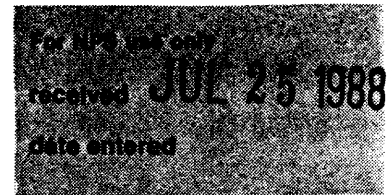


**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number various

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ROBERT LEE WILLIAMS PUBLIC LIBRARY

LOCATION: Fourth and Beech Streets, Durant, Oklahoma 040, Bryan County 013

CLASSIFICATION: building; public; public acquisition--N/A; occupied; unrestricted; present use--library

OWNER: City of Durant, City Hall, Durant, OK 74701

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Bryan County Courthouse, Durant, OK 74701

DESCRIPTION: excellent condition; unaltered; original site

The Williams Library is a single story, L-shaped (82' x 52' vertically with a 25' x 27' horizontal extension) structure constructed of native limestone blocks and buff colored bricks. The quality of masonry is excellent. Brick is restricted to the rear, outside wall. The roof is flat with parapets, while singly placed metal casement windows rise to the height of interior ceilings. A decorative frieze just above the window openings and pilasters between the windows and beside the front entry give the library building a distinct art deco style.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1936; architect/builder: unknown

As a WPA building, the Williams Library is distinctive because of its clear art deco style and the use of limestone as a building material. Moreover, it is the only WPA structure specifically and originally dedicated to library purposes in the nomination area. Style and building materials make it unique in the community of Durant, as does its architectural type and characteristics of workmanship. Most significant is that the building provided employment opportunities for destitute laborers at a time when starvation was the only alternative.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Less than one acre

Quadrangle: Durant South, Okla.
1:24,000/7.5 min.

UTM: 14 742120 3764320

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Lots 3 and 4, Block 151, Durant City original

PICTURE REFERENCE: 17-A, 17-B

United States Department of the Interior
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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: Various Date Listed: 9/8/88

<u>Various</u>	<u>Various</u>	<u>Oklahoma</u>
Property Name	County	State

WPA Public Buildings, Recreational Facilities and Cemetery
Improvements in Southeastern Oklahoma, 1935-1943 TR

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.



Signature of the Keeper

9-8-88

Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

The actual resource count for the entire multiple property nomination should be 50 contributing buildings and 9 contributing structures (no non-contributing resources). Each of the individual properties should be counted as one building with the following exceptions: Roberta School Campus--2 buildings; Spencerville School Campus--2 buildings; Stroup Park Swimming Pool and Bathhouse--1 building, 1 structure; Wetumka Cemetery Pavilion and Fence--2 structures; Twyman Park--2 buildings, 4 structures; Jeff Lee Park Bathhouse and Pool--1 building, 1 structure; and Colony Park Pavilion--1 structure. (Stroup Park Swimming Pool and Bathhouse is being returned to the OK SHPO because of substantive problems which must be clarified.)

Scipio School--Ownership should be private, not public.

Roberta School Campus--Acreage should be two, not less than two.

The level of significance for all properties is local.

The above information was confirmed during a 9/8/88 telephone conversation with Oklahoma Deputy SHPO Melvena Heisch.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file