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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any 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.

1. **Name of Property**
   Historic name: _Brockway Community Center_  
   Other names/site number: _Brockway Center_  
   Name of related multiple property listing: _N/A_  
   (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. **Location**
   Street & number: _1440 North Everest Avenue_  
   City or town: _Oklahoma City_  
   State: _Oklahoma_  
   County: _Oklahoma_  
   Vicinity: ___  
   Not For Publication: ___

3. **State/Federal Agency Certification**
   As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
   I hereby certify that this _X_ 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 _X_ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:
   ___national  ___statewide  _X_local
   Applicable National Register Criteria:
   _X_A  ___B  ___C  ___D

   Signature of certifying official/Title: ___________________________  Date __________

   State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government
   In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.
   Signature of commenting official: ___________________________  Date ___
   Title: ___________________________  State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government


4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register
___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ determined not eligible for the National Register
___ removed from the National Register
___ other (explain: ____________________________)

Signature of the Keeper ____________________________ Date of Action ________________

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:           
Public – Local     X
Public – State     
Public – Federal   

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

Building(s)       X
District           
Site               
Structure          
Object             

Sections 1-6 page 2
Brockway Community Center

Oklahoma County, Oklahoma

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

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<th>Noncontributing</th>
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Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
SOCIAL/MEETING HALL
SOCIAL/CLUBHOUSE
SOCIAL/CIVIC
DOMESTIC/SINGLE DWELLING
DOMESTIC/SECONDARY STRUCTURE

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
VACANT

Sections 1-6 page 3
Brockway Community Center  Oklahoma County, Oklahoma
Name of Property  County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)
  LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: COLONIAL REVIVAL

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property: _BRICK________________

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a summary paragraph that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Built in 1915, with additions to the north and south built after 1955, the Brockway Community Center is a Colonial Revival-style dwelling located at 1440 North Everest Avenue. A 2½-story house and a 2-story garage/apartment are on site. Both buildings have west-facing façades and have retained high degrees of historic integrity. They are clad in painted brick and have moderately-pitched, gabled roofs. Most of the original wood-framed, hung windows remain. The house’s interior also reflects the Colonial Revival style with plaster ceilings and walls, wood floors, and numerous wood built-ins and features such as a library on the second story. Once the home of Walter and Grace Lybrand, the building was acquired by the Oklahoma City Chapter of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women’s Clubs (OFCWC) in 1968. The buildings’ painted white exterior, interior features, and setting within northeast Oklahoma City convey the property’s association with the club’s work and activism. The Oklahoma City chapter of the OFCWC retained ownership of the property until 2011, and the buildings remain in fair condition.
Narrative Description

Site and Setting

The Brockway Community Center is located at 1440 North Everest Avenue, approximately 2 miles northeast of Oklahoma City’s downtown business district, on Lots 13-14 in Block 6 of the Culbertson Heights Addition. It is situated on the northeast corner of the intersection of North Everest Avenue, which has a north-to-south orientation, and Northeast 13th Street, which extends from east-to-west. The site contains a 2½-story house and an associated 2-story garage/apartment.

The Brockway Community Center is situated within a setting of mixed residential and medical buildings. Facilities and businesses associated with the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center are located to the south and southwest of the site, across Northeast 13th Street. Multi-unit dwellings are to the west, across North Everest Avenue. The enormous Oklahoma City VA Health Care Center, which spans several blocks between Northeast 13th and Northeast 16th Streets, is two blocks to the west. A large, paved parking lot is adjacent to and north of the site, spanning Lots 15-16. Aerial photographs indicate that this parking lot was installed by 1995. A large, single-family dwelling is adjacent to and the east of the site, on Lots 11-12. Private residences, mostly single-family, are located further to the north and east.

The 2½-story house is set back approximately 40 feet from the west property line and 65 feet from the south property line. This setback provides for a large grass lawn with tall, mature trees (including elm, maple, and cedar) to the west and south of the house. A half-height, painted wood fence defines the south and west boundaries of the site. A seven-foot, wood privacy fence is located to the northwest and north of the site, marking the boundaries of the paved parking lot. A stone walkway extends from the sidewalk parallel to North Everest Street to a concrete stoop associated with the primary entrance on the west-facing façade of the house. Approximately 20 feet from the concrete stoop, a narrow stone walkway branches off to the north from the primary walkway. This secondary walkway wraps around the north side elevation of the house and provides access to the parking lot and the garage/apartment.

The site is within the boundaries of the previously determined eligible Gast Heights-Culbertson Heights Historic District, which the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C at the local level of significance in 1995. Lincoln Terrace East Historic District (NRIS #4000124) is three blocks to the northwest.

1 The potential eligibility of the Gast Heights-Culbertson Heights Historic District was first identified in a reconnaissance level survey conducted by the City of Oklahoma City Planning Department during the mid-1990s. The proposed district comprises approximately 22 blocks and is bound by Northeast 13th Street to the south, North Kelley Ave to the west, Northeast 20th Street to the north, and North Lottie Ave to the east. A formal National Register nomination for the district has never been completed. See City of Oklahoma City, Planning Department,
Resource Descriptions

The 2½-story house and associated 2-story garage/apartment, referred to collectively as the Brockway Community Center, are clad in painted brick laid up in a common bond. The brick is painted white. Both buildings have moderately-pitched, gabled roofs with painted wood boxed eaves and painted wood fascia below. The fascia board is approximately 1-foot in height. The roofs are finished with green composition shingles. All windows are painted, wood-framed hung units unless noted otherwise.


The central block is 2½ stories in height with a partial basement. It has a cross-gabled roof with boxed eaves. There is a painted wood entablature below the roofline. There have been three additions adjacent to the central block. The southernmost addition, herein referred to as the south addition, is located at the westernmost end of the south side elevation of the central block. It has a side gabled roof with a painted wood entablature below. A smooth, painted wood fascia board is situated directly below the roofline. Two additions are situated to the north. The first, which is located at the westernmost end of the north side elevation of the central block, is one story in height, has a side gabled roof, and contains the primary entrance to the house. The second and northernmost addition, herein referred to as the north addition, is set forward (west) approximately four inches (the depth of one brick) from the primary entrance and has a front gabled roof. The rooflines of the central block and each addition have a slight eave overhang with a painted, wood fascia below. The entire first story of the house is set approximately 18 inches above grade level. All entrances contain exterior storm doors.

*Façade (Photos #0001-0002, #0010-0011)*

The central block has a west-facing, symmetrical façade. The gabled end is clad in painted, horizontal weatherboard. A circular, wood-framed louver is in the attic and centered on the gabled end. There are three window openings of equal width and spacing on the second story. Each of the outermost openings contain 8/8 units and the center opening contains an 8/1 unit. Each window has a painted, cast stone subsill and the window heads are situated just below the fascia board on the roofline. A multi-light (3x4), wood panel door is centered on first story. The door is inset slightly. A window opening is to each side of the door. Each opening contains an 8/1 unit and has a cast stone subsill. The window openings and door are in vertical alignment with the three window openings on the second story. An open, concrete patio extends forward (west) from the first story and spans the full width of the central block. The patio is framed on three sides by a brick knee wall finished with cast stone caps.

A set of three, 1/1 windows are centered on the south addition. A wood mullion separates each individual window. The windows share a continuous cast stone subsill and the painted wood

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fascia below the rooftop serves as the lintel. The set of windows take up nearly the entire wall surface, leaving only a narrow section of brick (approximately four courses) on each side.

The main entrance is centered on the one-story projection that is set adjacent to and north of the central block. A painted, wood door frame contains a single, painted wood panel door with a painted, wood-framed transom above. The transom is divided into four vertical lights. A wood mullion separates each individual light. A painted, metal awning is located above the transom. The awning extends nearly the full length of the projection. A concrete stoop is centered beneath the entrance and extends nearly the full length of the projection. It is three steps above grade level and flanked by painted, wrought iron railings.

A small, two-story projection that extends from the north side elevation of the central block is visible above the main entrance. This projection has a side gabled roof and is set back (east) to the ridgeline of the roofs to the main entrance and the north addition. A single, 2/2 window is visible on the second story. The first story is obscured by the main entrance.

A set of three windows is centered on the north addition. The centermost unit is 8/8 and both flanking units are 4/4. The windows share a continuous cast stone subsill.

South Side Elevation (Photos #0002-0004)
The south side elevation is comprised of the 2½-story central block and the 1-story south addition.

A painted, brick chimney is located near the west end of the central block. The chimney is engaged with the south wall and is centered directly above the south addition. It extends for several feet above the roof of the central block. A 6/6 window is on each side of the chimney. Each window has a painted cast stone subsill and the painted wood fascia below the roofline serves as the lintel. To the east are three more second-story windows that are of various sizes and arranged in no apparent pattern. A 4/1 window with a sill set higher than floor level is almost centered on the elevation, followed by two larger, 8/8 windows of equal width and spacing. Each window has a painted cast stone subsill and the painted wood fascia below the rooftop serves as the lintel.

The south addition covers the west portion (approximately forty percent) of the first story of the central block. A small, one-story projection from the south side elevation of the central block is located adjacent to the west side of the south addition. This projection is approximately two brick courses in depth and has a shed roof. A set of three windows is centered on the projection. The center window is 4/1 and each flanking window is 2/1. A wood mullion separates the individual units. The windows share a painted, continuous cast stone subsill and a painted wood fascia below the roofline serves as the lintel. At the east end of the central block, approximately six brick courses from the projection, is a single, 8/8 window with a painted, cast stone subsill.

The gabled end of the south addition is clad in painted, horizontal weatherboard with a set of four 1/1 windows centered below. A wood mullion separates the individual units. The windows
share a continuous, painted cast stone subsill and a painted wood fascia below the roofline serves as the lintel. Near each end and three brick courses below the set of windows, there is a brick rowlock course detail in the exterior wall. Each rowlock detail is five courses in width.

**East (Back) Elevation (Photos #0004-0006)**

The gabled end of the central block is clad in painted, horizontal weatherboard. A rectangular, wood-framed louver is in the attic and centered on the gabled end. A circular, wood-framed louver is in the attic and centered on the gabled end. The window openings on the second story are of various sizes and are arranged in no apparent pattern. A set of two, 4/1 windows are situated near the south end. A wood mullion separates the individual units. Additional windows on the second story include, from south to north, a small, 1/1 unit with a sill set high above floor level; a set of three 2/1 units separated by wood mullions; and a small, wood-framed, casement window with a sill set high above floor level. Each casement sash is 1 light wide by 1 light tall. All windows have a brick rowlock course subsill and the painted wood fascia below the roofline serves as the lintel.

A secondary entrance is located at the northernmost end of the first story of the central block. The entrance contains a non-original, vinyl, multilight (3x5) door with a painted, single-light, wood-framed transom above. A 2/1 window with a brick rowlock course subsill is adjacent and to the left of the door. The entrance is six steps above grade level. The concrete steps are flanked by a brick knee wall capped by a brick rowlock course.

Two window openings are to the south of the secondary entrance on the first story. They are of different sizes and arranged in no apparent pattern. The opening closest to the entrance contains a painted, wood-framed, fixed window comprised of four vertical lights. A large, 12/12 picture window is approximately eight brick courses to the south of this unit. Each window has a brick rowlock course subsill.

There are three windows with cast stone subsills at the basement level of the central block. Each window opening contains a wood-framed, fixed unit divided into three vertical lights. The northernmost window, which is partially obscured by the entrance steps, has a storm window with metal bars behind it. Storm windows are missing on the other two openings, leaving the metal bars exposed.

Another secondary entrance is on the south addition, near the intersection with the central block. The entry door is wood, with 15 lights (3x5) and a flat, wood panel below. A narrow, single-light, wood-framed transom is above the door. The entrance is six steps above grade level. The concrete steps, which are finished with non-original outdoor carpet, are flanked by a brick knee wall finished with cast stone caps. A window opening adjacent and to the left of the door was infilled with weatherboard at an unknown date. The opening has a cast stone subsill.

Two 4/4 windows are centered on the one-story connection between the main entrance and the north addition. The exterior wall separates the windows by approximately 1½ brick courses. The
windows share a continuous, painted cast stone subsill and the painted wood fascia below the roofline serves as the lintel.

Two 1/1 windows are centered on the back elevation of the north addition. The windows are separated by a section of the exterior wall that is nearly the same width as each window unit. Each window has a painted, cast stone subsill.

*North Side Elevation (Photos #0007-0009)*

The north side elevation is comprised of the 2½-story central block and the 1-story north addition.

The gabled end of the projection that extends from the north side elevation of the central block is clad in painted, horizontal weatherboard. A square, wood-framed louver is in the attic and centered on the gabled end. A window opening is situated below and slightly to the left of the louver, on the second story. The opening contains an 8/8 unit. There are two other window openings on the second story; one at the westernmost end of the central block that contains a 6/6 unit, and another approximately two brick courses east of the projection that contains an 8/8 unit. These windows have cast stone subsills and the painted wood fascia below the roofline serves as the lintel.

A set of three, 2/1 windows are located at the easternmost end of the first story of the central block. A wood mullion separates each individual window and the windows share a continuous cast stone subsill. A 4/1 window with a cast stone subsill is situated approximately 6 brick courses to the west. This window is in vertical alignment with a unit on the second story. A small, wood-framed fixed window with a cast stone subsill is on the projection, just east of the connection to the north addition. The remainder of the first story of the central block is obscured by the north addition.

A secondary entrance is nearly centered on the north addition. The entry door is wood, with 12 lights (2x6) and a wood panel below. A concrete stoop is centered beneath the entrance. It is six steps above grade level and flanked by painted, wrought iron railings. A 6/6 window with a cast stone subsill is to the right of the door, near the westernmost end of addition. A brick rowlock course is visible below the subsill.

*Interior (Photos #0012-0015)*

Two bedrooms, a bathroom, and a large library are located on the second floor of the central block. The first story of the central block contains a large living room, a dining room and pantry with wood built-ins, and a kitchen. The south addition is a large, open space. The north addition contains a large living space with two small rooms (presumably bedrooms) and a bathroom adjacent. Bedrooms on the second story have painted plaster ceilings and walls, painted wood base trim, and carpet floors. The library has wood built-ins, wood panel walls, and wood floors. A brick-faced fireplace with a wood mantel is at the south end of the library. Typical finishes on the first story include painted plaster ceilings and walls, painted crown molding and base trim,
and wood floors. There is a brick-faced fireplace at the south end of the living room, but the wood mantel was recently removed. The south addition has exposed brick walls.


The 2-story garage/apartment building is situated near the northeast corner of the house’s central block. It has a front-gabled roof. The west-facing façade is almost aligned with the east (back) elevation of the house. The space between the north side of the house and the south side of the garage/apartment has a brick connecting wall with a framed, semicircular arched passageway (see Photos #0006-0007). The top of the arch is framed by two brick rowlock courses and the connecting wall has a painted, cast stone cap. A painted, wrought iron gate and a hanging light fixture are situated within the arch.

*Facade (Photo #0007)*

A painted, wood-framed, fixed window with three horizontal lights is centered in the gabled end, which is clad in painted, horizontal weatherboard. A single, 1/1 window is centered on the second story. It has a brick rowlock course subsill and the painted wood fascia below the roofline serves as the lintel.

There are two pedestrian entrances on the first story. One entrance is centered underneath the second-story window and provides access to the garage. It contains a wood slab door and is at grade level. The other entrance is to the right, near the south end of the elevation, and provides access to the apartment. It contains a wood panel door and is one step above grade level. Both entrances are uncovered. The exterior wall separates each entrance by approximately 3 brick courses.

*South Side Elevation (Photos #0004, #0006)*

The south side elevation is symmetrical. There are two window openings of equal width and spacing on the second story. The east opening contains a 1/1 unit. The west opening is boarded. Both windows have brick rowlock course subsills and the painted wood fascia below the roofline serves as the lintel.

There are two openings on the first story. These openings are aligned vertically with the windows on the second story. The east opening contains a painted, wood-framed fixed window with a brick rowlock course subsill. The west opening is boarded. It accesses a storage area beneath the staircase to the apartment on the second story.

*East (Back) Elevation*

There is one boarded window opening on this elevation. It was boarded at an unknown date.

*North Side Elevation (Photos #0007-0008)*

An addition projects forward (north) from the second story of the original north side elevation. This addition is about half the width of the building and aligns with the east (back) elevation. It
Brockway Community Center  Oklahoma County, Oklahoma

Name of Property  County and State

has a flat roof and is clad in painted, horizontal weatherboard. A brick chimney is visible near the intersection of the addition and the original building.

A painted, wood-framed window opening is centered on the addition. It contains a fixed, multilight unit 4 lights wide and 2 lights tall with a fixed, single light transom above. Approximately three brick courses to the west of the addition, on the original building, is a 1/1 window. This window has a brick rowlock course subsill and the painted wood fascia below the roofline serves as the lintel.

A large, wood panel, overhead garage door is directly below the addition. The door is comprised of a row of six divided lights at the top and three rows of six divided wood panels below. A painted, wood-framed fixed window (with a storm attached) is located to the west of the garage door. This window is in vertical alignment with a window on the second story. It has a brick rowlock course subsill.

*Interior*
The garage and apartment are unfinished. There are remnants of a plaster wall finish in the apartment.
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.)

- [ ] 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
- [X] G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years
Brockway Community Center
Name of Property

Oklahoma County, Oklahoma
County and State

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

ETHNIC HERITAGE: BLACK


Period of Significance
1968-2011


Significant Dates
1915
1968


Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)


Cultural Affiliation


Architect/Builder
UNKNOWN
Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Brockway Community Center at 1440 North Everest Avenue is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A at the local level of significance for Ethnic Heritage: Black. Originally built in 1915 as the home of prominent Oklahoma City lawyer Walter A. Lybrand, the property achieved significance within the past 50 years (Criteria Consideration G) for its affiliation with the Oklahoma City Chapter of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women’s Clubs. Acquired by the Federation in 1968, members designated the property as the Brockway Community Center in honor of one of the organization’s founders and leaders, Maude J. Brockway. Brockway helped found the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women’s Clubs (OFCWC) in 1910 and, as one of the organization’s first presidents, transformed the club into a statewide organization operating under the slogan “Lifting as We Climb.” Until the OFCWC sold the property in 2011, the Brockway Community Center provided event space and offered valuable services to protect young black women and children, improve life in black neighborhoods, and promote equality and racial harmony across Oklahoma City. It remains the only eligible, extant building in Oklahoma City affiliated with the history of the black women’s club movement.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

Historic Context
Despite attempts to create a more perfect democracy during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the United States displayed anything but these qualities during the early nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It is for these reasons that historians often refer to this period as the “nadir,” or lowest point, of race relations in U.S. history. Most notably, state legislatures throughout the South ignored the Fifteenth Amendment, which prohibited states from denying individuals the right to vote based on race, by implementing measures to limit black voters’ access to the polls. One such measure was the poll tax, or a fee that every citizen had to pay in order to retain the right to vote. Another was the literacy test or “understanding clause,” which required any prospective voter to read and, in some cases, interpret a passage from the state constitution before a local voting registrar. Among the most egregious restrictive voting measures was the “grandfather clause,” which exempted anyone descended from persons who had been eligible to vote before the Civil War from any voting requirements.²

De jure segregation, intimidation, and terrorism further subjugated African-Americans socially and marginalized them economically. Although *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896) and other court decisions insisted that separate facilities on the grounds of race had to be equal, the “separate but equal” mandate was a fiction and ultimately contributed to a system of laws and social codes known as Jim Crow. Among the most damning legacies of Jim Crow extended to public education, in which local governments and state legislatures appropriated funds for white schools and neglected facilities for African-American students. These same governments ignored mob violence against African-American men, which often occurred as public hangings also known as lynchings. Between 1865 and 1900, approximately 3,500 lynchings and other murders committed by whites against blacks occurred in the South. Most of these atrocities occurred in response to false allegations of black men. Despite arguments by Ida B. Wells (who once referred to such allegations as “an old threadbare lie”) and others, the combination of violence and intimidation created a “poisoned atmosphere” in much of the South according to historian Edward Ayers, “one that permeated life far beyond those counties where a lynching had actually taken place, one that pervaded all the dealings each race had with the other.”

Oklahoma was not immune from regional and national trends regarding race relations. Indeed, as notable African-American and Oklahoma historian Jimmie Lewis Franklin has written, “The racial customs and policies of Oklahoma...have been more akin to those of the Deep South than to those of any other part of the nation.” Slavery was established in Indian Territory by the 1830s, when the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek, and Seminole tribes brought enslaved African-Americans as well as a number of free blacks to present-day eastern Oklahoma during the era of Indian Removal. Once established in Indian Territory, many Indian communities continued to purchase African-Americans as slaves. By the time of the Civil War, approximately 8,000 African-Americans in Indian Territory (fifteen percent of the population) were enslaved. Slavery was abolished in Indian Territory after the Civil War, when the U.S. government signed new treaties with the tribes that extended citizenship rights to freedmen, including the right to own land.

Blacks struggled to secure their rights from the tribes throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. This effort coincided with the opening of additional land in Indian Territory, the so-called Unassigned Lands, for settlement. During the famous Land Run of 1889, white and
black settlers rushed to stake their claim. African-American boosters such as Edward P. McCabe, who founded the all-black town of Langston, promoted Oklahoma Territory as a land of opportunity. Black participants in the Land Run “joined an already-present black and black-Indian mixed population in Indian Territory,” and, according to historian Linda Williams Reese, African-Americans comprised seven percent of the population of the territorial population (over 55,000 persons) by 1900.8 Over twenty all-black towns took root on the Oklahoma prairie. African-Americans were also active in the Republican Party, within which leading members such as McCabe boldly proposed the creation of an all-black state in Oklahoma.9 In all, approximately 100,000 African-Americans moved to Oklahoma between 1890 and 1910; a phenomenon that historian Steven Hahn describes as “the early rumblings” of the Great Migration.10

Black migration, all-black towns, and calls for an all-black state within present-day Oklahoma “posed difficult problems for whites,” Jimmie Lewis Franklin writes, “for it drove to the very heart of the concept of black racial inferiority in a society that, by the beginning years of the twentieth century, had taken a step away from the idea of equality and racial justice.”11 For example, Oklahoma and Indian territories were not immune to lynchings and other forms of racial violence. According to Dianna Everett, at least 147 recorded deaths from lynching were observed in Oklahoma between 1885 and 1930. The victims of those that occurred after 1907 were almost exclusively black.12 In addition, upon achieving statehood in 1907, the Oklahoma legislature passed Senate Bill No. 1, which formally established Jim Crow segregation throughout the state. Housing, hospitals, libraries, restaurants, public transportation, and educational facilities were segregated and interracial marriages were forbidden. The legislature, dominated by white Democrats, also enacted restrictive voting measures, including a grandfather clause in 1910, to limit black political activism.

Ethnic Heritage: Black Significance

Such forms of intimidation and marginalization extended to the local level within Oklahoma City. By 1910, more than 7,000 African-Americans (10 percent of the population) resided in Oklahoma City. Most lived in areas south of Northeast 4th Street and east of downtown Oklahoma City near the Santa Fe Railroad tracks and the North Canadian (present-day Oklahoma) River; places that whites considered areas undesirable due to incessant rail traffic noise and periodic river flooding. When African-Americans attempted to move north and east, into predominantly white neighborhoods, the City of Oklahoma City enacted an ordinance prohibiting them from moving into areas in which 75 percent of structures were occupied by whites. City leaders and real estate developers went even further by banning African-Americans

8 Reese goes on to note that African-Americans outnumbered Americans Indians by two-to-one by this period. See Linda Williams Reese, Women of Oklahoma, 1890-1920 (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1997), 146. Reese’s statistic combines the populations of Oklahoma Territory and Indian Territories, which were separate political entities (known collectively as the Twin Territories) until Oklahoma gained statehood in 1907.
9 See Franklin, Journey Toward Hope, 8-19.
10 Hahn, Nation Under Our Feet, 455.
11 Franklin, Journey Toward Hope, 14.
from living in or purchasing property in new subdivisions. Numerous city plats from this period, including those for the Culbertson Heights Addition (the future site of Brockway Community Center), contained the following language:

No Lot or Lots or any part of this addition shall ever be sold to or owned by, or rented or leased to or occupied by any person or persons of African descent, known as Negroes, and any attempt to violate this restriction shall have the effect of reverting the property to the said grantors, their heirs and assigns.13

As if to remind African-Americans of their second-class status in the eyes of white Americans, the only exception to the above restriction provided for “the necessary occupancy” of black servants hired by white homeowners.14

The irony of residential segregation, as well as other forms of blatant racial discrimination, is that it occurred alongside and oftentimes in response to instances of profound social and political activism within African-American communities at the national, regional, and local levels. In particular, African-American women refused to be satisfied with racial inequality and segregation. As black men in Oklahoma and across the nation—from Edward P. McCabe and Roscoe Dunjee to Booker T. Washington and W. E. B. Du Bois—advanced their respective agendas for civil rights and economic opportunity, many black women developed their own voices and worked along different paths to advance their race.15

Black women often channeled their activism within voluntary organizations and clubs. Such work often occurred in informal settings and without much publicity. Yet, as historian Anne Firor Scott has observed, “the history of black women’s voluntary organizations [in the United States] is as long of that of white women’s” and dates to as early as 1793.16 Prior to the Civil War, black women organized abolitionist societies throughout the Northeast and Midwest. Female members of black churches created their own organizations. Upon political disfranchisement and the establishment of Jim Crow, numerous local, state, and national clubs emerged to focus on self-help and the improvement of African-American communities in the face of racial discrimination. The most notable of these organizations at the national level was the National Association of Colored Women (NACW). Founded in 1896 by Mary Church Terrell and comprised primarily of well-educated, middle class, African-American women, the NACW

13 Plat of the Culbertson Heights Addition, Blocks 1-5 to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County Clerk, March 8, 1909.
14 Plat of the Culbertson Heights Addition, Blocks 3-4, 9-11, 13-14, 19-23, to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County Clerk, March 17, 1927. The addition, located northeast of downtown Oklahoma City, was platted in several stages between 1909 and 1927 by J. J. (John James) Culbertson, his wife Emily, and his son John J. Culbertson, Jr. Also see Bob L. Blackburn, Heart of the Promised Land: Oklahoma County, An Illustrated History (Woodland Hills, CA: Windsor Publications, Inc., 1982), 108-9 and Franklin, Journey Toward Hope, 50-51.
15 A useful survey of the work and ideology of W. E. B. Du Bois and other black intellectuals and reformers is Kevin K. Gaines, Uplifting the Race: Black Leadership, Politics, and Culture in the Twentieth Century (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1996). For black political and social activism in Oklahoma, refer to Franklin, Journey Toward Hope, esp. ch. 7
quickly implemented a national reform program that sought to address racism. Unlike white women’s voluntary organizations such as the General Federation of Women’s Clubs, which generally excluded African-Americans, black women’s clubs focused on the betterment of not only their gender but of their entire race.17

Leadership and membership of the NACW embodied W.E.B. Du Bois’s “Talented Tenth” philosophy, in which the talents and skills of those within the African-American community who were well educated and well off provided the work and expertise necessary to uplift the entire race. According to historian Beverly Jones, “The NACW attracted a heterogeneous band of elite women—educators, business women, doctors, and social status parsonages.”18 Many of these women were born during or after the Civil War, had lived in the South and migrated to the North, had long been active in abolitionist and women’s rights movements, and had college or professional degrees.19 Under their leadership, the women of the NACW provided an effective umbrella under which clubs at the state and local levels could take shape, including in Oklahoma.

Black women’s voluntary organizations in Oklahoma predate statehood and took a variety of forms. Indeed, Oklahoma Territory sent representatives to the national conventions of the NACW since its founding in 1896. Chapters of the Order of the Eastern Star and other female organizations were also active in many of Oklahoma’s all-black towns, especially within black churches.20 Some of these organizations were short-lived. Most met in informal settings and preserved few records. The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture credits the Excelsior Club, founded in Guthrie by Judith C. Horton in 1906, as the first African-American women’s club in Oklahoma.21 This group was instrumental in establishing the Excelsior Library in 1908, which is considered Oklahoma’s first African-American library (NRIS #16000087).22

Efforts to organize a statewide chapter affiliated with the NACW culminated in 1910, when Judith Horton of the Excelsior Club, Harriet Price Jacobsen of the Eastside Culture Club in

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18 Jones, “Mary Church Terrell,” 25.
19 Ibid., 25.
20 Reese, Women of Oklahoma, 174-75.
Oklahoma City, and representatives from at least five other clubs met at Avery Chapel Church in Oklahoma City (no longer extant) to form the Oklahoma Federation of Negro Women’s Clubs. Jacobsen served as the organization’s first president; Horton served as the group’s second president.  

By the early 1920s, the organization changed its name to the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women’s Clubs (OFCWC), had 34 chapters, and claimed over 500 members. Membership of the NACW, meanwhile, numbered approximately 250,000 by this time. Like the NACW, leaders and members of the OFCWC tended to be middle class and college educated. Two of the organization’s early presidents, Anna H. Cooper and Adelia Y. Young, received degrees from Langston University, Oklahoma’s only historically black college. Most rank-and-file members were mothers, active in church congregations, and participants in other community or civil rights groups such as the Young Women’s Christian Organization (YWCA) and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

The life of Maude J. Brockway epitomizes the experiences and expectations of African-American club women in Oklahoma. Although primary biographical details are lacking, secondary sources indicate that Brockway migrated from Curtis, Arkansas, to Oklahoma sometime between 1890 and 1910. Like many women within the club movement, Brockway was college educated, having attended Arkansas Baptist College in Little Rock. Brockway taught in Ardmore and Berwyn for a time before establishing a millinery shop in Oklahoma City. Once in Oklahoma City, she participated in many different clubs, including the Order of the Eastern Star and the Oklahoma Women’s Baptist State Convention, of which she was elected president by 1918.

Brockway was a key organizer of the Oklahoma City Chapter of the OFCWC. This chapter, which formed in 1911, combined several voluntary organizations in Oklahoma City under an umbrella organization known as the Oklahoma City Federation of Colored Women’s Clubs.

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23 In addition to the Eastside Culture and Excelsior clubs, the Domestic Science Club of Oklahoma City, Ideal Reading and Art Club of El Reno, the Matrons Improvement Circle and the Dorcas Club (both of Muskogee), and the Mother’s Club in Hennessy were recognized as the Charter Clubs of the state federation. “History of OFCWC, Inc. 1900-1982,” *Sooner Woman*, 5.


County records indicate that Brockway was serving as president of the federation by 1925.26 Brockway also served as president of the OFCWC from 1936 to 1940.27

Brockway’s most significant legacy to the Oklahoma City Federation of Colored Women’s Clubs was in acquiring and managing club property. According to Willa Strong, Brockway was instrumental in purchasing and maintaining the federation’s first headquarters building, which was acquired in December 1920 from Mary and Thomas Edwards and located at 501 Northeast 4th Street (no longer extant). The property comprised of Lots 10-11 in Block 40 of the Maywood Addition to Oklahoma City.28 The 1922 Sanborn map indicates a one-story single-family dwelling at this location.29 Mortgage records indicate that this property remained the headquarters of the Oklahoma City Federation of Colored Women’s Clubs until 1925, when it mortgaged the property to Marshall and Lucy Mack for $1,250.30

The sale of the original headquarters building at 501 Northeast 4th Street assisted Brockway in purchasing a much larger property to the east at 615 Northeast 4th Street (no longer extant). On December 4, 1925, Brockway acquired all of Lots 20-21 as well as a portion of Lot 32 in Block 7 of Eddie’s Terraced Addition to Oklahoma City from J. R. and Dora Johnson for $15,000.31 The next day, Brockway promptly transferred the warranty deed to the Oklahoma City Federation of Colored Women’s Clubs for $1.32 Sanborn maps indicate a large, two-story building on the property, which suited the organization’s growing needs.33 By the mid-1940s, the federation comprised of ten women’s clubs with 200 members altogether.34 According to Willa Strong, the building’s first story could be reserved for club activities and the second story provided boarding rooms for single, working African-American women. Strong went on to note that the building at 615 Northeast 4th Street was “officially known as the ‘Brockway Community Center.’”35

Under Brockway’s stewardship, the Oklahoma City Federation sponsored a variety of activities at its headquarters on Northeast 4th Street. Four events that occurred in 1938 illustrate how these activities reinforced the club movement’s mission on behalf of racial uplift, interracial harmony, and services for women and young people. The first occurred on February 12, when the Brockway Center hosted an interracial dance and social event for approximately 100 college students. Less than two months earlier, African-American students had been prohibited from

26 For example, see Mortgage Record, Oklahoma County Clerk, Book 253, Page 495, November 21, 1935.
27 One of Brockway’s primary responsibilities as president was overseeing preparations for the national convention of the NACW, which met in Oklahoma City in 1941. See ibid., 94.
28 Prior to acquiring the property at 501 Northeast 4th Street, Oklahoma City club women met in area churches. See Strong, *Origin, Development, and Current Status*, 109. Also see Warranty Deed, Oklahoma County Clerk, Book 238, Page 637, December 7, 1920.
29 1922 Sanborn map.
30 Mortgage Record, Oklahoma County Clerk, Book 266, Page 402, December 4, 1925.
31 Warranty Deed, Oklahoma County Clerk, Book 308, Page 278, December 4, 1925.
32 Warranty Deed, Oklahoma County Clerk, Book 309, Page 272, December 5, 1925.
33 1922 and 1955 Sanborn maps.
35 Strong, *Origin, Development, and Current Status*, 9, 109-10. At times, the *Daily Oklahoman* referred to the building as the Brockway Recreation Center.
attending a similar event at the State Capitol sponsored by the Oklahoma Youth Legislature. The second event was on March 4, with the opening of a birth control clinic for African-American women at the Brockway Center. Maude Brockway served as secretary for the operation, while two black doctors, an investigator, and a nurse volunteered their services for two hours each week. The third event pertained to the arts, when the Brockway Center served as an “extension art [gallery]” for the Federal Art Center downtown (presently, the Oklahoma City Museum of Art). The fourth event served the community’s most vulnerable during the holidays, when the Brockway Center announced that it would host a party for African-American children on Christmas Eve.

The headquarters of the Oklahoma City Federation of Colored Women’s Clubs remained on Northeast 4th Street until 1967. In 1961, Oklahoma City leaders authorized the creation of an Urban Renewal Authority amidst widespread worries that downtown businesses were losing out to suburban retailers and that urban, oftentimes historically black, neighborhoods were becoming decrepit and blighted. Five years later, after intensive studying and planning by officials, the City of Oklahoma City authorized a massive urban redevelopment project. One significant aspect of this project pertained to the development of a medical center complex (presently, the Oklahoma City Health Sciences Center) northeast of downtown between Northeast 8th and 13th Streets. By the end of 1967, historian Bob Blackburn writes, Oklahoma City’s Urban Renewal Authority “was actively purchasing and clearing land, preparing it for new streets, utilities, and construction sites.” This included property in the area owned by the Oklahoma City Federation of Colored Women’s Clubs. On October 13, 1967, Oklahoma City Urban Renewal Authority acquired the Brockway Community Center at 615 Northeast 4th Street.

In 1968, the Federation acquired Lots 13-16 in Block 6 of the Culbertson Heights Addition from Grace P. Lybrand. By this time, a 2½-story, single-family dwelling and an associated 2-story garage/apartment were situated on the property. Club women quickly re-designated the property as the “Brockway Community Center.” The property remained affiliated with Federation activities for the next 43 years. During this time, club women continued to meet regularly. Oftentimes, these meetings pertained to city club affairs but, on occasion, the Brockway Community Center hosted leading members from the NACW. The property served as a

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40 Blackburn, *Heart of the Promised Land*, 166.
41 The Urban Renewal Authority’s acquisition of the property at 615 Northeast 4th Street appears to have occurred in two parts. Warranty deeds indicate that the City of Oklahoma City acquired at least a portion of the property by the fall of 1966 and subsequently deeded it to the Urban Renewal Authority. See Warranty Deed, Oklahoma County Clerk, Book 3416, Page 603, October 31, 1966. One year later, the Urban Renewal Authority acquired the remainder of the property directly from the Oklahoma City Federation of Colored Women’s Clubs. See Warranty Deed, Book 3542, Page 23, October 13, 1967.
42 Newspaper accounts indicate that the 1440 North Everest Avenue was hosting club events by October 1968. See Joan Gilmore, “League Sets Fashion Freedom,” *The Sunday Oklahoman* (Women’s News), October 27, 1968, 8.
43 For example, see “Group Plans New Proposal,” *Daily Oklahoman*, October 31, 1970, and “Women’s Clubs to Meet in City,” *The Sunday Oklahoman*, May 11, 1997, A21. The 1997 meeting involved a visit from members of the
meeting place for sororities, community organizations, and wellness groups.44 Most importantly, the Oklahoma City Federation continued to host activities and gatherings for the benefit of black women and black children. These included neighborhood gatherings such as yard sales, more formal social arrangements such as prayer breakfasts, luncheons, and afternoon tea, and recurring workshops and mentorship programs. For example, each fall, the Brockway Community Center hosted “back-to-school” workshops for parents and young children. These workshops covered a wide range of topics, including personal health/hygiene and technological proficiency skills.45 Another notable program that started in the late 1990s was a “Grandparents Academy,” in which club members volunteered their time to “work with young people needing wholesome influences and positive adult models.”46

Conclusion
From 1968 until 2011, when the Oklahoma City Federation of Colored Women’s Clubs sold the property, the Brockway Community Center at 1440 North Everest Avenue provided a valuable setting for clubs to hold events, offer services to protect and mentor young black women and children, improve community life, and promote equality and racial harmony. It remains the only eligible, extant building in Oklahoma City affiliated with the history of the black women’s club movement. Its preservation ensures the recognition of a history of black female political activism and community involvement that spans over 100 years in Oklahoma City. This history continues today. Although the Oklahoma City Federation sold the property in 2011, citing a dwindling membership and mounting maintenance costs, club members still meet regularly, oftentimes in one another’s homes. In the tradition of Maude J. Brockway and the founders of the OFCWC, these women lead lives of service. Although such work often does not make newspaper headlines, it is valuable to the wellbeing and vitality of their communities.

44 For example, see “Club News,” The Sunday Oklahoman, Women’s News, May 11, 1969, 14; and Advertisement, Daily Oklahoman, November 5, 1973, 8.
45 “Women Holding Workshop,” Daily Oklahoman/Oklahoma City Times, September 9, 1994, 3
9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Books


Government Records and Publications


Oklahoma County Assessor. Oklahoma City.

Oklahoma County Clerk. Oklahoma City.

Journal Articles


Newspapers


Reference Collections and Databases


Thesis and Dissertations


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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

_____ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

_____ previously listed in the National Register

___X__ previously determined eligible by the National Register

_____ designated a National Historic Landmark

_____ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #__________

_____ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #__________

_____ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #__________

Primary location of additional data:
Brockway Community Center

Name of Property

Oklahoma County, Oklahoma

County and State

__X__ State Historic Preservation Office

____ Other State agency

____ Federal agency

____ Local government

____ University

____ Other

Name of repository: _____________________________________

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____________

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property  Less than 1 acre ____________

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: ____________

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 35.483575  Longitude: -97.491040

2. Latitude:  Longitude: 

3. Latitude:  Longitude: 

4. Latitude:  Longitude: 

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)
The present legal description places the Brockway Community Center within Lots 13-14 and
the south 19.5 feet of Lot 15 in Block 6 of the Culbertson Heights Addition.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)
The current boundary is the extent of the property historically associated with the existing
buildings and reflects current ownership by the Oklahoma City Redevelopment Authority.
Although county records indicate that Lots 13-16 in Block 6 of the Culbertson Heights
Addition were historically bought and sold as one parcel, Sanborn maps and aerial
photographs indicate that no building or developed landscape associated with the Brockway
Community Center was ever constructed on Lots 15-16.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title:  Ms. Catherine Montgomery AIA and Dr. Matthew Pearce, Ph.D., Historian
organization: Preservation and Design Studio
street & number: 616 NW 21st Street

city or town: Oklahoma City state: Oklahoma zip: 73103
e-mail cm@PandDStudio.com
technique: (405) 601-6814
date: December 3, 2019

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn’t need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Brockway Community Center

City or Vicinity: Oklahoma City

County: Oklahoma State: Oklahoma

Photographer: Matthew Pearce and Kelsee Watts, Preservation and Design Studio, PLLC

Date Photographed: June 2019

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

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Sections 9-end page 26
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<td>Southeast</td>
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<td>0002</td>
<td>House. West-facing façade (left). South side elevation (right).</td>
<td>Northeast</td>
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<tr>
<td>0003</td>
<td>House. South side elevation (left). East (back) elevation (right).</td>
<td>Northwest</td>
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<tr>
<td>0004</td>
<td>House. East (back) elevation (left). Garage/Apartment. South side elevation (right).</td>
<td>North</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0005</td>
<td>House. East (back) elevation.</td>
<td>West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0006</td>
<td>Connecting wall and arched passageway between house (left) and garage/apartment (right).</td>
<td>Northwest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0007</td>
<td>Garage/apartment. North side elevation (left). West-facing façade (right).</td>
<td>Southeast</td>
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<td>0008</td>
<td>North side elevations. Garage/apartment (left). House (right).</td>
<td>South</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0009</td>
<td>House. North side elevation.</td>
<td>Southwest</td>
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<tr>
<td>0010</td>
<td>House. West-facing façade.</td>
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<td>House. Exterior of main entrance.</td>
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<td>0013</td>
<td>House, first story. Living room.</td>
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<td>House, first story. Dining room.</td>
<td>East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0015</td>
<td>House, second story. Library</td>
<td>Southeast</td>
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**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.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.
Brockway Community Center

Name of Property: Oklahoma County, Oklahoma

County and State: N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Location Map

All of Lots 13-14 and the south 19.5 feet of Lot 15 in Block 6 of the Culbertson Heights Addition to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County, Oklahoma.
Brockway Community Center

Oklahoma County, Oklahoma

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)
The Brockway Community Center is located at 1440 North Everest Avenue, approximately 2 miles northeast of downtown Oklahoma City. It is situated on the northeast corner of the intersection of North Everest Avenue and Northeast 13th Street. The building is set among a mix of residential and medical buildings. Facilities associated with the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center are to the south and southwest. The Oklahoma City Veterans Administration Health Care Center is 2 blocks to the west. Private residences, most of which are single-family, are to the north and east.
Originally constructed in 1915, with additions after 1955 (and completed before 1968), the Brockway Community Center is comprised of a 2½-story house and an associated 2-story garage/apartment. It is set back from the west and south property lines and, overall, is unique for its sprawling nature. The house and apartment/garage are situated on Lot 14, and a large lawn with mature trees is to the south on Lot 13. Paved parking lots are to the north and northeast of the site. A large, 2-story building is adjacent and to the east of the site, on Lots 11-12. Historically a single-family dwelling, this building is currently the headquarters of the Child Abuse Response and Evaluation (CARE) Center, a local nonprofit.
Brockway Community Center

Name of Property
Oklahoma County, Oklahoma

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

The Big Picture: 1922, Volume 2, Map #231
(Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps)

Oklahoma County records indicate that the Culbertson Heights Addition wasplatted in several stages between 1909 and 1927 by J. J. (John James) Culbertson and John J. Culbertson, Jr. This page from the 1922 Sanborn Map is the first to document the southern portions of the addition (outlined in green). Many lots are undeveloped and some blocks await subdivision. This map is also the first to document the construction of the buildings that would become the Brockway Community Center (outlined in red).
Close Up: 1922, Volume 2, Map #231
(Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps)

A closer view of the 1922 Sanborn map records a two-story dwelling and an autohouse situated mostly on Lot 14. The street address is indicated as 1404 Everest Avenue. City directories indicate that the buildings were constructed in 1915 and originally served as the home of Walter and Grace Lybrand. The dwelling is brick veneered and has a shingle roof. The west (back) elevation is slightly narrower than the overall width of the dwelling. A one-story, covered porch extends nearly the width of the west-facing façade and wraps around to the south, extending nearly half the length of the south side elevation. The porch has a shingle roof. The autohouse is also brick veneered and has a shingle roof. Because this drawing is incomplete, information regarding the autohouse is also incomplete.
Brockway Community Center
Name of Property
Oklahoma County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

The Big Picture: 1949, Volume 2, Map #239
(Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps)

This page from the updated edition of the 1922 Sanborn maps, published in 1949, documents Blocks 6-11 of the Culbertson Heights Addition (outlined in green), along with the Gast Heights Addition to the north. The blocks are almost fully developed. Lots in the vicinity of 1440 North Everest contain single-family dwellings with detached garages. The dwellings are 1 to 2 stories in height.
Close Up: 1949, Volume 2, Map #239  
(Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps)

A closer view of the 1949 edition of the Sanborn map confirms a 2-story dwelling and a 2-story autohouse situated entirely on Lot 14. The autohouse is situated on the north lot line and very near the east lot line. The street address is now indicated as 1440 Everest Avenue. Lots 13, 15, and 16 remain undeveloped.
Big Picture: 1950, Volume 2, Map #239
(Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps)

The 1950 edition of the Sanborn map does not indicate any major changes in the immediate vicinity of the buildings that would become the Brockway Community Center.
Close Up: 1950, Volume 2, Map #239
(Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps)

A closer view of the 1950 edition of the Sanborn map indicates no changes to 1440 Everest Avenue.
The Big Picture: 1955, Volume 2, Map #239
(Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps)

The 1955 edition of the Sanborn map indicates that the area is almost fully developed as a residential neighborhood.
A closer view of the 1955 edition of the Sanborn maps indicates no changes to 1440 Everest Avenue.
The Oklahoma City Federation of Colored Women’s Clubs acquired the property at 1440 North Everest Avenue (outlined in red) in 1968, one year after the Oklahoma City Urban Renewal Authority received approval for plans to develop the nearby Oklahoma City Medical Center complex. This aerial photograph indicates that construction of the Medical Center was underway by 1970. The vicinity to the south and west of the Brockway Community Center is residential.
Big Picture: 1974, Aerial
(Ray Jacoby Collection, Oklahoma Historical Society)

View of the Oklahoma City Medical Center Complex, looking north-northeast, with the Brockway Community Center in the distance (indicated by red arrow). Development of the complex by Urban Renewal involved the acquisition, clearing, and redevelopment of approximately 250 acres between Northeast 8th and Northeast 13th streets.
Brockway Community Center

Big Picture: ca. 1982, Aerial

(Oklahoma Department of Human Services, published in Bob Blackburn, *Heart of the Promised Land: Oklahoma County, An Illustrated History*, 1982, p. 166)

View of the Oklahoma City Medical Center Complex, looking southwest. By this time, areas to the south and west that had once been residential neighborhoods were being transformed into a sprawling, urban medical center characterized by towering buildings with elevated walkways, open grassy areas, and expansive parking lots/garages. The north addition to the Brockway Community Center (indicated by red arrow) is clearly visible. Lots 15-16 to the north remain undeveloped.
Big Picture: 1995, Aerial
(U.S. Geological Survey, Google Earth)

View of Northeast 13th Street and vicinity between North Phillips Avenue (west) and North Lottie Avenue (east). Development of the Oklahoma City Medical Center Complex continued in the late twentieth century and included the construction of the O'Donoghue Research Building to the southeast of the Brockway Center, across Northeast 13th street. Blocks to the south of the Brockway Community Center and adjacent to North Lottie Avenue that once contained houses (see Page 13) have been demolished and converted to a large surface parking lot. This image also confirms the installation of a paved parking lot north of the Brockway Community Center, on Lots 15-16.
Big Picture: 2010, Aerial
(U.S. Geological Survey, Google Earth)

Northeast 13th Street and vicinity between North Phillips Avenue (west) and North Lottie Avenue (east)
The Oklahoma City Medical Center Complex continues to expand during this time. With such developments including additional paved parking lots and the construction of medical research and treatment facilities in the southwest portion of the image.
Brockway Community Center
Name of Property
Oklahoma County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Building Sketch, Brockway Community Center, House, 2019
(Oklahoma County Assessor)

North Connection & Addition (post 1955 and pre 1968)

Original Construction (1915)

South Addition (post 1955 and pre 1968)
Historic Image #1: ca. 1982
This image of the Brockway Community Center appeared in a commemorative edition of Sooner Woman, a regular publication of the Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women’s Clubs. The north addition and connection containing the main entrance were added at an unknown date after 1955 and before 1968. The main entrance lacks a metal awning and some window openings appear to have shutters attached. (Sooner Woman, Diamond Jubilee Edition, p. 16)

Historic Image #2: 2004
The Oklahoma City Federation of Colored Women’s Clubs owned the buildings at 1440 North Everest Avenue until 2011. Note the awning above the main entrance and the plaque sign on the north addition. (Oklahoma County Assessor)
Historic Image #3: 2012
By 2012, a new metal awning was installed above the main entrance and the plaque sign that read “BROCKWAY CENTER” was removed. (Oklahoma County Assessor)

Historic Image #4: 2014
(Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office)
Brockway Community Center
Name of Property
Oklahoma County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 11 Page 20

Historic Image #5: 2014
Main entrance, interior. (Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office)

Historic Image #6: 2014
Living room, first story. (Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office)
Brockway Community Center
Name of Property
Oklahoma County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Historic Image #7: 2014
Dining room, first story. (Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office)

Historic Image #8: 2014
Library, second story. (Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office)
Brockway Community Center

Name of Property
Oklahoma County, Oklahoma

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number  11  

Page  22  

Historic Image #9: 2014
Bedroom, second story. (Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office)

Historic Image #10: 2014
Bedroom, second story. (Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office)
Historic Image #11: 2016

The Oklahoma City Redevelopment Authority acquired the Brockway Community Center in 2019. (Oklahoma County Assessor)
Brockway Community Center

Name of Property

Oklahoma County, Oklahoma

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

OK_Oklahoma County_Brockway Community Center_0001
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OK_Oklahoma County_Brockway Community Center_0002
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number  11   Page  26

Brockway Community Center
Name of Property
Oklahoma County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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**Section number**: 11  **Page**: 27

OK_Oklahoma County_Brockway Community Center_0004
Brockway Community Center

Name of Property: Oklahoma County, Oklahoma

County and State: N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable): OK_Oklahoma County_Brockway Community Center_0005
Brockway Community Center

OK_Oklahoma County_Brockway Community Center_0006
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Name of Property
Oklahoma County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)
Brockway Community Center

OK_Oklahoma County_Brockway Community Center_0010
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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Brockway Community Center
Name of Property
Oklahoma County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

OK_Oklahoma County_Brockway Community Center_0011
Brockway Community Center
Name of Property
Oklahoma County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

OK_Oklahoma County_Brockway Community Center_0012
Brockway Community Center

Name of Property

Oklahoma County, Oklahoma

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

OK_Oklahoma County_Brockway Community Center_0013
Brockway Community Center
Name of Property
Oklahoma County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

OK_Oklahoma County_Brockway Community Center_0014
Brockway Community Center
Name of Property
Oklahoma County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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