

OKLAHOMA LANDMARKS INVENTORY NOMINATION

Oklahoma Historic Preservation Survey, Oklahoma State University, 502 Math-Science Bldg., Stillwater, OK 74078

SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

ROBERT LEE WILLIAMS PUBLIC LIBRARY

LOCATION: Fourth and Beech Streets, Durant, Oklahoma 040, Bryan County 013

CLASSIFICATION: building; public; public acquisition--N/A; occupied; unrestricted; present use--library

OWNER: City of Durant, City Hall, Durant, OK 74701

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Bryan County Courthouse, Durant, OK 74701

DESCRIPTION: excellent condition; unaltered; original site

The Williams Library is a single story, L-shaped (82' x 52' vertically with a 25' x 27' horizontal extension) structure constructed of native limestone blocks and buff colored bricks. The quality of masonry is excellent. Brick is restricted to the rear, outside wall. The roof is flat with parapets, while singly placed metal casement windows rise to the height of interior ceilings. A decorative frieze just above the window openings and pilasters between the windows and beside the front entry give the library building a distinct art deco style.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1936; architect/builder: unknown

As a WPA building, the Williams Library is distinctive because of its clear art deco style and the use of limestone as a building material. Moreover, it is the only WPA structure specifically and originally dedicated to library purposes in the nomination area. Style and building materials make it unique in the community of Durant, as does its architectural type and characteristics of workmanship. Most significant is that the building provided employment opportunities for destitute laborers at a time when starvation was the only alternative.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Less than one acre

Quadrangle: Durant South, Okla.  
1:24,000/7.5 min.

UTM: 14 742120 3764320

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Lots 3 and 4, Block 151, Durant City original

PICTURE REFERENCE: 17-A, 17-B