

Suzanne Jamele

From: Jim Gabbert [jgabbert@ok-history.mus.ok.us]
Sent: Thursday, July 25, 2002 3:35 PM
To: ncshpo-listserv
Subject: [ncshpo-listserv] Geodesic Dome

Recently listed as one of the National Trust's 11 most endangered properties, Oklahoma City's "Gold Dome" bank (AKA Citizens State Bank) is a 1958 gold, anodized aluminum geodesic dome designed by Bailey, Bozalis, Dickinson, and Roloff and fabricated by Kaiser Aluminum.

Our statewide nonprofit is sponsoring a National Register nomination for this building.

A quick review of literature lead our office to give our opinion that the building met criteria consideration "g" as an exceptionally significant building at the state level. Review of various sources points to this building as one of the earliest uses of Buckminster Fuller's design in a commercial building - most earlier or even later large domes were used as exhibition space and the smaller ones as storage or residential.

This building was touted by Kaiser as their first gold dome and utilized in their promotional materials afterward.

My questions to you out there are:

Does anyone know of good source literature for researching the commercial use of geodesic domes?

There are some mentions in Architectural Record and Architectural Digest. Any others?

Do you know of any other commercial-use geodesic domes of that time period (1957-58)?

This dome is constructed on 10' vertical walls. Most others I have seen from this time extend the dome itself to the ground. Anyone else know of a geodesic dome of this age, commercial or otherwise, that is used strictly as a roofing system?

Finally, are there any geodesic domes out there listed already?

Thanks!

Jim Gabbert
Architectural Historian
Oklahoma SHPO
(405 522-4478)

Suzanne Jamele

From: Martha Hagedorn Krass [MKrass@kshs.org]
Sent: Friday, July 26, 2002 10:11 AM
To: ncshpo-listserv
Subject: [ncshpo-listserv] Re: Geodesic Dome

Jim: There is a geodesic dome at the Bell Laboratories in Whippany, NJ. I think the Bell Laboratories dome was designed by Buckminster Fuller. There are also geodesic domes at various fair and exposition sites, including Disney World in Orlando, Florida and the State Fair Arena in Raleigh, North Carolina. I would suggest that you contact the Buckminster Fuller Institute and also the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) for more information about the structural design of geodesic domes. Martha

Martha Hagedorn-Krass
Cultural Resources Division
Kansas State Historical Society
6425 S. W. 6th Street
Topeka, Kansas 66615

mkrass@kshs.org
785-272-8681, ex. 213
785-272-8682 FAX

>>> Jim Gabbert <jgabbert@ok-history.mus.ok.us> 07/25/02 02:34PM >>>
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Suzanne Jamele

From: Martha Hagedorn Krass [MKrass@kshs.org]
Sent: Friday, July 26, 2002 10:14 AM
To: ncshpo-listserv
Subject: [ncshpo-listserv] Re: Geodesic Dome

Jim: Stanford University in Palo Alto, California acquired the Fuller archives several years ago. This should be an excellent source for you.

Martha Hagedorn-Krass
Cultural Resources Division
Kansas State Historical Society
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Oklahoma SHPO
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Suzanne Jamele

From: Alice Baldrice [ambaldri@clan.lib.nv.us]
Sent: Friday, July 26, 2002 12:15 PM
To: ncshpo-listserv
Cc: Mella Harmon
Subject: [ncshpo-listserv] Geodesic domes

The City of Reno, Nevada is home to the Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, designed by the Oklahoma City architectural firm Bozalis, Dickinson, and Roloff. The Pioneer Center is a monumental geodesic dome, 140 feet in diameter was constructed in 1967. Five post-tensioned concrete arches support the gold anodized aluminum geodesic dome roof. TEMCOR constructed the roof; Buckminster Fuller was on its board of directors. The Nevada SHPO nominated the structure to the National Register under criterion c as an outstanding example of Populuxe architecture in Reno. Unfortunately, the Keeper returned the nomination with comments that SHPO failed to demonstrate exceptional significance, required under criteria consideration G (less than fifty years of age). Paul Lusignan (and this is a quote to Nevada SHPO staff) of the National Register felt that at this time (1998) that there was insufficient literature on the significance of geodesic domes and populuxe architecture to prepare a nomination that meets the National Register's eligibility criteria. If this position has changed, the Nevada SHPO would like to know about it and resubmit the nomination.

In the meantime, and in order to afford the building the honor it deserves, the Nevada SHPO listed the Pioneer on its State Register of Historic Places.

If anyone would like a copy of the draft nomination, please let me know.

Alice Baldrice
Deputy SHPO
Nevada

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