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other, explain
 See continuation sheet.

Jewel Theater

Name of Property

5. Classification

Ownership of Property Category of Property Number of Resources within Property (Check as many boxes as apply) (Check only one box) (Do not count previously listed resources.) Contributing Noncontributing [X] private [X] building(s) [] public-local [] district 1 0 buildings [] public-State [] site [] public-Federal 0 0 [] structure sites [] object 0 0 structures 0 0 objects 0 Total 1 Number of contributing resources Name of related multiple property listing. (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) previously listed in the National Register. N/A N/A 6. Function or Use **Historic Function Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions) (Enter categories from instructions) **Recreation and Culture: Theater** Recreation and Culture: Theater 7. Description **Architectural Classification** Materials (Enter categories from instructions) (Enter categories from instructions) foundation Concrete Modern movement: Art Deco walls Brick roof Metal other

Narrative Description

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

Oklahoma County, Oklahoma County/State

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

Jewel Theater

Section number <u>7</u> Page <u>1</u> Oklahoma County, Oklahoma

DESCRIPTION

This is a two-story brick building. The barrel arch roof is clad with metal and is concealed by a full-width arched parapet. The first floor has a central entrance with a wood and glass panel door and a wood frame transom. Located on either side of the door is an enclosed display window. Located at the corners of the first floor is an arched window opening. The arched transoms have been enclosed and the window openings have been covered. There is some decorative tile on the first floor. The second floor has as window opening at each corner. The northwest window has been in-filled with metal louvers. The center window has been in-filled with stone and two bull's eye windows. The northeast window has been in-filled with brick. Above the center window is a stone name plaque: "Jewel Theatre". At the apex of the arched roof is a keystone. Below the cornice are two rows of brick headers. At the corners of the barrel arched roof is an art deco stone detail.

The buildings to the east and west have been demolished leaving the blank brick walls exposed. Approximately seventy-five feet from the façade, on the east and west elevations, is a metal door. The south elevation has three metal doors at the main floor level.

Sign:

The first and second floors are separated by a metal awning installed ca. 1940. This awning has neon tubing, which illuminated the awning at one time. At the same time a neon sign was added to the façade. "Jewel" is vertical and "Theater" is horizontal on the sign. Neon light tubing surrounds the sign.

Name of Property

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.)

- [X]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.

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 listed in the realigible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Oklahoma County, Oklahoma County/State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Entertainment/Recreation

Ethnic Heritage

Periods of Significance 1931-1959

Significant Dates

1931

Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above).

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

James, Hethyel L. and James, P.H.

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office

- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Oklahoma Historical Society/SHPO

#

Jewel Theater

Name of Property

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1.	14 Zone	636349 Easting	3926362 Northing	
2.	Zone	Easting	Northing	
3.	Zone	Easting	Northing	
4.				
	Zone	Easting	Northing	[] See continuation sheet
Vert	oal Bou	ndary Des	cription	

(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

1111 01

name/title Sherri Williams & Arthur Hur		internet statements in the second sec
organization Owner/National Register I	date April 12, 2009	
street & number 816 NE 6th St	telephone_405-739-0900	
city or town Oklahoma City	state OK	zip code_73104

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.

Property Owner

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

name Arthur Hurst

street	&	num	ber	81	6	N	Е	6 ^u
Succi	α	num	Del.	01	U	1.4	_	0

city or town

telephone

Representative black and white photographs of the

zip code 73104

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 Places to nominate properties.

state OK

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.

Oklahoma County, Oklahoma

County/State

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

Photographs

property.

Additional Items

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

Jewel Theater

Section number <u>8</u> Page <u>2</u> Oklahoma County, Oklahoma

SIGNIFICANCE

Oklahoma Territory and Indian Territory

On March 3, 1889, several hours before his term expired, President Grover Cleveland signed the 1889 Indian Appropriations Bill with an attached rider offered by William M. Springer. After ten years of political haggling, Congress had found a way to break the land lock in Oklahoma Territory. The Springer Amendment allowed the United States to purchase land from the Seminoles, the last of the Five Civilized Tribes to be paid for their legal claim to land in Indian Territory. The release gave the United States clear title and the right to sell all of the unsettled lands in Oklahoma Territory. A few weeks later, President Benjamin Harrison signed a proclamation declaring that Oklahoma Territory should be opened for public settlement. By nightfall on April 22, 1889, Oklahoma City had been founded and the population grew form zero that morning to ten thousand. On the following day, a provisional city government was installed and it seemed that overnight a variety of businesses had been established.

African Americans and Oklahoma City

In the land run of 1889, more than 200 African Americans raced alongside white settlers for the chance to make a new start. The early territorial days were marked by a sense of racial equality, with African Americans holding positions in the Oklahoma Territory Legislature and other territorial offices. Although in Oklahoma City the African American population was fairly dispersed throughout the community, territorial policy did call for separate educational facilities. By 1891, Oklahoma City opened its first "black" school. By 1905, the Black commercial activity in Oklahoma City began to prosper and the promise of opportunity seemed to hold true. Some African American leaders felt that Oklahoma was the "promised land" and envisioned it as a future all-Black state. This buildup came to an abrupt end with the 1906 Constitutional Convention lead by "alfalfa" Bill Murray that included Jim Crow laws to segregate transportation, schools and to prohibit interracial marriage. With statehood in 1907, Oklahoma was officially transformed into a segregationist society.

The history of Oklahoma City African Americans is closely tied to the northeast area of the City. Early Black neighborhoods were located south of Northeast 4th Street, just east of downtown Oklahoma City and south of one of Oklahoma City's early prestigious neighborhoods, the Maywood Addition. A commercial area developed along Northeast 2nd Street, three blocks east of downtown. The surrounding area was filled with residential housing ranging in styles from vernacular to Prairie. While there were no territorial laws establishing housing segregation, racial segregation occurred as a result of economics and customs.

Segregation continued in the form of restrictive covenants on plats and through agreements among white property owners and real estate operators. Such deed restrictions were established with the prevailing belief that a racially restricted neighborhood was necessary to maintain property values. Persons of African descent were prohibited by plat restrictions from buying property in many additions; however, there was not provisions prohibiting the housing of colored servants.

By 1910, African Americans in Oklahoma City numbered over 6,700, accounting for approximately 10% of the city's population. That percentage declined slowly as the total population grew rapidly.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

Jewel Theater

Section number <u>8</u> Page <u>3</u> Oklahoma County, Oklahoma

Motion Pictures

Beginning in 1896, with the advent of Thomas Edison's moving picture machine, the kinescope, the American public became enchanted with motion pictures. Although public interest with kinescope faded within a few years, short motion pictures continued to be part of the entertainment verve in cities and towns across America. Debuting in 1896, many vaudeville performances included a showing of motion pictures via the Vilascope, an improvement on the kinescope, which used a projector to project the film onto a separate screen. Vaudeville shows, the most popular entertainment form at the turn-of-the-century, typically also included singing, dancing, comedy skits and novelty acts by live performances.

Although vaudeville and motion pictures continued to be linked for many years, traveling film exhibitors quickly began setting up in vacant storefronts on and off vaudeville circuits. Offering only the minimum of accommodations, these make shift movie theaters increased the popularity of motion pictures. Even more clearly opened in numerous small towns across the United States were the "air dome" or openair-theaters. Needing only four walls with seats located between the projector and the screen, these economical theaters also offered advantages from the stuffiness and fire hazards of other enclosed theaters. Even widening the attraction of motion pictures in the United States was the 1905 introduction of nickelodeons. Rather than showing movies only in the evening, nickelodeons introduced the practice of continuously showing movies from early morning until late night. With the price of admission only five cents and opportunistic viewing times, nickelodeons appealed to entire families of various economic levels.

Although immensely popular, nickelodeons soon gave way to "moving picture theaters." Further spurring this shift was the replacement of the shorts of the early motion pictures with feature-length films after 1915. In addition to increasing the ticket price, these longer films required more comfortable setting, scheduled showings and extended runs. With increasing revenue and nationwide possibilities, buildings constructed expressly as motion picture theaters, often by noted architectural firms, became the norm. Continuing a tradition of theater opulence, these new movie "palaces" were frequently ostentation period revivals in which the architectural details rivaled the main showing itself. The 1927 introduction of the "talkie" coincided with a more streamlined approach to movie theater architecture frequently echoed by the stylistics trends of the late 1920s, 1930s and 1940s.

Significance

By the early 1900s, Oklahoma City was thriving as a major industrial center in the State of Oklahoma. Oklahoma City enjoyed the latest diversions and recreational pursuits. Motion pictures, possessing a broad appeal, were a mainstay in the entertainment options available in the City. By 1931, the northeast quadrant had three theaters showing motion pictures. The first, Eastside Theater, located at 7th and Bath Streets, was owned by Mrs. J.W. Sanford, Mrs. Ophtia Cummingham, and Mrs. G.M. Richardson. It is thought that the Eastside was once a part of a three building theater that was part of the old Oklahoma City Fairgrounds. Dates attributed to the Eastside Theater range from 1903 to the mid-1950s. The building(s) are non-extant.

The Aldridge Theater, owned by Zelia Breaux and F.W. Whitlow, was constructed in 1919. It was the first theater built exclusively for African Americans. The Aldridge featured both live entertainment and movies. Located in the "Deep Deuce" area, the Aldridge attracted some of the most prestigious talent in the county. The Deep Deuce spawned such legendary figures as jazz guitarist Charlie Christian, blues man Jimmy Rushing, and acclaimed writer Ralph Ellison. The area also attracted doctors, educators, entrepreneurs and activists that transformed Deep Deuce and the surrounding

Jewel Theater

Section number <u>8</u> Page <u>4</u> Oklahoma County, Oklahoma

neighborhoods into a thriving African American corridor in Oklahoma City. At a capacity of 900, the theater was razed in 1945.

The last of the three theaters is the Jewel Theater. The Jewel Theater was owned and constructed by Hathyel L. James and Percy H. James in July of 1931. The building designed and constructed in a manner as is customary with picture show buildings was no less that 28 feet wide and 115 feet long. It was fitted with a projection room, ticket booth, office, and workroom. It was also fitted with a single stall restroom on either side of the auditorium, one for men and one for women.

From the early 1930s theaters were a main source of live and film entertainment. Jewel Theater, like many theaters, played a significant part in the social activities of people in the community. Theaters were not only used for movie viewing but also for live plays and concerts. Although movie theaters remained important entertainment, the emergence of the television in the late 1940s reduced American's reliance on movie theaters for affordable entertainment. Although not the most opulent example of movie theater architecture, this theater is the only extant historically black theater in Oklahoma City.

The Jewel Theater now sits on an empty block. What was once a thriving commercial area for the historically African American neighborhood is now an open lot pattern with only the Jewel Theater extant. The area once included beauty shops, restaurants, a grocery store, and blues/jazz clubs.

With the passage or the Civil Rights Act of 1964, African Americans and other minority groups were provided judicial relief from discrimination in places of public accommodations, including theaters. Ironically, the Act may have lead to the demise of the historically African American communities. By the late 1970s, the theater had closed. The change in population base and the competition from newer multiplex theaters also undermined the historically Black theaters as it was to the older formerly segregated white theaters. With the demolition of the surrounding buildings on 4th Street, the Jewel Theater is the remaining facility that serves as a historic link to the development of early African American social progress in Oklahoma City.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

Jewel Theater

Section number <u>9</u> Page <u>5</u> Oklahoma County, Oklahoma

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

Jewel Theater

Section number <u>10</u> Page <u>6</u> Oklahoma County, Oklahoma

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Section 34, Township 12N, Range 3W being w27.5 feet of e146 feet of lot 2 Block 5 of Phillips & Meade east side addition, unrecorded.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Includes all land historically associated with this building.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

Jewel Theater

Section number ____ Page 7 Oklahoma County, Oklahoma

PHOTOGRAPH LOG

The following information pertains to photograph numbers 1-4 except as noted:

Dat	Photographer: e of Photographs: Negatives:	Allison Marshaus 1 April 2009
Print	er/Ink/Paper type:	Epson Stylus Photo R2400, Epson Stylus Photo Ink, Epson Premium Presentation Paper
Photo No.	Pho	otographic Information
0001 0002	Façade looking West elevation	

- 000
- South elevation facing Northwest 0003
- Streetscape with Signage facing East 0004

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Jewel Theater NAME:

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: OKLAHOMA, Oklahoma

DATE RECEIVED: 7/24/09 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/11/09 DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/26/09 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/06/09 DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 09000686

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 1.309 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

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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.



Jewel Theater 904 NE 4th Sf. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County, Oklahoma Allison Marshaus 1 april 2009 OKSHPO Face de looking southeast 0001



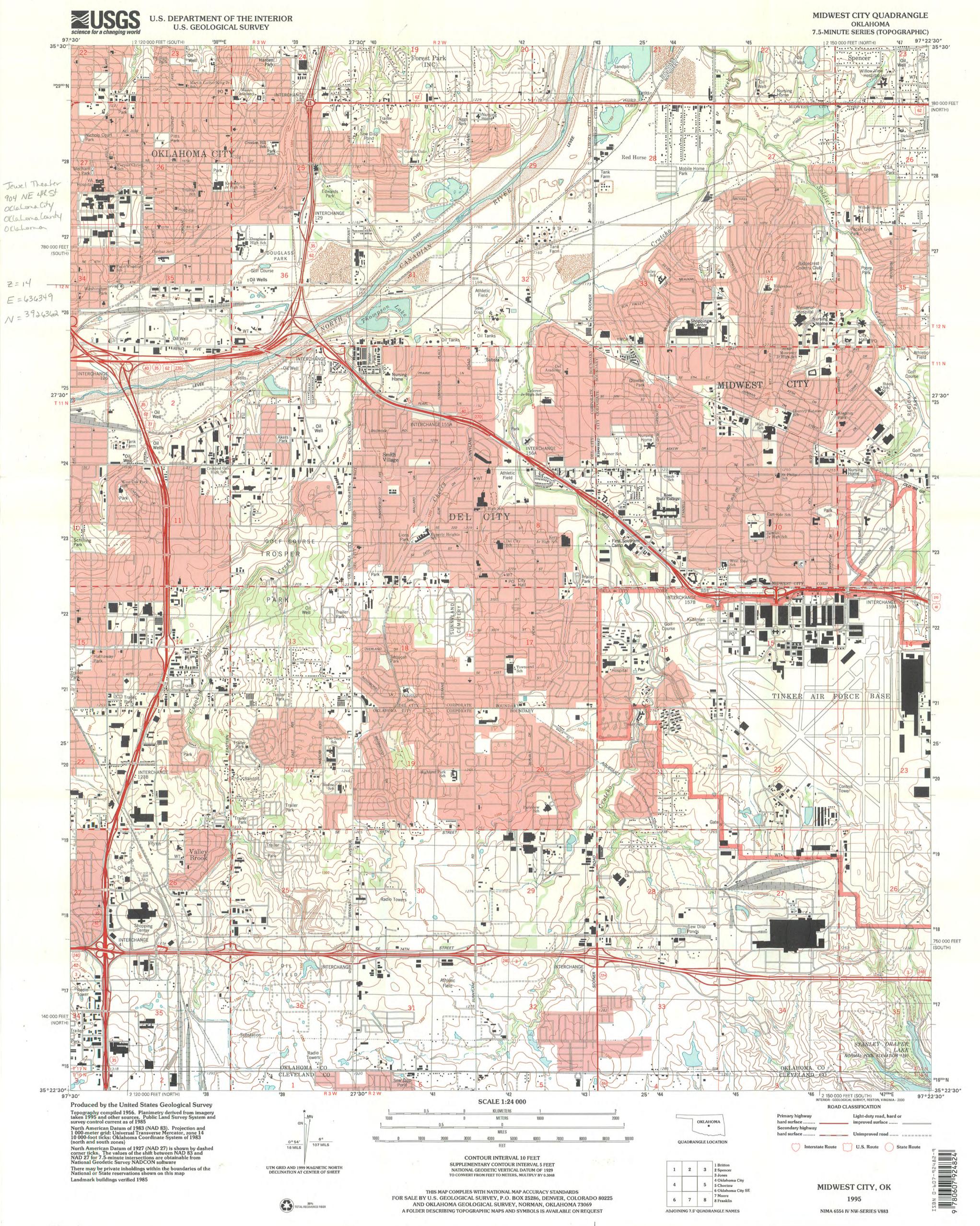
Jewel Theater 904 NE 4th St Oklahome Ghy, Oklahome County, Oklahome Allison Marshaus 1 April 2009 OKSHPO West elevation 0002



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Jewel Meater
904 NE 4th St
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Allison Marshaus
1April 2009
OKSHPO
South elevation
0003
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Jewel Theater 904 NE HARST. Oklahome City, Oklahoma Lounhy, Oklahoma Allison Marshaus 1 April 2009 OKSHPO street scape with signage Pacing cast 0004





Oklahoma Historical Society

Founded May 27, 1893

State Historic Preservation Office

Oklahoma History Center • 2401 North Laird Ave. • Oklahoma City, OK 73105-7914 (405) 521-6249 • Fax (405) 522-0816 • www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpom.htm

July 22, 2009

Ms. Jan Matthews Keeper of the Register National Park Service 2280, 8th floor National Register of Historic Places 1201 "I" (Eye) Street, NW Washington D.C. 20005



Dear Ms. Matthews:

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

Jewel Theater, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County Sixth Street Commercial/Residential Historic District, Tulsa, Tulsa County

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

Sincerely,

Melvena Heisch Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

MKH:lbs

Enclosures