



Logan Apartments

Whenever a long-forgotten or neglected structure is slated for restoration, its past suddenly becomes relevant—especially when its revival brings with it the near-certainty of national recognition as something worth saving. Former occupants come forth with tales of having lived or worked there, of its ties to the history of place and people. Such is the case with Logan Apartments, recently recommended for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

The buff-brick, three-story building on the corner of West Boyd and Lahoma, just west of the main campus, is the project of Norman-based developer and OU graduate Brent Swift, who acquired the vacant property from the University of Oklahoma. When the design created by Jeremy Gardner of Butzer Gardner Architects of Oklahoma City becomes reality, the former 24 apartments that once counted OU faculty and students among its residents will have been converted into eight luxury apartments, all accomplished without any substantial change to the building's exterior.

Attaining the National Registry designation requires research, and a valuable resource was the carefully archived family memories of OU journalism graduate Kuyk Logan, of the Woodlands, Texas, descendant of a long line of Logans prominent in state education, business, medicine, government and politics—and University history. The story starts with Kuyk's grandparents—the first Leonard M. Logan and his wife, Annie Kuykendall Logan. Leonard was superintendent of the Cherokee National Male Seminary in Tahlequah, then professor of Greek and Latin at the new Northeastern State Teachers College; Annie was superintendent of the Cherokee Female

Seminary. Their former home in Tahlequah is also on the National Registry.

The couple's three sons made their marks as well. Leonard Jr., Dave and Clifford came to OU and were campus leaders while earning a bunch of degrees from 1914 to 1920. Leonard followed his parents into teaching and had a long career on OU's economics and city planning faculties. Clifford became a doctor in Hominy and active in

be available to a member of the Cherokee tribe and one must be reserved for a member of the Logan family should a representative of either wish to live there.

The latter proviso soon came in handy for Leonard Jr., who was called to Kansas City to lend his skills to the war effort at the start of WWII. The Logans sold their Norman home, but the new job lasted only a year. With his wife, Floy-Elise, and sons Leonard III, Duke and Kuyk, Leonard returned to a Norman that had been taken over by the Navy. Fortunately his mother was able to provide the Logan-designated apartment for the duration.

The Logan boys eventually would head to OU, but Kuyk didn't wait that long to launch his journalism career. At age 12, he got his grandmother's permission to publish

his first newspaper, *The Petite Press*, from the Logan Apartments' basement storeroom. He also earned a dollar a day delivering *The Oklahoma Daily*, OU's student newspaper, whose early deadline gave him his biggest scoop—the invasion of Europe—which he read in *The Daily* and got into a special edition of *The Petite Press*, beating the big boys at *The Daily Oklahoman* and *The Norman Transcript*.

When Brent Swift reopens his upscale new apartments late this summer, the units will be missing the little milk-delivery doors that Kuyk remembers wiggling through to admit residents who had forgotten their keys. And the brass, bas-relief plaque that his late artist brother, Leonard III, created for the building has yet to be found. But just driving by, the painstakingly restored Logan Apartments will look exactly the same.

—CJB



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In this undated photo, Logan Apartments stands on the corner of West Boyd and Lahoma Avenue, just west of the OU campus.

Democratic politics. Dave taught briefly at OU, but made his fortune in the oil business in Okmulgee and his fame in state politics. He served in the state legislature, where he fought successfully for the half-million dollar allocation that built the University's Bizzell Memorial Library, and authored the statute establishing the independent, non-political Board of Regents at OU and Oklahoma A&M.

Amid all Dave's other ventures, he built Norman's largest apartment building—Logan Apartments—in 1929. His mother was then a widow, and Dave suggested she leave Tahlequah and manage his new apartment house. The enterprise was not the financial success Dave had envisioned, so he gave the property to the University with two provisions: one apartment must