

REC

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

MAY 8 2001

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL REGISTER
& EDUCATION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1. Name of Property

historic name Riverside Studio

other names/site number Tulsa Spotlight Club

2. Location

street & number 1381 Riverside Drive not for publication n/a

city or town Tulsa vicinity n/a

state Oklahoma code OK county Tulsa code 143

zip code 74119

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Bob Blankenship _____ Date 4-26-01
Signature of certifying official

OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, SHPO
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register

Edson H. Beal 6/14/01

 other (explain): _____

for _____ Date of Action
Signature of Keeper

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5. Classification
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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

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u> 1 </u>	<u> 0 </u> buildings
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u> sites
<u> 0 </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

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) Resources Designed by Bruce Goff in Oklahoma

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6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: RECREATION AND CULTURE Sub: Theater

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

MODERN MOVEMENT: International Style

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation n/a

roof Asphalt

walls Stucco

Glass

other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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8. Statement of Significance
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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 a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance 1928

Significant Dates n/a

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8. Statement of Significance (Continued)
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Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
n/a

Cultural Affiliation n/a

Architect/Builder Goff, Bruce, Architect

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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9. Major Bibliographical References
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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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: University of Oklahoma

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10. Geographical Data
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Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>15</u>	<u>230270</u>	<u>4000350</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

N/A See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Professor Arn Henderson, FAIA

organization Architecture Dept., University of OK date 1/20/99

street & number Gould Hall telephone 325-3868

city or town Norman state OK zip code 73069

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Additional Documentation
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Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

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.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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Property Owner
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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Tulsa Spotlight, Inc.

street & number 1381 Riverside Drive telephone _____

city or town Tulsa state OK zip code 74119
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name of multiple property listing

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Summary

The Riverside Studio is located on a hillside lot at 1381 Riverside Drive in a 1920s residential area near downtown Tulsa, facing the Arkansas River. It is a two-story building with a flat roof and stucco exterior. One of the primary decorative features of the building is the large, round, fixed window dominating the facade. Other windows on the front are stepped and combined with alternating inserts of black glass to form a diagonal pattern. The plan of the building is complex with a series of irregular projecting wings. The Riverside Studio, employing both Art Deco and International Style design concepts, is one of Bruce Goff's most creative buildings constructed in Tulsa during the formative years of his architectural career.

Description

Riverside Studio was designed by Bruce Goff for Patti Adams Shriner, a local music teacher. Designed and built in 1928, it is a two-story stucco building set on a sloping site facing the Arkansas River. The plan of the building, combining a music studio and living quarters, is an irregular arrangement of projecting wings which add visual complexity to the design. The surrounding area is primarily residential, with small apartment buildings and single-family houses dating from the 1920s. The design of the building echoes precepts of both Art Deco and the International Style with its crisp white stucco treatment on the exterior and the flat-roofed blockish elements. Yet, the Riverside Studio is also a personalized design because of the abstract decorative motifs on the facade derived from musical notation.

The two-story entrance hall on the west elevation is the most prominent feature of the building. Two sets of exterior stairs lead to a common landing to provide access to a recessed foyer with small practice rooms at both ends. The distinctive feature of the foyer is a large circular glass window overlooking the entry and the adjacent Arkansas River. An abstract geometric pattern, derived from music scores, is etched into the glass of the circular window. Smaller rectangular windows on either side of the entry are stepped and alternate with black glass tile inserts to create a contrasting diagonal pattern against the white stucco. This motif is also extended to the side walls of the entrance hall. All of the windows throughout the building have

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thin metal frames which further links its primary source of reference to European modernism.

Behind the foyer is the recital hall for an audience that would face east toward the stage in the next wing of the building. The one-story auditorium has three sets of narrow, double-doors on the north and south sides with transoms above. The auditorium, as a connecting element between the entrance hall and living quarters, is relatively narrow and this geometric configuration defines partially enclosed patio areas on both north and south elevations of the building.

The wing east of the auditorium houses the stage for recitals. At the north end of the stage is a small service area and kitchen, and at the south end is a living room, garage, entry, stairwell and servant quarters. This end of the wing is two-stories tall with a smaller area projecting to three stories. Private living quarters of the house are located on the upper floors of the rear wing. Materials for the rear wing of the house are the same as the front entrance hall--white stucco walls with steel casement windows. A tower-like projection attached to the front of the living quarters wing has a long narrow fixed window with panels of colorful stained glass.

Although visual continuity for the building is achieved with stuccoed walls, there are differences in massing of the forms toward the facade at the bottom of the sloping site and those forms toward the rear at the top of the hill. Forms defining the entry and recital hall are symmetrical with window placement visually sustaining the dominance of that symmetry. The composition of forms at the rear of the building are asymmetrical. And the pattern of windows is informal; placement is related to the spaces within as either single windows or as an assembly of three windows. Thus the overall composition of the building is one of symmetry played against asymmetry, of formality played against informality.

Alterations

Over the years the building has had some alterations to the interior decorative features. Originally, the living room apartment featured walls paneled in grey-green wood imported from Japan, an aluminum leafed ceiling and a fireplace finished with green marble and black glass. These features are no longer present. There were also four murals in the recital hall painted by a

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Tulsa artist, Olinka Hrdy, which are lost. On the exterior of the building, the original fountain at the entry designed by Alfonso Iannelli has been dismantled. Side doors on the recital hall are blocked by the placement of air conditioning units and ducts, which have been poorly designed in regards to the aesthetics of the building. The building, currently in use for theatrical productions, is in only fair condition. Some of the exterior windows have been painted or covered with plywood and the stucco is cracking in several places around the building. However, the major formal elements of the Riverside Studio are present, warranting its eligibility to the National Register under Criterion C, because of its importance as a design of the master architect Bruce Goff during his formative years.

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Summary

The Riverside Studio, designed in 1928, is a major work of Bruce Goff during his formative years in Tulsa. It is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C as a work of the master architect, Bruce Goff. It relates to the pre-World War II buildings in the historic context of "Resources Designed by Bruce Goff in Oklahoma" (Section E). The design of the building reflects an influence of both Art Deco and the International Style but a more personalized interpretation. The underlying inspiration for the design is music, evoking a concept that architecture might be interpreted as "frozen music." This theme is visualized in the treatment of the windows on the facade of the building. Riverside Studio is also a good example of Goff's development with interlocking geometry as a formal dimension of design. The Riverside Studio has a high degree of architectural significance as a creation of the master architect Bruce Goff during his formative years in Tulsa.

Historical Background

The Riverside Studio was a progressively modern and unique design that attracted many sightseers soon after it was built. But Mrs. Shriner became irritated over the number people who stopped to tour the building and not take piano lessons. Goff tried to comfort her by suggesting that the building could bring her business because of its unusual design. He believed that her jealousy of the building complicated her business affairs, as well as her inability to get along with any of the teachers that she hired. She eventually lost the building to the mortgage company and it was resold.

Architectural Significance

Riverside Studio was designed by Goff in 1928 for Mrs. Patti Adams Shriner, a music teacher who wanted to combine a music studio for teaching piano lessons with her living quarters. The design of the studio was an opportunity for Goff to explore the relationship between architecture and music and he developed several motifs with specific references to music that might visually express this relationship. The rhythm of windows and inset tile forming diagonal patterns on the walls of the entrance hall drew their inspiration from musical scales. The round window on the front of the building derived its decorative pattern from musical scores that Goff composed while he was working on the design. The fountain also was designed to be harmonious with

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the musical theme of the building. The pipes that dripped water over Iannelli's abstract marble sculpture into chromium cups were of varying size to create music-like tones as the water splashed into the pool below. For Goff all of these ideas were a way of visualizing an interpretation of architecture as "frozen music."

In many respects the design reflects an influence of both Art Deco and the International Style on Goff's developing aesthetic ideals. However, he rejected a strict interpretation because he felt that it was too impersonal. Although the exterior the building has a characteristic crisp stucco finish, the treatment of the windows represents both a personalized interpretation of modernism and a radical departure. Since the building was designed to be a place of music, that reference was visualized on the exterior; thereby suggesting that the building was indeed true to its purpose. Furthermore, the elaborate murals painted by Olinka Hrdy to represent different types of music and Goff's interest in surfaces rich in pattern and color, such as the aluminum-leafed ceiling and the soft, grey-green Japanese paneling in the apartments, also represented a departure from the International Style.

Goff utilized the steep site to great advantage in creating a powerful three-dimensional composition. The irregularity of the plan, with projecting wings, coupled with roofs of varying heights assured an image of rich form when seen from either the top, side or bottom of the hill. The effect of changing light and shadows from the passage of the sun magnified the interlocking geometry of the cubic forms stepping down the hill. This aspect of design--of interlocking geometric forms, particularly linear forms--was later to become a principle concept of his architectural expression. In Goff's 1930 article "A Declaration of Independence," he said that too often buildings are treated as if they are two-dimensional, instead of three-dimensional.

Riverside Studio represents Goff's philosophic commitment to an expression that reflected both purpose and site as design determinants. The underlying musical theme expressed in the building is very unusual in the history of modern architecture and this expression establishes it as one of Goff's most unique and successful designs built during the formative years of his career. Riverside Studio has a high degree of architectural significance and is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C, as a work of the master architect, Bruce Goff.

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Bibliography

Books

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Mohri, Takenobu. Bruce Goff in Architecture. Tokyo: Kenchiku Planning Center, Co., Ltd., 1970.

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Other

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Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 11, 12, and 13 of Block 10 of the Norvell Park Resubdivision of Blocks 1-9-10-14.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries include the property historically associated with the property.