

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

330

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.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: Comer, C.A., House

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing:

Resources Designed by Bruce Goff in Oklahoma

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

2. Location

Street & number: 1316 North Creek

City or town: Dewey State: Oklahoma County: Washington

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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


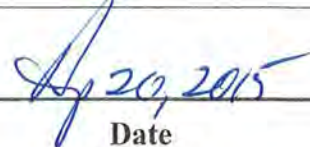
I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

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 X C ___ D

			
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	

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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 Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

6-8-15
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

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic: Single Dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic: Single Dwelling

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: Organic

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick

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

The C.A. Comer House, is located in a residential area dating to the 1920s in Dewey, Oklahoma. It is a one-story gable front building with an irregular floor plan. The house is wood-framed with brick walls and vertical wood siding. Striking features of the house include the clerestory window and the cantilevered beams projecting from the façade. The beams, supported by cables originating above the roof, support the carport which is also suspended from the beams. Designed in 1957, the C.A. Comer House has a high degree of architectural integrity and is an excellent example of the work of the master architect Bruce Goff.

Narrative Description

The façade of the C.A. Comer Houses faces west onto North Creek Street. The house is organic in plan with geometric elements throughout the design. The façade, west elevation, has a recessed central entry that is accessed via brick and concrete steps. The double entry doors are hinged on the sides and framed with wood. The central glass panel has divided glass with wood mullions in a zigzag pattern. On either side of the entry are side lights and a built-in glass

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mailbox to the north. To either side of the entry is a brick wall. Beyond the brick wall, to both the north and south, is a projecting triangular form with wood paneling and a narrow glass window at the wall junction. Beyond the projection in each direction is a brick wall. Above the brick wall, extending into the front gable roof is a large clerestory window. The window extends into the wood paneled projection as well. Extending west from the point of the wood panel projection, on each side of the central entry, is a wood beam with a glass panel at the end. Also extending upward from the same point of the wood panel projection is a turned steel bar. Both the projecting wood beam and turned steel bar support, via steel cables, an ell-shaped carport roof. From the façade, the interior Y-shaped walls extend above the center of the roof.

The brick wall from the façade wraps around to the north elevation at the corner. Located in the center of the elevation is a large wood panel. The northeast corner also has brick which extends to the rear elevation. Between the wood panel and the brick sections of the north elevation is a long narrow single pane window. The south elevation is identical to the north elevation.

The rear, east elevation, is as geometrically diverse as the façade. Starting in the center of the elevation, there is a projecting wood paneled triangular bay, which has at the intersecting point of the walls, a window with a small clerestory triangular shaped window on either side tucked under the roof. The north and south sections of this elevation are identical. Next to the wood projection is a wood and glass door, a multi-pane window and a brick wall that projects slightly. Extending from the roof, in line with the door on either side of this elevation, is a wood beam with a square glass detail. Also, at each “corner” on this elevation is a horizontal spike-like scuppers. Where the triangular shaped wood panel projection extends into the yard is a triangular planter with brick walls and a concrete cap.

Interior:

The public functions of the one-story house are contained at the center of the building with the kitchen in the front and the living room and recreation room toward the rear. These three components are organized in an open-plan and partially separated from one another by an inverted Y-shaped brick partition. The kitchen is defined by two arms of the Y, and the stem with a two-way fireplace divides the back space.

The bedrooms occupy both ends of the irregular floor plan. The bedroom walls adjacent to the public areas of the house are wood folding partitions which can open to visually extend the spaces or closed for privacy. The organic design of the interior spaces include: main room is heptagonal; bedrooms are pentagonal; and, the bathrooms are hexagonal.

Storage

Located under, and providing support for, the carport, at the north end, is a contributing one-story storage facility. It is constructed of wood paneling for walls, concrete for a foundation and has a wood roof. At the southwest corner of the south elevation there are three side-hinged doors. These are the only elements on the building.

Shed

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Located in the back yard of the property is a modern, non-contributing one-story gable front shed. It rests on a concrete pad, has wood panel siding and an asphalt shingled roof.

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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.)

- 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

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Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1957

Significant Dates

1957

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Goff, Bruce, Architect

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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.)

The C.A. Comer House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as the work of master architect, Bruce Goff. It relates to the post-World War II buildings in the historic context of *Resources Designed by Bruce Goff in Oklahoma* (Section E). Most of the characteristics defining Goff's compositional pattern are evident in the Comer House. The open-plan, a central idea in most of Goff's work, is present as well as the wood folding partitions that allow spaces to be opened or closed off to the rest of the house. The house also features a dominant fireplace in the center of the open-plan serving to organize the public spaces. Goff's inclination to restrict the views from inside the house to the exterior is prominent in the building since most of the natural light comes from the large clerestory on the façade. The front is also characterized by an expression of articulated elements that enrich the composition. The C.A. Comer House is significant at the local level as an excellent example of organic architecture.

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

Mr. and Mrs. C.A. Comer wanted a house that was unique from the others in their neighborhood of older, smaller bungalows. However, they felt constrained by their restricted budget and small site. Mr. Comer, a real estate and insurance agent, heard of Goff through business contacts. Mrs. Comer specifically requested a tripartite division of public areas with the kitchen located at the front of the house. Goff later recalled that the house cost \$22,000 to build.

Designed by Goff in 1957, The C.A. Comer House belongs to the family of designs characterized by a composite plan geometry—an arrangement of rectangular and angled forms. Although it was a small, low-budget project, the house has most of the characteristics that comprise Goff's compositional pattern. It is one of the very few post-World War II designs that does not have a split-level vertical organization nor is there any modulation of the floor plan or built-in seating. It is likely that the absence of these characteristics is a reflection of the client's budget. Missing too is the reflecting pool Goff was fond of, but again, it is probably the result of the budget and small site size. All of the other Goff characteristics are present. The fireplace, serving both the living room and recreation room, is integrated with the Y-shaped masonry partition that divides the major spaces. Its central location, with a dominant chimney, echoes precepts Frank Lloyd Wright established early in his career. The open-plan, appearing in most of Goff's work, is also present as are the ubiquitous folding partitions to visually extend the bedroom spaces. With both partitions open, the house becomes pavilion-like with only a screening element in the middle. Like much of Goff's work, the ceiling and roof plan are one with the exposed structural wood decking providing the finished surface inside.

There is a sense of spatial hierarchy in the house established by the relationship of the gabled roof and the bedrooms. Located at both ends of the irregular plan, the plane of the ceiling is

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lower in the bedrooms and evokes associations of intimacy. Conversely, the ceiling slopes upward to the centralized masonry partition creating larger volumes in the public areas and emphasizing the centrality of the fireplace. In the center of the space, around the interior Y-shaped walls, is a central skylight.

Goff's propensity to restrict views from inside the house to the exterior is quite pronounced in the C.A. Comer House. Indeed, there are no conventional windows in the house at all and the primary source of natural light is the large clerestory filling the gable on the façade and rear wall windows. This strategy of placement of a transparent plane of glass in the gable interacts with another design imperative, one of giving each component a sense of autonomy. Many of Goff's houses feature a roof with deep overhangs with a pronounced separation of the roof from the wall planes. This arrangement has a practical advantage since it allows natural light to penetrate the inner spaces of the house while protecting the glass from the intense summer sun. It also has important visual implications: the deep roof overhang creates a strong shadow that magnifies the thin edge of the roof. The illusion is one of lightness. The roof becomes a very thin plan containing the earth-bound composition below yet separating it from the sky above.

Other prominent characteristics include an articulated façade coupled with an expression of structure. In one respect, the closet alcoves faced with brick recall the protruding alcoves of the Graves House of 1919 but, in the C.A. Comer House, Goff also located another service element even further beyond the wall plane, the bathrooms which appear to interlock with the closets. By modification of the geometry of these forms and changes in materials and colors, Goff defined a façade rich in contrast. He also intensified this contrast with the addition of an ensemble of elements set in front of the house that have a dramatic structural expression. The continuum of cantilevered beams with decorated center posts and suspended canopy all add visual excitement. They exist independently of the house, floating in space yet skillfully integrated with the façade composition.

Goff had very clear ideas about the importance of changes in scale in a composition and the use of ornament. This concern is evident in several features in the face of the C.A. Comer House. The entry doors, rich with a triangular motif and delicate pattern, invites one closer. The light fixtures, poised at the end of the cantilevered beams, visually terminate the linear elements and effectively illuminate the front at night. The center posts, thrusting into the sky, are decorated with a motif of painted steel diamond shapes welded to the posts.

The C.A. Comer House is an important work by Bruce Goff and exhibits those characteristics which define his compositional pattern. It is an expression of his architectural ideals and is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as the work of a master architect.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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

The Art Institute of Chicago *Bruce Goff Collection* © Ernest R. Graham Study Center for Architectural Drawings, Department of Architecture accessed online 11 December 2014 at <http://www.artic.edu/research/bruce-goff-archive>

Bucher, Ward ed. *Dictionary of Building Preservation*. New York: John Wiley and Sons, 1996.

DeLong, David Gilson. *The Architecture of Bruce Goff*. 2 vols. New York: Garland Publishing, 1977.

DeLong, David. *Bruce Goff: Toward Absolute Architecture*. New York: The Architectural History Foundation, 1988.

Dewlen, Al. "Architecture's Unpredictable Artist." *Coronet*, 43 (March 1958) 40-45.

Friends of Kebyar. *Bruce Goff Oklahoma Guide*. Atlanta, GA: Friends of Kebyar, Inc. 22.1 (2005-2006).

Henderson, Arn. *Resources Designed by Bruce Goff in Oklahoma* Multiple Property Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, 1999.

Jennings, Jan and Herbert Gottfried. *American Vernacular Interior Architecture, 1870-1940*. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1987.

Kostka, Robert. "Bruce Goff and the New Tradition." *The Prairie School Review*. 7 (Second Quarter, 1970) 5-8.

McAlester, Virginia. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2013.

Nicolides, Paul Nicholas. *Bruce Goff and His Architecture* – a thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of requirements for the degree Master of Architecture, Kansa State University, 1960.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Maps for Tulsa, Tulsa County Oklahoma. 1911, 1919, 1935 and 1935*.

Welch, Philip B. *Goff on Goff*. Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1996.

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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 # _____
- 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): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than 1 _____

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: 36.805648 | Longitude: -95.933111 |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

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

The building is located on Lot 10 and south 20' of Lot 11 of Block 7 of Norwoods Second Addition in Dewey, Oklahoma.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes the property historically associated with the house.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Arn Henderson, professor emeritus University of Oklahoma School of Architecture/edits by Lynda Ozan, National Register Program Coordinator
organization: OK/SHPO
street & number: 800 Nazih Zuhdi Dr
city or town: Oklahoma City state: OK zip code: 73105
e-mail lozan@okhistory.org
telephone: 405-522-4478
date: January 20, 1999 and 11 December 2014

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

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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: Comer, C.A., House

City or Vicinity: Dewey

County: Washington

State: Oklahoma

Photographer: Lynda S. Ozan

Date Photographed: 28 January 2015

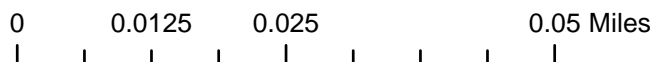
Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photograph Number	Subject	Direction
0001	Façade	East
0002	Façade Doors	East
0003	Façade Lighting Detail	South
0004	Rear Elevation	West
0005	Fireplace	Interior
0006	Entry	Interior
0007	Roof Detail	Interior

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.

Comer, C.A., House
1316 North Creek
Dewey, Washington County, Oklahoma







1316











UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Comer, C.A., House

MULTIPLE NAME: Bruce Goff Designed Resources in Oklahoma MPS

STATE & COUNTY: OKLAHOMA, Washington

DATE RECEIVED: 4/24/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/19/15
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/03/15 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/09/15
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000330

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 6-8-15 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

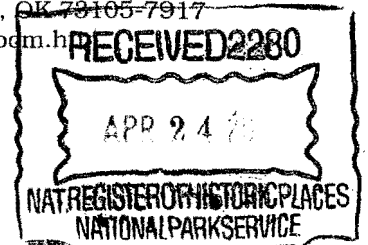
If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



Oklahoma Historical Society
State Historic Preservation Office

Founded May 27, 1893

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



April 21, 2015

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

Dear Mr. Loether:

We are pleased to transmit four National Register of Historic Places nominations for Oklahoma properties. The nominations are for the following properties:

Hays-Kennedy/Rivoli Theater Building, Blackwell, Kay County
Comer, C.A., House, Dewey, Washington County
Elizabeth Manor, Tulsa, Tulsa County
Czech Hall Oklahoma City, Laska Lodge, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County

All members of the Historic Preservation Review Committee (state review board) were present for the public meeting at which each of these nominations was considered and the recommendation to the State Historic Preservation Officer was formulated. Therefore, the member possessing the requisite professional qualifications for evaluation of each nominated property 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