineral water for the bathhouse, and the two storage tanks were used to store the mineral water from the artesian well. The bathhouse and the storage tanks are located on the same piece of property, at 601 East 7th, and the well house is located two blocks north, at 9th and Lavira.

Mendenhall Bathhouse, built in 1903, is a two-story 56' by 40' rectangular structure constructed of red brick laid in a running bond course. It has a flat roof with a 3' parapet on three sides.

On the first floor of the front of the structure there are four tall 2/2 double hung sash windows and three 2/2 double hung sash windows. Above each of the windows there is a plain wooden lintel. Each window has a pair of two panel shutters.

On the second floor of the front of the structure there are six tall 2/2 double hung windows.

The first floor of the southwest side of the structure has five 2/2 double hung sash windows. On the second floor of the same side there are three tall 2/2 double hung sash windows and one 2/2 double hung sash window.

There are two entrances to the structure. One is located on the first floor of the front of the structure and the other is on the second floor of the southwest side.

The door in the front is a wooden panel door with lights in the upper half. Above the door there is a transom window. In addition to the wooden door, there is a metal and screen outer door.

The door on the southwest side is also a wooden panel door with lights in the upper half. A wooden staircase with a second story landing leads from the ground to the door.

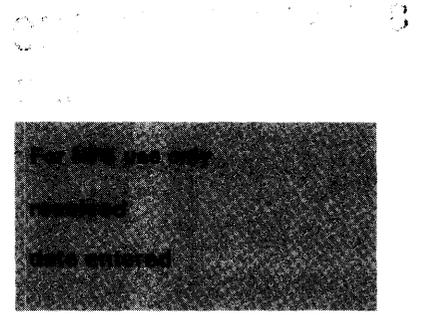
A two-tiered porch with a slanting roof extends across the entire front of the structure. It has decorative, wrought iron porch posts on both the first and second tiers. The porch posts on the first floor are set on concrete pedestals and have triangle-shaped wrought iron brackets. On the second tier there is a wrought iron railing with elaborate wrought iron panels.

At the rear of the structure there are two 20' circular redwood holding tanks for the mineral water. Both were built ca. 1907. They are approximately 8' off the ground and are supported by a one-half story building constructed of red brick laid in a running bond course. Brick walls extend from each corner of the structure to better support the holding tanks.

The well house, built in 1903, is a 6' by 6' square structure with a shed roof made of tar paper. Sandstone laid in a random rubble course is the construction material.

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Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page

In the center of the rear of the structure there is a window which has been boarded over. On the west side there is a solid wooden door which provides the only access to the structure.

Alterations to the structures have been minimal. In the mid-1920's the well house was painted white and in the late 1910's a one-story, 8' by 8' brick structure was added to the east corner of the rear of the bath house. Neither alteration significantly affects the architectural or historical integrity of the structure.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1903-1980 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

Mendenhall's Bath House, constructed in 1903, is significant for several reasons: (1) it was the first mineral water facility of its kind built in Oklahoma, occurring three years before statehood when its location in Claremore was still a community in Indian Territory (2) it was operational from 1904 to 1980, a period of over 75 years, which outlasted all other mineral water bath houses in the state as a functional operation (3) during the peak period of mineral water usage for medicinal and curative purposes from ca. 1910 to 1940, it became well-known throughout the Midwest as one of the best facilities of its kind and attracted thousands of visitors annually which played a vital role in the regional economy of northeastern Oklahoma (4) although other facilities of this type are still standing in northeastern Oklahoma, it is the best remaining example of this unique recreational, medicinal, and commercial facility because the historic integrity of the entire complex (bath house, well house, and two mineral water storage tanks) has been retained.

While drilling for oil near Claremore, Oklahoma in 1903, George Eaton inadvertently discovered an unusual water with a strange stench. It was soon revealed that Eaton had struck a vein of mineral water, or "radium water" as it was referred to locally. Mineral water was believed to have curative powers for those who swam or bathed in it.

The Mendenhall Family of Claremore, Oklahoma was the first in northeastern Oklahoma to capitalize on the use of mineral water for curative purposes. One year after the discovery by Eaton, the Mendenhalls constructed a bath house, lodging facilities, and storage tanks; and began to advertize in newspapers throughout the Midwest. By 1906 three more mineral wells had been drilled in the Claremore area and several more bath houses were under construction. None of these, however, retain the historic integrity as does the Mendenhall complex, or were operational as long.

Mineral water played a vital role in the economy of northeastern Oklahoma during the peak period of its usage from ca. 1910-1940. Long after most of the bath houses and lodges, which featured mineral water facilities, were closed, the Mendenhall Bath House attracted visitors and clients. It closed in 1980 after 75 years of service to the people of the region.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Benedict, John D. History of Muskogee and North Eastern Oklahoma. Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1922.

Interview with Bob Keller, current owner, July 1981.

"The Eastern University Preparatory School", Harlow's Weekly, Vol. 8 No. 22 (May 22, 1915), p. 349

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Claremore, Oklahoma

Quadrangle scale 7.5 minute

UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>5</u>	<u>2</u> <u>6</u> <u>6</u> <u>5</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>0</u> <u>2</u> <u>1</u> <u>3</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>	Well House	B	<u>1</u> <u>5</u>	<u>2</u> <u>6</u> <u>6</u> <u>5</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>0</u> <u>2</u> <u>1</u> <u>5</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>	Bath House
	Zone	Easting	Northing			Zone	Easting	Northing	
C					D				
E					F				
G					H				

Verbal boundary description and justification

Bath House & Storage Tanks - Lot 1, Block 156, Original Townsite of Claremore, Oklahoma.

Well House - Lot 3, Block 160, Original Townsite of Claremore, Oklahoma.

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

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Claudia A. Craig Supervised by Dr. George O. Carney

organization Northeastern Oklahoma Counties Survey date February, 1982

street & number Oklahoma State University telephone 405/624-6250

city or town Stillwater state Oklahoma

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *C. M. [Signature]* date 2-2-83

title _____ date _____

For NPS use only
I hereby certify that this property meets the criteria for the National Register

[Signature] 3/13/83
Special Agent in Charge

[Signature] 3/23/83
Chief of Registration