

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS 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

Arcadia Round Barn  
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

US 66 in downtown

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Arcadia

VICINITY OF

No. 5

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Oklahoma

40

Oklahoma

109

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

XOCCUPIED

XAGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

XBUILDING(S)

XPRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. Frank Vrana

STREET & NUMBER

101 E 13

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Edmond 73034

VICINITY OF

Oklahoma

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the County Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

Oklahoma County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Oklahoma City

Oklahoma

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Special Arcadia Round Barn Survey

DATE

1976

FEDERAL XSTATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Oklahoma Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Oklahoma City

Oklahoma

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Odor's round barn - 60 feet in diameter, 43 feet in height - was six months in the building. Oxen cleared the ground in early 1898. Local red Permian rock was used for the foundation. Odor apparently designed the barn himself and no one knows just why he chose to make it round. Green burr oak trees were cut for the timbering. To shape the crucial rafters he ordered construction of a form. The timbers were soaked in water until soft enough to band into the mold. When they were ready to erect Odor himself fit the first ones in place. Flooring, shingles, and siding were brought in, but the joists, studs, and other dimension lumber were of oak from the farm, which probably helps to explain why the barn, for all the neglect of its latter years, still stands.

Today the shingles are covered with cheap green asphalt roofing. Most of the window frames are gone and here and there studs are exposed by breaks in the siding. A half-dozen creosote poles, wedged into angle irons bolted to the second-floor joists on the east side of the barn, recognize damage inflicted by a recent storm in the area. Still, dilapidated as it obviously is, the barn is probably threatened less by collapse than by arson-minded vandals.

\* \* \*

Interestingly enough, the barn has already been "enshrined" (after a fashion) in the Arcadia Post Office. Gregg Burns, the paraplegic artist who works with mouth-held pen or brush, featured the barn in one of his widely reprinted works. The original he donated to the Post Office, which has it mounted on a panel in the lobby surrounded by historic pictures of the old landmark in his heyday.

# 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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      1898 to the present      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      William Harrison Odor

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Arcadia's landmark round barn, to quote a recent newspaper headline, "ain't what she used to be." But for all her nearly four score years, she still stands ALMOST erect, an architectural curiosity, a symbol of pioneer perseverance, and something of a memorial to a small town and a railroad, both of which typical American institutions came into being, flourished briefly, and then faded away to near-oblivion while she watched serenely from atop a low/overlooking the Deep Fork River. On all three counts she would seem to deserve the recognition and protection of National Register status.

\* \* \*

This northeastern corner of Oklahoma County was opened to settlement with the Old Oklahoma "run" of April 22, 1889. William Harrison "Big Bill" Odor arrived in 1892. In 1898 he built his barn, a two-story affair for hay, grain, and livestock. Later he used it to house a harness and livery stable business. But almost from the first it also served as a community center. While the barn was still under construction three young workers, realizing what a fine place it would be for dances, persuaded Odor to let them pay the difference between the planned rough flooring and more suitable hardwood. From time to time for the next twenty-five years "barn dances" drew dancers and musicians to Arcadia from a wide area.

Arcadia itself - and the M-K-T railroad - arrived simultaneously in 1902. But the year before Odor had helped organize a neighborhood band. One musician, of many, who played at one time or another in the barn, was M. E. Trapp, who became the 6th governor of the state in 1923. Odor was proud of his barn and is said to have compared its acoustics with those of the Mormon Tabernacle in Salt Lake City. Be that as it may (or may not!) it was a popular rallying point while Arcadia flourished. Odor was a builder and promoter. A school teacher in Kansas before coming to Oklahoma, he organized the first Bank of Arcadia in 1905. He was later in the hardware business. His was the first phone in what grew to become the independent Arcadia Telephone System.

Today the town has lost its cotton gins, its bank, and virtually of its other businesses. Interstate 44 has drawn off much of the US 66 traffic that once moved through the town within a few feet of the eye-catching red barn ... which is now more gray than red, its painted advertisement for an Oklahoma City store weathered into illegibility. Even the rusted rails of the M-K-T just beyond the highway are rarely used today and the line's abandonment is imminent. But the barn itself remains, thanks to a half-dozen sturdy supports on the east (down-wind) side ... a slightly atilt memorial, not only to a rural way-of-life that has now virtually disappeared, but also to a sturdy pioneer spirit which, hopefully, has NOT disappeared, but merely found other ways in which to express itself.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Anderson, Willene, "The old round red barn . . ." Oklahoma City Times,  
Oct. 10, 1974
- Gilson, Nancy, "Old Barn Holds Pioneer History," Oklahoma Journal,  
April 14, 1975
- Jones, Linda and Baker, Marjorie, "Arcadia . . ." Edmond (Okla.) Booster,  
April 22, 1976

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,4	6,5,1,5,7,5	3,9,4,7,5,7,8	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Kent Ruth, Deputy

ORGANIZATION

Oklahoma Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER

Historical Building

CITY OR TOWN

Oklahoma City

DATE

December 1976

TELEPHONE

405/884-5456

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

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Arcadia Round Barn



(This photo from the State Historic Preservation Office/Wierner Collection)

