

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

JUN 13 1983

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Okmulgee Public Library

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 218 South Okmulgee Ave. N/A not for publication

city, town Okmulgee N/A vicinity of

state Oklahoma code 40 county Okmulgee code 111

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	N/A being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: (library)

4. Owner of Property

name Okmulgee Library Association

street & number 218 South Okmulgee

city, town Okmulgee N/A vicinity of state Oklahoma 74447

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of County Clerk

street & number Okmulgee County Courthouse

city, town Okmulgee state Oklahoma 74447

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1982  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Oklahoma Historical Society

city, town Oklahoma City state Oklahoma 73105

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

## Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Okmulgee Library, completed in 1921, is a one-story detached building with flat roof and 2' parapet. It is finished with buff brick and light brown limestone. The brick is laid in Flemish bond courses and the limestone base has a smoothly cut, coursed finish. Decorative features also employ the light brown limestone. It is approximately 80' x 105' with two vertical divisions in the rear. The first is a 2' x 24' recessed portion immediately behind main portion and the second is a 4' x 75' recessed portion behind the first recess.

Fenestration in the facade includes six large compound arch windows set in round arch openings of limestone with scrolled keys. The north and south walls of main portion each have three large compound arch windows set in round arch openings of limestone with scrolled keys. The north and south walls of the recessed division each have three 8/8 sash windows.

Rear wall has eleven rectangular-shaped 1/1 sash windows with fixed pane transoms. These are located in the center. There is also in rear wall one 1/1 sash window near southwest corner and two 1/1 sash windows near northeast corner.

There is one rectangular-shaped exterior chimney stack near the northeast corner.

Facade has double metal-type doors with glass panes. There is one plain wood door in the southwest corner and one plain wood door in concrete block addition to the northeast corner.

Several elements of the Georgian Revival style are employed. The focal point of the facade is a 4' x 20' projecting pavilion with large round arch opening with scrolled key. Corners of the projecting pavilion are accentuated with paired limestone pilasters of Corinthian detail. They are supported by two large limestone plinths. The projecting pavilion is slightly pedimented and features a modillioned cornice and a frieze with multiple moldings and an inscription reading "Okmulgee Public Library".

There are twelve large Palladian-type windows in facade, east, and west walls. Each are set in round arch openings of limestone with scrolled keys. The windows are separated by paired limestone pilasters with Corinthian-type capitals. The facade, east, and west walls of the main portion of the building feature a modillioned cornice and frieze with multiple moldings. The parapet has molded limestone decoration.

The limestone base is approximately 3' high and is delineated from brick exterior by a molded limestone water table. There are two stoops. One is three-stepped and leads from street level to raised level of library grounds. The other is four-stepped and leads to main entrance.

Plain cornices are located in recessed divisions to the rear of main portion and a plain masonry belt course marks parapet in rear wall.

A small 15' x 15' concrete block addition was completed to the northeast corner of the building in 1981. It houses the heating and cooling system for the library.

The library sits on the southeast corner of Eighth and Okmulgee Streets. A large parking lot is located directly across the street and large open space areas are located to the southeast and south of the building. There is an apartment complex to the rear and a gas station to the north.

Although some windows and doors have been replaced, the architectural integrity has been preserved during the 62-year history of the building.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below					
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		

**Specific dates** 1921-Present      **Builder/Architect** Smith, Reed, Lovett, and Senter (Architects)

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Okmulgee Library is both historically and architecturally significant because:  
 (1) it was the first city library in Oklahoma to be constructed with funds derived from a municipal bond issue and  
 (2) it is the best example of Georgian Revival design in Okmulgee County.

The Okmulgee Library Association was created on June 19, 1914 and the city of Okmulgee appointed the first library board. At this time the library was housed in the Creek Nation Council House in downtown Okmulgee. Shortly after the appointment of the library board, it made application to the Carnegie Foundation for funds to construct a new library. The Carnegie Foundation offered \$15,000, however, it was declined by the library board because of the small amount and plans were laid for a municipal bond election for library funding. The \$75,000 bond issue passed and construction of the new library was begun in 1917 on land donated to the city by two local families. Completed in 1921, the Okmulgee Library was the first city library in Oklahoma to be built with municipal bond funding.

The Okmulgee Library has several Georgian Revival characteristics including the projecting pavilion with minor pediment, large compound arch windows, Corinthian-like pilasters marking corners and divisions between windows, modillioned cornice, and frieze with multiple moldings. These features make it the best example of Georgian Revival architecture in Okmulgee County.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Okmulgee Daily Times, June 2, 1982; Okmulgee Democrat, Feb. 16, 1914;  
Historical Industrial and Civic Survey of Okmulgee and Okmulgee County,  
 W.P.A. Writer's Project, May, 1936.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Okmulgee South, OK

Quadrangle scale 7.5"

UTM References

A 

1,5	2,3,0	5,2,5	3,9,4,5	8,4,0
Zone	Easting		Northing	

B 

Zone	Easting		Northing	

C 

Zone	Easting		Northing	

D 

Zone	Easting		Northing	

E 

Zone	Easting		Northing	

F 

Zone	Easting		Northing	

G 

Zone	Easting		Northing	

H 

Zone	Easting		Northing	

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 6, Block 111, Original Townsite of the City of Okmulgee, Oklahoma.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jimmy Woodard Supervised by Dr. George Carney

organization Northeast Oklahoma Counties Survey date February, 1983

street & number Oklahoma State University telephone 405/624-6250

city or town Stillwater state Oklahoma 74078

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*C. Metcalf*

5/31/83

title

date

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

*Beth Croover*  
 Keeper of the National Register

date

7/28/83

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration