

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FM 0662933

DATA SHEET

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 15 1978

DATE ENTERED MAY 22 1978

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Hobart City Hall

AND/OR COMMON

Old City Hall

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Main and Third Sts.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Hobart

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

No. 6

STATE

Oklahoma

CODE

40

COUNTY

Kiowa

CODE

075

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

City of Hobart

STREET & NUMBER

111 E Third

CITY, TOWN

Hobart

VICINITY OF

STATE

Oklahoma

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the County Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

Kiowa County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Hobart

STATE

Oklahoma

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Special City Hall Survey

DATE

1977

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 (basically)	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

In 1912 the 11-year-old city of Hobart approved a \$50,000 bond proposal for construction of a three-story brick City Hall. The Hobart firm of Nix & Creasey erected the building following plans prepared by W. A. Etherton of Stillwater. The city had purchased the corner lot for \$5,000. The Nix & Creasey bid was for \$39,000 (although the firm was eventually paid \$875 less than that because heating facilities were not installed at the time). Eleven hundred seats (with foot rests and number plates) were to be installed by A. H. Andrews & Co. at a cost of \$1.50 each. The stage curtain was purchased from a Kansas City Scenic Company for \$520. (Needless to say, its scene, now lost to time, was surrounded by advertisements of Hobart merchants. It was used until a new curtain was ordered in 1927.) A red granite corner stone was purchased from the Oklahoma Granite Company, placed at the southeast corner of the building.

The City Hall is 70 feet north-south, 100 feet east-west, and three stories high. The loft or stage fly superstructure is intact atop the building. Access to the auditorium is available from all sides. On the west is a long enclosed stairway. On the south, the main entrance originally, there is a double-width stairway open to the second floor, with a single width stairway beyond. On the north is another double-width stairway open to the second floor. Also on the north is an emergency-type fire exit with outside iron stairway.

Shortgrass Playhouse plans to use this second floor auditorium for practice and rehearsals, for training for maintenance and equipment personnel, for design and execution of costumes, and as a workshop for building of stage sets. According to the current agreement with Hobart city officials, only the second floor can be used. However, should the City Hall be placed in the National Register, the theatre group will go back to the city with revamped and amplified restoration plans for the entire building.

The City Hall has been inspected by an engineer and an architect, as well as by Playhouse board members. All agree that the building is structurally sound and of sufficient historic value to save and restore. Particularly worth noting, in their opinion, is the decorative plaster work surrounding the stage opening (see picture enclosed), hand-molded at the time and illustrating a type of craftsmanship of the era that is now rare. Light sockets were incorporated into the design.

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1912 to date BUILDER/ARCHITECT Designer: W. A. Etherton, Stillwater;
Builder: Nix & Creasey, Hobart

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Hobart is that rare town that can point to its first "Cultural Center" and declare it would preserve and restore it for latter-day use in much the same capacity. Granted, Hobart City Hall is not Carnegie Hall or the Metropolitan Opera House. But, then, neither is Hobart New York City.

Founded in 1901 with opening of the Kiowa-Comanche-Apache Indian lands to settlement, Hobart was being quite progressive when, in 1912, at the tender age of 11, it authorized the sale of bonds in the amount of \$50,000 for construction of an impressive City Hall to include an auditorium seating 1,100. Over the years that auditorium was to accommodate a wide variety of programs - all of which contributed to the shaping of life in the young southwestern Oklahoma county seat.

Here Lyceum and Chautauqua programs were presented ... and church revivals, a wide variety of public school events (plays, operetta, style shows, graduation ceremonies), political speeches (Josh Lee, William Jennings Bryan, to name but two), prizefights ... even an occasional session of district court.

Early in the 1930s the auditorium's functions began to change, although it continued to reflect the social and political winds sweeping the community itself. First its numbered seats were removed, the space thus freed converted into offices for the Works Progress Administration. A few years later World War II saw the auditorium serving as a USO facility. After the war, again reflecting changing social concepts, it became Teen Town. School proms and dances followed, along with area-wide square dances. In recent years, however, these upper floors (auditorium and balcony) have been largely unused.

Through the years the ground floor has continued to serve the City of Hobart. From 1912 until the early 1960s, when a new City Hall was constructed, it housed all city offices. Today it still accommodates the fire and police departments, and a couple of apartments used by the firemen.

The 1912 City Hall is one of the oldest substantial brick buildings in Hobart. Due to its prominent downtown location, facing Courthouse Square, and because of its many community-wide uses over virtually the entire life of the town, the Shortgrass Playhouse board considers the still handsome structure sufficiently significant historically in the development of Hobart and Kiowa County to warrant undertaking the not inconsiderable task of preserving and in time restoring it. And it is to forward this goal that this National Register nomination is submitted.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Miscellaneous materials provided by the SHORTGRASS PLAYHOUSE INC. group of Hobart

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY c. one acre
UTM REFERENCES

A

14	491570	3875725
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

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

DATE

November 1977

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 L. Ruppree M.D.

DATE

7-10-78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

Charles [Signature]

DATE

5-22-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

5-3-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER