

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Oklahoma
COUNTY	Oklahoma
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAR 19 1974

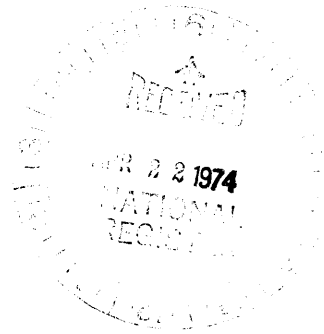
(Number all entries)

No. 8. Significance

Fairchild Winery

spring, hired a stone mason to rebuild the front wall. Though running water and electricity have been added, the structure remains much as it was when completed in 1893, a fine example of stone masonry -- using the ancient (though rare to Oklahoma) wedged mass principle -- and one of the oldest, essentially unaltered, man-made structures in Oklahoma City.

With an informal rock patio at the entrance, the restored winery now serves as a meeting place for heritage-minded civic, historical, and social groups. It is also included on certain conducted tours. In time it is anticipated the property will be turned over to the Oklahoma Historical Society.



Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Oklahoma	
COUNTY: Oklahoma	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAR 13 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Fairchild Winery

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
1600 NE 81 St.

CITY OR TOWN:
Oklahoma City

STATE Oklahoma	CODE 40	COUNTY: Oklahoma	CODE 109
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" 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/informal	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Meeting Room for Civic, Historical, Social Groups

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
George H. Shirk

STREET AND NUMBER:
Route 4, Box 394

CITY OR TOWN: Oklahoma City	STATE: Oklahoma	DATE: APR 22 1974	CODE: 40
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:
Oklahoma County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Oklahoma City	STATE: Oklahoma	CODE: 40
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Private Survey - Fairchild Winery

DATE OF SURVEY: **1972** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Oklahoma City Historical Preservation Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
200 N. Walker

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

STATE: Oklahoma
COUNTY: Oklahoma
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Basically Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

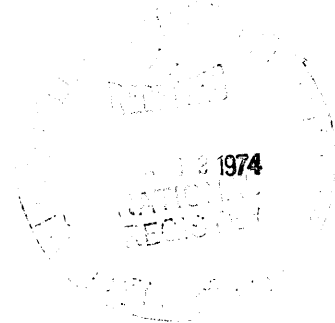
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

For his wine vault Fairchild chose a spring-fed site on the slope of a shallow draw near the center of his claim. Out of solid rock he chiseled the floor of the 14 x 41-foot structure. Just inside the four walls he had cut an additional foot-deep trench through which cold water was circulated from the spring house beside the arched doorway.

Reddish sandstone, believed to have come from a quarry near Guthrie, was used to build up the side walls to a height of about five feet. Then an extremely shallow arched stone roof was thrown over the half-subterranean vault and covered with dirt. (The dirt on the roof, of course, as well as that packed against the side walls, made construction possible, according to the wedged mass principle familiar to European builders since medieval times, and helped preserve the vault essentially intact down to the present.) Three ceiling vents took care of ventilation. A massive oak door completed the structure and provided protection for the winery's wooden aging vats.

Though wine production ceased in 1906 and the vault was unused and neglected for the next 65 years, it suffered surprisingly little permanent damage. The door disappeared. The spring became clogged. The interior was flooded with several feet of muck and slime and the entrance became obscured by trees and shrubs. However, the structure remained basically sound. Only a few stones were toppled from the front wall. The present owner hired a stone mason to rebuild the wall, following pictures of the vault when it was still in use (see enclosures). He cleaned out the silt, restored the spring, built an informal rock patio at the entrance. Though running water and electricity have been added, the vault remains today much as it was when completed in 1893.

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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) **1893 - 1906**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Oklahoma hardly ranks with California and New York as a wine producing state. Today, so far as official licenses are concerned, it boasts but one commercial practitioner of the oenological art. And his is an extremely modest enterprise. Somewhat more ambitious was Oklahoma's first winery. Significant because of this "first" status (so far as is known), it is also noteworthy as an excellently preserved example of the wedged mass principle of the arch and, quite possibly, as the oldest structure within the city limits of Oklahoma City maintaining its original configuration and design.

Edward B. Fairchild was an Englishman who came to Oklahoma Territory from New York to take part in the "run" for land in 1889. He homesteaded a quarter section on what is now the north side of Oklahoma City. Little is known about him before 1889, or after 1907, when he sold out and apparently left the state. But he understood wine making and seems to have been determined to make the newly opened territory a wine producer. He planted much of his land in vineyards and contracted with neighbors so that at one time his winery drew on some 200 acres of grapes.

Fairchild is believed to have completed his vault in 1893. By 1900 he was producing about 5,000 gallons of wine a year. The quality is reported to have been quite good and Fairchild's wine was well known in central Oklahoma Territory. A publication of the Oklahoma City Board of Trade about 1900 tells of the production and contains two photographs, one an exterior view, the other an interior. (They were helpful in the recent restoration.)

By 1906, however, it was apparent that Oklahoma would soon become a state ... and that the constitution of the new state would almost certainly contain a ban on all alcoholic beverages. Fairchild began to curtail his operation. On Nov. 30, 1907, just two weeks after statehood, he sold his entire quarter section. After that the vault was little used.

But the vault itself remained essentially sound structurally down to the present. The current owner cleaned out the debris, restored the

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Nelson, Mary Jo, The Oklahoma City Times, May 21, 1973

- Documents in the Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City
- Documents on file with the Oklahoma City Historical Preservation Commission, Oklahoma City

HR.
NO
UTM

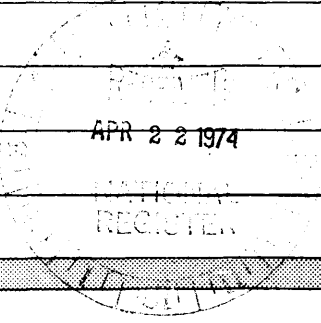
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		30° 58' 38"	97° 29' 10"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		30° 33' 16"		
SE	° ' "	° ' "		35° 33' 16"		
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **Five Acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Kent Ruth, Deputy

ORGANIZATION: **Oklahoma Historical Society** DATE: **January 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Historical Building

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

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

National State Local

Name: Gladys Hansen

Title: State Preservation officer
Pro-Tem

Date: APR 16 1974

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

A. R. Wooten
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 3/13/75

ATTEST:

W. J. [Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 3/12/75