

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.

**1. Name of Property**

Historic name: Kelley Club

Other names/site number: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing:  
\_\_\_\_\_

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

**2. Location**

Street & number: 2300 North Kelley Avenue

City or town: Oklahoma City State: Oklahoma County: Oklahoma

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 property X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria.

I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D

<b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
<b>Signature of commenting official:</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Title :</b>	<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>

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#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register  
 determined eligible for the National Register  
 determined not eligible for the National Register  
 removed from the National Register  
 other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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#### 5. Classification

##### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

##### Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register \_\_\_\_\_

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Social: Clubhouse  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Social: Clubhouse  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

No Style  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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### Summary Paragraph

Located on a corner, in the Capitol Complex vicinity, the Kelley Club faces west onto North Kelley Avenue. South of the building is commercial buildings while north, east and west are residential neighborhoods. The one-story brick clad building is modest in design and has minimal ornamentation. The building has a large parking area with streetscapes. The building maintains a high degree of architectural integrity.

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### Narrative Description

The façade, west elevation, has a central entry accessed via two steps. The patio is surrounded by a knee height brick planter with stone end caps. The only opening in the brick planter is two steps leading to the main entrance. The entry has two wood pane and panel doors. The doors each have a nine-pane fixed window. Above the door and two-thirds of the patio is a metal canopy with a “KELLEY CLUB” sign. Above the canopy are two round stone ornamental details. The brick wall is capped with stone coping. Located on either side of the entry are two nine-over-nine double hung wood windows with stone stills.

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The south elevation has a central entry accessed via one step. The patio is surrounded by a knee height brick planter with stone end caps. The only opening in the brick planter is two steps leading to the larger entrance on this elevation. The entry has two wood pane and panel doors. The doors each have a nine-pane fixed window. Above the door and two-thirds of the patio is a metal canopy. Above the canopy are two round stone ornamental details. The brick wall is capped with stone coping. Located on either side of the entry is a pair of two nine-over-nine double hung wood windows with stone stills.

Located at the southeast corner of the south elevation is a shorter one-story wing. It has a single step leading to the pane and panel door at the northwest, inside, corner of the north elevation. The window in the door is nine-pane. Two narrow columns that end at short brick knee walls support a metal canopy over the entry. There is a nine-over-nine double hung window at the northwest corner. The upper sash has been covered and now has a small square vent. This shorter one-story wing was purposely built around the original back door which is the threshold thousands of alcoholics have crossed over.

The east elevation has an air conditioner in the first window opening (intentional) and a nine-over-nine double hung window with stone sill in the smaller one-story wing at the northeast corner. The remainder of the east elevation has a panel door and six small sliding windows with stone sills.

The north elevation has two pairs of two, nine-over-nine double hung wood windows. As with all other elevations, the north elevation has a stone coping.

#### Interior:

The interior is divided into four main rooms: assembly hall (large open space), kitchen, game room and office. Historically, the room at the south end of the building was the drying out room where Alcoholic Anonymous members detoxed drunks before treatment centers were available.

#### Landscaping:

The south and west elevations, which face the streets, are devoid of public sidewalks. The only sidewalks are those that lead to an entry door on the Kelley Club Property. The west elevation has plantings in the brick planters and along the building face. The south elevation has plantings in the brick planters and along the building face. The east and north elevations have a parking lot.

#### Integrity:

While the windows on the east elevation have been changed, the east elevation is the rear facing elevation and therefore has little impact on the overall integrity of the resource. The Kelley Club maintains excellent architectural integrity.

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## 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.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- 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 values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Social History  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1946  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1946  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Joe G.<sup>1</sup>, builder  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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<sup>1</sup> Due to Alcoholic Anonymous' practice of anonymity, only first names will be used unless permission to use last names has been granted.

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Kelley Club is significant under Criteria A at the local level for its association with Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), the group whose mission is to assist alcoholics in finding and maintaining sobriety. The Oklahoma City Group of AA, the first AA group to form in Oklahoma, started in September of 1941 but began its new life in the Kelley Club in June of 1946. Through its Twelve Step program, AA has enabled, and continues to enable, Oklahomans to achieve and sustain permanent sobriety. Because AA has had an extraordinarily significant impact on the residents of Oklahoma City as well as the treatment and understanding of alcoholism, the property is locally significant under Social History.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The 1900's saw a rise in self-help groups. They were volunteer organizations, mainly composed of peers, coming together for help and support regarding a life-disrupting problem. Most of these organizations emerged after World War II and were a reaction against the growing medical and scientific community. AA, founded in 1935, served as a prototype for self-help groups. The Twelve Step program, which was developed by AA co-founders, Bill Wilson and Dr. Bob Smith, became such a staple of American lexicon that is no longer associated with just alcoholism. AA is a reflection of American popular culture where it prioritizes the power of the individual and the ideas of rationalism and control.

Bill Wilson and Bob Smith, the co-founders of AA, saw AA as a community in which members seek to control their alcoholism through honesty, service and a reliance on a Power greater than oneself. Bill Wilson split from the Oxford Group, a religious movement popular in the United States and Europe in the early 20th century that practiced a formula of self-improvement by performing self-inventory, admitting wrongs, making amends, using prayer and meditation, and carrying the message to others but focusing on the Christian theology of God. After coming together, Wilson and Smith worked these basic principles into AA's Twelve Step program, with a vaguer and more palatable idea of a "higher power," and then developed a program where those suffering from alcoholism partnered with and assisted others suffering from alcoholism. Since its founding, millions from all over the world identify themselves as AA members. AA emphasized anonymity in membership; it is a cornerstone of membership.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Many might hesitate to turn to A.A. for help if they thought their problem might be discussed publicly, even inadvertently, by others. Newcomers to AA should be able to seek help with assurance that their identities will not be disclosed to anyone outside the fellowship of AA. The concept of personal anonymity has a spiritual significance for AA — it discourages the drives for personal recognition, power, prestige, or profit that have caused difficulties in some societies. Much of the relative effectiveness in working with alcoholics might be impaired if members sought or accepted public recognition.

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To promote the ideas of AA, Bill Wilson anonymously authored four books: *Alcoholics Anonymous* (1939) also called "The Big Book", *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* (1953), *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age* (1957) and *As Bill Sees It: The AA Way of Life* (1967). *Alcoholics Anonymous*, known as the Big Book, included the Twelve Steps and numerous autobiographical stories submitted by recovering alcoholics. Today, AA groups still use all of these books.

Both the history and mission of AA have sparked ongoing debates and discussions among medical professionals, historians, sociologists, psychologists, addicts and laypeople as to the nature of alcoholism and the power of self-help organizations. The organization's peculiar position as a secular organization with a religious tinge has also put it at the center of debates and discussions about the nature of the organization, the roots of its success and the ways in which government or public institutions can collaborate with quasi-religious groups.

Oklahoma City

Dr. Coyne Campbell aided many Oklahoma City alcoholics at the Coyne Campbell Sanatorium, where he worked to detox the individual<sup>3</sup>. Alcoholism held a serious stigma and not many were trained or capable of helping the alcoholic in the medical world; the Coyne Campbell Sanatorium fit a need at a time when few would or could help. In March of 1941, an article titled "*Alcoholics Anonymous: Freed Slaves of Drink, Now They Free Others*," written by Jack Alexander, was published in the Saturday Evening Post. People throughout the country read the article and realized, with great relief, that there may be help for their loved ones outside of the local hospital or sanatorium. Harry A's wife (from Oklahoma City) contacted the main office in New York and asked for help for her husband. Johnny P., a traveling candy-salesman and AA member, came to Oklahoma City to meet with Harry A. (who had since separated from his wife). The first Oklahoma Group formed in September of 1941 when the first formal meeting was held at the downtown Biltmore Hotel. In that same month, the Oklahoma City AA Group (as it became known) ran an advertisement in the local newspaper and secured a post office box.<sup>4</sup> By 1942, they had rented a location for their meetings on Northwest 42<sup>nd</sup> Street; by years end the membership totaled 43. By July of 1945, Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc. of Oklahoma City was incorporated. After losing the lease at VZDs, the Oklahoma City AA Group broke into eight smaller groups, holding meeting at residences until the new, bigger building was constructed at Kelley. By December of 1945, there were 196 members.

With the establishment of a centralized system for contacting the Oklahoma AA, through a post office box and telephone number, the citizenry of Oklahoma finally found the help they needed. Either by word of mouth or through the newspaper advertisements, the Oklahoma City AA Group would be contacted by someone in need of assistance (either the person themselves or a family member). Once identified, a select number of members from the Oklahoma City AA group were dispatched to that community to meet with the person and help organize another AA

<sup>3</sup> Dr. Coyne Campbell was a medical doctor in Oklahoma City who operated numerous clinics over time in the City. The Sanatorium was just one of those clinics where patients were treated for alcoholism. They were sometimes given day passes but always had to return in the evenings. The Sanatorium is non-extant.

<sup>4</sup> Oklahoma AA Milestones with Kelley Club, p. 3.

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group. Also, Oklahomans could contact this main post office box or telephone number to request a Big Book. Countless numbers of AA groups exist in Oklahoma because Harry A's wife in Oklahoma City contacted New York. Although the group remained very much a grassroots organization, it received support in Oklahoma City from J.J. C. who donated the land for the Kelley Club since AA had been so instrumental to his son's sobriety.

By June of 1946, the Kelley Club opened for the Oklahoma City Group. With the opening of the larger facility, the eight home meetings became the Monday Night Mixed Group (women and blacks), Tuesday Night Men's Group and the Friday night open meeting<sup>5</sup>. After being long established in the community, new meetings were added such as the Young People's Group, Tuesday Night Women's Group, Wednesday Night Mixed Group, etc. The new facility also served meals and hosted entertainment for the members. Ultimately, the Kelley Club would come to over the years, thousands of members being drawn from a variety of socio-economic backgrounds.

The Kelley Club, unlike many other AA meeting places in Oklahoma, had a drying out room for alcoholics. In this room was a bed, chairs and bucket. A person in the process of drying out could come to the Kelley Club and stay in this room while other members of the Kelley Club helped them through the drying out process. Family members who were used to this process were also welcome and often times would sit in the common area playing cards, eating meals or visiting.

As an organization, Alcoholics Anonymous in Oklahoma City traces its roots to meetings that occurred at the Biltmore Hotel in 1941 (non-extant), Coyne Campbell Sanatorium (non-extant), VZD in 1942 (altered), and member's homes from 1945 until the Kelley Club was completed in 1946. The Kelley Club is the best site to represent and illustrate the growth of Alcoholics Anonymous in Oklahoma City. The other sites, many of which are non-extant, may be associated with AA but do not have the ability to convey the story of AA in Oklahoma City to the same degree that Kelley Club does.

The role of the Kelley Club on Oklahoma City is immeasurable. The Twelve Steps are the most successful means of treating alcoholism and are the central treatment program in most hospitals, treatment centers and clinics. From the intimate conversations at the Kelley Club to the "kinship of common suffering," the Kelley Club of Oklahoma City provided a simple formula that enabled alcoholics in the City to achieve a degree of longevity and effectiveness unmatched by previous efforts to address alcoholism.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Initially, the Friday night group was an opening meeting used to educate the public on issues regarding Alcoholics Anonymous. These meetings were so highly attended that they would be moved to larger facilities, such as the Municipal Auditorium.

<sup>6</sup> Many of the members of the Kelley Club refer to it as "the oldest clubhouse for AA meetings west of the Mississippi."

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### **Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Alcoholics Anonymous. *Alcoholics Anonymous*. New York: Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc., 2001.

Alcoholics Anonymous. *Smith and the Good Oldtimers*. Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc., New York 1980 (2004).

Kelley Club. "Old Timers' Celebration Weekend." July 12 & 13, 2013.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Oklahoma A.A. Milestones with Kelley Club History." August 19, 2013

Lender, Mark Edward, and James Kirby Martin. *Drinking in America: A History*. New York: Free Press, 1982.

Perch, Annah. "Stepping Stones," National Historic Landmark Nomination Form. Washington D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2013.

Robertson, Nan. *Getting Better: Inside Alcoholic Anonymous*. New York: Morrow, 1988.

Tracy, Sarah W., and Caroline Jean Ackers, eds. *Altering American Consciousness: The History of Alcohol and Drug Use in the United States, 1800-2000*. Boston: University of Massachusetts Press, 2004.

University of Michigan Public History Initiative. "Dr. Bob's Home," National Historic Landmark Nomination Form. Washington D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2013.

Valverde, Mariana. "Slavery from Within: The Invention of Alcoholism and the Question of Free Will." *Social History* 22, no. 3 (October 1997): 251-268.

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### **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

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\_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

\_\_\_ State Historic Preservation Office  
\_\_\_ Other State agency  
\_\_\_ Federal agency  
\_\_\_ Local government  
\_\_\_ University  
\_\_\_ Other  
Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** less than 1 acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 35.492568 | Longitude: -97.494185 |
| 2. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |
| 3. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |
| 4. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Lots 5-10 inclusive and lots 45 and 46, Block 7, Sunrise Addition to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes all of the property historically associated with the Kelley Club.

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### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Lynda S. Ozan, National Register Program Coordinator  
organization: OK/SHPO  
street & number: 800 Nazih Zuhdi Dr  
city or town: Oklahoma City state: OK zip code: 73105  
e-mail lozan@okhistory.org  
telephone: 405-522-4478  
date: 7 January 2014

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### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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**Photographs**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

**Photo Log**

Name of Property: Kelley Club

City or Vicinity: Oklahoma City

County: Oklahoma State: Oklahoma

Photographer: Lynda Ozan/Allison Archambo

Date Photographed:

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Number	Subject	Direction
0001	Façade	East
0002	East elevation	West
0003	South elevation	North
0004	Threshold	Interior
0005	Drying out room	Interior

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

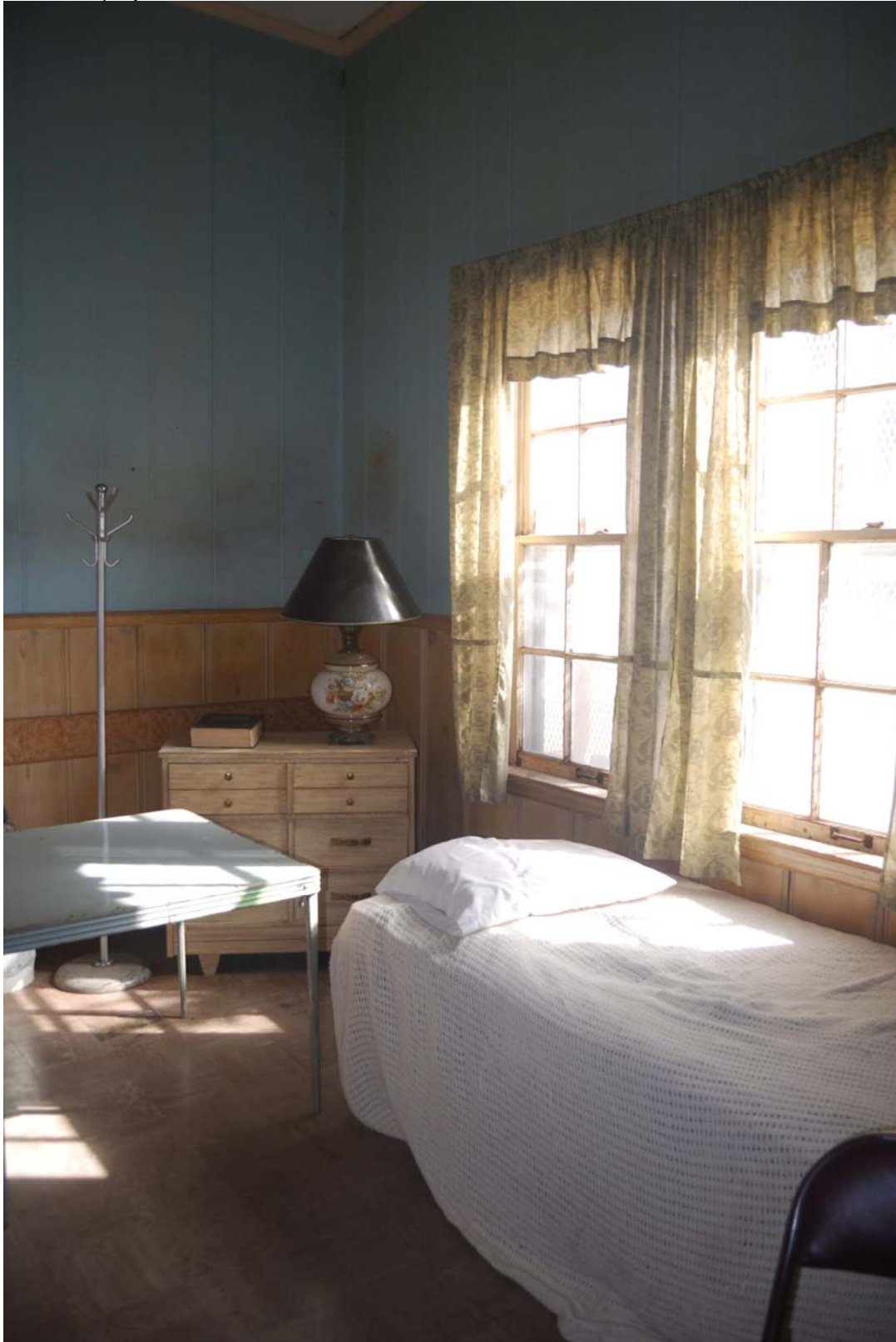
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# Kelley Club, 2300 North Kelley Avenue Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County, Oklahoma



0 0.015 0.03 0.06 Miles