

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

National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form

This form is used for documenting property groups relating to one or several historic contexts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin *How to Complete the Multiple Property Documentation Form* (formerly 16B). Complete each item by entering the requested information.

_____ New Submission X Amended Submission

A. Name of Multiple Property Listing

Red Brick Warehouses of Oklahoma City TR

B. Associated Historic Contexts

(Name each associated historic context, identifying theme, geographical area, and chronological period for each.)

C. Form Prepared by:

name/title Amanda K. Loughlin/National Register Manager

organization Rosin Preservation, LLC

street & number 1712 Holmes St.

city or town Kansas City state MO

zip code 64108

e-mail amanda@rosinpreservation.com

telephone 816.472.4950

date May 2021

D. Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this documentation form meets the National Register documentation standards and sets forth requirements for the listing of related properties consistent with the National Register criteria. This submission meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR 60 and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation.

Signature of certifying official

Title

Date

State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

I hereby certify that this multiple property documentation form has been approved by the National Register as a basis for evaluating related properties for listing in the National Register.

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Red Brick Warehouses of Oklahoma City Name of multiple listing Oklahoma County, Oklahoma County and State
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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number G Page 1

Section F: Associated Property Types

The Keeper approved the Red Brick Warehouses of Oklahoma City Thematic Registration (TR) in August 1983, listing ten buildings and formally determining one building eligible. At the time of listing, the nomination did not include Section F: Associated Property Types. Instead, the TR discussed significance in Section 8 and touched upon the common characteristics of the warehouse buildings within the Bricktown district. This amendment to the Red Brick Warehouses of Oklahoma City TR expands upon the discussion of the associated property types to clarify their significance and registration requirements.

Property Type: Red Brick Warehouse

As the name suggests, this property type covers the brick warehouses constructed within what is now known as the Bricktown district of Oklahoma City. These buildings were constructed between circa 1898 and circa 1930 within close proximity to the railroad, often with spur lines providing direct off- and on-loading of goods. The warehouses are one- to seven-stories in height; the majority are between two and four stories tall. Flat roofs with parapets cover the red brick exterior walls. The front elevations of the warehouses feature elements that decorate these otherwise utilitarian structures. These decorative features include (but are not limited to) brick corbeling at parapets, cast stone banding and pilaster capitals, and stone portals at entrances. These elements reference the Late 19th and Early 20th Century Classical Revival and Prairie styles. Ghost signs are also frequent elements on the brick exteriors as are building name plates on front elevations. Internal structural systems frequently include heavy timber columns, beams, and joists. The structures allow the brick perimeter walls to accommodate regularly spaced openings for windows; historically, these tended to be steel pivot sashes. Open floor plates characterize the interior of the buildings. Small office areas historically occupied portions of the first floors. Common exterior alterations to the buildings include the painting of the exterior brick and the replacement of historic windows within historic masonry openings. On the interior, floor plates may have been subdivided for new uses after the warehouse functions ceased.

Significance

The buildings listed as part of the “Red Brick Warehouses of Oklahoma City” are locally significant under Criterion A for commerce and Criterion C for architecture. Under Criterion A, the red brick warehouses represent the economic boom years of Oklahoma City during two specific periods. The first, 1898 to 1912, corresponds to the golden age of farming that created the first generation of warehouses. The companies that built these warehouses tended to market to the agricultural industry, using their buildings for the storage and transfer of plows, tractors, other agricultural implements, and produce. Following a small recession, the second generation of warehouses correspond to the second boom period between 1920 and 1930. The focus of the businesses within the Bricktown area at this time shifted toward automobile sales and manufacturing, retail

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Red Brick Warehouses of Oklahoma City Name of multiple listing Oklahoma County, Oklahoma County and State
--

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number G Page 2

sales including home furnishings, and construction. The brick buildings constructed in the Bricktown district between 1898 and 1930 represent the commercial history of early Oklahoma City.

Under Criterion C, the red brick warehouses are representative examples of the commercial architecture of Oklahoma City at the turn of the twentieth century. This building type once dominated the commercial center of the city but diminished in the decades following World War II. The physical character of these buildings—brick exteriors, heavy timber internal structures, open floor plans, large windows, decorative facades, and locations near railroads—epitomize the commercial character of the city between 1898 and 1930.

Registration Requirements

To be listed as part of the Red Brick Warehouses of Oklahoma City, a property must demonstrate its significance as described above and retain historic integrity to communicate its significance. A nominated building must have been constructed between circa 1898 and circa 1930 within the Bricktown area and must demonstrate its historic connections to the commercial character and history of Bricktown. A nominated property will retain historic integrity. Due to the age and function of these properties, some change is expected, but alterations should not inhibit a property's ability to communicate its historic significance. A building will remain within its historic location. The historic integrity of Bricktown's setting has diminished in the decades following World War II; however, the presence of rail spur lines within alleys, as well as, surrounding historic warehouses continue to support the historic setting of these properties. The design and materials of these warehouses are paramount and must be evident. The exterior materials of the property must be exposed brick (no artificial siding). Although the warehouses were not historically painted, having a painted exterior does not automatically preclude listing. The rhythm of the window bays must be evident, meaning that replacement windows and doors must fill historic masonry openings. Most decorative exterior features should be extant. Interior alterations are expected to have occurred; these alterations and how they impact the historic integrity of the building, will be evaluated in individual nominations. Together, these quantitative aspects of integrity support the more qualitative aspects of feeling and association. The building must be associated with the historic context of the Bricktown district.

A building nominated under this TR must meet the following requirements:

- Constructed between circa 1898 and circa 1930 within Bricktown;
- Retains its exposed brick exterior, especially on the public-facing elevations;
- Most of its significant character-defining decorative elements such as building names, cornices, stone surrounds, stone medallions, etc. remain intact;
- Historic masonry openings for windows, storefronts, and entries remain clearly legible, even if the historic windows, storefronts, and entries have been replaced;
- Alterations, especially to the public-facing elevations, are minimal and easily reversible;

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Red Brick Warehouses of Oklahoma City
Name of multiple listing
Oklahoma County, Oklahoma
County and State

Section number G Page 3

- Additions, where they occur, complement the historic building in materials and scale and are easily removeable without harming the character of the historic building.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Red Brick Warehouses of Oklahoma City
Name of multiple listing
Oklahoma County, Oklahoma
County and State

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number G Page 1

Section G: Geographical Data

The properties eligible under this document are located within the Bricktown district of southeast downtown Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County, Oklahoma. As the name suggests, this area historically contained a dense collection of brick warehouses. The Bricktown district encompasses thirty-five acres generally located between East Main Street and the former railroad right-of-way on the north, East Reno Avenue on south, railroad right-of-way to the west, and North Mickey Mantle Drive to the east (*Figure 1*). Some street names within this area have changed since the warehouses were constructed. The table below indicates the historic and current names.

<i>Current Name</i>	<i>Historic Name</i>
Bricktown Canal	California Avenue
Main Street	Main Street
Mickey Mantle Drive	Walnut Avenue
Oklahoma Avenue	Oklahoma Avenue
Reno Avenue	Reno Avenue
Sheridan Avenue	Grand Avenue

~~The~~ Oklahoma City's city council renamed Grand Avenue to Sheridan Avenue in 1961. Due to the perceived bad reputation of Grand Avenue, the city council sought to change the name to encourage civic pride. A new Sheraton Hotel was in the process of construction on Grand, and some council members proposed renaming the street to Sheraton Avenue. Another council member suggested the name Sheridan instead to avoid naming after the hotel chain, stating that as 1961 was the centennial of the Civil War, the renaming of the street could honor US General Philip Sheridan. The City Council approved the street renaming in June 1961.¹

Walnut Avenue between Main Street and Reno Avenue became Mickey Mantle Drive in late 1997 in honor of the late baseball player who had roots in the state.² The street creates the east boundary of the Bricktown baseball stadium. According to historic aerials, in circa 2002 California Avenue between the railroad tracks and Mickey Mantle Drive was removed and a sunken canal constructed. The Bricktown Canal generally extends southeast to connect to the Oklahoma River.

¹ "Sheradan [sic] Looks like Mistek [sic]," *Oklahoma City Advertiser* (1 June 1961): 1; "City Council Does Its Bit Toward Commemorating Civil War Centennial By Changing Grand to Sheridan Ave.," *The [Oklahoma City] North Star* (1 June 1961): 1, 16; "Sheridan Avenue, It's Grand Name," *The Daily Oklahoman* (9 June 1961): 6.

² Steve Lackmeyer, "Resident Disputes Renaming Street," *The Daily Oklahoman* (19 November 1997): 3.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Red Brick Warehouses of Oklahoma City
Name of multiple listing
Oklahoma County, Oklahoma
County and State

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number G Page 2

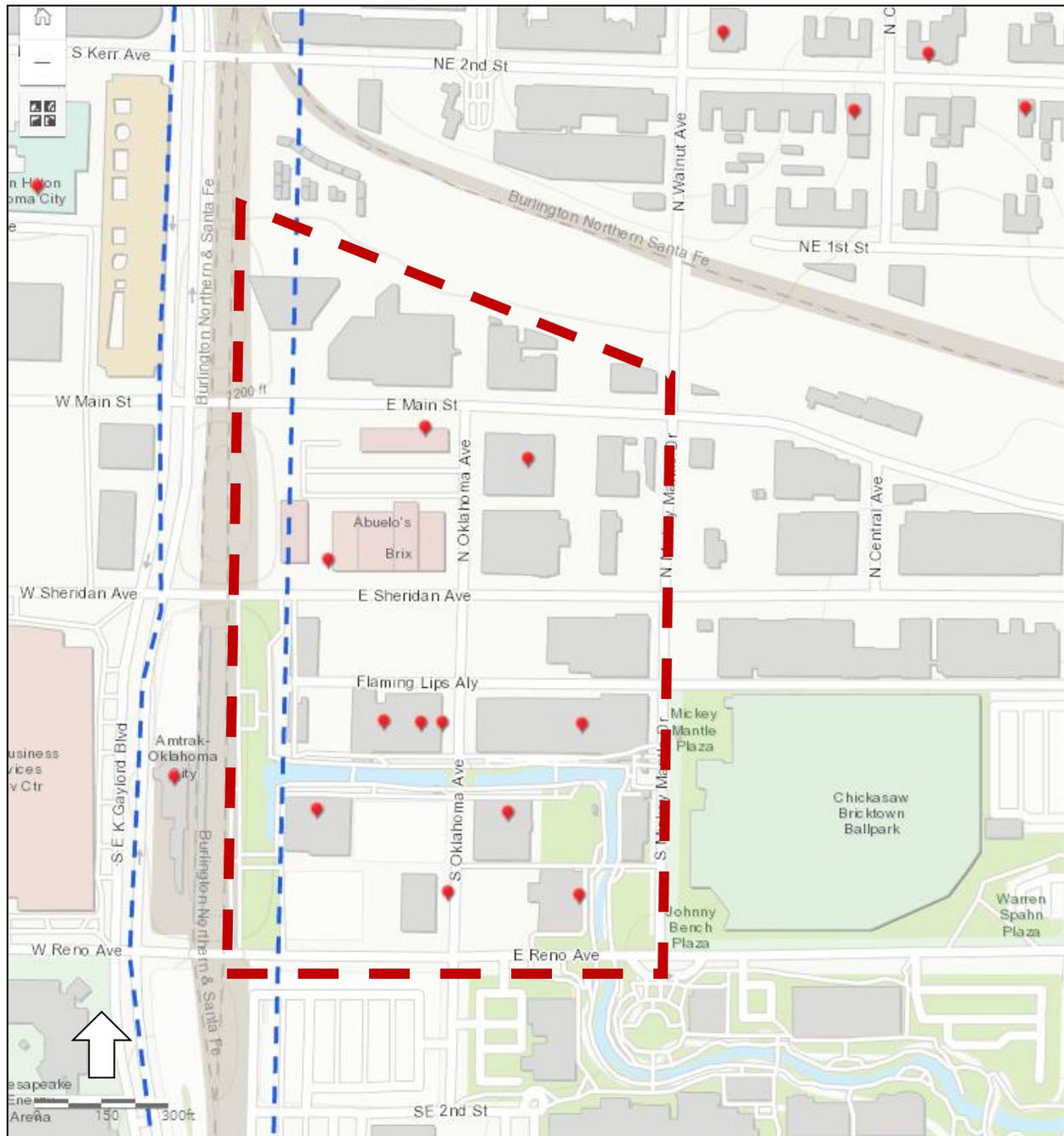


Figure 1: Map of the Bricktown district, showing the general boundaries of the area in bold dashed line. Small dots indicate current National Register-listed properties; those within the dashed box are part of the Red Brick Warehouses of Oklahoma City. Base map from the Oklahoma SHPO GIS.