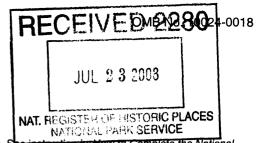
### National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determination for individual properties and districts. See instruction in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

| 1. Name of Property  |
|--|
| historic name City Veterinary Hospital   |
| other names/site number  |
| 2. Location  |
| street & number 3550 South Peoria Avenue [N/A] not for publication   |
| city or town Tulsa [N/A] vicinity  |
| state Oklahoma code OK county Tulsa code 143 zip code 74105  |
| 3. State/Federal Agency Certification  |
| As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 propert meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)  State Historic Preservation Officer Date  State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma Historical Society  State or Federal agency and bureau |
| In my opinion, the property  meets does not meet the National Register criteria.   |
| Signature of certifying official/Title Date  |
| State or Federal agency and bureau   |
| 4. National Park Service Certification   |
| hereby certify that the property is:    Signature of the Keeper   Date of Action   |

| City Veterinary Hospi  | tal                                       | Tulsa County, Oklahoma              |   |            |  |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|---|------------|--|
| Name of Property   |   | County/Sta                          | te  |            |  |
| 5. Classification  |   |                                     |   |            |  |
| Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)         | Category of Property (Check only one box) | (Do not count previously liste      | ces within Property<br>ed resources.) Noncontributing | ,          |  |
| [X] private<br>[ ] public-local                              | [X] building(s) [ ] district              | Contributing                        | O   | buildings  |  |
| [ ] public-State<br>[ ] public-Federal                       | [ ] site<br>[ ] structure<br>[ ] object   | 0                                   | 0   | sites      |  |
|  | [ ] 05]000                                | 0                                   | 0   | structures |  |
|  |   | 0                                   | 1   | objects    |  |
|  |   | 1                                   | 1   | Total      |  |
| 6. Function or Use   |   | 0                                   |   | _          |  |
| 6. Function or Use Historic Function                         |   | Current Fun                         | ctions  |            |  |
| (Enter categories from instructions)                         | NOTENOE.                                  | (Enter categories from              | · ·   | 105        |  |
| AGRICULTURE/SUBS<br>animal facility                          | SISTENCE:                                 | AGRICULTU                           | JRE/SUBSISTEN<br>facility                             | ICE:       |  |
|  |   |                                     |   |            |  |
|  |   |                                     |   |            |  |
|  |   |                                     |   |            |  |
| 7. Description   |   |                                     |   |            |  |
| Architectural Classific (Enter categories from instructions) | cation                                    | Materials<br>(Enter categories from | instructions)   |            |  |
| Moderne  |   | foundation<br>walls                 | CONCRETE<br>BRICK                                     |            |  |
|  |   | roof                                | CONCRETE E  | LOCK       |  |
|  |   | other                               |   |            |  |

| City Veterinary Hospital  | Tulsa County, Oklahoma   |
|---|--|
| Name of Property  | County/State   |
| 8. Statement of Significance  |  |
| Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark ``x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)  | Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)  ARCHITECTURE   |
| <ol> <li>A Property is associated with events that have made a<br/>significant contribution to the broad patterns of our<br/>history.</li> </ol>  |  |
| [ ] <b>B</b> Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.  | Periods of Significance  |
| [X] 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   | 1942   |
| values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.  | Significant Dates  |
| <ul> <li>D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information<br/>important in prehistory or history.</li> </ul>  |  |
| Criteria Considerations (Mark ``x" in all the boxes that apply.)  | Cignificant Dayson(s)  |
| Property is:  | Significant Person(s) (Complete if Criterion B is marked above).  N/A  |
| [ ] A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.  |  |
| [ ] B removed from its original location.   | Cultural Affiliation<br>N/A  |
| [ ] C a birthplace or grave.  |  |
| [ ] D a cemetery.   | Architect/Builder  |
| [ ] E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.   | Koberling, Joseph R., Jr., architect   |
| [ ] <b>F</b> a commemorative property.  |  |
| [ ] G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.  |  |
| Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)  |  |
| 9. Major Bibliographical References   |  |
| Bibliography (Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more con   | ntinuation sheets.)  |
| Decisions decompositation on file (NDC).  | Duiment leasting of additional date.   |
| 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 | Primary location of additional data:  State Historic Preservation Office Other State Agency Federal Agency Local Government University Other |
| # recorded by Historic American Engineering Record  | Name of repository: Oklahoma Historical Society  |
| 4   |  |

| City Veterinary Hospital      |   |                                     |   |                        |                      |  |  |
|-------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---|------------------------|----------------------|--|--|
| Name of Property County/State |   |                                     |   |                        |                      |  |  |
| 10.                           | Geogr                                   | aphical Da                          | ta  |                        |                      |  |  |
| Acre                          | eage of                                 | Property                            | Less than One   | e Acre                 |                      |  |  |
|                               | l Refere<br>e addition                  |                                     | nces on a continuati  | on sheet.)             |                      |  |  |
| 1.                            | 15<br>Zone                              | 232150<br>Easting                   | 4000240<br>Northing   | (NAD27)                |                      |  |  |
| 2.                            | Zone                                    | Easting                             | Northing  |                        |                      |  |  |
| 3.                            | Zone                                    | Easting                             | Northing  |                        |                      |  |  |
| 4.                            | Zone                                    | Easting                             | Northing  | [N/A] <b>S</b> e       | ee continua          | ition sheet  |  |
| Verk<br>(Describ              | pal Bou                                 | Indary Des                          | cription<br>y on a continuation sheet.)                               |                        |                      |  |  |
| Bou<br>(Explain               | ndary on why the boo                    | Justificatio<br>undaries were selec | eted on a continuation sheet.   | )                      |                      |  |  |
| 11.                           | Form I                                  | Prepared B                          | Ву  |                        |                      |  |  |
| orga<br>stree                 | nizatior<br>et & nur                    | <u>Architectu</u>                   | age, Architectur<br>Iral Resources &<br>ounty Road 123                | Community He           | eritage Co           | nsulting date_                                     | September 2007<br>405-459-6200   |
|                               |   |                                     | tation  |                        |                      |  |  |
|                               |   | Documen                             |   | anlated forms          |                      |  |  |
|                               |   |                                     | ems with the con  | •                      |                      |  |  |
| Map                           | S<br>A USGS I<br>property's<br>A Sketch | location. <b>map</b> for histo      | i minute series) indic<br>ric districts and prop<br>numerous resource | eating the             | propert<br>Additiona | entative <b>black anc</b><br>y.<br><b>al items</b> | d white photographs of the FPO for any additional                        |
| Pro                           | perty (                                 | Owner                               |   |                        | _                    |  |  |
| (Compl                        | lete this item                          | at the request of Si                | HPO or FPO.)  |                        |                      |  |  |
| nam                           | e <u>Rick</u>                           | y and Beve                          | erly Pickard, trus  | <u>tee; Pickard Fa</u> | mily Trust           |  |  |
| stree                         | et & nur                                | nber <u>891</u>                     | 0 South Lakewo  | ood                    |                      | telephone  |  |
| city o                        | or town_                                | Tulsa                               | _   | state_                 | OK                   | zip code_  | 74137  |
| determi                       | ne eligibility f                        |                                     | perties, and to amend existing  |                        |                      |  | nominate properties for listing or accordance with the National Historic |

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to range from approximately 18 hours to 36 hours depending on several factors including, but not limited to, how much documentation may already exist on the type of property being nominated and whether the property is being nominated as part of a Multiple Property Documentation Form. In most cases, it is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form to meet minimum National Register documentation requirements. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86) OMB No. 1024-0018 (Expires 1-31-2009)

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|                  |               |  |  |

#### DESCRIPTION

SUMMARY:

The City Veterinary Hospital, constructed in 1942, is a one-story, Streamline Moderne style, light-colored brick, U-shaped building. Designed by Tulsa architect, Joseph R. Koberling, Jr., for Dr. William F. Irwin, a local veterinarian, the building was and remains a small animal veterinary hospital. Off the southeast corner of the building, there is a non-historic brick sign that is considered a noncontributing object within this nomination. The sign, constructed after the period of significance, is compatible with the building and does not interfere with the building's ability to express its architectural significance as an excellent example of the Streamline Moderne style as applied to a small animal facility.

The building has a flat asphalt-covered roof and a concrete foundation. The east, south, and one-third of the north walls are light-colored face brick with a stone stringcourse and coping. The back portion of the north wall, where the kennel runs are, is built of painted common bricks. The non-original back wall is concrete block, painted beige to match the other walls. The original wood paneled front door was replaced with a modern metal-framed glazed slab door before 1980. On the back of the building is a wood, glazed, paneled door with a metal screen over the double-paned light. There are three additional pedestrian side entries, one on the north and two on the south. All of these entries have non-historic, paneled wood doors. On the north side of the building, there are six kennel runs, all with wood, glazed, paneled doors in various conditions. In addition to the large glass block windows on the facade, there are four-paned metal casement windows with double-paned metal transoms on the front of the building and two-over-two hung metal windows on the sides and rear.

Typical of the Streamline Moderne style, the primary ornamentation on the building is the horizontal banding on the north, east, and south elevations. The banding effect is mainly created by a single course of brick laid in a Flemish bond and recessed between four courses of stretcher bricks. The main section of banding extends upward from the stone stringcourse to the top of the windows. On the front section of the building, the banding extends above the windows with a row of soldier bricks between two projected courses of rowlock bricks. A second area of banding is on the upper wall. This area of banding consists of a project course of rowlock bricks under the stone coping, except for on the front section that has two projected courses of rowlock bricks, separated by a course of flush stretcher bricks. Other Streamline Moderne ornamental details on the building include the large glass block windows, a small octagonal window, and the octagonal cartouche above the entry that includes the date of construction and a veterinary medicine insignia.

The building retains a good degree of historic integrity. Modifications to the building include a back addition, the replacement of the doors, the removal of a flat ledge over the inset entry porch, the erection of a wood and brick wall off the south side patio area, long low brick planters at the front entry, the topping of the building's coping with a metal cap, and the addition of two lights to the prominent front section. Additionally, off the southeast corner of the building, a new brick sign has been built which includes the veterinary medicine logo and signage reading "City Veterinary Hospital." None of these alterations appreciably impact the ability of the building to convey its significance. The rear addition is not visible from the front and was carefully blended on the south side, the other visible elevation, with a similar construction material and decorative detail to the original wall. The

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replacements of the original entryways with non-historic glazed slab and wood paneled doors, as well as the addition of the two lights on the façade and the metal cap on the coping, are minor changes that do not interfere with the building's architectural statement. The patio walls are largely obscured by the heavy vegetation on the south side of the building. The brick planters on the front of the building blend with the building and surrounding landscape. The sign is not attached to the building and, thus, has only a minimal impact on the building's setting. The removal of the ledge above the entry porch is the most notable alteration as this feature was a characteristic of the Streamline Moderne style. However, the building retains other equally important stylistic traits so the loss of the ledge does not destroy the building's expression of the Streamline Moderne style.

Located on the northwest corner of the intersection of South Peoria Avenue and East 36<sup>th</sup> Street South, the City Veterinary Hospital is on a major thoroughfare roughly two-and-a-half miles south of downtown Tulsa. South Peoria Avenue was lined with commercial and religious buildings by the mid-1950s. While many historic buildings remain, some heavily modified, new commercial construction has also become prevalent. The City Veterinary Hospital, however, retains its historic setting and feeling through the retention of the large trees and grassy areas around the building. Overall, the building maintains the characteristics of location, setting, design, workmanship, materials, feeling and association to a noteworthy degree.

#### **EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION:**

The City Veterinary Hospital is a one-story, brick, Streamline Moderne style building. The building has a concrete foundation and a flat asphalt roof with tall parapet walls. The more visible walls of the building, consisting of the east, south, and eastern one-third of the north elevations, are of a light-colored face brick. The west two-thirds of the north wall, divided into five dog runs by red brick walls and chain link fence, is of common brick which has been painted to blend with the even-color of the face bricks. The non-historic rear, or west, elevation is made of concrete block, also painted to blend with the dominant face brick.

One of the dominant features of the building is its clear expression of the Streamline Moderne style. This includes a flat roof; light-colored wall surface; multiple curved walls; glass block windows which wrap around the front corners; an octagonal window and cartouche; and, most importantly, a strong horizontal emphasis reinforced by multiple stretches of banding. The building can be vertically divided into three sections. The lowest portion, a flush section of brick laid in a stretcher bond, extends upwards from the ground to the stone stringcourse. Notably, the stringcourse only wraps around the front section of the building. As such, on the back south side of the building, a row of header brick separates the lower wall from the middle wall. On the opposite side, the rear north wall is not ornamentally treated due to the location of the dog runs. The non-original back wall also lacks decorative detail but it is not readily visible either.

The center section of wall consists of the area between the stringcourse to above the top of the windows. Within this area, the wall is separated into six sections on the front and five on the rear north side, including the south wall of the rear addition. The lower five sections are defined by a recessed course of brick laid in a Flemish bond. Between each recessed course are four rows of brick, laid in a stretcher bond. Above this on the back portions of the building is a course of soldier bricks. On the

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front section of the building, the sixth section of the middle wall consists of a course of soldier bricks between two courses of rowlock brick.

The third, upper section of wall is flush brick predominately laid in a stretcher bond. On the northeast and southeast corners of the building, above the curved expanse of glass blocks, there is a wide section of brick that is decoratively laid in a header course. The uppermost wall includes a stone coping that wraps around most of the building, as well as at least one course of rowlock bricks beneath this. On the front projected entryway, there is an additional course of rowlocks under the stone coping with each rowlock course being separated by a course of stretcher bricks. On the backside of the building, the coping is simply a course of rowlocks. A metal cap tops both the stone and brick coping.

The east, front elevation is dominated by a projected, rectangular entry area (see photograph 1). In addition to extending further east than the rest of the elevation, this section of the façade is noticeably taller than the flanking sections. The back upper corners of the entry block are also notably curved. Centrally located in this area is the inset entry porch with a recessed non-historic glazed slab door. Above the door and to both sides is an expanse of glass blocks. The glass blocks sit on the stone stringcourse that rests on a lower wall of face brick. Towards the sides, the glass blocks curve out to meet the projected walls of the center bay. The lower brick wall that the glass blocks rest on do not curve, instead squaring in to better define the building's entry. On either side of the inset porch area are nonoriginal, low, long, rectangular, brick planters that wrap around the outside walls of the entry block to extend west towards the main wall. Centrally located above the planters on both sides of the entry block wall are non-historic metal lights. The lights were added after 1980, probably around the time the flat ledge historically found above the inset porch was removed. Directly above the central entry is the original octagonal cartouche. The cartouche includes the date of construction, 1942, separated by a classic veterinary medicine symbol of a V imposed on a caduceus (a winged staff with two snakes wrapped around it). Notably, it is a common error to use a caduceus rather than a Rod of Asclepius to symbolize medicine. The new sign off the southeast corner has the correct veterinary medicine logo. On both the north and south sides of the projected entry block are single, metal, eightpane, casement windows with two-pane, metal transoms. Both of these windows have soldier brick headers with the stone stringcourse serving as the windowsill.

Behind the projected entry block, the east wall is asymmetrical. The north side contains a narrow, squared "column" which connects the entry block to the wider section of curved wall. The column is treated similarly to the rest of the front section, with sections of banding and a stone coping. The larger curved area is highlighted by a single glass block window that wraps around the north elevation and, as mentioned above, is topped by a stretch of bricks laid in header bond. Flanking the glass block window on both sides are single eight-pane metal casement windows. As with the other casement windows on the building, two-pane metal transoms top these windows and the stone stringcourse serves as the windowsill. Notably, these windows do not have appreciable headers.

The south side of the east elevation is almost twice the size of the north side. The section immediately off the projected entry block is squared and is slightly taller than the adjacent curved section. It is decoratively treated similarly to the rest of the front section of the building, including both sections of banding as described above. However, in the center of the middle section of banding there is an octagonal window. The window is in keeping with the common Streamline Moderne use of small round

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windows to imitate the portholes on ocean liners. The use of an octagon shape for the window echoes the octagonal cartouche on the projected entry block. Set back slightly and dropped a notch is the adjacent, south curved section of the east elevation. This section is similar to the north curved wall, including the stone stringcourse, glass block window and decorative brickwork. However, the southeast corner has three glass block windows and no casement windows.

The south elevation is irregular with the curved east end extending farther out than the rest of the wall (see photograph 2). Behind the curved glass block window, the south elevation has a flush, squared section with a small square vent and two symmetrical two-over-two, hung, metal windows. The windows, sitting on the stone stringcourse and topped by the sixth section of banding, have no separate headers or sills. Beyond this, the south elevation turns sharply north, creating a small patio area. A non-historic wood and brick wall has been erected in this area, blocking the view of the back door. The low wall extends south into the grassy area adjacent to this section of the south elevation but not all the way to the curb. At the back of this section of the south elevation, there is a pedestrian door flanked by single windows. The wood paneled door is non-historic and the windows are two-overtwo, metal, hung. Beginning on the east side of the adjacent inset south wall, there is a single, twoover-two, metal, hung window; then a narrow, screened window which is shorter; then a single, twoover-two, metal, hung window which is also shorter; then, divided by a tall, brick planter with a wrought iron railing, is a paneled wood door with a new metal light above it; and, finally, a regular-sized, twoover-two, metal, hung window. Like the windows to the east, the full-size windows in this section of the south elevation have no separate sills or headers. The shorter windows have recessed, rowlock brick sills. Both doors on this elevation have soldier brick headers. Past the regular window, the south elevation then juts back to the south, creating a flush wall that extends to the back elevation. The back addition to the building begins a little over halfway along this section of the wall. Although nearly identical in color, the new brick is of a rougher texture than the original, allowing for a barely visible demarcation between the original wall and the addition. Towards the west side, there are two, single, two-over-two, metal, hung windows which are located in the non-historic portion of the building. The windows are slightly shorter then the predominant two-over-two window in the building and have projected brick sills. As with the rest of the windows, these windows do not have a header, instead being topped by the continuous course of soldier bricks. The mid-wall decorative banding is continued onto the back addition, differentiated by the rougher texture brick and the two smaller symmetrical windows.

The concrete block west elevation is non-original (see photograph 3). The non-historic back addition does not extend all the way to the north elevation. On the north side of the west wall, there is a flat metal canopy that extends over a sixth dog run. The run is similar to the other runs on the north elevation, including a chain link enclosure with a partial brick wall on the west side. The fenestration pattern on the west elevation is asymmetrical. From the south side, there is a single, two-over-two, metal, hung window. To the north of this is a shorter, single, two-over-two, metal, hung window. The rear entry is off-center and consists of a glazed, wood, paneled door with two-lites that have been covered with a heavy screen. To the north of the door is a single, two-over-two, metal, hung window. All of the windows have painted header brick sills and a painted brick header tops the door.

The front one-third of the north elevation is decoratively treated identically to the front and south elevations (see photograph 5). The rear two-thirds of the wall has no ornamentation, as this is where

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the kennel runs are located (see photograph 4). To the west of the curved front corner, there is a single, non-historic, wood paneled pedestrian entry with a hanging light fixture that has been painted. The door has a soldier brick header that is lower than the corresponding window to the right. The window is a two-over-two, metal, hung with a header brick sill. There is one additional window in the front one-third of the north elevation, a larger, two-over-two, metal, hung window with a metal screen. This window extends from the stone stringcourse all the way to the lower band of header bricks in the upper sixth section of mid-wall banding. The back two-thirds of the north elevation is recessed slightly and is of common brick, painted a light beige to match the front face brick. There are five identical historic outside dog runs. Each run has a glazed, wood paneled door in various conditions. Chesthigh, brick walls and a chain link fence separate the runs. Additionally, each run can be divided into two by a chain link divider. On the far west corner, there is a sixth, non-historic run that is larger than the other runs and was added as part of the back addition. The run is nearly obscured by a large, bushy, tree directly in front of it. Like the other runs, there is a wood, glazed, paneled door that provides access to the run. Additionally, there are two metal, two-over-two, hung windows to the west of the door.

#### NONCONTRIBUTING RESOURCES:

Off the southeast corner of the building is a non-historic sign consisting of a low brick wall reading "City Veterinary/Hospital." The sign also features the correct veterinary medicine logo of a V over a Rod of Asclepius (a serpent intertwined around a staff). Likely built at the same time the rear addition was constructed, the sign is of a light-colored brick that has a rougher texture than the building. The sign is topped by a course of rowlock bricks. The sign is noncontributing because it was not present during the period of significance. Clearly separate from the building, the sign does not impact the integrity of the City Veterinary Hospital.

#### **ALTERATIONS:**

The City Veterinary Hospital has undergone two notable alterations and a variety of small modifications. The major changes are the removal of the flat ledge from the front entry block and the construction of a large rear addition. The other alterations consist of the replacement of the original doors, the construction of walls around the patio area and new planters at the front entry, a new metal cap on the stone coping, the addition of two metal lights on the entry block and the erection of a new brick sign off the southeast corner of the building. None of these smaller modifications, including the sign that is considered a noncontributing object, have a significant, detrimental impact on the building's integrity.

The elimination of the flat ledge is the most significant change that has occurred to the building. Flat ledges were a characteristic of the Streamline Moderne style; however, the ledge was just one element of the style present on the City Veterinary Hospital and the removal of the ledge does not significantly impact the ability of the building to convey its architectural significance.

The back addition is not visible from the façade. The south wall of the addition is noticeable, being located off East 36<sup>th</sup> Street South. As such, the material of the addition is similar in this section to the original south wall, being constructed of a light-colored brick but with a slightly rougher texture. The

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rear and north walls of the addition are concrete block, painted to match the adjacent brick. The south wall of the addition, visible from East 36<sup>th</sup> Street South, was decoratively treated identical to the rest of the wall, consisting of the mid-wall banding treatment. The newer section also contains two single, two-over-two, metal windows. The section of the south wall that is historic does not have windows. Differentiated but compatible, the addition does not interfere in any way with the ability of the building to convey its significance.

Overall, the City Veterinary Hospital maintains a good degree of historic integrity. This includes the characteristics of location, setting, design, workmanship, materials, feeling and association. The building is architecturally noteworthy as an unusual example of an early 1940s Streamline Moderne veterinary clinic.

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#### SIGNIFICANCE

#### SUMMARY:

The City Veterinary Hospital is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its architectural significance as a unique example of the Streamline Moderne style as applied to a small animal facility in Tulsa. Noted local architect, Joseph R. Koberling, Jr, designed the building. Koberling designed a number of well-known buildings in Tulsa, as well as Oklahoma at large. Koberling practiced architecture in Tulsa from about 1925 through the late 1980s. Although entering into various partnerships over the years, at the time he designed the City Veterinary Hospital, Koberling was apparently not in a formal partnership. Some of the noteworthy building's Koberling or his associated firms have been credited with include the Public Service Company Building in Tulsa (National Register Listed 1984), the Chandler High School in Chandler (National Register Listed 1996) and the Ottawa County Courthouse (National Register Listed 2004). There are an additional twelve buildings in Tulsa that have been identified with Koberling. This includes the Medical and Dental Arts Building, the building that launched the Zigzag Art Deco style in Tulsa.

Constructed in 1942 for local veterinarian Dr. William F. Irwin, the City Veterinary Hospital provided a new, state-of-the-art small animal facility in the thriving metropolis of Tulsa. Practicing in Tulsa since 1935, Irwin previously occupied a facility by the same name at 538 South Madison. By 1942, Irwin's practice was flourishing which required the construction of a new, larger facility. The primary focus of the practice was dogs with special provisions, including outdoor runs, made for accommodating these creatures in the new building constructed on South Peoria at East 36<sup>th</sup> Street South. Irwin and Koberling worked together closely in the design of the new building to ensure it would function both as a building and as a veterinary clinic. The success of the collaboration is evidenced by the continuous functioning of the building as originally intended.

The use of the Streamline Moderne style ensured that the building was both modern and of dignified character. This American style of architecture rose to prominence in the 1930s with continuing popularity through the early 1950s. Notably, in 1942, Koberling was also employing this style for buildings he and Arthur M. Atkinson were designing in downtown Pryor, which had been devastated by a tornado earlier in the year. Characteristics of the Streamline Moderne style found on the City Veterinary Hospital included a flat roof, light colored wall material, rounded walls, the use of glass blocks for oversize windows, a flat ledge above the inset porch and minimal decorative detail in the form of horizontal banding. All of these stylistic elements remain on the building, except for the flat ledge which was removed sometime after 1980. The City Veterinary Hospital has long been recognized within Tulsa for its architectural significance as a fine, unusual example of Streamline Moderne architecture designed by Joseph R. Koberling, Jr.

#### HISTORIC BACKGROUND:

The town of Tulsa existed as early 1879 when a post office was established on the Perryman Ranch in the Creek Nation. The town, first called "Tulsey Town," grew slowly. During the early 1880s, the town was a haven for gamblers and "bad men" due to its isolation. At the time of the first government

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townsite survey in Indian Territory in 1900, Tulsa's population stood at merely 1,390.1

Shortly after this survey, a momentous event occurred near Tulsa, Indian Territory. This event not only had a major impact on Tulsa but the entire future state of Oklahoma. In 1901, the state's first important commercial oil well "blew in." Located in Red Fork, this landmark well was across the Arkansas River from Tulsa. Two years later, the Secretary of the Interior allowed the leasing of restricted Indian Territory lands under Department of the Interior supervision. The oil rush was on as oil men from Pennsylvania and other states flocked to Indian Territory. In 1904, three men built a toll bridge over the Arkansas River connecting Red Fork and Tulsa. In addition to allowing Tulsa to benefit from the Red Fork strike, the toll bridge also enabled the town to profit from the fabulous Glenn Pool strike which "blew in" in 1905. Within months of the discovery, the Glenn Pool field was "famous throughout the industry as the richest small field in the world."<sup>2</sup>

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At the time of Oklahoma's statehood in 1907, Tulsa's population had jumped to 7,298, an increase of nearly six thousand in just seven years. In just three years, Tulsa's population more than doubled to reach 18,182 in 1910. As to be expected, a major commercial and residential building boom accompanied this tremendous population boom with brick plants working at capacity. Hotels, office buildings and fine residences were under construction as the streets were paved. By late August 1910, construction activity underway in Tulsa was valued at over one million dollars. Pipelines to the Gulf of Mexico opened as oil prices climbed. In 1912, a third major oil pool, the Cushing field, "blew in." Although the incredible production from the Cushing field temporarily resulted in a drop in crude oil price by 1916, the United States' entrance into World War I rallied the market. Additionally, it was during this time that the first oil refining plant opened in Tulsa. By 1920, Tulsa's population had grown to 72,075, a tremendous increase of almost fifty-four thousand persons in merely ten years. Nearly doubling in the ensuing decade, Tulsa's population by 1930 was 141,258 and the city was the second largest in the state. Although oil drilling activity occurred all over eastern Oklahoma, the oil companies' headquarters were generally located at Tulsa and that is where the oil men in charge made their homes. As such, Tulsa became known as the "Oil Capital of the World."

Like the rest of the nation, the oil business and Tulsa did not escape unscathed by the Great Depression of the 1930s. Further worsening the status of the oil industry in Oklahoma was the October 1930 discovery of oil in the East Texas field. Forty-five miles long and five to ten miles wide, the East Texas field quickly yielded a sufficient amount of oil by itself to satisfy national demand. The worsening economic conditions combined to such an extent that by 1933 the price of oil had reached bottom of the barrel prices and a good portion of Tulsa's residents were jobless. Although oil prices stabilized between 1934 and 1940, the decade of the 1930s proved to be difficult for Tulsans, as all Americans. In 1941, the city's population stood at only 142,157. This represented a growth of only 899 citizens since 1930.<sup>4</sup>

The WPA Guide to 1930s Oklahoma (Lawrence, Kansas: The University Press of Kansas, 1986), 206-208.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., 208. See also Angie Debo, <u>Tulsa: From Creek Town to Oil Capital</u>, (Norman, Oklahoma: Úniversity of Oklahoma Press, 1943), 86-88.

<sup>3</sup> lbid., 208-209. See also Debo, <u>Tulsa</u>, 88 and 97-99.

Danney Goble, Ph.D., <u>Tulsa! Biography of the American City</u> (Tulsa, Oklahoma: Council Oak Books, 1998), 139-140, 143, 151 and 181. See also <u>WPA Guide</u>, 205.

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America's involvement in World War II proved to be a major redeeming event for Tulsa, as well as the nation as a whole. Although Tulsa and Oklahoma did not benefit from the increased military spending of early 1940, it quickly became apparent Tulsa enjoyed certain important characteristics that made it ideal for subsequent military spending. These features included its central, secure location in the middle of the country; ready sources of cheap fuel; a good network of roads and highways; and, a large pool of trained and unemployed workers. According to one source, the only drawback Tulsa had was the lack of available workers housing for the thousands of laborers necessary to make Tulsa "...a center of war production." Nonetheless, in early 1941, the War Department named Tulsa as a potential site for the new \$15 million Douglas Aircraft Company plant. On May 2, 1941, a ceremonial ground breaking heralded the start of construction on the mile long building which by the summer of 1942 occupied one-and-one-half square feet of floor space. By the fall of 1942, the Douglas plant was in need of expansion and the plant payroll included nearly fifteen thousand workers earning an average of just over \$185 a month.<sup>5</sup>

The Douglas Aircraft plant was not the only wartime plant impacting Tulsa in the early 1940s. Although the aircraft industry expended more than twenty million dollars during the period to expand their facilities in Tulsa, other factories in Tulsa spent more than seven million dollars in expanding their industrial plants during the war. In 1939, Tulsa manufacturers employed eleven thousand Tulsans in primarily oil-related manufacturing jobs. By 1945 forty-two thousand residents worked in local manufacturing plants. The majority of these in non-oil related capacities. In 1945, the United States Department of Labor determined that Tulsa was among the top three cities impacted by the wartime industrial expansion. In terms of the number of residents, between 1940 and 1945, Tulsa's population expanded by nearly a third to reach 185,000.

Following the end of World War II, Tulsa continued to enjoy prosperity unthought of in the 1930s. Responding to consumer demands for goods of all types, Tulsa continued to expand its industrial base. Further boosting the city's economy was the continued spending by the Federal government on military-related industries during the Cold War of the late 1940s through the early 1990s. This remarkable varied industrial development spurred Tulsa's growth through the 1950s and 1960s. By the early 1970s, Tulsa led the state in manufacturing.<sup>7</sup>

#### ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:

The corner of South Peoria Avenue and East 36<sup>th</sup> Street South was prime real estate in the early 1940s. The lots rapidly changed hands beginning in late 1939. In late November of 1941, the land was sold to the Chandler-Frates Company, a major real estate development company in Tulsa. Just over four months later, the Chandler-Frates Company sold the land to William F. Irwin. The same day Irwin acquired title to the land, he mortgaged it to the Chandler-Frates Company for \$25,000. Irwin added a second mortgage, this one from the National Mutual Casualty Company, in late June 1942.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Ibid., 170-180.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid., 181.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid., 242-245.

Grantor/Grantee Records for South 34 feet of Lot 6 and all Lot 7, Block 3, Peoria Gardens, Tulsa (Available Tulsa County Clerk's Office, Tulsa County Courthouse, Tulsa, Oklahoma), various dates.

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Irwin, a native of Kansas, graduated from the Kansas State College in 1933 with a degree in veterinary medicine. Irwin moved to Oklahoma following his college graduation and interned at the Ayers Small Animal Hospital at Oklahoma City for two years. Moving to Tulsa in 1935, Irwin opened a practice at the City Veterinary Hospital, then located at 538 South Madison. Dr. C.R. Walter had previously operated the City Veterinary Hospital. By 1942, Irwin's practice included his wife, Dr. Helen S. Irwin, also a graduate veterinarian, and one other full-time veterinarian, a Dr. L.N. Atkinson. Additionally, four assistants and nurses were employed at the hospital. At the time that he constructed his new building, Irwin was "...a member and immediate past president of the Oklahoma Veterinary Medical association, an active member of the American Animal Hospital association and the American Veterinary Medical association."

The construction of a new building for the veterinary hospital was necessitated by an "...increase in clientele and the demand for modern scientific hospitalization for pets...". Working with the architect. Joseph R. Koberling Jr., the new building was immediately proclaimed as "...the most modern and best equipped hospital of its kind in the southwest." The building plan incorporated the "...latest innovations for efficiency of operation and sanitary maintenance." The front part of the building included a large reception room, private office, examination room, laboratory, X-ray room, maternity ward and a room for owners waiting for the doctor's diagnosis of their pet's condition. The finishes in this portion of the building consisted of terrazzo floors, rose-colored walls, linoleum wainscoting, acoustic tile ceilings. fluorescent lights and glass block windows. To subdue the light from the large glass block windows. membrane filters were put on the windows. Separated by means of soundproof doors, the rear section of the building was divided into preparation rooms off the ambulance entries, diet kitchens, baths, kennels, isolation ward and attendant's guarters. The living guarters were necessary due to the "...24hour service rendered to inmates." The dominate color scheme in the back portion of the building was "...pure white...". The kennels, designed by Irwin and Koberling, were double deck, precast concrete. Each kennel also had a connected, individual run so the patients could "...sun themselves or exercise in the fresh air." To ensure clean, fresh air for the convalescents, a large attic fan was in constant operation. Additionally, the attic was insulated with rock wool to keep "...out excessive summer heat and winter cold." During the winter months, the building was to be heated by steam heat. To keep the interior "...meticulously clean ...," concealed steam pipes were buried in the outside walls to provide a thorough live steam wash down each day. In sum, "The new City Veterinary hospital (was) Doctor Irwin's effort to give the dog owners of the Tulsa area the very latest in hospitalization, scientific diagnosis, treatment and surgery for their pets."10

In formatting the plan for his new hospital, Dr. Irwin wisely utilized the services of a professional architect. By 1942, Joseph R. Koberling Jr. was a well-respected, prolific Tulsa architect. Born in Budapest, Hungary in 1900, Koberling moved to Tulsa from San Francisco in the autumn of 1917. Attending Central High School in Tulsa, Koberling was a student of the acclaimed Adah M. Robinson. Robinson was a well-respected artist and teacher, as well as a major influence to a number of notable Tulsa architects, including Bruce Goff and Koberling. After graduating from Central High School, Koberling attended the Armour Institute of Technology in Chicago, Illinois, noted as one of America's

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> The Tulsa World (Oklahoma), 12 July 1942.

 $<sup>^{10}</sup>$  lbid.

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best engineering and architectural schools. During his time at the Armour Institute, Koberling met Louis Sullivan and Eliel Saarinen. Graduating with honors from the Armour Institute in about 1925, Koberling returned to Tulsa for a time, working in a local architect's office. Although not specified, this was possibly the architectural firm of Leon B. Senter, also a notable Tulsa architect. After this for a short time, Koberling "...drifted, working in various offices in the Southwest." This allowed him to acquire experience with "...the best methods and practices used in each office."

Returning to Tulsa in late 1925/early 1926, Koberling went to work at the offices of Arthur M. Atkinson. Atkinson, also a registered professional engineer, had an architectural practice in Tulsa from 1916 until his death in 1949. During the 1920s, Atkinson operated the largest architectural office in Tulsa. Within a short time, Koberling became chief designer in Atkinson's office, a position he held for more than two-and-a-half years. In this position, Koberling designed the Medical and Dental Arts building in Tulsa. Although now demolished, the building is credited with launching the Zigzag Art Deco style in Tulsa, as well as the use of terra cotta ornamentation on Tulsa Art Deco style buildings. Koberling also worked on the next two Art Deco style buildings constructed in Tulsa, the Oklahoma Natural Gas Company building and the Public Service Company of Oklahoma building (National Register Listed 1984). Although the design for the Oklahoma Natural Gas Company building was not completed, in April 1928, Koberling took off on a year-long European study trip. Apparently this was after he received his state license to practice architecture. In Koberling's absence, Frederick Vance Kershner, another Atkinson employee, finished the design of the Oklahoma Natural Gas Company building. Upon his return from Europe to Atkinson's office, Koberling undertook the design of the Public Service Company building.

Also in 1929, Koberling entered into his first formal architectural partnership with Frederick Wilhelm Redlich. Redlich headed the Oklahoma A&M Architecture Department for ten years before entering private practice in 1926. The partnership between Redlich and Koberling only lasted two years, 1929-1931, during which time Koberling did some "moonlight" work for Noble Fleming that included the 1930 design of the Genet Building, another striking Art Deco edifice. No buildings designed by Redlich and Koberling have been identified at this time. In 1933, Koberling and Fleming entered a partnership that reportedly lasted only until 1937. Several buildings dating to 1940, however, are attributed to the Koberling and Fleming partnership. During the depression days of the 1930s, the firm worked on a variety of Works Progress Administration (WPA) buildings, including the 1935 remodel of the Blue Jacket High School in Blue Jacket and the 1940 Chandler High School in Chandler (National Register Listed 1996). Also in 1940, Koberling and Fleming designed the striking Streamline Moderne remodel of a building at the corner of 11<sup>th</sup> and Lewis in Tulsa for the Crown Drug Company. Notably, in the late 1930s, Koberling also associated with Leon B. Senter under the direction of Arthur M. Atkinson in the design of the Will Rogers High School (National Register Listed 2007). During the early 1940s, Koberling was apparently partnerless, although he did work with Atkinson again on the design of

See also "Young Tulsa Draftsman Goes Abroad on Educational Tour," <u>Art in Architecture</u>, (May 1928), 14. See also Gambino, Carol Newton, etal., <u>Tulsa Art Deco</u>, First Revised Edition, (Tulsa, Oklahoma: Tulsa Foundation for Architecture, 2001), 35 and "Joseph R. Koberling, Jr., AIA (1900-1991)," <u>Architects</u>, Tulsa Foundation for Architecture, <a href="http://www.tulsaarchitecture.com/architects/koberling.shtml">http://www.tulsaarchitecture.com/architects/koberling.shtml</a>, retrieved 5 October 2007.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Ibid. See also Gambino, <u>Tulsa Art Deco</u>, 25-39 and "Arthur M. Atkinson, AIA (1891-1949)," <u>Architects</u>, Tulsa Foundation for Architecture, <a href="http://www.tulsaarchitecture.com/architects/atkinson.shtml">http://www.tulsaarchitecture.com/architects/atkinson.shtml</a>, retrieved 5 October 2007.

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several Streamline Moderne buildings for businesses in downtown Pryor. In about 1946, Koberling partnered with Lennart Brandborg to form the firm of Koberling and Brandborg. Subsequently, a third partner was added, creating the firm of Koberling, Brandborg and Roads. It was during this time that Koberling re-designed the Ottawa County Courthouse (National Register Listed 2004) in Miami, Oklahoma. The "new" building sported a striking Modern design. Koberling's obituary, published on June 10, 1990, noted one last partnership, that of Koberling, Slattery and Slattery. No further information is available concerning this alliance.<sup>13</sup>

The City Veterinary Hospital is architecturally significant not only as an example of the work of Joseph R. Koberling, Jr., but also as a striking Streamline Moderne animal clinic. As evidenced by Koberling's application of this style to a variety of building projects of the period, including the Crown Drug remodel, the City Veterinary Hospital and the downtown Pryor business buildings, the Streamline Moderne style was still very much in favor during the early 1940s. The American style that is Streamline Moderne emerged in the 1930s, related to but often directly in opposition to the flamboyant Art Deco style of the 1920s. The Streamline Moderne style used flat roofs, rounded corners, ribbon windows, smooth wall materials, small ledges and horizontal ornamental banding to architecturally express the burgeoning fascination with the concept of the machine in motion. The relatively austere style of architecture was a fitting response to the trying economic times of the Great Depression when fortitude overtook exuberance as a critical character, and architectural, trait. Importantly, the Streamline Moderne style also came to symbolize industrial progress through its emphasis on aerodynamic principles. The style derived its visual vocabulary from the forms of cutting-edge, highspeed transportation, including automobiles, trains, airplanes and ocean liners. The curved walls, horizontal emphasis and ribbon windows of the Streamline Moderne style all added to the perception of high-speed, forward motion. Additionally, the Streamline Moderne style with its flat roofs, horizontal banding that wrapped around the building and smooth, clean wall surfaces embodied the concepts of mobility, efficiency, luxury and hygiene, all characteristics identified with the Modern age of the 1930s. Also adding to the style's popularity was its scientific, futuristic feel that echoed the utopian visions of popular designers, writers, illustrators and moviemakers of the period. 14

Despite the interruption of the war years of the 1940s, the Streamline Moderne style remained a popular architectural style through the early 1950s. The American fascination with speed and all of its connotations continued to be reflected in a variety of consumer goods, from buildings to automobiles to toasters, throughout the period. Additionally, restrictions in construction materials for defense purposes throughout the 1940s and into the Korean War years of the early 1950s continued the appeal of the industrial-influenced style that originated in the lean years of the Great Depression.

The City Veterinary Hospital exemplifies the Streamline Moderne style, particularly as applied to a

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> "Joseph R. Koberling, Jr., AlA (1900-1991)," "Frederick Wilhelm "Fritz" Redlich, AlA (1880-1950)", <u>Architects</u>, Tulsa Foundation for Architecture. See also Gambino, <u>Tulsa Art Deco</u>, 48 and <u>The Tulsa World</u>, 21 June 1942, 5 July 1942 and 10 June 1990.

Richard Guy Wilson, etal. <u>The Machine Age in America, 1918-1941</u>, (New York: Harry N. Abrams, Inc, 2001), 174. See also "The American Moderne: 1920-1940," <u>Essay: The American Moderne:1920-1940</u>, <a href="http://www.artsmiz.org/modernism/e\_AM.html">http://www.artsmiz.org/modernism/e\_AM.html</a>, retrieved 21 September 2007 and "The Streamline Style," <a href="http://www.jahsonic.com/Streamline.html">http://www.jahsonic.com/Streamline.html</a>, retrieved 21 September 2007.

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small animal veterinary practice. Characteristics of the style present on the building include a dominant horizontal influence; light-colored wall surface; a flat roof; a tall, center entry block; multiple curved walls; extensive glass block windows; a small octagonal window; and, multiple sets of decorative horizontal banding. Originally, the building also featured a small, flat ledge over the entry porch, another defining element of the style. The style was fitting for use on the building which in many ways was a cross between a small commercial building and a house. The cooperation between Koberling and Irwin in the design of the building is also strikingly apparent with meticulous detail paid to the unique requirements of the building as an animal hospital.

The City Veterinary Hospital has long been recognized within Tulsa as an outstanding example of the Streamline Moderne style. The building was included in <u>Tulsa Art Deco</u>. This book celebrating Tulsa's architectural bounty of Art Deco and Streamline Moderne style buildings was originally published in 1980. The book was republished in 2001 by the Tulsa Foundation for Architecture. Additionally, the City Veterinary Hospital is also included on various lists of noteworthy Art Deco buildings in Tulsa, such as those posted to the internet by the Tulsa Historic Preservation Commission and the Tulsa Historical Society.<sup>15</sup>

Notably, the City Veterinary Hospital was, and is, not the only outstanding example of the Streamline Moderne style in Tulsa. However, it is the only recognized veterinary clinic in the style in Tulsa. Of the total forty Streamline Moderne style buildings identified in <u>Tulsa Art Deco</u>, seventeen have been demolished. Of the remaining twenty-three, fourteen were intended for commercial purposes, seven for residential use and one was a school. The integrity of several of the remaining Streamline Moderne buildings is also questionable. For example, the editors of <u>Tulsa Art Deco</u> note that the Big Ten Ballroom, constructed in 1950, has "...only a few original architectural details (that) are evident today." Similarly, the Midwest Tile and Marble building, constructed in 1945, had lost its historic integrity due to alterations in the early 1960s which included the enclosure of the building's original courtyard.

Overall, the City Veterinary Hospital is a distinctive, local example of the Streamline Moderne style as applied to a veterinary hospital. The building retains a good degree of historic integrity with only minor changes being made to the sixty-five-year-old building. The building is also an excellent example of the work of Joseph R. Koberling, Jr. While not as recognized for his Streamline Moderne buildings, Koberling made a significant, lasting impact on Tulsa's skyline through his work on a variety of buildings. His buildings in other towns correspondingly shaped the identity of local government, downtowns and schools.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Carol Newton Gambino, etal <u>Tulsa Art Deco</u>, First Revised Edition, (Tulsa, Oklahoma: Tulsa Foundation for Architecture, 2001). See also websites for the Tulsa Preservation Commission, <a href="http://www.tulsapreservationcommission.org">http://www.tulsapreservationcommission.org</a> and the Tulsa Historical Society, <a href="http://www.tulsahistory.org">http://www.tulsahistory.org</a>.

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  Available Tulsa County Clerk's Office, Tulsa County Courthouse, Tulsa, Oklahoma, various dates.
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#### **GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

#### **VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

South ¼ of lot 6 and all lot 7 less the East 10 feet thereof for street, Block 3, Peoria Gardens Addition as amended, Tulsa, Tulsa County, Oklahoma.

#### **BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The Boundaries include the property historically associated with the City Veterinary Hospital.

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#### **PHOTOGRAPH LOG**

The following information pertains to all photograph numbers:

Photographer: Cynthia Savage Date of Photographs: 25 July 2007

Negatives: TIFF Files