

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

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JAN 29 2016

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Excelsior Library
Other names/site number: _____
Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 323 S. 2nd Street
City or town: Guthrie State: OK County: Logan
Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local
Applicable National Register Criteria:
X A ___ B ___ C ___ D

[Signature] Jan 25, 2016
Signature of certifying official/Title: _____ Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official: _____ Date

Title : _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): _____

Mr. Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

3.15.16
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Education - Library
Social – Meeting Hall

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Vacant/Not in Use

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Modern Movement

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: brick

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Excelsior Library is a one story, brick building with a flat roof. The library is located on three lots, three blocks south of downtown in Guthrie, in a historically African American residential area. It is located within the National Register of Historic Places Guthrie Historic District but is designated a non-contributing building as it was built after 1910 which places it outside the period of significance. The library is a modern 1950s style building with its original interior layout including a stage and librarian office window. The building has maintained its architectural integrity but is currently not in use due to maintenance issues.

Narrative Description

The library is a one story Modern brick building with two main sections. The west section of the building is 46 feet by 50 feet and is slightly taller than the east section. The east section is approximately 50 feet by 33 feet. The building has a concrete foundation. The brick walls are laid in a running bond pattern. The roof is flat.

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The façade, south elevation, has the main entry in the east wing of the building. The two metal frame glass doors with a metal frame glass transom are located approximately in the center of the façade. To the east of the entry are two windows openings that are currently covered with wood. Each window has a stone sill. The entry and windows are concealed by an angled roof which is supported by three engaged columns located between the windows and a brick column at the front corner of the roof. There is a knee wall constructed of stone which connects the brick column to the main building. A wood ADA ramp was added to the east. The west wing of the building has six windows with stone sills. Four of the windows are five pane windows with the central window being an awning window; the two other windows are three pane. All of the windows have metal frames. Between each of the windows on the west wing are engaged brick columns. The east wing and the west wing above the windows have decorative trim at the roof edge with decorative guttering.

The east elevation has five, five pane metal frame windows with stone sills. The middle sash is an awning window. Located between each window is an engaged brick column. The decorative trim at the roof extends along this elevation.

The south elevation has three window openings in the east wing with stone sills. The windows have been covered with wood panels. The west wing of the south elevation has two small square window openings and one long rectangular window opening with stone sills. Each opening has been covered with wood panels. Also located on the south elevation are two pane and panel doors.

The west elevation has a three pane window with a stone sill. The center sash is an awning window. The decorative trim at the roof and guttering is located on the rear, northwest portion of this elevation.

The library was designed with a large community meeting room with a stage, librarian office space, a large reading room, a small library room with book stacks, a kitchen space, bathrooms, and a mechanical room. The library office service window and wood lobby door at the front entrance still remain. The large community meeting room still has its original stage and wood French doors with 5 horizontal glass panels in each door.

The library sits on a corner lot and has brick sidewalks on the south elevation. The east elevation has full concrete sidewalks. Partial concrete sidewalks exist on the west and north elevations. The library has parking around the south and west sides of the structure with concrete walkways leading to the front door.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Ethnic Heritage - Black

Education

Social History

Period of Significance

1955-1967

Significant Dates

1955

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Nolen-Moore Architecture

Shamrock Construction Co.

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Excelsior Library is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A within the areas of significance of Ethnic Heritage Black, Education, and Social History. The Excelsior Library was built as part of a 1954 City of Guthrie bond issue; it opened in 1955. The library consisted of two library rooms housing 5,000 books and a larger community room with a stage for meetings.¹ It operated as a racially segregated library until 1967 when the Excelsior Library and the Guthrie Carnegie Library were combined as part of desegregation.² The building continued to be used as a branch library until the new Guthrie Public Library building was built in 1970. The Excelsior Library is significant because it represented a time and place where African Americans did not have equal opportunities. It provided library facilities and a community gathering space for the African American community.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Historical Context: African American Libraries in the Nation

African American libraries are now largely gone from the American landscape, but at one point in time, they were a needed service which had to be fought for to be obtained. The first African American library opened in Memphis in 1903 and the second in Galveston in 1904. In 1905, four African American libraries were opened as rented rooms in homes, which became a common model. The first African American library in Oklahoma opened in Guthrie in 1908.³

At the 1913 American Library Association conference, the 1910 census figures were used to show that 30% of African Americans were illiterate. This statistic was used to advocate that the library profession should become leaders in the fight for African American library access. The presentation made by William F. Yust highlighted four possible options for addressing the inadequacy of African American library access in the south. The options included allowing African Americans full access to white libraries, offering separate rooms in existing libraries for blacks, providing separate libraries with control remaining with the designated race, or having separate facilities administrated by a central library board. Yust went on to personally recommend separate libraries with a common board, feeling that Africans Americans were more likely to use separate facilities. Survey results were also presented at the same conference listing Oklahoma as having some integrated libraries.⁴

¹ "New Library Here Gains Popularity." *Guthrie Daily Leader*, June 13, 1956.

² "Education, Growth Demand Modern Library Facility." *Guthrie Daily Leader*, September 25, 1967.

³ Fultz, Michael, "Black Public Libraries in the South in the Era of De Jure Segregation," *Libraries and the Cultural Record*, Vol. 41, No. 3 (Summer 2006): 337-359. doi: 25549344.

⁴ Battles, David M., *The History of Public Library Access for African Americans in the South* (Lanham, Maryland: Scarecrow Press, 2009), 42-43.

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In the 1929 American Library Association survey, Oklahoma was specifically listed as a southern state. The survey was sent to southern cities with large African American populations. Of the eighty surveys sent seventy-four were returned. Of these only 31 provided any type of library service for blacks. Lawton, Oklahoma, would allow African Americans to acquire books from the library but they could not sit and read inside the library. Thirty-one cities provided segregated library services, including Guthrie, Oklahoma. It was estimated, in 1926, that only 10.5% of African Americans in the south had any kind of library service, with the percentage not changing much through the 1940s.⁵

In the early 1940s, the staff of the Atlanta University Library School reported that while 25.2 percent of the African American population in thirteen southern states had library services, only about 7.7 percent of rural blacks had access, compared with 58.8 percent of African Americans living in urban areas.⁶ In 1948, the Burlington Public library system surveyed 20 southern libraries. The surveys showed that many southern libraries were becoming more open to improving library services for black, even though libraries still felt that full integration was not yet possible. An article published in 1954, stated that 6.65 million people or 2/3 of blacks in the south had no library service.⁷

Real progress was not made until 1954 when the supreme court ruled on *Brown v. Board of Education*, which essentially ended “separate but equal” in schools. This decision opened the door for full integration of all public facilities, including libraries, although desegregation was slow in coming. Integration efforts were often unsuccessful until after 1959 when the Civil Rights Movement picked up steam. On July 16, 1960, sixteen students were arrested for trespassing in two separate library sit-ins in Tennessee and North Carolina. Twelve days later the Greenville, North Carolina library and city were sued for “denied use of the tax supported facility solely because of their race and color.” Two weeks after the trial the main library reopened as an integrated library; however, only people who had a valid reason could use the library. Separate tables were set-up for men and women to prevent white and black men and women from intermixing with the opposite sex.⁸

In 1961, the American Library Association went on record as supporting library integration by adding a statement to their library bill of rights. The new statement read “the rights of the individual to use the library should not be denied or abridged because of race, religion, national origin, or political views.” While the American Library Association did not have the power to force library integration, even among its own members, the tide was shifting toward full integration. Even though cities and libraries continued to resist desegregation, it became increasingly difficult to postpone the inevitable as protests continued and pressure mounted. In 1961, the United States Civil Rights Commission asked Congress to act on the matter to force the integration of libraries by withholding federal dollars from libraries systems who maintained segregated facilities under the Library Service Act. At the same time, law suits were continuing to be filed by African Americans demanding equal access. By the end of 1963, quiet

⁵ Battles, *Public Library Access* 59, 70-71.

⁶ Fultz, *Black Public Libraries*, 344.

⁷ Battles, *Public Library Access* 96, 107

⁸ Battles, *Public Library Access*, 110, 118

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desegregation was occurring sometimes without blacks even being aware that they could use the library facilities.⁹

On July 2, 1964 the Civil Rights Bill was signed into law. The bill outlawed segregation in businesses, employment, and public places, including libraries. On August, 6, 1965 the Voting Rights Act was also signed into law, which ended literacy tests used to keep African Americans from voting. While these two laws helped to end desegregation, the final blow came in 1966 when *Brown vs. Louisiana* was brought to the Supreme Court. The court sided with *Brown* as having only exercised his 1st and 14th Amendment rights and ruled that the State had interfered with these rights by not operating in a “reasonable and non-discriminatory manner.” By the end of 1969, schools had become fully integrated, with libraries following suit. It took well into the 1970s for segregation of public facilities to completely fade away.¹⁰

Race Relations in Oklahoma

When the Oklahoma Territory was opened for settlement in 1889 some blacks hoped that this would become a Black Territory. The 1890 census showed that 18,831 African Americans lived in the Oklahoma Territory with one third of the population located in Logan County. Several all black towns were founded, resulting in a rise in racism as whites feared these new African American populations¹¹. Soon, African Americans were discriminated against and segregated from the rest from the population. In an effort to marginalize blacks, almost all counties voted to segregate schools, resulting in the 1897 ban on racially mixed schools in Oklahoma.¹² By 1910 African Americans were being prevented from voting through various literacy tests and laws.¹³ Racial inequality remained the norm until the Civil Rights movement helped to create change. While early cases made some gains for civil rights on university campuses in Oklahoma, it took *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954 to begin the process of change. Even after the Supreme Court ruled, integration was slow in coming in southern states, including Oklahoma. Oklahoma City and Tulsa schools did not fully integrate until the 1970s.¹⁴

Early African American Library Service in Guthrie, Oklahoma

The current Excelsior Library was the second African American Library built in Guthrie. The first library was also named the Excelsior Library. It was created through the efforts of Judith Horton with the help of the Excelsior Club and George N. Perkins, editor of the *Guthrie Guide*. Horton’s husband had been denied access to the Guthrie Carnegie Library which opened in 1903¹⁵. The first Excelsior Library opened in a house at 323 S. 2nd in 1908 and is believed to be the first known African American library in Oklahoma.

⁹ Battles, 119-129.

¹⁰ Battles, 133-145.

¹¹ Smallwood, 54. Smallwood, James M and Crispin A. Phillips, “Black Oklahomans and the Question of “Oklahomaness”: The People Who Weren’t Invited to Share the Dream” in *The Culture of Oklahoma*. Ed. Howard F. Stein and Robert F. Hill. (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1993, 54.

¹² Franklin, Jimmie Lewis, "African Americans," *Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*,
www.okhistory.org

¹³ Franklin, Jimmie Lewis. *The Blacks in Oklahoma*. (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1980), 21-22.

¹⁴ Smallwood, *Black Oklahomans*, 62.

¹⁵ Stiefmiller, Helen M., "Horton, Judith Ann Carter," *Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*,
www.okhistory.org.

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While Judith Horton and the Excelsior Club were able to gain enough support to open an African American library, their efforts were quickly undermined after the library became part of the Guthrie Public library system. It was originally thought the move would help strengthen the library. By 1910, talks were underway to consolidate and dissolve the Excelsior Library board.¹⁶ On September 15, 1910 the city council voted on division of library funds with the Excelsior Library getting half as much as the Carnegie Library.¹⁷ By March 10, 1911 a Guthrie Daily Leader article stated the “Excelsior library was to be abolished” resulting in outrage from the African American community. The library was described as “a great civilizer. We have from 10-43 visitors each day seeing information and it would be a shameful outrage on our people.”¹⁸ As the year progressed, the library continued to receive negative press and pressure to close. In July of 1911, a Guthrie Daily News Leader article states that “this library for the Negroes has caused a great deal of trouble, which has been “settled” many times but never stays settled more than fifteen minutes.” The article includes some accusations that the library was planning on being used as a political headquarters¹⁹.

The African American community did not give up and the library was not closed.²⁰ The January month report for 1912 showed that the library had 957 registered visitors and 520 books loaned. Their total membership was listed as 525 members and total library volumes were listed at 2339.²¹ In November of 1912, the Guthrie News Leader reported that the library “had 2,200 visits in one month, has loaned 750 books in the same length of time.” The library was also able to add 745 volumes to the library in 1912, with Guthrie’s population of African Americans only totaling 2,500 people.²² By 1948, the Excelsior library which continued as the city’s African American library reported a circulation of 25,378 items with a book stock of only 2,810.²³ The original Excelsior was replaced with the current Excelsior Library in 1955.

African American Library Service in Oklahoma

Other African American libraries in Oklahoma included Muskogee’s Wheatley branch library, which began in 1914, and the Women’s Industrial Club Library in Boley, Oklahoma. By the end of World War I African American branch libraries had been added in Oklahoma City and Tulsa. Works Progress Administration funds helped to bring library services to African Americans through funding bookmobile type programs, which African American civil and federated groups pursued. In 1938, the Oklahoma Library Commission listed branch libraries in 11 counties in Oklahoma serving 2,000 African Americans. Even after the WPA projects ended, several of the library efforts continued, with more branch libraries being added. A few libraries did allow colored people some use of the main library. In 1948, Oklahoma had 15 African American

¹⁶ “Trapping the Ferrets.” *Guthrie News Leader*, June 24, 1910, last edition, 5:00, 1.

¹⁷ “Library Fund is Divided.” *Guthrie News Leader*, September 16, 1910, last edition, 3.

¹⁸ “See His Male Hand.” *Guthrie News Leader*, March 10, 1911 Home, 1.

¹⁹ Like a Running Sore: The Strife Among Negroes Seems to Be Permanent.” *Guthrie Dailey Leader*, July 14th 1911 Home, 1

²⁰ “Excelsior Library Benefit.” *Guthrie Dailey Leader* December 29, 1911, Home, 8.

²¹ “Excelsior Library Report.” *Guthrie Daily Leader*, February 15, 1912 Home, 3.

²² “Report of Excelsior Library.” *Guthrie News Leader*, November 5, 1912 Home, 1.

²³ Robbins, Louise S., *The Dismissal of Miss Ruth Brown Civil Rights, Censorship, and the American Library*. (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2000), 39.

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libraries of several forms including separate libraries, branch libraries, book stations, and limited access to public libraries.²⁴

In 1960, a statewide survey of Oklahoma's library service found Oklahoma's libraries to be very poor, both from the viewpoint of citizens and compared to national standards, with 28.9% of the state population having no real access to library service according to the 1960 census. The survey cited that a public library "should be a source for continuing education of all of the people in the community. It should provide recreational as well as the spiritual and the factual so that a fuller life can be lived by the total community. The Library should be a central source of information as well as on all matters of normal living in the community". Out of the 77 counties in Oklahoma, 7 counties had no libraries, and 2 counties only had bookmobiles. 32 counties had one library regardless of county size. 17 counties had two libraries within the county, 10 had three, 5 had four, and 2 had five. Oklahoma County, including Oklahoma City, had seven. Tulsa had a main library, 21 branch libraries and nine bookmobiles.²⁵ While this survey did not mention African American library access specifically, it should be noted that few counties had more than one library, meaning that if it provided African American library access it had to have been integrated in some manner. Logan County had two libraries in Guthrie, the Carnegie Library which opened in 1903 and the Excelsior Library for African Americans which opened in the new building in 1955.

The Current Excelsior Library

The current Excelsior Library was built as part of a bond issue passed in Guthrie on December 7, 1954. The Excelsior Library project was added just three weeks before the bond vote at the request of the Negro Chamber of Commerce. The request was made to the city council to replace the old Excelsior because of the poor condition of the building. The new library was also advocated for because it would provide a meeting space for African American clubs and groups.²⁶ The proposed building was priced at \$50,000. The building plans included library facilities, a conference room, and an auditorium for "Negro 4-H clubs, women's federated club, civic clubs, and other youth and adult organizations. Guthrie City Manager, Bob Whitchurch, was quoted as saying "there's no question but that the library building badly needs to be replaced, and that our Negro citizens also need a place to hold community meetings."²⁷

The Excelsior Library bond issue was presented seven months after the May 17, 1954 court ruling that segregation in public schools was unconstitutional. While the nation waited to hear how this issue would play out, it seemed like desegregation of other of public facilities was becoming a real possibility. Proponents for the new Excelsior argued that even if desegregation occurred that a new community meeting center would still be needed. The only meeting facilities available in Guthrie were already at capacity and only available to white citizens. African American leaders advocated that the new Excelsior Library would provide a safe place for

²⁴ Robbins, *The Dismissal*, 39-42.

²⁵ St. John, Francis R., consultant, *Oklahoma Library Survey. A State-wide Survey of Libraries and Plan for Library Development in Oklahoma 1965*. (New York: Library Consultant, Inc., 1965). , 1-8.

²⁶ "\$627 Bond Election for Local Improvements is Scheduled December 7" *Guthrie Register News* November 18, 1954, 1.

²⁷ "Local Community Building Proposal" *Guthrie Daily Leader* November 30, 1954, 1.

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children to gather. With one African American leader saying “this would give them something of a wholesome nature to do, at the same time help keep them out of trouble...”²⁸

Each bond issue was voted on separately, with the Excelsior Library building projects passing with the slimmest majority of 596 for versus 588 votes against.²⁹ Out of the total bond issue of \$627,000, which also included a new city hall, sewer treatment plant, Cotton Creek flow line, cemetery improvements, new lights for the stadium, and hot water shower facilities at Highland Park swimming pool, the Excelsior library got \$50,000³⁰.

Upon completion of the Excelsior library, the Guthrie News Leader reported that the new library was gaining popularity. The library was reported to have 5,000 volumes available with 1,300 children’s books and 700 adult volumes circulating each month. Mrs. Hibler, the librarian in 1956, reported that the library had more volumes for children and the adult section contained fiction, religion, home decoration, and parenthood books. The library was designed with a large community meeting room, librarian office space, a small library room with book stacks, a kitchen space, and a large reading room. After only being open for a few months, it was already reported that the Excelsior Club, Chamber of Commerce, and 4-H clubs were meeting in the library, which provided space for their meetings and craft classes. The meeting room could also be reserved for other community functions.³¹

After desegregation impacted all public facilities, the Excelsior Library was converted to branch library and meeting space. The new fully integrated library replaced both the Carnegie and the Excelsior libraries, in 1970. It was funded from a 1967 bond issue, which pressed for a new, larger, more adequate library. While the article did not mention the Excelsior, it spoke of needs for more adequate facilities, complete with a meeting room, “listening laboratories,” reading rooms with microfilm, and books for all ages and levels of learning.³²

After the library was moved to its new facility, the Excelsior continued to be used as meeting space and event center primarily for the African American community. The Excelsior Chapter of the Federated Colored Women’s Club, Inc. met at the Excelsior. The space was also used for birthday parties, Valentines teas, anniversaries, funeral receptions, dances, banquets, proms, weddings, and fundraisers. Many remember going to the Excelsior library in the 1960-70’s for Teen Town every Friday Night. Teen Town was a dance party open to teenagers over 12 every Friday night. It was sponsored by Bobbie Dixon, who opened and closed the doors each week.³³

The Excelsior became the temporary home to the Guthrie Police Department while a new city hall was being built in 1995, ending the Excelsior’s use as a vital event center for the

²⁸ “Local Community Building Proposal.” *Guthrie Daily Leader*, November 30, 1954, 1.

²⁹ “Okay Bond Issues.” *Guthrie Daily Leader*, December 8, 1954, 1.

³⁰ “Local Community Building Proposal” *Guthrie Daily Leader*, November 30, 1954, 1.

³¹ “New Library Here Gains Popularity.” *Guthrie Daily Leader*, June 13, 1956.

³² “Education, Growth Demand Modern Library Facility.” *Guthrie Daily Leader*, September 25, 1967.

³³ Harding, Joann T. “Memories of the Excelsior Library.” Found in the Melvin B. Tolson Black Research Center, Langston University. Langston, Oklahoma.

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community. After the police department moved into the new city hall, the Excelsior was used as the Guthrie Arts Center from 1998-2014. It is now vacant.

Conclusion

The Excelsior Library is eligible under Criteria A because it was built as an African American Library and community center. It was added to the 1954 bond issue at the urging of the Negro Chamber of Commerce. It was built after the citizens of the Guthrie voted to approve the bond issue to build a new African American Library. It was built before a modern library for whites in Guthrie and it was built during the beginning of the Civil Rights Movement, which some hoped would end segregation of public facilities. Even after separate but equal was outlawed and a new integrated library was built, the Excelsior Library remained vital to the African American community as a community center and symbol of their heritage.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Battles, David M., *The History of Public Library Access for African Americans in the South*. Lanham, Maryland: Scarecrow Press, 2009.

Franklin, Jimmie Lewis, "African Americans," *Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, www.okhistory.org. Accessed September 01, 2015.

Franklin, Jimmie Lewis. *The Blacks in Oklahoma*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1980.

Fultz, Michael, "Black Public Libraries in the South in the Era of De Jure Segregation," *Libraries and the Cultural Record*, Vol. 41, No. 3 (Summer 2006): 337-359. doi: 25549344.

Harding, Joann T. "Memories of the Excelsior Library." Found in the Melvin B. Tolson Black Research Center, Langston University. Langston, Oklahoma. 2014.

Robbins, Louise S., *The Dismissal of Miss Ruth Brown Civil Rights, Censorship, and the American Library*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2000.

Smallwood, James M and Crispin A. Phillips, "Black Oklahomans and the Question of "Oklahomaness": The People Who Weren't Invited to Share the Dream" in *The Culture of Oklahoma*. Ed. Howard F. Stein and Robert F. Hill. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1993, pages 48-67.

Stiefmiller, Helen M., "Horton, Judith Ann Carter," *Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, www.okhistory.org. Accessed August 31, 2015.

St. John, Franic R., consultant, *Oklahoma Library Survey. A State-wide Survey of Libraries and Plan for Library Development in Oklahoma 1965*. New York: Library Consultant, Inc., 1965.

Newspapers

Guthrie Daily Leader

Guthrie Register News

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acres of Property less than one acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 35.875046 Longitude: -97.427930
2. Latitude: Longitude:
3. Latitude: Longitude:
4. Latitude: Longitude:

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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Block 69, Lots 10-12.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

Legal boundaries of property in Guthrie proper.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Amy Loch, Executive Director
organization: Logan County Historical Society
street & number: 311 Airport Rd.
city or town: Guthrie state: OK zip code: 73044
e-mail: amy.lchsok@yahoo.com
telephone: 405-282-6000 ex 6
date: 9/10/2015

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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Logan County, Oklahoma
County and State

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Excelsior Library

City or Vicinity: Guthrie

County: Logan

State: Oklahoma

Photographer: Mark Janzen

Date Photographed: September 7, 2015

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photograph Number	Subject	Direction
00001	Façade	North
00002	Façade	North
00003	East Elevation	West
00004	West Elevation	East
00005	Northwest corner	Southeast

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Excelsior Library
323 S. 2nd Street
Guthrie, Logan County, Oklahoma



0 0.025 0.05 0.1 Miles





628

RESERVED
PARKING









UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Excelsior Library
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: OKLAHOMA, Logan

DATE RECEIVED: 1/29/16 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 2/29/16
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/15/16 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/15/16
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000087

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 3.15.16 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

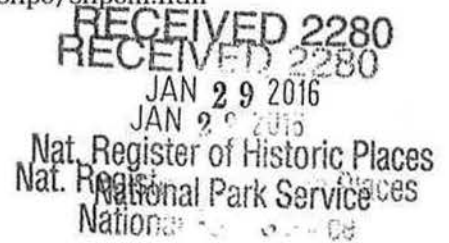
If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



Oklahoma Historical Society
State Historic Preservation Office

Founded May 27, 1893

Oklahoma History Center • 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive • Oklahoma City, OK 73105-7917
(405) 521-6249 • Fax (405) 522-0816 • www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpom.htm



January 25, 2016

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief
National Register and National Historic Landmark Programs
National Park Service 2280, 8th floor
1201 "I" (Eye) Street, NW
Washington D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

We are pleased to transmit three National Register of Historic Places nominations for Oklahoma properties. The nominations are for the following properties:

Co-operative Publishing Company Building (additional documentation), Guthrie, Logan County
Excelsior Library, Guthrie, Logan County
Lincoln Plaza Historic District, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County

All members of the Historic Preservation Review Committee (state review board) were present for the public meeting at which each of these nominations was considered and the recommendation to the State Historic Preservation Officer was formulated. Therefore, the member possessing the requisite professional qualifications for evaluation of each nominated property participated in the recommendation's formulation.

We look forward to the results of your review. If there may be any questions, please do not hesitate to contact either Lynda S. Ozan of my staff or myself.

Sincerely,

Melvena Heisch
Deputy State Historic
Preservation Officer

MKH:Iso

Enclosures