

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED AUG 1 1979

DATE ENTERED OCT 3 1979

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Eskridge Hotel

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

114 E. Robert S. Kerr St.

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Wynnewood

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

No. 3

STATE

Oklahoma

CODE

40

COUNTY

Garvin

CODE

049**CLASSIFICATION****CATEGORY**

___ DISTRICT

 BUILDING(S)

___ STRUCTURE

___ SITE

___ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP PUBLIC

___ PRIVATE

___ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

___ IN PROCESS

___ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS OCCUPIED

___ UNOCCUPIED

___ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

___ YES: RESTRICTED

 YES: UNRESTRICTED

___ NO

PRESENT USE

___ AGRICULTURE

 MUSEUM

___ COMMERCIAL

___ PARK

___ EDUCATIONAL

___ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___ ENTERTAINMENT

___ RELIGIOUS

___ GOVERNMENT

___ SCIENTIFIC

___ INDUSTRIAL

___ TRANSPORTATION

___ MILITARY

___ OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Wynnewood Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER

114 E. Robert S. Kerr

CITY, TOWN

Wynnewood

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Oklahoma**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the County Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

Garvin County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Pauls Valley

STATE

Oklahoma**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Special Eskridge Hotel Survey

DATE

1977___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS**Wynnewood Historical Society**

CITY, TOWN

Wynnewood

STATE

Oklahoma

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT DETERIORATED
 GOOD RUINS
 FAIR UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED (basically) ORIGINAL SITE
 ALTERED MOVED DATE _____

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-the-sidewalk 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 ESKRIDGE - 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

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1907

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Not known

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 Society

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY c. 1 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Pauls Valley, Oklahoma

QUADRANGLE SCALE 7.5 minute

UTM REFERENCES

A 14 667786 3834805

B

C

D

E

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G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot 2, Block 207, original Town of Wynnewood

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Kent Ruth, Deputy

ORGANIZATION

Oklahoma Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER

Historical Building

CITY OR TOWN

Oklahoma City

DATE

April 1978

TELEPHONE

405/884-5456

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

TITLE

Harry L. Dempree M.D.

DATE

7-13-79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Bob Brown

DATE

10-3-79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Bob Brown

DATE

10/3/79

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

Eskridge Hotel

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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.