UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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7' DESCRIPTION

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FAIR	UNEXPOSED			

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Eskridge - erected in 1907 at a cost of \$25,000 - was a three-story, 30-room, small hotel that looked the part. Built of brick, it was substantial, but unpretentious. It measured 40 x 100 feet, on its street and alley sides, with its inside corner shortened at the back to make way for a detached kitchen (now being converted to an early day newspaper office). The front (see Photo No. 1) boasted an over-thesidewalk balcony, supported by iron posts at the curb and massive fluted pilasters, perhaps the building's sole pretension. Paired, double-sashed windows marked the second and third story guest rooms on either side. Triple windows marked the front rooms on both the second and third floors, while a door onto the balcony and double window above it marked the ten-foot hallways of the upper two floors. Five circular "attic story" false windows featured the frieze between horizontal bands of ornamental brick work. Topping the cornice with its two corner chimneys was a relatively plain cartouche announcing forthrightly "THE KSKRIDGE - 1907."

Today the second-story balcony is gone, replaced by a rather massive brick canopy over the sidewalk. Otherwise the exterior of the hotel is virtually unchanged. Even less change is apparent inside. The 20 x 30-foot lobby (see Photo No. 4) retains most of its original furnishings. The stairway is unchanged. The dining room beyond is now given over to museum displays. Upstairs the 10-foot-wide hallways appear much as they always have, wainscotted walls broken regularly by transomed room doors.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

SPECIFIC DAT	ES 1907	BUILDER/ARCH	HITECT Not known	
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≭ 1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)
1800-1899		EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
1600-1699	_XARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	<pre>SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN</pre>
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
PERIOD	AF	EAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Despite the loss of its second-story, over-the-sidewalk balcony protected by ornamental balustrade and sheetiron canopy - the Eskridge retains its essential external integrity. Although it ceased to be a hostelry in 1970 it still suggests the important community role it played from the time it opened in the Oklahoma statehood year of 1907 - the role of a solid, no-nonsense commercial hotel. Built by Pinkey R. Eskridge, who had spent many years on the road as a cotton buyer, it was meant to appeal primarily to the rail-traveling "drummers" whose most frequent complaints concerned poor food and lumpy beds.

Eskridge spent \$25,000 on his 30-room hotel. He bought serviceable furniture, seeing to it that he had thick, pure cotton mattresses in every room. In some he even installed extra length beds and mattresses, a rarity at that time. His dining room apparently also received special attention for the Eskridge was known for many years as the best hotel on the Santa Fe between Oklahoma and Dallas. The dining room also enjoyed considerable local popularity, especially with the Sunday-after-church crowd. The slogan: "Chicken Every Day and Sunday too."

As the town's leading hotel, it attracted in addition to the traveling salesmen, road shows and entertainers playing at the nearby opera house, and other assorted travelers. Best known celebrity to sign the guest register in 1915 was Dr. Frederick Albert Cook, acclaimed for a time as discoverer of the North Pole. Through the years, of course, the hotel also hosted community banquets, senior proms, and civic club meetings and otherwise met the routine needs of the typical small town. Time began to catch up with the Eskridge (and similar small town commercial hotels) in the post-World War II years. The hotel closed finally in 1970. But a few years later, ironically enough, it responded to a new and different community need.

The Wynnewood Historical Society bought the Eskridge in 1973. Since then, as the Eskridge Hotel Museum, it has begun room by room preserve and display the community's historical and cultural heritage. A minimum of changes have been made. The lobby remains just that, complete with original registration desk and key board. Throughout the three floors individual rooms are beginning to reflect various aspects of Wynnewood's past: country store, harness room, funeral parlor, early-day kitchen, and so on.

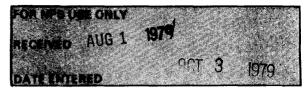
9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Materials researched by the Wynnewood Historical Soceity

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA	A			
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION				
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ORGANIZATION			DATE	•
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Historical Building			405/884-5456 STATE	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
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As the designated State Historic Preservat	tion Officer for the Nati	onal Historic Preservation.	Act of 1966 (Public L	aw 89-665), I
hereby nominate this property for inclusion	on in the National Reg	ister and certify that it ha	s been evaluated acc	ording to the
criteria and procedures set forth by the Na	tional Park Service.			
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

Eskridge Hotel

Significance of the Eskridge Hotel, then, rests on its six decades of service to the traveling public and to the community as a substantial, well run, commercial hostelry. It looked the part, too. It was the typical perhaps somewhat better-than-average small town hotel and it has maintained that appearance for the most part, on the outside particularly. And now, as a locally oriented historical museum, it continues to serve the community.