

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Oklahoma  
 COUNTY: Logan  
 FOR NPS USE ONLY  
 ENTRY NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 MAR 7 1973



**1. NAME**  
 COMMON: Co-operative Publishing Co. Building  
 AND/OR HISTORIC: State Capital Building

**2. LOCATION**  
 STREET AND NUMBER: Harrison Avenue and 2nd Street  
 CITY OR TOWN: Guthrie (Lots 1-3, Block 60 - SE/4 Sec. 8, T 16 N, R 2 W)  
 STATE: Oklahoma  
 CODE: 40 COUNTY: Logan CODE: 083

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	OWNERSHIP <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		STATUS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
	PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate) <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____			

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**  
 OWNER'S NAME: Mrs. Myrtle Jackson  
 STREET AND NUMBER: Harrison at Second  
 CITY OR TOWN: Guthrie  
 STATE: Oklahoma

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**  
 COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Office of the County Clerk  
 STREET AND NUMBER: Logan County Courthouse  
 CITY OR TOWN: Guthrie  
 STATE: Oklahoma CODE: 40

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**  
 TITLE OF SURVEY: Oklahoma Historic Sites Survey  
 DATE OF SURVEY: 1958  
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  Federal  State  County  Local  
Oklahoma Historical Society  
 STREET AND NUMBER: Historical Building  
 CITY OR TOWN: Oklahoma City  
 STATE: Oklahoma CODE: 40

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION Print

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The State Capital hit the dusty streets of Guthrie at four o'clock in the afternoon of April 22, 1889 -- the day of the "run" -- having been printed in a hastily erected tent on a corner lot at Cleveland and Broad streets. The new daily moved into a just as hastily erected frame building six days later. In 1890 it moved into two rented rooms of a new, more substantial brick building at the southwest corner of Harrison Avenue and Second Street (the site under consideration in this nomination). For reasons mentioned in No. 8 the State Capital operation continued to grow and another first floor room was rented in 1893. In 1897 the newspaper bought the building -- four stories, counting the basement. And in 1900, when the McKennon Opera House, which occupied the top floor, moved into a new home of its own, the State Capital expanded into the additional space, for the first time utilizing the entire building. Its press capacity was a respectable 25,000 papers per hour. Its machinery was powered by its own generating plant, run by two gas engines.

Then on Easter Sunday, March 30, 1902, the building burned to the ground. According to the cornerstone on the present building, the paper missed no issues. By April 16 it was re-established in another building, temporarily, while the burned site was cleared and a new, more elaborate plant was built. Designed by Jog. Foucart, an early day Oklahoma architect who made the "Run" and was the principal designer of many of the first structures in the new territory, the \$75,000 building was ready for use that fall. It was 50 x 140 feet, with three stories above a full-size basement. "Some people tell me," says the present owner, "that at the time it was built it was described as the biggest printing plant west of the Mississippi . . ." Certainly it must have been one of the best equipped. With the memory of the destructive fire fresh on his mind, Editor Greer insisted on a fire-proof vault on each of the four working floors. In an age when other than natural air-conditioning was unknown, fourteen-foot ceilings on the three upper floors ensured a measure of comfort on even the hottest days.

The business office was unusually handsome, in some ways more reminiscent of a bank than a newspaper office. Window cages, combining metal and elegantly finished oak, bore the legends "Cashier," "Subscriptions," and "Classified." Ceilings were of zinc sheets, highly ornamented, in the commercial style so popular at the time. One entire wall of the office was made of filing drawers, finished with quarter-sawed oak. They held the standardized city, county, and state printing forms that constituted a good part of the commercial business of the State Capital and then of the Cooperative Publishing Company.

Although now operating on a greatly reduced scale, the plant is still open. The State Capital press itself was removed at the time the paper ceased publication in 1911. But its linotypes are still in place, along with most of its other job-press equipment - four hand-fed Miehle cylinder presses, two Chandler and Price platten presses, two Kluge platten presses, rare ruling machines, four guillotine paper cutters (including at least one that survived the 1902 fire), and much other equipment, most of it old, some of it now quite rare.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

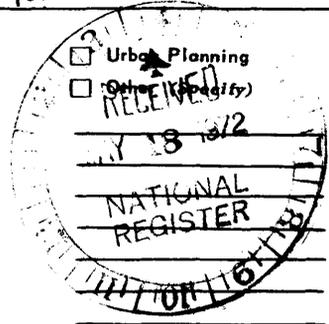
- |  |                                       |  |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |  |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

~~1889 to present~~ 1902

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |   |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal          | <input type="checkbox"/> Education    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric         | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering  | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic            | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry     | <input type="checkbox"/> Science              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture         | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention    | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture        | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape    | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature   | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications      | <input type="checkbox"/> Military     |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation        | <input type="checkbox"/> Music        |   |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In this age of "instant" everything it is interesting to remember that present-day Oklahoma had "instant" cities almost a century ago - grassy patches of uninhabited prairie that within hours of the "run" of April 22, 1889, were indeed tent "cities" of thousands of settlers. Oklahoma City was one such city to spring up Phoenix-like between noon and sunset. Guthrie, some 30 miles to the north, was another. And the instant city of Guthrie -- capital of Oklahoma Territory and the State of Oklahoma until 1910 -- can also boast an instant daily newspaper, the Daily State Capital, which hit the dusty would-be streets of the city at four o'clock on the afternoon of the Run. It was the first daily paper ever published in what is now Oklahoma and, although it ceased publication March 28, 1911, its physical plant has continued to operate down to the present -- for almost 50 years as the Co-operative Publishing Company, one of the state's largest publishing houses, and then as a more modest job printing plant.

The State Capital began as a weekly paper, printed in Winfield, Kansas. It was founded by Frank H. Greer on March 30, 1889 - three weeks before the opening of Oklahoma Territory to settlement. Initial press run was 15,000 copies. The first edition (now a collector's item) contained the proclamation of President Harrison, opening the territory to white settlement, information for homeseekers on regulations pertaining to the claiming of homestead land, and a picture of the traditional eagle with a ribbon in its beak bearing the legend: "I Scream For Oklahoma." Greer printed two more editions of the weekly in Kansas (April 13 and April 20) before throwing his press and other equipment on a train and heading for Guthrie the day of the run. From a hastily erected tent on a lot at the corner of Cleveland and Broad Streets the first Oklahoma edition of the new daily appeared. The enterprise that went into its founding carried over into its daily operation and assured its success ... so long as Editor Greer's Republican party was in control of Territorial government. With a Republican administration in Washington, the appointive Territorial governor was Republican, as were most of the state officials. The State Capital Printing Company was awarded all the Territorial printing and it soon became the territory's largest job printing, book binding, and school supply business.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Cozby, J. Louis, "Cooperative Publishing Occupies Distinct Place in Guthrie History," The Guthrie Daily Leader, April 18, 1971  
 Jackson, Marion, "Newspaper Museum Proposal Endorsed by OPA Directors," The Oklahoma Publisher, Oklahoma City, March 1972  
 Lehmann, Bill, "A History of the Oklahoma State Capital, Guthrie, Oklahoma, 1889-1911," an unpublished research paper, 1972

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		35 ° 52' 39"	97 ° 25' 32"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **less than one acre**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Kent Ruth, Deputy**

ORGANIZATION: **Oklahoma Historical Society**      DATE: **April 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Historical Building**

CITY OR TOWN: **Oklahoma City**      STATE: **Oklahoma**      CODE: **40**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION      NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National       State       Local

Name: *Kent Ruth*

Title: *SLO for Okla*

Date: *MAY 15 1972*

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

*Richard Van Dine*  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: *3/7/73*

ATTEST:

*W. J. [Signature]*  
 Keeper of the National Register

Date: *3.5.73*

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Oklahoma	
COUNTY	
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(Number all entries)

No. 8. Significance

Co-operative Printing Co. Building

From its tent the infant daily had moved to a frame building within a week. By 1890 it had moved again, this time to two rooms of a large brick building on the location of the present Co-operative Publishing Company building. By 1897 the newspaper/publishing company occupied the entire 3-story building, giving it a total of 10,000 square feet of floor space. It was soon employing up to one hundred people, and running 24 hours a day, six days a week, to keep up with the demand for its admittedly top quality services. Even an Easter morning fire, March 30, 1902, that burned its building to the ground, only inconvenienced the State Capital temporarily. Subscription money poured in. That fall a new building costing \$75,000 was completed on the same site. The Daily State Capital itself had not missed an issue.

Politics, however, proved far more disruptive. With statehood in 1907, and the election of state officials, Charles Haskell, a Democrat, became Oklahoma's first State Governor. A feud promptly developed between Governor Haskell and staunchly Republican Editor Greer. The State Capital was highly critical of the Haskell administration and there is reason to believe that this ill will was a contributing factor -- with the boosterism zeal of Oklahoma City business leaders -- to the removal to that city from Guthrie of the state capital in 1910. Frank Greer sold out to the rival Democratic daily, the Leader (established in 1891 and still being published), and the State Capital suspended operation on March 28, 1911.

The printing and binding operation of the sizeable plant were continued under the name of Co-operative Publishing Company, for many years the state's largest publishing house. It is still operating as a small job printer. However, most of the original (post 1902) equipment is still in the building. It is this unique combination of elaborate physical plant, museum-like collection of vintage equipment, and strong historical significance that Guthrie interests and the Oklahoma Press Association hope to convert into a Museum of Newspapers and Printing that will serve as a meaningful monument to the printing trade, particularly as it grew and played its important role in the development of the frontier, first as Territory and then as the Union's 46th State.

