

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 96000823

Date Listed: 8/5/96

Bow, Lily Lawrence, Library  
Property Name

Dade                    NORTH CAROLINA  
County                State

Homestead MPS  
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.

*for [Signature]*  
Signature of the keeper

8/6/96  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

Section No. 5

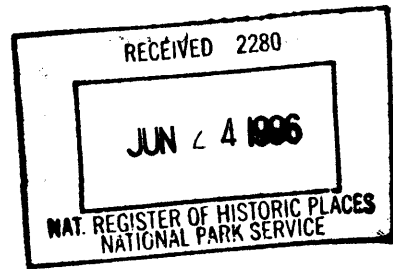
This nomination is amended to show that the category of ownership is Public-local.

This information was provided by the Florida SHPO.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name BOW, LILY LAWRENCE, LIBRARY

other names/site number SITE # 8DA03699

2. Location

street & number 212 N.W. 1st Avenue  not for publication

city or town Homestead  vicinity

state Florida code FL county Dade code 025 zip code 33030

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Suzanne P. Walker Deputy SHPO 6/17/96  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Florida State Historic Preservation Officer, Division of Historical Resources  
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Date of Action 8/5/96

for Signature of the Keeper M. J. M. [Signature]

Bow, Lily Lawrence, Library  
Name of Property

Dade Co., Florida  
County and State

**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

**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

**Name of related multiple property listing**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**Historic Resources of Homestead, Florida**

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/ Library

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/ not in use

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Vernacular

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls STONE/ limestone

roof Ceramic Tile

other \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**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.)

Property is:

- 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Community Planning and Development

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1938-1946

**Significant Dates**

1938

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Arch: Parman, Clarence

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

\_\_\_\_\_

Bow, Lily Lawrence, Library  
Name of Property

Dade Co., Florida  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** less than one acre

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 | 1 | 7 | | 5 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 5 | | 2 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 0 |  
Zone Easting Northing  
2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |  
Zone Easting Northing  
4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Jane Day, Susan Krassy/ Sherry Piland, Historic Sites Specialist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date June 1996

street & number R.A. Gray Bldg., 500 S. Bronough St. telephone (904) 487-2335

city or town Tallahassee state Fl. zip code 32399-0250

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name \_\_\_\_\_

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**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. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet****LILY LAWRENCE BOW LIBRARY  
DADE CO., FL.**Section number 7 Page 1

The Lily Lawrence Bow Library at 212 N.W. 1 Avenue, Homestead, Florida, is a single story, masonry building. The exterior walls of the building are constructed of oolitic limestone, commonly called coral rock, which is indigenous to South Florida. The building, which has an irregular floor plan, rests on a concrete foundation. It has a barrel tile gable roof. The Lily Lawrence Bow Library is a fine example of vernacular, coral rock construction with Mission/Spanish Colonial elements. It contributes to the **Historic Resources of Homestead, Florida**, multiple property group as an example of Property Type F.3, **Public Buildings**.

**SETTING**

The Lily Lawrence Bow Library is located on a well landscaped lot surrounded with mature trees. It sits back approximately 25 feet from 1st Avenue. An informal courtyard area is located in front of the building and contains oolitic limestone benches and a small drinking fountain. It is intersected by a wide stone walkway and stone steps that lead to an impressive entry porch. Vacant lots are located to the north and east of this building. NW 2nd Street runs along the south edge of the property.

**EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION**

The main facade of the Lily Lawrence Bow Library faces to the east, onto 1st Avenue (Photo 1). A cornerstone to the left of the entrance identifies the building as a Works Progress Administration project for the city of Homestead in 1939. Centrally located on this facade are three arches, forming the entrance to a recessed porch. The arches, formed of oolitic limestone have a smooth finish, which contrasts with the building's walls of coarsely textured oolitic limestone. The natural limestone has weathered to a distinctive grey color while the finished limestone has acquired an interesting pattern in golden tones. The original entrance door has been replaced by an aluminum door and is flanked by 6/6, double hung, sash windows (Photo 2). Doors at the north and south ends of the porch lead to restrooms. There is no access to these restrooms from the interior of the building.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

LILY LAWRENCE BOW LIBRARY  
DADE CO., FL.

Section number 7 Page 2

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The north (Photo 3) and south (Photo 4) elevations of the building are identical. Each features a large Palladian-type window. Each window is divided into three sections by pier buttresses. The large center component consists of paired, 6/6, double hung, sash windows with three-light transoms, all surmounted by an arched fanlight. The center section is flanked by 6/6, double hung, sash windows with three-light transoms. Stone lintels over the side windows connect to the stone arch over the central window segment.

The rear (west) elevation contains a door and several windows (Photo 5). The windows are 6/6, double hung, wood sash and have smooth finished oolitic limestone sills (Photo 6). Another architectural feature of interest is the smooth sculpted stone facia also of oolitic limestone.

**INTERIOR DESCRIPTION**

The entrance leads directly into the large main hall. This impressive 3,000 square foot space has an outstanding ceiling comprised of exposed rafters and rough hand-hewed beams of Dade County pine (Photo 7). This local building material is a very hard wood known to be resistant to termites and damaging moisture. The interior walls are plastered and a few of the original built-in book shelves remain in place. Lined across the west end of the hall are six small rooms, used as offices. Some of the offices have the original book shelves. Multi-light, glass panels, surmounted by a narrow, multi-light transom, flank the doorway of one of the offices (Photo 8).

The building is currently vacant. It has retained the integrity of its original architectural features. The Lily Lawrence Bow Library is an excellent example of a federal Works Progress Administration (WPA) building project that incorporated the use of local materials in its construction.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**LILY LAWRENCE BOW LIBRARY  
DADE CO., FL.Section number 8 Page 1

The Lily Lawrence Bow Library at 212 N.W. 1 Avenue is significant at the local level under Criteria A and C in the areas of community planning and development, and architecture. The building housed the Homestead library which was originally founded by the Homestead Woman's Club. It was one of Homestead's Works Progress Administration (WPA) projects in 1938/1939. The design of the library reflects the successful use of local materials in the construction of an important public resource. It contributes to the **Historic Resources of Homestead, Florida**, multiple property group under historic context III, **Depression/New Deal Era, 1927-1939**, and under property type F.3, **Public Buildings**.

**HISTORIC CONTEXT**

During the 1930s numerous WPA projects were completed throughout Dade County. The Miami Beach Post Office, the Coral Gables Fire station, the Coral Gables Woman's Club, and the Liberty Square housing project were just a few of the local buildings whose construction aided the Depression Era economy. Homestead received federal economic assistance through the WPA in the construction of the Lily Lawrence Bow Library in 1938/1939.

**HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE**

Lily Lawrence Bow became interested in library work during the 1920s as a member of the Homestead Woman's Club. In the Spring of 1926 the club agreed to open their library for public use. The phenomenal growth of the library from a few hundred books to 20,000 volumes in a short period of time necessitated that a larger and more convenient space be found. The Woman's Club realized they could no longer maintain the library and offered it to the City. A special election was needed to accept the gift and was soundly supported by the citizens. However, the funds for maintaining the library's operations were insufficient. Mayor S. E. Livingston decided to utilize a surplus of funds in the Police Department budget to hire Lily Lawrence Bow as the city's first librarian. This necessitated that she also be commissioned as a police officer. Bow served in this dual role until July 1927, when the Homestead City Council appropriated \$1,500 annually to support the library operations. Livingston later donated land for a library building.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

LILY LAWRENCE BOW LIBRARY  
DADE CO., FL.

Section number 8 Page 2

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Construction of a library building was realized through the WPA. The project, based on plans by local architect Clarence J. Parman, was approved on September 16, 1938. Construction of the \$23,000 building was underway by October.

The Homestead City Council recognized the hard work and dedication of the city's first librarian, Lily Lawrence Bow, by naming the library after her. Over Mrs. Bow's protestations, on May 1, 1939, the Homestead City Council passed a resolution naming the library in her honor and stipulating that the name be carved over the entrance to the building. The Lily Lawrence Bow Library was opened to the public on November 19, 1939, and was formally dedicated a month later. Senator Claude Pepper, giving the dedication speech, said the library "reflected the great civic pride and the desire for better things in life that fill the hearts of Homestead's citizens." Bow continued to serve as the Homestead librarian until her retirement in February 1940. She died in May 1943.

Bow was succeeded as librarian by Mrs. J. E. Gauzens, who held the position until September 1942. The next librarian, Mary Suber, served until May 1975. The library became part of the Dade County Library System in October 1974. In 1978 construction of a new library building began. On its completion in 1980, the Lily Lawrence Bow Library was vacated. After remaining vacant for several years, in 1984, the city leased it to the Christian Community Service Agency. It is once again vacant.

**ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The architect of the Lily Lawrence Bow library was Clarence J. Parman. Parman was an Ohio architect who moved to Florida for his health. Although he made his living as a partner in the Parman-Kendall Corporation, a local packing house, he completed a number of other architectural projects in Homestead. Among the most important was the design for the First Presbyterian Church at 47 NW Sixteenth Street.

Parman's choice of local oolitic limestone and Dade County pine as principal construction materials tie the building to its place. Stylistically, the building incorporates Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival elements, appropriate to the warm climate of south Florida.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

LILY LAWRENCE BOW LIBRARY  
DADE CO., FL.

Section number   9   Page   1  

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Burnside, Susan. "New Page Due in Homestead Library History."  
South Dade News Leader, 13 October 1974.

From Wilderness to Metropolis The History and Architecture of  
Dade County, Florida (1825-1940). Metropolitan Dade County:  
Franklin Press Inc. 1982.

"Homestead Librarian Wore a Police Badge." South Dade News  
Leader, 5 September 1980.

"Librarian's Memory Kept Alive by Flowers, Verse." South Dade  
News Leader, 12 August 1980, Sec. A, p. 3.

"Lily Lawrence Bow Library Dedicated to Posterity with Impressive  
Rites." Leader-Enterprise, 5 January 1940, p. 1.

"New Library is Named for Lily Lawrence Bow." Leader-Enterprise,  
May 1939.

Patricios, Nicholas N. Building Marvelous Miami. Gainesville:  
University Press of Florida, 1994.

"Pepper Lauds Work of WPA." Leader-Enterprise, 30 December 1939.

Kirkland, Mary. "Homestead's Quiet Library Takes you Back...".  
South Dade News, 26 August 1971, p. 7.

"20,000 Books Moved from Krome Site." Leader-Enterprise, 1  
December 1939, p. 1.

Interviews by Susan Krassy:

Larry Wiggins, 20 July 1995.

Robert Jensen, 20 July 1995.

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

# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

**LILY LAWRENCE BOW LIBRARY  
DADE CO., FL.**

Section number 10 Page 1

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## **VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

City of Homestead, S E Livingston addition, Lots 23 and 24.

## **BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Lily Lawrence Bow Library.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

LILY LAWRENCE BOW LIBRARY  
DADE CO., FL.

Section number Photo Page 1

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1. Lily Lawrence Bow Library, 212 N.W. 1st Avenue
2. Homestead, Dade County, Florida
3. Jane Day
4. 1995
5. Research Atlantica, 3080 N.W. 99th Avenue, Coral Springs, Florida
6. Main (east) facade, view looking southwest
7. Photo 1 of 8

Items 1-5 are the same for the remaining photographs.

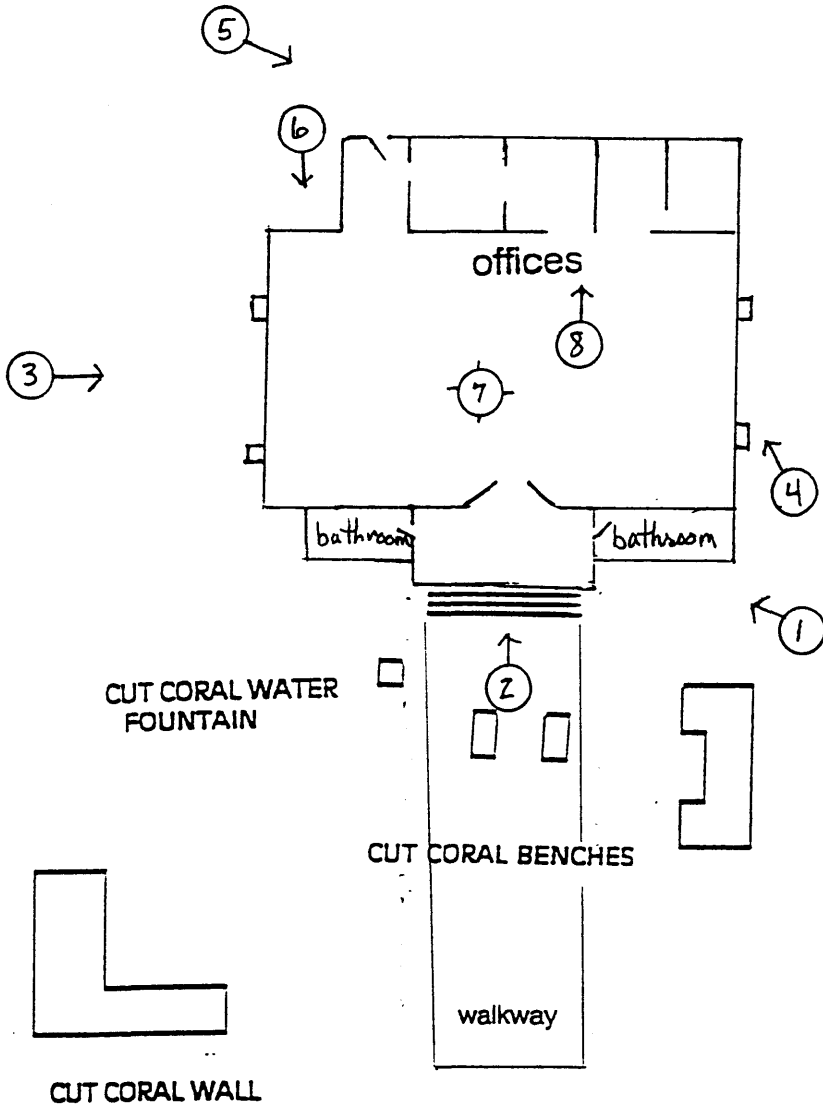
6. Detail, main (east) facade; view looking west
7. Photo 2 of 8
  
6. South elevation, view looking north
7. Photo 3 of 8
  
6. North elevation, view looking southwest
7. Photo 4 of 8
  
6. Rear (west) elevation on left, south elevation on right; view looking northeast
7. Photo 5 of 8
  
6. Window detail, rear (west) elevation; view looking east
7. Photo 6 of 8
  
6. Interior, ceiling detail; view looking up
7. Photo 7 of 8
  
6. Interior detail, view looking west
7. Photo 8 of 8

LILY LAWRENCE BOW LIBRARY  
212 N.W. 1st AVENUE

Homestead, Dade Co., Fl.  
Photo Direction  $\rightarrow$   
Approx. Scale: 0.5" = 7'  
Boundary - - - - -



2nd Street



1st Avenue