

The Skirvin Hotel

Oklahoma City, OK

W.B. Skirvin came to Indian Territory to stake his claim in the Oklahoma Land Run of 1889 and acquired the land for the Skirvin Hotel. Partnering with notable architects Layton, Hicks, and Forsyth to build the largest hotel in Oklahoma. The 10 story Skirvin Hotel opened in 1911.

The luxurious Skirvin Hotel hosted many distinguished guests including President Truman, Elvis Presley, Bob Hope, and Frank Sinatra. The Skirvin weathered the depression, but would not survive the oil bust of the 1980's. It would close its doors in 1988, after operating for 77 years. The Skirvin sat vacant for 19 years and fell into disrepair and became a haven for birds, vandals, and vagrants.

There were many attempts to reopen the Skirvin; however, the environmental hazards in the building stood in the way. The City of Oklahoma City purchased the property to remove the environmental hazards. In 2004, the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) provided a \$780,000 loan from their Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund to the City.

The Skirvin reopened in 2007 as the Skirvin Hilton Hotel. Today the Skirvin is a popular luxury hotel that employs over 225 people and has generated over \$596,000 in property taxes for the City. The Skirvin has also spurred economic development around it, including numerous eateries, hotels, and businesses. The Skirvin Hotel loan was repaid in 2014.

