

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

*Send*

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

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1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Miami Marathon Oil Company Service Station

other names/site number N/A

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number 331 South Main not for publication N/A  
city or town Miami vicinity N/A  
state Oklahoma code OK county Ottawa code 115  
zip code 74354

=====

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this XX 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 XX meets      does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant      nationally      statewide X locally. ( N/A See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

*Stake Wade* December 19, 1994  
Signature of certifying official Date

Oklahoma Historical Society, SHPO  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

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

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4. National Park Service Certification

=====

I, hereby certify that this property is:

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

=====

5. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>  1  </u>	<u>  0  </u> buildings
<u>  0  </u>	<u>  0  </u> sites
<u>  0  </u>	<u>  0  </u> structures
<u>  0  </u>	<u>  0  </u> objects
<u>  1  </u>	<u>  0  </u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register   0  

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)   Route 66 and Associated Historic Resources in Oklahoma

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: COMMERCE/TRADE Sub: specialty store  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: COMMERCE/TRADE Sub: specialty store  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE  
roof ASPHALT  
walls BRICK  
other CONCRETE  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

=====  
8. Statement of Significance  
=====

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE  
ARCHITECTURE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance 1929-1944  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

=====  
8. Statement of Significance (Continued)  
=====

Significant Dates   N/A    
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  
  N/A  

Cultural Affiliation   N/A    
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder   Unknown    
\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

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

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

=====  
10. Geographical Data  
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Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>15</u>	<u>332710</u>	<u>4081860</u>	3	—	—
2	<u>N/A</u>	<u>See continuation sheet.</u>		4	—	—

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

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

=====  
11. Form Prepared By  
=====

Maryjo Meacham, Director, Design/Research Center; Brenda Peck, Historian  
name/title Lisa Bradley & Susan Roth, Graduate Assistants: Oklahoma SHPO, ed.  
University of Oklahoma,  
organization College of Architecture date May 31, 1994  
street & number 830 Van Vleet Oval telephone 405/325-2444  
city or town Norman state OK zip code 73019

=====  
Additional Documentation  
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Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage  
or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

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

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form  
Miami Marathon Oil Company Service Station  
Ottawa County, Oklahoma  
Route 66 and Associated Historic Resources in Oklahoma

Page 8

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

name Louis Matia

street & number P. O. Box 309 telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Miami state OK zip code 74355

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Miami Marathon Oil Company Service Station  
name of property  
Ottawa County, Oklahoma  
county and State

=====

SUMMARY

The Miami Marathon Oil Company Service Station, built in 1929, is a one-story Neoclassical Revival style service station. It is located on the south side of Miami, Oklahoma, on Route 66 (Main Street). The station is situated on a small corner lot that provides access from two streets. The Miami Marathon Oil Company Service Station is characterized by a full height, pedimented portico, supported by massive classical columns. The exterior of the front gabled square building is white glazed brick. The Miami Marathon Oil Company Service Station continues to retain a high degree of architectural integrity.

DESCRIPTION

The triangular pediment and classical columns which serve as the service bay distinguish this miniature Greek temple as an outstanding example of Neoclassical Revival architecture as applied to a service station. Such styles were used by oil companies to blend their service stations into residential neighborhoods as the service station moved outward from the central business district into neighborhoods in the 1920s. This small service station, a one-story square building, has several characteristics typical of the Neoclassical Revival style of architecture including a moderately pitched front gabled roof and the full height, pedimented portico supported by classical columns. This portico forms a porte cochere which serves as the service bay. The pedimented portico is punctuated with a white disk centered in the front gable end. The underside of the boxed eaves are tongue and lip; crown molding, located above the fascia, wraps around the square building and extends around the roof of the service bay.

The service bay is protected from the elements by a front gabled porte cochere supported by two white classical columns of concrete. The columns, set on square concrete pedestals, are fixed on a raised concrete base, once the base for the gasoline pumps. The underside of the fascia is tongue and lip. Six light bulbs illuminate each side of the service bay's pressed tin ceiling, and five light bulbs illuminate the front of the service bay.

The entry is a recessed, five-paneled door flanked by two steel casement windows, each composed of twenty-four lights. Crown molding is fixed over the entry door. The balanced windows and door are characteristics of the

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Neoclassical Revival style. Each of the side elevations have two, twelve-light steel casement windows. Glazed brick forms the sill and the lintel of each window, as on the steel casement windows on the front facade.

Three wooden three-paneled doors, each glazed with a single pane of glass, run the width of the rear facade. Two of the doors have a three-light wooden transom window. The north and south serve as entries to the restrooms; the center door is an entrance to the rear of the station. The glass panes in each of the restroom doors have a star-burst design of clear glass. The original brass hardware is intact on the center and south doors. Over each door is a single light bulb illuminating the restrooms and the rear walk.

ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS

The following alterations have been made to the exterior of the Miami Marathon Oil Company Service Station: 1) the original gasoline pumps have been removed from the service bay; 2) the transom window above the center door on the rear facade was removed when the air conditioning unit was installed; 3) the bottom two rows of bricks on all elevations have been painted gray to match the concrete walk; and 4) the hole in the pediment which originally contained the company's logo has been covered with a round disk. The Miami Marathon Oil Company Service Station retains a high degree of its architectural integrity.

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Miami Marathon Oil Company Service Station  
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SUMMARY

The Miami Marathon Oil Company Service Station, constructed in 1929 and located on Route 66 in Miami, Oklahoma, is historically significant for its commercial association with Route 66 in Oklahoma. The station also is architecturally significant as an excellent example of a "house with canopy" station, designed in the Neoclassical Revival style. The building retains a high degree of its architectural and historic integrity. Contextually, it relates to "Commerce on Route 66 in Oklahoma (1926-1944)." The associated property type is Filling Stations, Service Stations and Garages, subtype "House with Canopy."

COMMERCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Miami Marathon Oil Company Service Station, located on Route 66 in Miami, Oklahoma is significant for its close association with the road and the development of the automobile age. The "house with canopy" was an important property type associated with the early development of Route 66. The Miami Marathon Oil Company Service Station was built on a corner lot with the front facing Route 66. Corner lots were the most popular lots for stations because they could be seen more easily at a distance and because it made access easy from two streets and helped eliminate congestion.

In 1929, Mr. and Mrs. W.P. Donohue leased the future site of the Miami Marathon Oil Company Service Station for \$40.00 per month to the Transcontinental Oil Company, the forerunner of Marathon. The Neoclassical Revival service station building was constructed shortly afterward by the Transcontinental Oil Company who leased it to Mid-Kansas Oil and Gas. They in turn leased it to the Marathon Oil Company in January 1931. When the Ohio Oil Company purchased Transcontinental Oil in 1930, they received the Marathon Oil Company which had already had an established name in the petroleum business. Along with the name, the company also bought the right to continue using the recognizable trademark of the Greek runner and the familiar slogan of "Best in the long run."

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Miami Marathon Oil Company Service Station design is a Neoclassical Revival "house with canopy." The building exemplifies the central characteristics of the Neoclassical Revival style, with massive classical columns supporting the

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Section 8 Page 12 Miami Marathon Oil Company Service Station  
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canopy. It is one of the few stations on Route 66 that is small in scale, Neoclassical in character, and works to produce a reflective look of the past with a commercial future.

The "house with canopy" style service station was popular during the late 1920s and early 1930s. Many major oil companies began using the house-like station to better incorporate their industry into the surrounding landscape. Reasons for this were two-fold: 1) the companies did not want any objection to building service stations adjacent to residential neighborhoods and 2) the house style, and particularly the Miami Marathon Oil Company Station building, evoked a homey feeling with the Route 66 traveler. It was intended to remind the motorist of a safe haven for them and their automobiles.

Residential styles for stations became quite popular along Route 66. Not only was it cost efficient to build such a structure, but it adhered to the residential landscape. This is fitting as many stations of this type were in close proximity to residential neighborhoods. Consistent with the house and canopy design, the Miami Marathon Oil Company Service Station contained an office and restroom and a canopy extending out from the front gable. In Main Street to Miracle Mile: American Roadside Architecture, Chester Liebs states "structures closely resembled the little bungalows that were springing up in modest residential neighborhoods across the country, only now the front porches were filled with pumps and cars rather than hammocks and rocking chairs."<sup>1</sup>

The main function of the canopy was to provide shelter while filling up with gasoline. Although the canopy was an asset for protection from the sun, the canopy, lined with light bulbs, still posed a problem lighting the station at night. The 1930s saw the decline in the popularity of the house with canopy. The costly upkeep and crowded nature of the canopy contributed to its demise. The Southwest region of the country, including stations on Route 66, sustained a large number of canopy stations because the canopy blocked the sun.

The Miami Marathon Oil Company Service Station building remains virtually unaltered and has kept its historical and architectural integrity.

<sup>1</sup> Liebs, Chester H. Main Street to Miracle Mile: American Roadside Architecture, Boston: Little Brown and Company, 1985.

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Miami Marathon Oil Company Service Station  
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Ottawa County, Oklahoma  
county and State

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Anders, Mary Ann. "A Survey of Route 66 through Oklahoma." Oklahoma Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, 1984.

Herring, Don H. Marathon World: One Hundred Years on the Frontier. Marathon Oil Company, Ohio, n.d.

Jakle, John A. "The American Gasoline Station, 1920-1970." Journal of American Culture 1 (Spring 1978): 520-542.

Liebs, Chester H. Main Street to Miracle Mile: American Roadside Architecture. Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1985.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1990.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot 15 and 16, Block 125, Original town of Miami, Oklahoma.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes the entire city lots that historically have been associated with the building.



Miami Marathon Oil Company Service Station



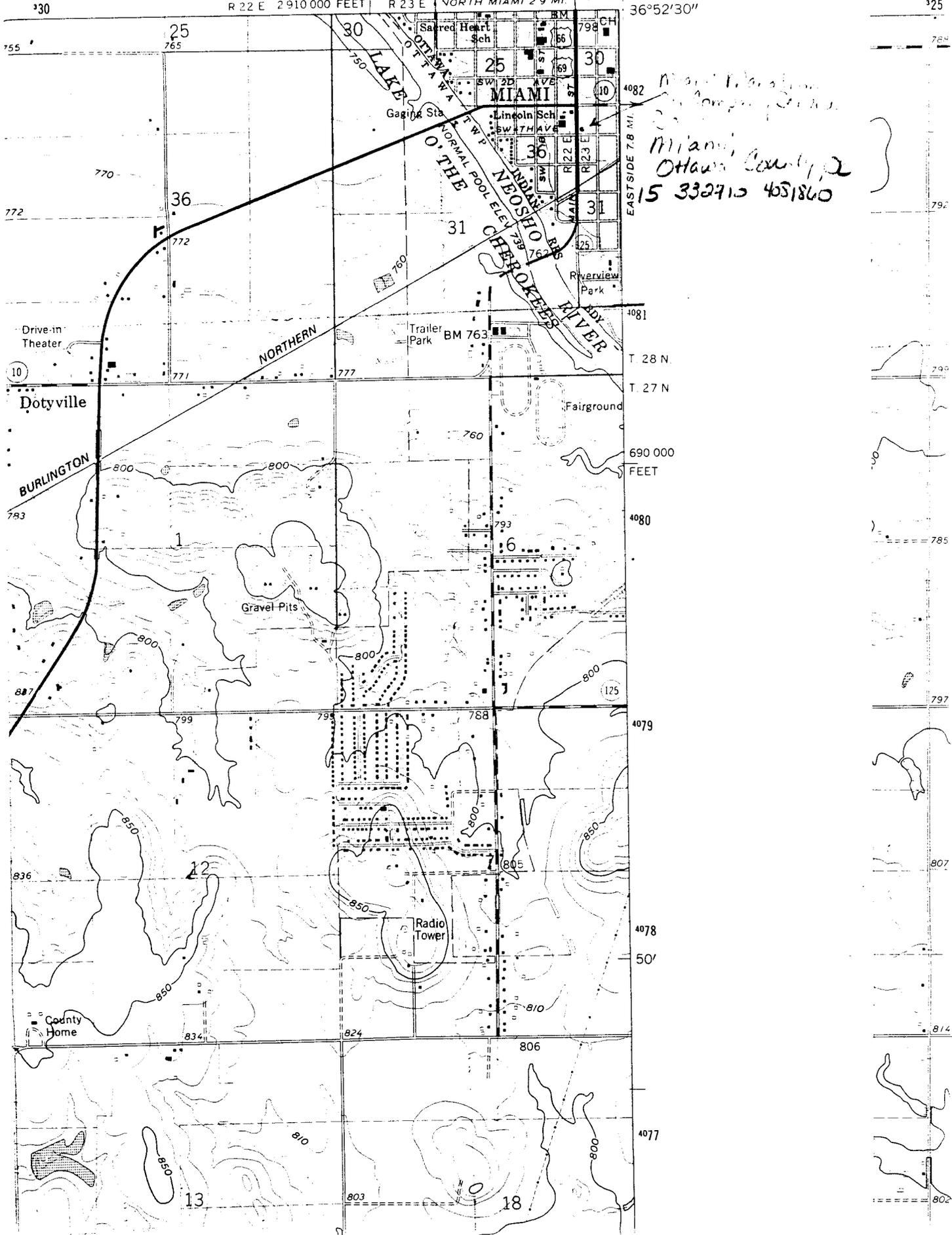
MIAMI SW QUADRANGLE

OKLAHOMA

7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

7057 IV NE (PICHER)

JOPLIN, MO. (VIA U.S. 66) 33 MI. 94°52'30"  
R 22 E 2 910 000 FEET | R 23 E NORTH MIAMI 2.9 MI. | 36°52'30"



Miami, Oklahoma  
Ottawa County, OK  
15 332710 4051860