

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Tulsa Municipal Building

AND/OR COMMON

Old City Hall

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

124 E. 4th Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Tulsa

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

No. 1

STATE

Oklahoma

CODE

40

COUNTY

Tulsa

CODE

143

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

KCEE (Oklahoma Limited Partners)

STREET & NUMBER

124 E. 4th Street

CITY, TOWN

Tulsa

VICINITY OF

STATE

Oklahoma

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the County Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

Tulsa County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Tulsa

STATE

Oklahoma

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Special City Hall Study

DATE

1974

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Oklahoma Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Oklahoma City

STATE

Oklahoma

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT DETERIORATED
 GOOD RUINS
 FAIR UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED (basically) ORIGINAL SITE
 ALTERED MOVED DATE _____

CHECK ONE

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Constructed in 1917, Tulsa's old Municipal Building has a generally Greek Classic facade. Its principal elevation features two-story, fluted Ionic columns. The simplified columns on the east and west elevations are modified Tuscan. Walls of the four-story buildings are of gray, 36-inch cut stone. Interior walls in public areas are faced with marble.

The 59 x 115-foot building faces north on a 100 x 140-foot lot. A basement serves for storage and equipment. The original architects were Rush, Endacott, Rush. The recent restoration (which continues on the upper floors as this nomination is being prepared) is under direction of the architectural/engineering firm of Coleman-Ervin-Harrington. The exterior has been left virtually unchanged, though doors and windows have been changed. Major addition is a new red brick plaza, in keeping with the old brick streets of the period in which the building was erected.

The spacious public spaces are being retained, though completely refurbished. These will accommodate art and photography exhibits. A 26 x 16-foot mural depicting life in Tulsa in 1919, has been commissioned to Delbert L. Jackson for the entrance lobby. A six-foot Jackson sculpture, the Goddess of Justice, will be a feature of the landing between the third and fourth floors. More than 20,000 square feet of leaseable office space on the four floors has been provided by the restoration. It is, of course, new and modern ... with carpeting, parket wood floors, hardwood paneling, the latest electrical and mechanical equipment.

The restoration is an excellent example of adaptive use of a still-sound historic building.

18 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input 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 1917 - 1969

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Rush, Endacott, Rush

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Tulsa's handsome Old City Hall has been dubbed a "Phoenix" by Mark Ross, executive director of the Arts Council of Tulsa. Several factors have made it so. Original credit is due its architects and builders, who endowed it with both grace and strength. Through a half-century of use and three years of idleness it "wore well." Perhaps even greater credit, however, is due its latter-day private owners, who had the vision to realize that these qualities could be "recycled" into highly desirable office space ... and the architectural/engineering firm now carrying out this complete adaptive-use restoration. Ross' "Phoenix" emerges, then, as an almost textbook example of adaptive-use preservation in an age when such recycling is urgently needed, not only to save both money and material resources, but also to counter the recent trend toward razing the old, no matter how valuable historically, and rebuilding from the ground up. "The trend in Tulsa, almost without exception, has been to create anew," Ross says. "To run counter to trends, and succeed, is notable."

* * *

The Old City Hall, first occupied in 1917, served Tulsa all those years it was energetically building its "Oil Capital" claim. That it succeeded in establishing the claim is why, ironically, the handsome old neo-classic structure eventually proved inadequate and, in 1969, was vacated. Tulsa got a post office in 1879, but by 1900 its population was only 1,390. The first oil boom came in 1901 and by 1910 its population had climbed 18,182. The 1920 census showed a spurt to 72,075. The figure is well over 350,000 today and Tulsa has more than 850 oil and oil-oriented firms, many of them with national and international headquarters in the city, that employ some 30,000 area residents.

For some 52 years, then, Tulsa's classic Municipal Building watched a modern major city grow up about it, dealing with countless matters concerning the lives and businesses of those directing and shaping that growth. What Tulsa is today was largely determined by the day-to-day actions and decisions that unfolded within its walls. And this importance is further buttressed by the fact that the structure has features and embellishments virtually prohibited by modern economics and formulas for new construction. Nearly all of Tulsa's significant early-day

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CONTINUATION SHEET

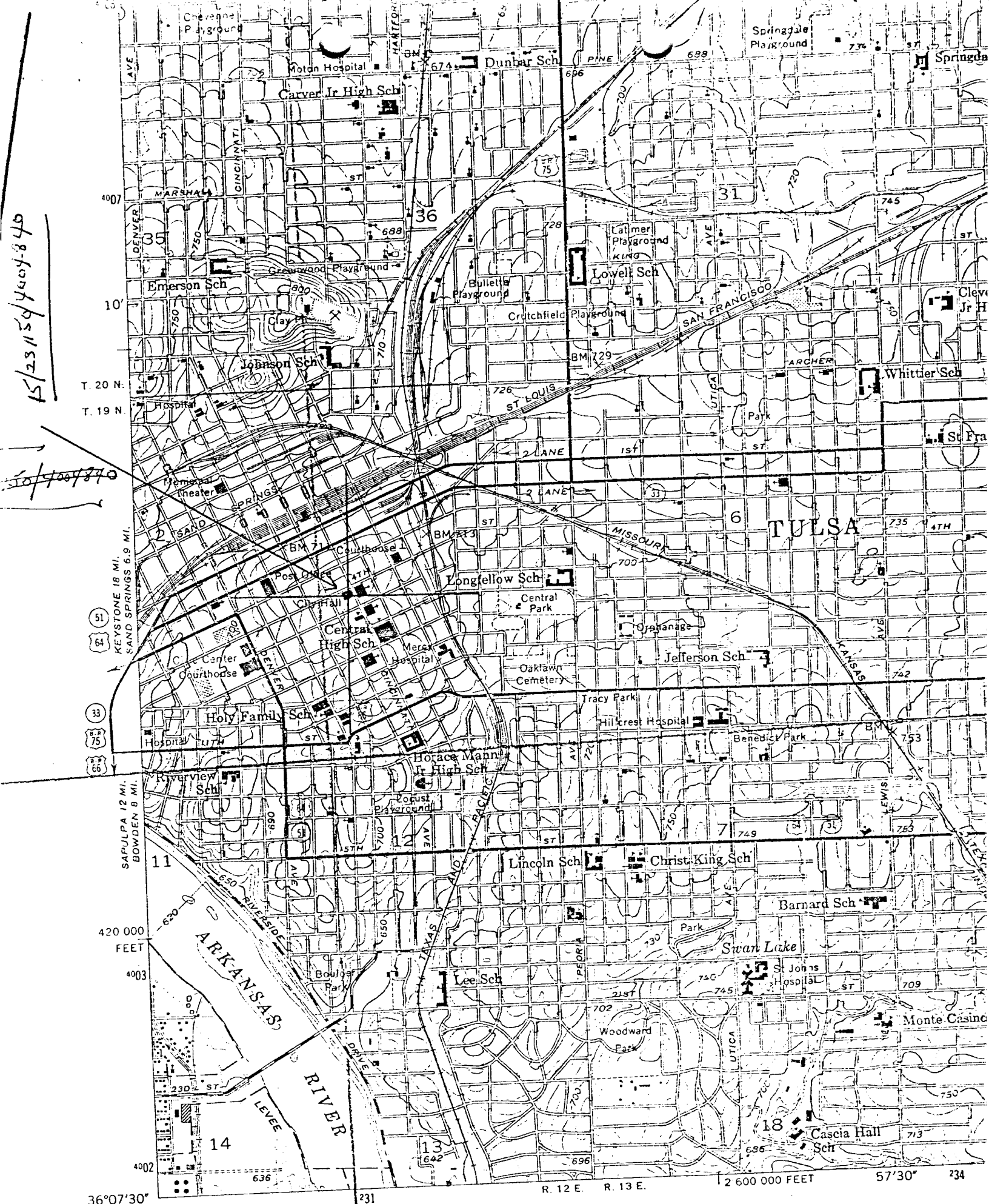
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Tulsa Municipal Building

buildings have in recent years been destroyed to make way for those shiny new structures that etch the city's present skyline. Fortunately, the Old City Hall has not only been preserved but, more importantly, it has been restored and "recycled" for another half-century of service ... by private interests and for commercial use. It is for these valid reasons that National Register status for it is sought.



Tulsa Municipal Building



15/23/15/4004840
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36°07'30" 96°00'

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
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 and Oklahoma Geodetic Survey

NORTH
 SE



1