

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FEDERAL AGENCIES USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Harbour-Longmire Building

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

420 W. Main Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Oklahoma City

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5

VICINITY OF

STATE

Oklahoma

CODE

40

COUNTY

Oklahoma

CODE

109

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" 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

Sweetser Companies

STREET & NUMBER

City National Bank Tower

CITY, TOWN

Oklahoma City

VICINITY OF

STATE

Oklahoma

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Oklahoma County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

320 Robert S. Kerr

CITY, TOWN

Oklahoma City

STATE

Oklahoma

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Oklahoma County Commercial Sites Survey

DATE

1978

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Shirk Collection, Oklahoma City University Library

CITY, TOWN

Oklahoma City

STATE

Oklahoma

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Harbour-Longmire Building is a nine-story dark-red brick and limestone commercial building measuring 75' x 140'. Designed by the Hawk and Parr architectural firm, the building's north face is a visual and elegant mixture of gothic architectural features. The ground level combines plate-glass display windows, highly ornate metal hanging canopies and a clere-story band of intersecting collegiate-gothic arches, all sheathed by Bedford limestone. The limestone extends to the third level as trim around high and narrow windows, lending to the vertical impression of the gothic design. The blend of red brick which begins on the third level dominates floors four through seven, which are broken only by a simple pattern of vertically aligned windows. The eighth floor, like the lower levels, is clad in ornamental limestone. The windows on the eighth level are long and narrow, with arched heads and calmes accenting the configuration. The ninth level, which was added two years after the original construction, is clad in blue and orange tile. Compared to the rest of the building, this level is an eyesore. The east, south, and west faces of the building are plain red-brick with only rows of windows for variation. The brick is in fair condition. The north face is in good condition, with little sign of decay.

The interior of the building is unusual, for it was designed as an elegant furniture store. It originally featured an eight-foot wide, thirty-five feet long staircase, marble floors, wrought-iron balustrades, several interior balconies and landings. The interior is in bad condition, for it was used as a warehouse for years. It now sits vacant.

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1925-1979

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Hawk and Parr

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Harbour-Longmire Building in 1925 was the second largest furniture store in America, combining under one roof the designing, manufacturing, wholesaling, and retailing of furniture. The historical significance of the building and its owners is enhanced by the architectural value of the structure's design. Of the dozen or so historic buildings surviving in renewal-torn Oklahoma City, the gothic-designed Harbour-Longmire Building is the most ornate.

In 1911 James F. Harbour and William M. Longmire established a furniture business in Oklahoma City. Both were from Texas and both had experience in all phases of the trade. Within two years they were housed in a three-story building, where they designed, manufactured, and sold furniture. Gradually, their business grew, especially during the economic boom of the early 1920s. In 1925 the two businessmen attracted the attention of William T. Hales, who was known as the richest man in Oklahoma City. With Hales as a partner and his money for investment, Harbour and Longmire developed a plan of bold expansion, including a new building.

To design their store, they retained the architectural firm of Hawk and Parr. These men were regionally well known, for they had designed several outstanding structures such as the Masonic Lodge of Guthrie (on the Register), the Commerce-Exchange Building, and the Magnolia Petroleum Building. For the Harbour-Longmire Building, J. W. Hawk chose gothic detailing, combining elements of collegiate, French, and Venetian gothic styles. To provide light for the highly ornamented showroom on the first level, Hawk designed a row of windows with collegiate arches simulating intersecting circles. These windows were similar to a clere-story, exposed on both the interior and the exterior. To furnish a visual base for the design, he sheathed the first two floors and the windows on the third floor with Bedford limestone. The next four floors were functional brick with rows of windows to allow a flow of air for workers. The extensive use of limestone was repeated on the top level, giving the building a well balanced and visually attractive appearance. The interior was just as impressive, with extensive use of marble, walnut trim, and metal ornamentation. Combined with a large ornamental staircase and a series of overlooking balconies, the showroom was more like a cathedral than a furniture store.

(cont.)

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CONTINUATION SHEET 1

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Harbour and Longmire operated their business in this landmark structure until 1945, when they sold their interests to Spiegel, Inc., of Chicago. Since that time several different stores have occupied the structure. For the past few years, however, it has been used only for storage, having suffered from the decline of retail trade in the downtown business district and the attending problems with urban renewal demolition. Today, the building is only 200' from the westernmost reaches of urban renewal clearance, which has transformed most of Oklahoma City's oldest buildings into leased parking lots. Urban renewal, however, may benefit the Harbour-Longmire indirectly, for if the Myriad Gardens and Retail Galleria are completed as planned, the ornate gothic structure will be in a strategic location for renovation. Placement on the National Register of Historic Places will insure its preservation and a renovation which will retain the architectural integrity of the original design.

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CONTINUATION SHEET 2

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beyond the southeast corner of the building, which is in an alleyway. Then proceed 160' due west through the alley to a point parallel with the west face of the building. Then proceed 95' along the west face to the curb on Main Street, which is 10' beyond the northwest corner. Then proceed 160' east along the curb to the point of departure.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Daily Oklahoman (Oklahoma City), March 29, 1925, Sec. E, p. 1;
 October 8, 1978, Sec. B, pp. 14-15.

Oklahoma City Times, March 13, 1945, p. 1.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Circa 1 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Oklahoma City

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 14 634285 3925700

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning on the curb 10' north of the northeast corner of the building, proceed due south 95' along the face to a point 10' (cont.)

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

Dr. Bob L. Blackburn, Project Director

ORGANIZATION

Oklahoma County Historical Society

DATE

August 16, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

3801 N. Shartel

TELEPHONE

405-528-5091

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

Blenn Jordan

TITLE

DATE

12/11/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

