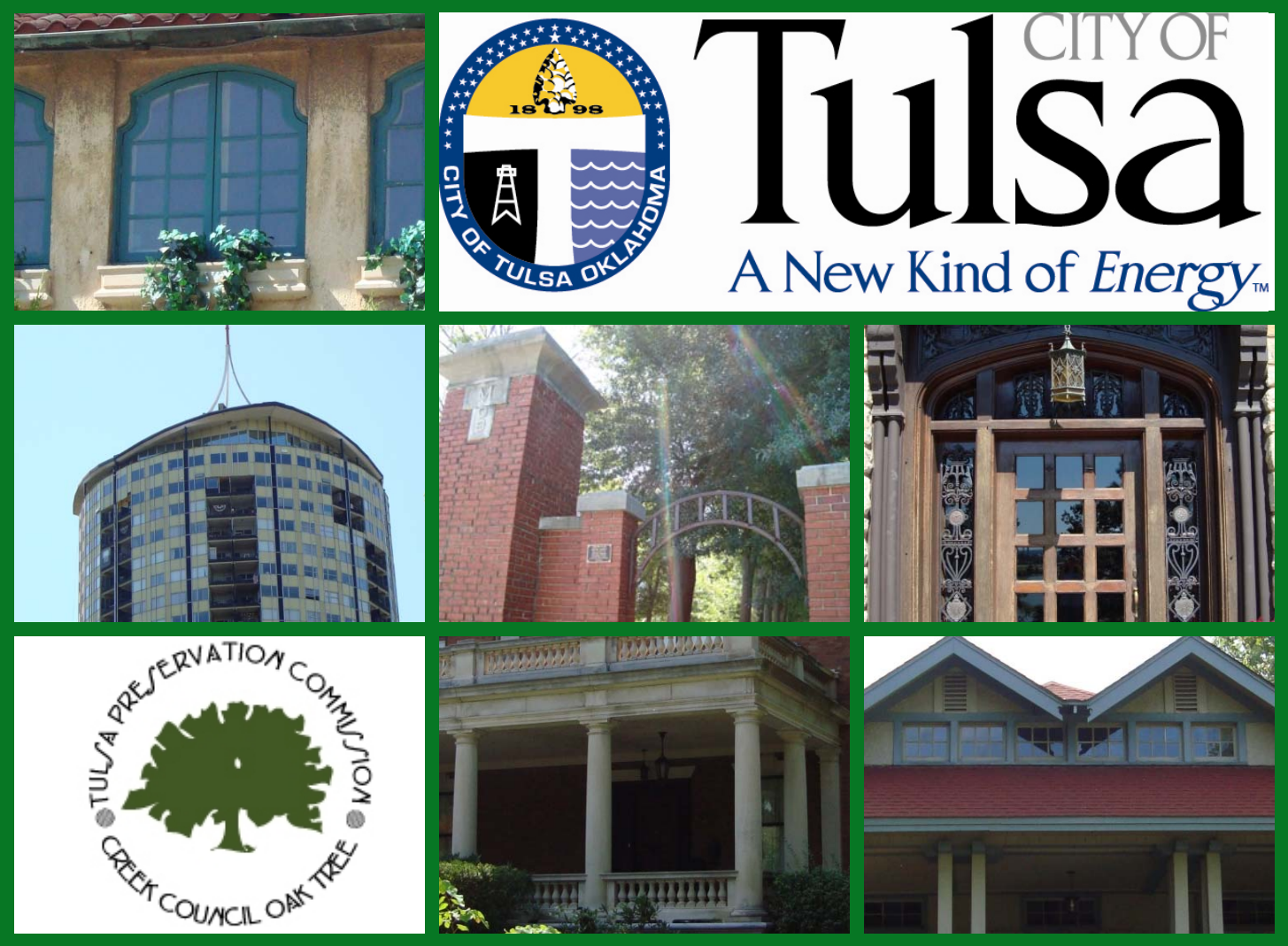


Tulsa's Historic Neighborhood Series: Riverview



Tulsa's Historic Neighborhood Series: Riverview Summer 2009

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RIVERVIEW HISTORY

The Riverview Neighborhood derived its name from the Riverview Elementary School, originally located at 512 West 12th Street. Although the school was demolished in 1975, the area still bears its name.

The Riverview area was first highlighted in the writings of Washington Irving, one of the most well-known American authors of his time. On October 14, 1832, while participating in a U.S. Army survey of Indian Territory, Irving stopped to rest at what is known today as the McBirney Spring. The beauty of the area inspired Irving to record his thoughts about the setting in his journal.

Adding another dimension to the historic area, the Lochapoka Clan of the Creek Indians kindled their first Council fire under the Creek Council Oak Tree in 1836 at what is now 18th Street and North Cheyenne Avenue. The great oak marks the Central Square of the early Creek town of the Lochapoka, sometimes called "Tulsey-Town." The Creek Nation continues the tradition of holding "councils under the tree" with a public ceremony held each fall.

The Civil War brought disaster to the Lochapoka Creeks. Unlike the majority of the tribes in Indian Territory who supported the Confederacy, the Lochapokas remained

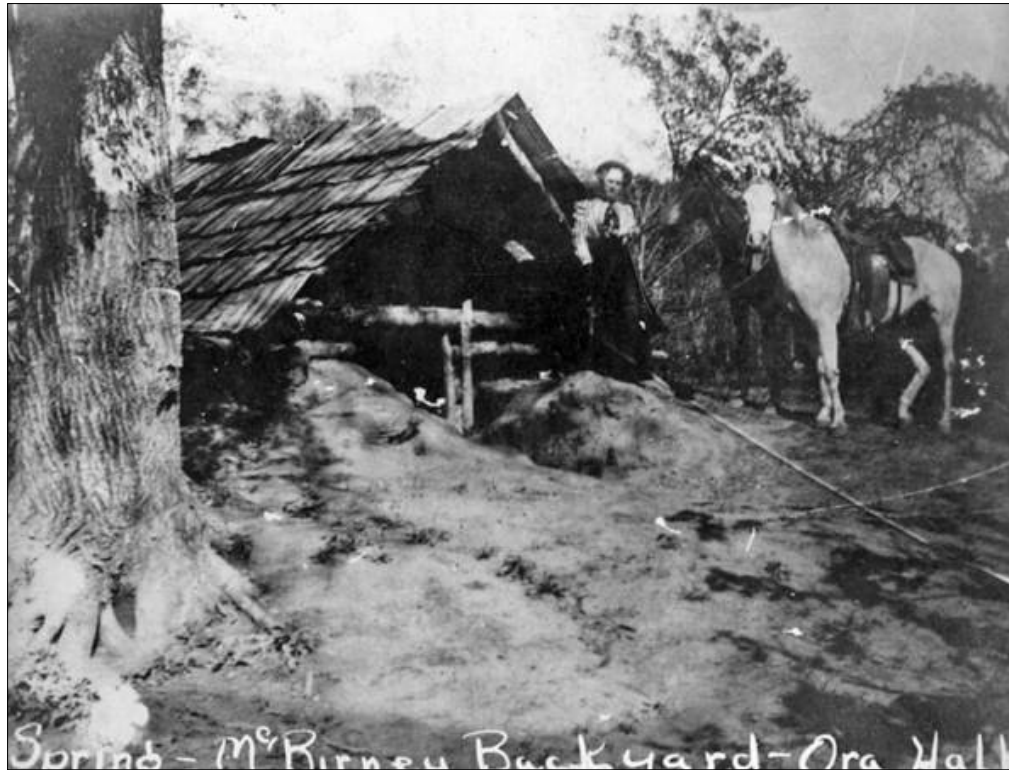


Photo courtesy the Beryl Ford Collection: The Riverview School at 12th Street and South Denver Avenue



faithful to the Union. Sadly, the ceremonial grounds surrounding the Council Oak were destroyed by members of the Cherokee Confederate cavalry during hostilities associated with the Battle of Round Mountain. In addition to the Lochapokas killed in battle, the clan's numbers were severely diminished by disease and starvation in the refugee camps of Baxter Springs, Kansas, where they sought safety.

In later years, the western area of Riverview developed a substantial ethnic character with the settlement of a large number of Greek immigrants. The Greek community established the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church at 1222 South Guthrie Avenue. With the construction of the Broken Arrow Expressway in 1968, the old church was demolished and a new building was constructed at 13th Street and South Guthrie Avenue. Each September a



Greek Festival is held and the public is invited to tour the interior of this beautiful and ornate church.

Today, Riverview is a thriving urban area, with numerous styles of residential architecture. Bungalows and Cottages, Foursquares, Oklahoma oil-money mansions, and adaptations of Spanish and Georgian Revival can be found along the tree-lined streets. Centered around 18th Street and South Boston Avenue, an area often referred to as the Renaissance District, the neighborhood displays buildings dating back to the 1920s. Additionally, Riverview was one of the first residential areas to include a mixture of smaller homes among those built by the wealthy elite.

In 2007, four districts within the Riverview neighborhood were listed in the National Register of Historic Places: Riverview, Carlton Place, Stonebreaker Heights, and Buena Vista Park.

Photo courtesy the Beryl Ford Collection: Ora Hall next to the McBirney Spring



Riverview Historic District

The Riverview Historic District is an excellent and representative collection of houses and apartment buildings constructed from 1911 to 1938. While the Craftsman bungalow style dominates, other popular architectural styles in the district include Tudor Revival, Prairie School, and Colonial Revival. Although Riverview is predominately a middle-class neighborhood, the district also contains a number of larger, better-appointed homes built by many of the leading citizens of early Tulsa, including the Clinton-Hardy House, the Bird House, the Kerr House, and the magnificent McBirney mansion.

Several historic apartment buildings were constructed along the district's northeast and southwest boundaries during the district's period of significance. In addition to their historic association with the majority of single-family homes, these apartment buildings are compatible in design and architectural styles with the neighborhood-at-large.



View of the Arkansas River from the McBirney Mansion

Riverview was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on September 6, 2007 under National Register criteria C. Its NRIS number is 07000906.



Carlton Place Historic District

A small residential area, the Carlton Place Historic District covers one-and-one-half blocks of the original three-block Carlton Place Addition. Although the historic buildings located in the east half of the original addition have been demolished, the remaining part of the neighborhood forms a cohesive group of predominately Prairie School-style homes and Craftsman bungalows built between 1910 and 1915.

Originally, large red-brick gates marked the northern entrances to the neighborhood. However, only one gate remains, and it is located on the southern corners of the 14th Street and South Carson Avenue intersection. The upper tablet on both sides of each marker has a centrally located “M,” which likely stands for Magee, the name of the original developer of the neighborhood. The lower tablet reads “09”, representing the year that the addition was platted. Extending off the side of the markers and over the sidewalk on both sides of the street are decorative, black wrought iron arches, held aloft by shorter, slender red-brick columns.



Carlton Place Entry Gate

The Carlton Place Historic District remains significant to the history of Tulsa as an excellent example of a small, upper-class neighborhood which was developed during an important period in the city's history. Tulsa's development during the first half of the twentieth century relied on the nearby discovery of oil and the location of many oil-related industries and businesses in the community. Although Carlton Place does not contain the oil baron mansions familiar to other districts within Riverview, it remains an excellent example of the closed-in, upper-middle class neighborhoods that developed in response to the booming economic conditions in early-twentieth century Tulsa.

Carlton Place was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on September 6, 2007 under National Register criteria A. Its NRIS number is 07000907.



Stonebreaker Heights Historic District

The Stonebreaker Heights Historic District is a cohesive collection of leading architectural styles in Tulsa from 1910 to 1922. The large number of two-story houses indicates that the Stonebreaker Heights Addition was indeed one of “Tulsa’s most exclusive residential developments.” The district maintains a good degree of integrity, both in terms of individual buildings and neighborhood design.

Dominated by Craftsman bungalows, the district also contains a notable percentage of Prairie School and Colonial Revival-style homes. Overall, these styles are compatible in terms of size, building materials, feeling, and association, and they reflect the popular architectural trends of the period. Providing additional variety to the district, the houses classified as the same style vary greatly in detail and design. Thus, the Stonebreaker Heights Historic District is a unique expression of period architecture in Tulsa.

Stonebreaker Heights was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on September 6, 2007 under National Register criteria C. Its NRIS number is 07000917.



Photo courtesy the Beryl Ford Collection: Harry Sinclair House at 1730 S. Cheyenne Avenue, since demolished



Buena Vista Park Historic District

A small residential area, the Buena Vista Park Historic District encompasses portions of three blocks of the original Buena Vista Park Addition platted in 1908 by Charles A. Sanderson.



Historic apartments on West 19th Street in Buena Vista Park

Overall, the Buena Vista Park Historic District represents a noteworthy collection of residential architecture in Tulsa developed between 1913 and 1933. The district maintains a high degree of integrity and ably reflects the trends of the period in single and multiple-family dwellings. Although dominated by the Colonial Revival and Prairie School styles, the district also contains good examples of the Craftsman style, as well as an outstanding, upper-class Italian Renaissance-style home.

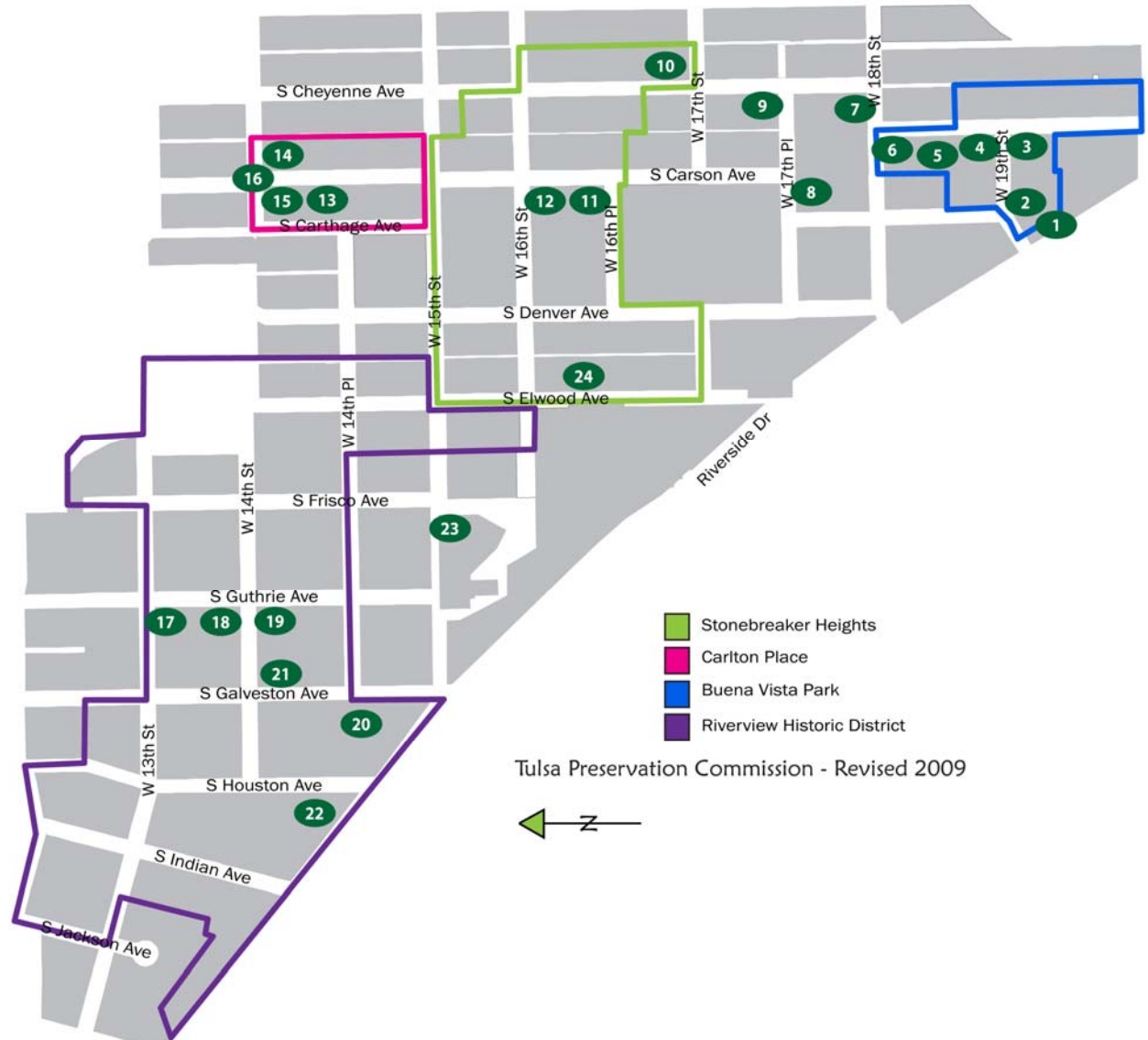
Initiating a trend along the riverfront portion of this area of Tulsa, three brick apartment buildings were constructed along Riverside Drive and Nineteenth Street between 1923 and 1924. In addition to already having access to downtown Tulsa, this locale also afforded tenants with a striking view of the Arkansas River. These apartments are also notable as relatively early examples of multiple-family dwellings designed in the popular residential styles of the day.

Buena Vista Park was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on September 6, 2007 under National Register criteria C. Its NRIS number is 07000919.



Take a walk through historic Riverview!

1. 1901 Riverside Drive
2. 216 West 19th Street
3. 1904 South Cheyenne Avenue
4. 1830 South Cheyenne Avenue
5. 1826 South Cheyenne Avenue
6. 1802 South Cheyenne Avenue
7. 18th Street and Cheyenne Avenue
8. 228 West 17th Place
9. 1718 South Cheyenne Avenue
10. 1645 South Cheyenne Avenue
11. 1610 South Carson Avenue
12. 1606 South Carson Avenue
13. 1422 South Carson Avenue
14. 1407 South Carson Avenue
15. 1406 South Carson Avenue
16. 14th Street and Carson Avenue
17. 1312 South Guthrie Avenue
18. 1322 South Guthrie Avenue
19. 1403 South Guthrie Avenue
20. 1414 South Galveston Avenue
21. 1411 South Galveston
22. 1381 South Riverside Drive
23. 1500 South Frisco Avenue
24. 1608 South Elwood Avenue



Tulsa Preservation Commission - Revised 2009





1901 Riverside Drive

(Map Location #1)

Built in 1924, this eye-catching brick-clad Mission and Spanish Colonial-style apartment building offers its residents easy access to downtown as well as a beautiful view of the Arkansas River. As one of the first apartment buildings constructed next to the river, this building was instrumental in creating a trend of placing apartments along Riverside Drive that continues to this day. The building has both wood windows and wood casement doors, which are set into pedimented surrounds. The full-width uncovered porch has a wrought iron railing, as does each unit balcony. Adding character and charm to the building are its brick exterior chimneys, double windows, green tile window awnings, decorative brickwork, and a concrete coping encircling the building.





Riverhouse 216 West 19th Street

(Map Location #2)

This Colonial Revival style apartment building, built in 1923, has a flat roof and a brick foundation, like its neighboring buildings. The building's wood entry door is glazed paneled with full-height sidelights and a storm door. Adding detail to the building, the entry porch features a prominent pedimented front-gabled roof supported by tapered round Classical columns, a beautifully dentilated cornice, and striking triple windows.





Sheppard House 1904 South Cheyenne Avenue

(Map Location #3)

This residence was constructed with a Colonial Revival architectural theme. Built in 1916, the home was originally owned by John and Lydia Sheppard. Sheppard was the president of Sheppard Oil Company and was associated with the discovery of the old Boynton Pool in Muskogee County. In addition, he opened the Sheppard Pool, another production region southwest of Boynton. The basement of this house was occupied by a manservant. When the 1921 Tulsa Race Riot occurred, the family sent him in the touring car to bring black families to safety. They remained in the basement until the riot ended.





Crestview Manor

1830 South Cheyenne Avenue

(Map Location #4)

This residence was designed and constructed circa 1917 by the architectural firm, Barnett Haynes Barnett, from St. Louis, Missouri, who also built the McFarlin home and the McFarlin Building in downtown Tulsa. This exquisite Italian Renaissance-style home was a gift from McFarlin to his daughter, Pauline, and her husband, Fred

Walter. The three-story stucco and brick home features winged porches with heavy square columns and a tile deck.

The building's façade opens to all sides with many exterior French doors and numerous windows. The clay tile roof is supported by ornate wide eaves with decorative brackets. The formal façade repeats the balance, with two wrought iron balconies flanking a large front window which once served as a door. The entryway opens to a garden room with an Italian tile floor and a lovely indoor fountain. The downstairs features wide casement doors and archways, crown molding, stained glass, and French marble fireplaces. The three bedroom, three-and-a-half bath home also has many bonus rooms, such as the upstairs sun-room with a view of the Arkansas River, the cozy pine-paneled club room in the lower-level, and two other rooms now used as home offices by the present owners.

The Walter family sold Crestview in 1939 and moved into the McFarlin mansion. The family shared its wealth with Tulsa and continues to do so through endowments, grants, and gifts to the University of Tulsa, McFarlin Library, and Trinity Episcopal Church.





J.O. Campbell House 1826 South Cheyenne Avenue

(Map Location #5)

This red brick Eclectic Prairie-style house with a hipped, Mediterranean-tiled roof, was built in 1917 for prominent realtor J.O. Campbell. A large wood-frame home that previously occupied this site was moved in order to make way for this home. Mary Veasey Leech, who was 10 years old at the time, recalled the excitement and carnival-like atmosphere as the neighbors turned out for moving day. The house was cut down the middle and slowly moved down the ravine, to what today is Veterans' Park. Part of the carriage path and step from the prior home remains in the current dwelling's basement. Over the years the home has seen exterior changes. The walkways and steps to the sidewalk have been replaced with a garden. Additionally, the original porch roof was supported by overhead chains which have since been replaced with iron posts.





Veasey House

1802 South Cheyenne Avenue

(Map Location #6)

In keeping with its Colonial Revival style, the Veasey House, built in 1912, has a simplicity of detailing and a tailored design that meshes the most basic motifs of the period. The home, constructed of clapboard siding and painted white, is “T”-shaped in plan. Its gabled roof has cornice returns, dentil molding, and

modillions on all eaves and rakes. Centered above the entry, A single dormer with traceried windows dominates the roof. The home bears two chimneys, one exterior and one interior, both of natural brick finish.

The Veasey House is significant to Tulsa for its historical association with James Alexander Veasey, the founder of Holland Hall School. Veasey built the home in 1912 after settling in Tulsa. He originally planned to build a brick home, but before construction began, Veasey realized he could not afford the brick and would have to use wood instead. He instructed the builder to put wooden, rather than the planned stone quoins, on the home’s corners. No matter how much money he would amass in the future, the wood quoins would keep him humble, reminding him of the time that he could not afford a brick home. Veasey lived in the home from 1912 until 1938 when he retired as Chief Counsel of Carter Oil Company, a subsidiary of Standard Oil Company of New Jersey.

The Veasey House was individually listed to the National Register of Historic Places on July 27, 1989 under Criteria C. Its NRIS number is 89001006.





18th Street and South Chyenne Avenue

(Map Location #7)

The Creek Council Tree, a mature Oak, marks the traditional “busk ground” chosen in 1836 by the Lochapoka Clan of Creek Indians. In late 1834 they had begun their involuntary migration from Alabama under the control of the U.S. Government. It was a slow and painful trek – of the original group of 630, 161

died en route. Their 1836 arrival was marked with a solemn and traditional ceremony.

A “busk” site was chosen on a low hill overlooking the Arkansas River. Here, according to their traditions, they deposited ashes brought over the trail from their last fires in Alabama. The Tulsa-lochapoka, a political division of the Creek Nation, established their “town.” As late as 1886, the Lochapoka gathered here for ceremonies, feasts, and games. However, the site was likely unused after the turn of the 20th century.

Gradually, the area around the site became a solid residential neighborhood. The Creek Council Tree itself, however, survived. The oak, standing in its small, well-landscaped city park, serves as a meaningful memorial to the proud Indian tribe who brought law and order to a new homeland nearly 160 years ago. The Creek Council Tree was placed under Historic Preservation Zoning in January of 1992.

The Creek Council Tree site was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on September 29, 1976. Its NRIS number is 76001576.





Moore Manor 228 West 17th Place

(Map Location #8)

The Moore Manor, built in 1918, is significant for its association with the Tulsa oil boom. The home's original owner, Frank L. Moore began as a small drilling contractor and parlayed a few drilling interests into a vast oil empire. With his new-found wealth he purchased a prime lot within the Buena Vista Park addition and built Moore Manor.

The home is a fine example of Neo-Colonial residential architecture. Its four stories consist of a full basement, first and second floors, and a finished attic. The home's brick veneer is rough red, laid in very light gray mortar. The building corners are made of brick quoins and light grey limestone is used for the home's trim. The hipped roof is covered with slate shingles, and dormers pierce the roof's perimeter.

Moore Manor was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on February 19, 1982. Its NRIS number is 82003705.





George Bole House 1718 South Cheyenne Avenue

(Map Location #9)

Built in 1919, this Adam-style home was constructed by Italian artisans that the home's owner, George Bole, brought from Italy. Flanking the entry door are prominent windows in blind arches, which feature decorative embellishments common to the home's style. On either end of the home are one-story additions. The southern wing's roof doubles as a balcony. In addition to providing shelter for the home's front entry, the square portico serves as a balcony with iron railings for a set of French doors directly above the entry. In 1926, Bole sold this home and founded the addition of Bolewood Acres.





The Wrightsman 1645 South Cheyenne Avenue

(Map Location #10)

Clarence Hindman, a wealthy Tulsa attorney, built this house in 1914. The home was one of the early mansions on the ridge south of town overlooking the Arkansas River. Of the original four corner mansions at the corner of 17th Street and Cheyenne Avenue, only this house survives. In 1920, the mansion was purchased by Edna and C. J. Wrightsman. Wrightsman arrived in Tulsa in 1906 and participated in the growth of the oil industry. He was active in territorial and state politics, as well as being an active supporter of important civic improvements. This building has passed through many hands and uses through the years, and has undergone major restoration.





McFarlin Mansion

1610 South Carson Avenue

(Map Location #11)

This Italian Renaissance-style mansion was built in 1918 of reinforced concrete. It has a full-width stone portico over the entrance that is supported by six Doric columns. It was one of the first reinforced concrete residences in the southwest United States. The east elevation features stone lintels and keystones above the ground floor

windows and doors. The red-tiled, hipped roof on this two-story brown brick home has copper gutters and downspouts.

This building is significant for its association with one of Tulsa's leading businessmen and civic leaders, as well as its architectural excellence and fine craftsmanship. Robert McFarlin, with his nephew James A. Chapman, formed the McMan Oil Company. McMan had one of the most successful operations in the Glenn Pool oil field. In 1910, McFarlin, with Harry Sinclair and other oil men, organized the Exchange National Bank of Tulsa, now the Bank of Oklahoma.

The Robert M. McFarlin House was individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places on December 25, 1979 under Criteria C. Its NRIS number is 79002030.





Cosden House, “Mission Manor” 1606 South Carson Avenue

(Map Location #12)

This Craftsman-style bungalow was the most expensive home in Tulsa when it was built in 1912. This four bedroom, three bath home has wide, bright, tiled sun porches. The twenty-five-foot oak entry hall, with its beamed ceiling,

beveled glass and a charming deacon’s bench (crafted of solid unblemished oak), provided guests with a royal greeting.

Joshua S. Cosden was one of the dreamers and doers of Tulsa. Joshua Cosden and his wife, Otille, arrived in Tulsa with a small amount of money and monumental ambitions. Cosden, the “Prince of Petroleum,” soon matched fortune and power with people like Harry Sinclair, W. G. Skelly, Robert M. McFarlin and other oil notables. He later sold Mission Manor and built a splendid showplace of Tulsa with lighted tennis courts and an indoor swimming pool on the site where University Club Tower now stands. Cosden purchased a downtown building at East 4th Street and Boston Avenue that would become known as the Cosden Building and later, Mid-Continent Building. He maintained a penthouse poised atop this building. Cosden lost fortunes and suffered a scandalous divorce, but remained “Game Josh” until his health and heart failed. He died in New York City.





1422 South Carson Avenue

(Map Location #13)

This two-story, weatherboard and wood shingle, Prairie School-style, single dwelling home has an asphalt-covered, hipped roof and a brick foundation. The wood windows are twelve-over-one. The full-width porch has a low-pitched, hipped roof supported by two evenly spaced sets of double, square, wood columns on the low brick porch wall. A few of the home's decorative details include wide, overhanging eaves with exposed rafters.





1407 South Carson Avenue

(Map Location #14)

This two-story, single dwelling, weatherboard, Craftsman-style bungalow has an asphalt-covered, side-gabled roof and a stone foundation. The full-width porch is under the principle roof. The porch has a decorative wood railing, with both double and triple wood columns on stone piers. The second floor features a small double front-gabled dormer creating a porch area with a decorative wood railing that matches the front entry porch. Other exterior features include a composite masonry, exterior eave wall chimney and a brick, interior, slope chimney. Some of the home's distinct decorative details include exposed rafters, double and triple windows, triangular knee braces and decorative wood trusses in the gable ends.





1406 South Carson Avenue

(Map Location #15)

This two-story, Craftsman-style bungalow, weatherboard and wood shingle, single dwelling home has an asphalt-covered, cross-gabled roof and a stone foundation. The wood windows are twelve-over-one and six-over-one, hung. The full-width porch has a low brick wall and a front-gable over the north side supported by wood columns on stone piers. The home's other unique exterior features include a stone, exterior, eave wall chimney. The home includes many decorative details, such as its triangular knee braces, exposed rafters and triple and ribbon windows.





Carlton Place Entry Gate 14th Street and Carson Avenue

(Map Location #16)

The entrances to the Carlton Place addition within Riverview from the north originally had large, red brick entry gates. This is the only remaining entry gate. The upper tablet on both sides of each marker has a centrally located “M” which likely stands for Magee, the name of the original developer of the neighborhood. The lower tablet reads “09,” representing the year the addition was platted. Extending off the side of the markers and over the sidewalk on both sides of the street are decorative, black, wrought iron arches, held aloft by shorter, slender, red brick columns.





Patrick M. Kerr House 1312 South Guthrie Avenue

(Map Location #17)

Patrick M. Kerr, a wealthy oil refiner, built this home in 1921, eight years before losing his fortune in 1929. This handsome, stucco-clad, Mission-style house features a clay-tiled, hipped roof and a full-width, single story porch partially covered by a flat-roof supported by massive, stucco columns. In addition to the windows, which feature an unusual decorative pane pattern, the house displays several eye-catching, ornamental, blue tile wall decorations.





Clinton-Hardy House

1322 South Guthrie Avenue

(Map Location #18)

With its strong New England flavor, the Clinton-Hardy House, built 1919-20, displays exterior lapped siding, a simple rectangular shape, gable roof, and exterior trim work all of which evoke an image of 18th-century colonial America. The symmetrical main block of the house carefully directs the eye to a

Georgian entrance with flanking Doric columns, an arched pediment, and dentil trim.

The house has significance for its role in the development of Tulsa, specifically its influence in directing Tulsa's growth to the south of the downtown district. It was designed by George Winkler, an architect who rarely worked in residential architecture. The Clinton house was one of the first two of any size to be built on the bluff overlooking the Arkansas River south of the business area. Prior to its construction, more prominent Tulsans built their homes either to the north of downtown or the near southeast. The result of Clinton's move was the completion of Galveston and Guthrie Avenues with several other period houses of architectural importance. The Skellys, McBirneys, and others prominent in oil and banking were frequent guests in the house, as was Amelia Earhart in 1934.

The Clinton-Hardy House was individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places on January 23, 1979 under Criteria C. Its NRIS number is 79002027.





Nelle Shields Jackson House 1403 South Guthrie Avenue

(Map Location #19)

Built in 1922, this Adam-style house is a particularly simple, yet exceedingly charming example of the style. The home's moderately-pitched side-gabled roof with paired end chimneys and an open pediment centered directly above the front entry exemplify these architectural styles. This home was once the home of Nelle Shields Jackson, one of Tulsa's earliest female entrepreneurs. In 1929, Jackson opened Miss Jackson's, a fashionable women's apparel shop in the Philtower Building. The apparel shop has continued to prosper and is now located in the exclusive Utica Square Shopping Center.





McBirney Mansion

1414 South Galveston Avenue

(Map Location #20)

The McBirney Mansion represents a happy blending of building and setting. The brick, stone, and stucco house was built by John Long of Kansas City from 1927-28. Proportioned on a grand scale befitting its Gothic Revival-style, the home is meticulously crafted. The home's landscaping features fine magnolias and cedars,

a grotto, and a rock-lined walk that make effective use of the spring that gave the site its original importance.

McBirney Springs has its source in an underground stream that surfaces here near the Arkansas River. The site was used by pioneers and early residents of Indian Territory Tulsa for watering stock before crossing the river. In 1832, Washington Irving stopped at this spring and was so impressed by its beauty that he wrote about it.

James H. McBirney and his brother formed the Bank of Commerce in Tulsa in 1904. He soon built two of Tulsa's early skyscrapers: the 10-story McBirney office building and, adjacent to it, the first 8-story home for his bank. By 1918, he and two associates were developing the Childers Heights subdivision along the Arkansas River. Many of Tulsa's first mansions were erected by the downtown's perimeter by some of Tulsa's early builders and developers. Ironically, McBirney's home is one of the last still standing.

The McBirney Mansion was individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places on November 13, 1976 under Criterion B and C. Its NRIS number is 76001577.





Bird House 1411 South Galveston Avenue

(Map Location #21)

This Tudor Revival-style home features clinker brick and limestone trim with stone sidewalks. An offset entry bay projects forward of a larger south bay of the same height. The entry is accented by false piers and has a flat cornice above the door with an inset panel of entablature containing a simple chevron design. This home was built by James H. McBirney for his sister, Mrs. Caroline Bird. She was the first occupant of the home and lived there until the 1960s.





Riverside Studio

1381 South Riverside Drive

(Map Location #22)

This two-story stucco building, designed by architect Bruce Goff in 1929, is set on a sloping site facing the Arkansas River. The design of the building reflects influences of both Art Deco and the International Style, but with a more personalized interpretation. The underlying inspiration for the design is music, evoking a concept that architecture might be interpreted as “frozen music.” This theme is visualized in the treatment of the windows on the façade of the building.

The building was designed for Mrs. Patti Adams Shriner, a music teacher who wanted to combine a music studio for teaching piano lessons with her living quarters. The rhythm of windows and inset tile forming diagonal patterns on the walls of the entrance hall drew their inspiration from musical scales. The round window on the front of the building derived its decorative pattern from musical scores that Goff composed while he was working on the design.

Even the fountain, designed by Alphonso Iannelli, used abstract marble sculpture with pipes that dripped water over the sculpture onto chromium cups. These were of varying size to create music-like tones as the water splashed into the pool below. The rigid cubism is reinforced by an enormous round window and other geometric shapes, creating a modernity of form. Today it is a theater hosting the dramatic performance of an old fashioned melodrama, “The Drunkard.”

The Riverside Studio was individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places on June 14, 2001 under Criteria C. Its NRIS number is 01000656.





Sophian Plaza

1500 South Frisco Avenue

(Map Location #23)

Completed in 1926, the Sophian Plaza was the first apartment building and hotel in Tulsa. Built by Dr. Harry T. Sophian of Kansas City, the building offered a restaurant for its occupants and guests, a tennis court, a delicatessen, a beauty parlor, a meal service, and a maid service. The building's units boast elegant and

spacious rooms, high ceilings, crown molding, and hardwood floors.

Dr. Sophian gave priority to the occupants' comfort and safety. The building's lot was chosen specifically to take advantage of the best possible ventilation and cross breezes. Additionally, louvered doors in the hallways aided circulation. Each wall is a firewall, and each unit is practically soundproof. Over the years, the Sophian has housed some of the most prestigious business leaders and socially prominent families in Tulsa. Over the 1960s, ownership by absentee landlords resulted in the removal of antiques, oriental rugs, and the overall neglect of the building.

The building returned to local ownership in 1973 and renovations began in 1978 to convert the Sophian to a condominium status, and today houses both the wealthy old guard and younger career professionals who are restoring the building to its old-world splendor and elegance of spacious rooms, high ceilings, crown moldings, and hardwood floors.

The Sophian Plaza has a sister building, the Sophian Plaza in Kansas City, Missouri.





Breene Mansion

1608 South Elwood Avenue

(Map Location #24)

This home, patterned after a country manor that Napoleon built for his wife, Josephine, was built in 1919 by Frank Breene, an affluent oil man originally from the Pennsylvania and Ohio oil fields. This eight-room house is an excellent example of Georgian Colonial architecture, expressed by its Palladian windows, Doric columns, rigid symmetry, and a contrast of red brick with white trim. In addition to its French-influence, the home's landscape architecture captures the French theme of formal gardens.



Tulsa's Historic Neighborhood Series: Riverview

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