

PH 0695157

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAR 21 1979
DATE ENTERED	

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

El Reno Hotel

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

300 South Choctaw St.

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

El Reno

__ VICINITY OF

No. 6

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Oklahoma

CODE

40

COUNTY

Canadian

CODE

017

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

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM |
| <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL | <input type="checkbox"/> PARK |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC |
| <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: |

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. Catharine Lemon

STREET & NUMBER

300 South Choctaw

CITY, TOWN

El Reno

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Oklahoma

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the County Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

Canadian County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

El Reno

STATE

Oklahoma

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Oklahoma Comprehensive Survey

DATE

1978

__ FEDERAL STATE __ COUNTY __ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Oklahoma Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Oklahoma City

STATE

Oklahoma

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The El Reno Hotel is a modest two-story rectangular box, sitting quietly behind scraggly trees on the southwest corner of the intersection of Choctaw and Wade Streets, a block from the heart of El Reno business district. Comfortable porches with traditional gingerbreading stretch the length of both north and east fronts, fitting snugly against the sidewalks. Presents too, are such "period" features as the brick pavement on Wade street, separate outside doors to the two downstairs rooms on the north, and the inviting porch swing.

Built in 1892, only three years after El Reno was founded, the hotel managed its first decade-plus of service with traditional bowl-pitcher-and-chamber-pot plumbing, lighting by artificial gas with mantels and kerosene lamps. Indoor plumbing came in 1905 and electricity soon followed. A dining room was added in 1910. Since then, however, the hotel has seen almost no change, except for an occasional coat of paint. And in recent years it has seen too little of that. Still, considering this benign negligence, it appears quite sturdy, managing somehow to reflect an air of genteel dignity, peeled paint and frayed floor boards to the contrary notwithstanding.

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 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 checked="" 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 1892-1975 BUILDER/ARCHITECT (not known)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Significance of the El Reno Hotel lies not in what it was, but in what it represents - the typical small town hostelry on the western frontier ... not in its appearance - a traditional two-story frame structure with "gingerbreaded" porch - but in its longevity. Erected in 1892, three years after El Reno was established with the opening to white settlement of Old Oklahoma in 1889, it has survived over 80 years of municipal growth and development with a minimum of physical of procedural change. Although it has registered no guests since 1975, it stands quietly with paint-peeling dignity, most of its original furnishings intact, a museum-quality exhibit of the modest, center-of-everything, small town hotel.

*

The El Reno was built by John Kossuth in 1892 - a two-story frame hotel with traditional porch on the east and north, facing the streets. It was bought by Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Foster in 1901 and is still owned by their daughter. Strategically located between the business district and the Rock Island depot (and on the interurban streetcar line to Oklahoma City), the hotel attracted from the beginning a steady stream of drummers, carnival folk, railroaders, Indians, and settlers waiting to hire hacks for trips into western Oklahoma, railroadless before 1898. El Reno served them all ... although it is on the record that for a time railroad men were excluded because other patrons objected to their sleep being interrupted by call boys coming in at all hours of the night to round up a crew!

A dining room was added around 1910. Meals were 25 cents, or \$5.00 a week. Ten dollars a week paid for room and board. Mrs. Foster did all the cooking, including the meals served city prisoners for some 40 years. The jail was only a block from the hotel.

Of all the history the El Reno Hotel has seen unfold on its doorstep however, two events would certainly stand out. Roughly a third of Oklahoma was thrown open to white settlement in two giant land openings: the 1892 "run" into the sprawling 3,500,000-acre Cheyenne and Arapaho Reservation (much of north-western Oklahoma, excluding the Panhandle) and the colorful 1901 lottery that released the equally vast lands of the Kiowa-Comanche-Apache tribes. As a principal railhead settlement

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interviews with Mrs. Catharine Lemon, daughter of the long-time owners,
Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Foster

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME El Reno

QUADRANGLE SCALE 7.5 minute

UTM REFERENCES

A 14 594715 3932245
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

DATE

December 1978

STREET & NUMBER

Historical Building

TELEPHONE

405/884-5456

CITY OR TOWN

Oklahoma City

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 F. Dewsbroe Jr. D.

DATE

1-11-79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

3-21-79

ATTEST:

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

3-21-79

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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El Reno figures prominently in both these openings. And as a leading local hostelry, the El Reno Hotel not only witnessed the events first hand, but did its share to accommodate the hordes of land-seekers that over-ran the town.

*

The El Reno Hotel, to repeat, is significant because it is so typical of its genre, in appearance and function. Because it witnessed the most important events in the opening and development of much of western Oklahoma. And because it has survived, virtually intact. As one local historian has noted: "Preserving it would serve as a constant reminder of El Reno's earliest years and particularly of the two big land openings it took part in . . ."