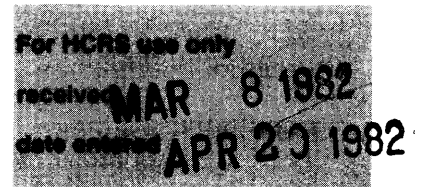


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



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

1. Name

historic J. L. Wilson Building

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 202 West Evergreen St. N/A not for publication

city, town Durant _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 003

state Oklahoma code 40 county Bryan code 013

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 checked="" 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. Budge Harle

street & number 1702 Asberry

city, town Durant _____ vicinity of _____ state Oklahoma

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Bryan County Court House

city, town Durant _____ state Oklahoma

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Oklahoma Comprehensive Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1980 _____ federal state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records Preservation Office, Oklahoma Historical Society

city, town Oklahoma City _____ state Oklahoma

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The J. L. Wilson Building is a two-story building constructed of rusticated ashlar masonry. It measures some 54' wide and 90' long, faces south, and is painted grey. The building's first floor front consists of large, display glass windows and a recessed entry way. A wood awning spans the length of the front, above which are clerestory windows. The second floor and corner facade, as well as the entire cornice, is constructed of pressed tin. On the south front between each of the single-sash windows the tin is fashioned into pilasters. The windows themselves are in wooden casements. The architectural style can be termed early midwestern commercial.

The J. L. Wilson Building has been only slightly altered since it was constructed. Three large window openings on the east side of the first floor have been enclosed with masonry similar to that of the original. Moreover, the display windows on the street front would appear to have replaced smaller windows encased by masonry. These alterations notwithstanding, the building retains its architectural integrity and is an excellent example of an Indian Territory (pre-Oklahoma Statehood in 1907) commercial structure.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1901 to present **Builder/Architect** J. W. Wilson

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Erected in 1901, the J. L. Wilson Building is significant because of its multiple uses by the community. Although Durant existed as a railroad depot and small agriculture settlement after 1872, it was not platted as a townsite until 1901. Even then it was still situated in the old Choctaw Nation and subject to the laws of the tribe. The fact that it was officially platted, however, provided an impetus to its economic and demographic growth. Because the town's population increase and commercial expansion occurred before the demise of Indian government, the White residents were without traditional legal protection. To remedy the situation the United States government established a federal court within the community. The first site of the court was the second floor of the J. L. Wilson Building, a facility that was used from 1902 through 1904.

When the Court discontinued use of the structure, Mr. Wilson converted the building into an opera house. In 1908 new owners purchased and remodeled the building, making it "a modern, up-to-date entertainment place." For the next several decades it was frequented by such famous actors as James K. Hackett, Frederick Warde, Sir Henry Beresford, Dorothy Sherrod, Tim Murphy, Robert Mantell, and Al Wilson.

In the late 1920s and 1930s, the upper floor of the Wilson building was utilized as a drill hall by the Oklahoma National Guard. When the theater closed, the first floor was converted into a "Double-Dip Ice Cream Parlor." Later it also was used as a furniture store. For the last two decades it has been a dry goods store.

In addition to its varied usage, the J. L. Wilson Building is significant because of its architecture. First, the tin facade is unique to the community, or at least no structure survives with a similar front. Second, it remains virtually unaltered from its original design. Third, it is the single best example within the community of an Indian Territory/prestatehood commercial structure.

9. Major Bibliographical References

MacCreary, Henry. A Story of Durant: Queen of Three Valleys. Durant, 1945.

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Durant



Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

A

1	4	7	4	2	0	2	5	3	7	6	4	0	2	5
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

Located on the corner of North Second and West Evergreen streets, being Lot 1 of Block 150, Durant City plat.

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 W. David Baird

organization Oklahoma Historic Preservation Survey date May 29, 1980

street & number Oklahoma State University telephone (405) 624-5678

city or town Stillwater state Oklahoma

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature C. Metcalf 2-8-82

title date

For HCRS use only

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

William H. Abraham

date 4.20.82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration