

**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: Pruett House

Other names/site number: "The Admiral"

Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A

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

## 2. Location

Street & number: 155 Redwood Dr.

City or town: Stillwater State: OK County: Payne

Not For Publication:  Vicinity: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:

\_\_\_A      \_\_\_B      XC      \_\_\_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>1</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>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: SINGLE DWELLING

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**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: SINGLE DWELLING

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Moderne

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

Principal exterior materials of the property: ASBESTOS

### 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

The Pruett House, constructed in 1939, is a two-story frame house with a full basement and asphalt shingled roof with a very shallow pitch. Built in the Moderne style, the house features corner windows with “wrap-around” awnings on the second-floor. The house faces west onto a residential street. The roof of the two-car garage is entirely enclosed in iron hand-rail – intended to resemble the hand-railing on a cruise ship – as the roof also functions as a leisure deck. The house maintains its architectural integrity, as it appears to be entirely original.

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#### Narrative Description

Constructed in 1939, the white two-story Pruett House, or “The Admiral” as it is historically known, is situated in a residential district with its own cultural significance. The College Gardens district was built beginning in the 1920s expressly to attract faculty to Oklahoma A&M College. One such faculty member arrived in 1935 in the person of Haskell Pruett. Having designed a home himself by taking cues from the model homes of the 1933 *Chicago World’s Fair: A Century of Progress*, Haskell “Doc” Pruett decided to build his dream home in the College Gardens addition.

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The house is a Moderne style home with an irregular shape. The house at first glance appears to be a cube. However, the footprint of the house reveals a square-like shape with sections missing from the southeast corner. Both the main floor and second floor of the house have three main rooms, a hallway with staircase, and an attached garage. The roof of the first floor's attached garage doubles as a deck for the second floor.

The walls of every elevation are clad with white overlapping asbestos siding. In addition to the main floor, the house has a second story, and a fully finished basement. The front of the house faces west toward Redwood Drive, formerly Admiral Street.<sup>1</sup> Having a full basement, the home's foundation is concrete. The basement is made apparent by the sunken three over four windows, only partially visible from the street level. The basement windows appear on three of the four elevations of the house: the west, south, and east elevations. Rather than having a flat roof, as the Moderne style typically would, "The Admiral" has a very low pitched roof with asphalt shingles. Due to its clever design, it is nearly impossible to tell that the house does not have a flat roof from the sidewalk.

On a house full of striking features, perhaps the most striking is the fenestration. Every corner with a southerly component has matching ribbon-style corner windows on both floors. For example, on both floors the southwest corner has a ribbon-style window of six over four, with four over four on the west side of the corner and two over four on the south side. As the house was built before the availability of central air conditioning, it was designed so that every above ground room in the house had windows that faced to the south and east – to take advantage of the best winds in Oklahoma during the summer. Most of the windows on the first two floors are ribbon-style corner windows, with three exceptions on the west elevation. Symmetrically aligned on the first and second floor, single windows of two over four are fixed just south of the front porch. And on the second floor, directly above the front door, but situated at eye level to one standing on the second floor is an oculus that provides light to the master bathroom. Also, with the exception of the oculus, every second floor window has a wide, long, and continuous metal awning. In the case of the corner ribbon-style windows, the awning is "L" shaped so that the entire window has an awning.

The west elevation features the main entrance to the home, as well as the front of the two-door, two-car garage which is attached to the northern side of the house. The garage is offset from the house toward the west, creating a northern wall for the front porch. The front entrance to the home contains a wooden door with a large oculus at eye-level, but it also has one of the few modernizations to the home – a glass storm door. The garage doors have eight single paned windows arranged in a four-over-two fashion near the top of the door. The front porch has a built in seating area on the north side, flanked on its west by a concrete plant stand that is curved on about an 18" radius. The front door is the original door with a single window at eye-level so that from the porch one can easily see through the living room and into the kitchen. The concrete front porch sits atop three concrete steps that span its 8' width. The southwest corner of the porch boasts a three inch iron pipe for the column, and the southern span of the porch is railed with two

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<sup>1</sup> The original street name was changed by the fire department in order to avoid confusion with West Admiral Drive.

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spans of two inch pipe fashioned to look like ship railing. The same railing style is present around the entire flat roof of the garage. The roof of the garage was designed as a deck area, and given the railing for both safety, and a nautical appearance. In addition to the nautical style railing, the oculus on the second floor is indicative of a ship's porthole. These features coupled with the fact that the original address was 105 Admiral Road, led to the property's moniker of "The Admiral." At the base of the west elevation on the southern end of the main house facade is a concrete recess or "areaway" into the ground where the basement is made evident due to a three-over-three window built to provide some light, and presumably some air circulation to the basement. According to blueprints, another areaway and window are present at the base of the house adjacent to the front porch, but shrubs and plants obscure any view of the feature.

The south and east elevations present some of the more unique features of The Admiral as the two are linked together by the irregular shape of the house. The south elevation for example, spans 37' 6", but has three separate facades of 16', 13' 6", and 8' from west to east. The westernmost facade (16') contains two outside corners, each with portions of the ribbon-style corner windows, as well as the unique awnings attached to each window. The two windows on the southwest corner of the facade have the two-over-four portions of the ribbon window wrapped around from the west elevation. However, on the eastern corner of the facade, the windows have the four-over-four portion of the ribbon style corner window. The second facade of the south elevation (13' 6") is set four feet north of the southernmost facade. This facade contains the four-over-four portion of the ribbon-style corner windows of each floor on its easternmost corner, and the associated upstairs awning, as well as a basement "areaway" which includes a six-over-three basement window. The western corner of the facade is an inside corner, and it has no windows. The easternmost facade of the south elevation (8') is smaller, but more complex. The fenestration is similar to the second facade, with the four-over-four ribbon style corner windows on both floors and the associated awnings. However, unlike any other elevation, the first floor has a window awning. Not only does the awning cover the window, it doubles as a cover for the stoop at the back door which faces to the east in that corner. Metal railing rises up the four concrete steps to the back stoop.

The eastern elevation, like the southern elevation, has many facades. Overall, the eastern elevation is 51'6" wide, but has facades of 4', 11'6", 16', and 20' from south to north. The southernmost facade on the eastern elevation is only four feet wide, and its only features are the two-over-four portions of the ribbon-style corner windows from the westernmost facade of the southern elevation. The upstairs window has the associated awning. The second facade to the north is 11'6", and it contains several features. At the base of this facade, abutting the south side of the stoop, the basement is again made apparent by a sunken three-over-three basement window. To the right (or north) of the basement window is the back stoop, and back door to the house. The back stoop has a metal handrail, and the back door has a storm door and a metal awning that is a continuation of the awning for the first floor window from the southern elevation. The southern corners of the facade have the two-over-four portions of the ribbon-style corner windows as a continuation of the windows present on the associated southern facade. The upstairs window also has the associated awning. Directly above the back door, on the second floor, is a two by four window with no awning. Directly north of the corner window is a drain pipe for the roof drainage system. The next facade on the eastern elevation is 16' wide. At the

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base of this façade, there is one three-over-three basement window, placed near the southern corner. The southern corner of the façade contains the four-over-four portion of the ribbon-style corner windows wrapped around from the southern façade. The total size of these corner windows – including the southern façade – is eight-over-four, making this the largest window set in the house. Additionally, both the upstairs and downstairs windows have the complete continuous metal awnings that wrap around the corner and cover the entire span of the window. In the center of the façade is the drain pipe from the roof's drainage system. The northern corner of the façade has no distinguishing features. The northernmost façade of the east elevation is 20' wide and only one story tall, as it is the back of the garage. This façade is recessed from its adjacent façade by 21'. The inside or southernmost corner of the façade has a garage access door with the associated storm door. About eight feet to the right of this door is a four-over-three window with no awning or decoration of any kind. On the roof of the garage, the 2" iron-pipe handrail with 3" iron-pipe newel posts is a striking feature of the garage roof/deck.

The north elevation of the house is dominated by the garage, and the deck of the garage. The north elevation of the house only has two windows, one on each floor. The first floor window is four over four and has no awning. The upstairs window is only two over four. On the second floor level of the house, but with access to the deck, are two doors. The easternmost of these doors has a storm door and an awning, and provides access to a landing on the stairs inside the house. This is the roof/deck access door. The westernmost door is a storage closet where chairs and supplies for lounging on the deck are stored. The closet door has no awning. The northern end of the garage also has 2" iron-pipe handrail with 3" iron-pipe newel posts.

“The Admiral” maintains an exceptionally high degree of its historical and architectural integrity. The building has had no apparent additions, subtractions, or alterations. Routine has necessitated the replacement of the roofing materials, but the integrity of the architecture, location, and craftsmanship of the house remain entirely intact. The addition of trees to the front yard has obscured the view of the house from the street. Additionally, some shrubbery to the side of the front porch has blocked the view of a basement window that is only made apparent by studying the blueprints of the house. Also invisible to the passerby, but included in a narrative of the house written by Doc Pruett's daughter, Mildred Pruett Lee, is a sort of tunnel under the front porch that allowed garage access for the family's dog in inclement weather. “The Admiral” stands as a fine example of Moderne style architecture.

#### Potting Shed (non-contributing)

One story, gable front modern shed with wood siding and an asphalt roof.

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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.)

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1939  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1939  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

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

**Cultural Affiliation**

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

**Architect/Builder**

Haskell Pruett  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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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.)

The Pruet House, or “The Admiral,” is significant at the local level, under National Register Criterion C. Built in 1939, the house is an excellent example of Moderne style architecture. It is the most intact example of the Moderne style in the area as it retains the architectural cues and details from its original construction. While some examples of the Moderne style do exist within the state, the style is generally underrepresented. The unadorned nature of the style tends to make it less popular than other, more common styles in the area such as the Craftsman or Ranch style. Furthermore, the house is a one-of-a-kind design, as the architect and homeowner were the same: Haskell “Doc” Pruet. It is also unique because Doc Pruet, a professor and head of the photography department at Oklahoma State University<sup>2</sup> designed the home using ideas taken from the model homes at the 1933 *Chicago World’s Fair*. The period of significance for “The Admiral” corresponds to its date of construction: 1939.

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

During the period from the 1920s to World War II, Oklahoma A&M College had difficulty attracting quality faculty members from back east. One problem was the lack of quality housing in proximity to the college, as “town” was a mile or more from the school. One developer decided to solve the problem by building a “Garden City Movement” style community near the campus. The homes were to be of diverse architectural styles, and include some designs based on that of famous architects such as Frank Lloyd Wright. The “Garden City Movement” community that he created became known simply as College Gardens, a moniker that the district maintains to this day. In 1935, the college attracted and hired one such faculty member – Haskell “Doc” Pruet.

In 1933, before Doc Pruet and his wife Agnes arrived in Stillwater, Oklahoma, the couple visited many model homes at the 1933 *Chicago’s World’s Fair*. The couple was inspired by the architecture of the homes, as the 1933 World’s Fair featured designs that focused on Art Deco, Art Modern, and the International style – all known for their elegant lines, and unique uses of space.

A man of many talents, Doc Pruet proceeded to sketch his dream home with his wife Agnes. Eventually, Dr. Pruet would turn those sketches into full blown and detailed blueprints. Doc Pruet’s idea was to give the house a Moderne style that was remnant of a ship at sea. Naturally, the home’s nickname was one result of this design. In addition, the home is prominently located near the entrance to the “College Gardens” addition – it is located in lot number 2 – which makes the house a well-known landmark in Stillwater.

The Pruet House is a beautifully designed example of the Moderne style architecture. Typical elements of the Moderne styl found on the house include the smooth wall surface, small coping

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<sup>2</sup> In 1957, Oklahoma A&M College changed its name to Oklahoma State University.

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at roof line, horizontal balustrade giving the house a horizontal emphasis and the asymmetrical façade. The use of ribbon-style corner windows is common to the style along with the round windows which the Pruett House exhibits. The Moderne style is not often seen in Oklahoma, and the Pruett House remains an excellent example of the style.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Ganz, C. 2008. The 1933 Chicago World's Fair: century of progress. Chicago: University of Illinois Press.

Peters, David, 2014. Interview by author.

Pruett, H. 1938. Blueprints. Provided by the current homeowner.

Pruett, M. ca.1994. Narrative of the home for estate sale. Provided by the current homeowner.

McAlester, V. and L. McAlester. 1984. A field guide to American houses. New York: Knopf.

United States Geological Survey. 2013. "Stillwater South US Topo Map." [http://store.usgs.gov/b2c\\_usgs/usgs/maplocator/\(ctype=areaDetails&xcm=r3standardpitrex\\_prd&carearea=%24ROOT&layout=6\\_1\\_61\\_48&uiarea=2\)/.do](http://store.usgs.gov/b2c_usgs/usgs/maplocator/(ctype=areaDetails&xcm=r3standardpitrex_prd&carearea=%24ROOT&layout=6_1_61_48&uiarea=2)/.do) (accessed May 1, 2014).

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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
- 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

**Acreeage of Property** less than one 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: 36.120106 | Longitude: -97.076370 |
| 2. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |
| 3. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |
| 4. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |

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

College Gardens addition 1<sup>st</sup> section Replay Block 1 N ½ Lot 2 & All Lot 3.

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

These boundaries are selected because they are the boundaries of the lot/acreeage upon which the home sits.

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### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Sean V. Thomas  
organization: Oklahoma State University  
street & number: 1012 W Hoyt  
city or town: Chandler state: OK zip code: 74834  
e-mail seanvt@okstate.edu  
telephone: (405) 240-2363  
date: March 2016

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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.)

### 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.

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**Photo Log**

Name of Property: Pruett House

City or Vicinity: Stillwater

County: Payne

State: OK

Photographer: Lynda S. Ozan

Date Photographed: 16 February 2016

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

Number	Subject	Direction
0001	Façade	East
0002	North Elevation/Garage	Southeast
0003	South Elevation and Façade	Northeast
0004	South Elevation	Northeast

**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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Pruett House  
155 Redwood Drive  
Stillwater, Payne County, Oklahoma



0 0.025 0.05 0.1 Miles