**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**
**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**
**INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN **HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS**
**TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**

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**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Oklahoma City University
AND/OR COMMON

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**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

2501 N. Blackwelder

CITY, TOWN

Oklahoma City
STATE

Oklahoma

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**3 CLASSIFICATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>PRESENT USE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X DISTRICT</td>
<td>PUBLIC</td>
<td>OCCUPIED</td>
<td>AGRICULTURE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- BUILDING(S)</td>
<td>PRIVATE</td>
<td>UNOCCUPIED</td>
<td>COMMERCIAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- STRUCTURE</td>
<td>BOTH</td>
<td>WORK IN PROGRESS</td>
<td>PARK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- SITE</td>
<td>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</td>
<td>ACCESSIBLE</td>
<td>EDUCATIONAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- OBJECT</td>
<td>IN PROCESS</td>
<td>YES: RESTRICTED</td>
<td>PRIVATE RESIDENCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BEING CONSIDERED</td>
<td>YES: UNRESTRICTED</td>
<td>ENTERTAINMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>RELIGIOUS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Board of Regents, Oklahoma City University

STREET & NUMBER

2501 N. Blackwelder

CITY, TOWN

Oklahoma City

STATE

Oklahoma

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**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the County Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

Oklahoma County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Oklahoma City

STATE

Oklahoma

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**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Oklahoma Landmark Inventory

DATE

1978

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Oklahoma Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Oklahoma City

STATE

Oklahoma
The Oklahoma City University Campus District comprises the original portion of the campus first developed with three major buildings: the Administration Building, the Fine Arts Building, and the Goldbug Building. All three are of the Collegiate Gothic style of architecture, heavily influenced by the Art Deco concepts so popular in Oklahoma in the early decades of the Twentieth Century. The first of these buildings, the Administration Building, was constructed in 1922 and 1923, utilizing the design of the architect, William T. Schmitt of Oklahoma City. The structure is 182 feet long from north to south, fifty-two feet wide from east to west, with four floors, including a basement. The dominating feature is a graceful tower which rises 136 feet above the ground and originally housed the library and stack rooms. Reinforced concrete is used throughout, while the exterior is of red brick of varied shades and tones, with white tone trim (limestone). The roof is of slate. The roofline is broken by jutting wall sections, as well as dormer windows, with the end walls strongly buttressed. The building faces east with the main entrance through a great hall. The Fine Arts Building was completed in 1928 with the same general design configuration and use of materials. It contains an auditorium which will seat 1,400 persons, offices, fifteen music and art studios. An addition was added to the north of the building in 1968, which follows the original form and scale. The Goldbug Building is of steel frame construction with red brick exterior front and back. The sides are brick to the top level of the first floor with the upper side walls covered with white stucco. The original portion is a forty-eight feet by 124 feet structure at ground level. The exterior of the Goldbug Building is unaltered, while the interior space has been re-arranged to accommodate various uses, such as the library. All three buildings rest on the east side of the campus on Blackwelder.

One intrusion exists in the district -- the Main Library, immediately to the south of the Goldbug Building (constructed in 1970).
The Oklahoma City University was organized on March 19, 1919, under the auspices of the Oklahoma Annual Conference of the Methodist-Episcopal Church. It directly succeeded the Methodist University of Oklahoma, which was maintained under similar control at Guthrie, Oklahoma from 1911 to 1919. The Methodist Episcopal Church withdrew from partnership with the Methodist-Episcopal Church South in Epworth University in 1911. While the process was in keeping with the northern church’s Discipline, the southern Church argued that a partnership could not be dissolved without agreement of all partners involved. The Methodist Episcopal Church South then proceeded to sue the University Development Company for its share of the interest in Epworth. A compromise was reached in which the Church of the south received eleven acres of land and the original building of Epworth University.

Property in Oklahoma City was purchased for the present campus in 1920 in the amount of 22 acres at the corner of Northeast Twenty-third Street and North Blackwelder. The first building (the Administration Building) was dedicated December 5, 1922. Much of the credit for the sound renewal of the University goes to Dr. E. G. Green, the President from 1917-1923 who brought the school out of chaos. On May 7, 1923, Dr. Eugene M. Antrim was elected president of Oklahoma City College, as it was known. President Antrim served as the head of the college until 1934. It was under his administration that the major building of the period was constructed and that the southern and the northern Methodist-Episcopal Churches were reunited in this institution of higher learning, pre-dating the successful reunification of the Methodist Church in 1939, after its separation in the Ante-bellum period of the history of the United States.

The College system initially allowed for two divisions -- the College of Liberal Arts and the College of Fine Arts. At the present time additional divisions of the University include Criminal Justice, Education, Law, Management and Business, as well as, a Competency Based Degree Program.

Oklahoma City University is of critical importance to higher education in Oklahoma and within the Methodist history of religious impact in the State and region. As private institutions of higher learning fail, as they have over the past twenty years, this university has become stronger with renewed emphasis upon the liberal arts and the fine arts. The institution continues to have a major intellectual influence in the State. Its close relations with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has allowed growth to be directed in areas of mathematics and science, without losing the strong emphasis upon the humanities and theology.
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

H. Brill, Story of Oklahoma City University and Its Predecessors (Oklahoma City: The University Press, 1938)

GOVERNMENTAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 11 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Oklahoma City NE/4

UTM REFERENCES

G

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION
The District is bounded from the intersection of NW 25th and Blackwelder to the intersection of the OCU Access Road and Blackwelder to the south; west to the Access Road and the Chapel walk, north to the OCU Division Road (con

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE
Howard L. Meredith, Director, Historic Preservation Programs

ORGANIZATION
Oklahoma Historical Society

DATE
May 23, 1978

STREET & NUMBER
Historical Building

TELEPHONE
(405) 521-2491

CITY OR TOWN
Oklahoma City

STATE
Oklahoma

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X 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

DATE 9-8-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 12-1-9-71

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 12-1-78
Verbal Boundary Description (con't.)

and the Observatory; east to the center of the intersection of the OCU Division Road and Florida; south to the center of the intersection of NE 25th and Florida; then east to the intersection of NE 25th and Blackwelder.