

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED MAY 23 1977  
DATE ENTERED DEC 23 1977

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

Arcadia Round Barn  
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

US 66 in downtown

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Arcadia

VICINITY OF

No. 5

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Oklahoma

40

Oklahoma

109

3 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:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. Frank Vrana

STREET & NUMBER

101 E 13

CITY, TOWN

Edmond 73034

VICINITY OF

STATE

Oklahoma

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the County Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

Oklahoma County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Oklahoma City

STATE

Oklahoma

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Special Arcadia Round Barn Survey

DATE

1976

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		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Odor's round barn - 60 feet in diameter, 43 feet in height - was six months in the building. Oxen cleared the ground in early 1898. Local red Permian rock was used for the foundation. Odor apparently designed the barn himself and no one knows just why he chose to make it round. Green burr oak trees were cut for the timbering. To shape the crucial rafters he ordered construction of a form. The timbers were soaked in water until soft enough to band into the mold. When they were ready to erect Odor himself fit the first ones in place. Flooring, shingles, and siding were brought in, but the joists, studs, and other dimension lumber were of oak from the farm, which probably helps to explain why the barn, for all the neglect of its latter years, still stands.

Today the shingles are covered with cheap green asphalt roofing. Most of the window frames are gone and here and there studs are exposed by breaks in the siding. A half-dozen creosote poles, wedged into angle irons bolted to the second-floor joists on the east side of the barn, recognize damage inflicted by a recent storm in the area. Still, dilapidated as it obviously is, the barn is probably threatened less by collapse than by arson-minded vandals.

\* \* \*

Interestingly enough, the barn has already been "enshrined" (after a fashion) in the Arcadia Post Office. Gregg Burns, the paraplegic artist who works with mouth-held pen or brush, featured the barn in one of his widely reprinted works. The original he donated to the Post Office, which has it mounted on a panel in the lobby surrounded by historic pictures of the old landmark in his heyday.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
___PREHISTORIC	___ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	___COMMUNITY PLANNING	___LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	___RELIGION
___1400-1499	___ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	___CONSERVATION	___LAW	___SCIENCE
___1500-1599	<b>X</b> AGRICULTURE	___ECONOMICS	___LITERATURE	___SCULPTURE
___1600-1699	<b>X</b> ARCHITECTURE	___EDUCATION	___MILITARY	<b>X</b> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
___1700-1799	___ART	___ENGINEERING	___MUSIC	___THEATER
<b>X</b> 1800-1899	<b>X</b> COMMERCE	___EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	___PHILOSOPHY	___TRANSPORTATION
<b>X</b> 1900-	___COMMUNICATIONS	___INDUSTRY	___POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	___OTHER (SPECIFY)
		___INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES      1898 to the present      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      William Harrison Odor

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Arcadia's landmark round barn, to quote a recent newspaper headline, "ain't what she used to be." But for all her nearly four score years, she still stands ALMOST erect, an architectural curiosity, a symbol of pioneer perseverance, and something of a memorial to a small town and a railroad, both of which typical American institutions came into being, flourished briefly, and then faded away to near-oblivion while she watched serenely from atop a low overlooking the Deep Fork River. On all three counts she would seem to deserve the recognition and protection of National Register status.

\* \* \*

This northeastern corner of Oklahoma County was opened to settlement with the Old Oklahoma "run" of April 22, 1889. William Harrison "Big Bill" Odor arrived in 1892. In 1898 he built his barn, a two-story affair for hay, grain, and livestock. Later he used it to house a harness and livery stable business. But almost from the first it also served as a community center. While the barn was still under construction three young workers, realizing what a fine place it would be for dances, persuaded Odor to let them pay the difference between the planned rough flooring and more suitable hardwood. From time to time for the next twenty-five years "barn dances" drew dancers and musicians to Arcadia from a wide area.

Arcadia itself - and the M-K-T railroad - arrived simultaneously in 1902. But the year before Odor had helped organize a neighborhood band. One musician, of many, who played at one time or another in the barn, was M. E. Trapp, who became the 6th governor of the state in 1923. Odor was proud of his barn and is said to have compared its acoustics with those of the Mormon Tabernacle in Salt Lake City. Be that as it may (or may not!) it was a popular rallying point while Arcadia flourished. Odor was a builder and promoter. A school teacher in Kansas before coming to Oklahoma, he organized the first Bank of Arcadia in 1905. He was later in the hardware business. His was the first phone in what grew to become the independent Arcadia Telephone System.

Today the town has lost its cotton gins, its bank, and virtually of its other businesses. Interstate 44 has drawn off much of the US 66 traffic that once moved through the town within a few feet of the eye-catching red barn ... which is now more gray than red, its painted advertisement for an Oklahoma City store weathered into illegibility. Even the rusted rails of the M-K-T just beyond the highway are rarely used today and the line's abandonment is imminent. But the barn itself remains, thanks to a half-dozen sturdy supports on the east (down-wind) side ... a slightly a tilt memorial, not only to a rural way-of-life that has now virtually disappeared, but also to a sturdy pioneer spirit which, hopefully, has NOT disappeared, but merely found other ways in which to express itself.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Anderson, Willene, "The old round red barn . . ." Oklahoma City Times,  
 Oct. 10, 1974  
 Gilson, Nancy, "Old Barn Holds Pioneer History," Oklahoma Journal,  
 April 14, 1975  
 Jones, Linda and Baker, Marjorie, "Arcadia . . ." Edmond (Okla.) Booster,  
 April 22, 1976

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 1 4	6 5 1 5 7 5	3 9 4 7 5 7 8	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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

December 1976

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. Deupree M.D.

DATE

12-9-77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

12/23/77

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Charles H. ...

DATE

12-22-77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER