

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

APR 29 2016

# 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: Sunshine Cleaners  
Other names/site number: Sunshine Laundry & Cleaners / National Sunshine Laundry  
Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

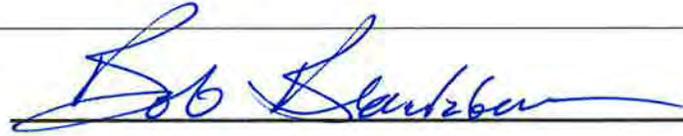
## 2. Location

Street & number: 1002 NW 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
City or town: Oklahoma City State: OK County: Oklahoma  
Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

## 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:  
\_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B X 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

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**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

6/14/16  
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

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Commerce/Trade: Specialty Store

\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Vacant/Not In Use

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Art Deco  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**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.)

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### Summary Paragraph

Sunshine Cleaners is located at 1002 Northwest 1<sup>st</sup> Street in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The building is located in an industrial area that includes the National Register listed Oklahoma City Ford Motor Company Assembly Plant. Sunshine Cleaners is an industrial building constructed in the Art Deco style in 1929. Sunshine Cleaners is a brick one and two story building. A “drive-in” or drive-thru was added to the building in 1953 along with the iconic neon sign advertising “SUNSHINE CLEANERS”. These alterations happened during the period of significance. The building is currently vacant. Sunshine Cleaners continues to maintain a high degree of integrity of setting, location, design, workmanship, materials, feeling and association.

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## Narrative Description

Sunshine Cleaners is a one and two story rectangular shaped industrial building. The façade faces north and is constructed from buff brick. The facade is part of the two story portion of the building. The Art Deco styling creates a symmetrical appearance and the façade is divided into eight bays. The lower level of the façade beginning at the westernmost bay is now boarded and was the exit for the “drive-in” or drive-thru, as evident from curb cuts. This bay is separated from the second bay by a wide brick pilaster with a cast stone base and cap. The lower level of the second, third and fourth bays from the west are identical; all three have a single boarded window opening with a cast stone lintel. They are separated by a simple capped pilaster with cast stone base. The fifth and sixth bays from the west are boarded and were the location of the entrance for the “drive-in.” The opening is supported by an exposed metal beam. The pilaster separating these bays has been removed from the lower portion to accommodate the size of the opening required for vehicular traffic. The seventh bay from the west is separated from the sixth by another simple pilaster. The seventh bay also has a single boarded window with cast stone lintel. The pilaster separating the seventh and eight bays is wider with a cast stone base. The primary entrance was located in the eighth bay. The entrance is now boarded with two concrete steps leading to the entrance door. There is also a flat metal awning above the entrance. At the eastern corner of the building there is a pilaster with the same cast stone base and capped appearance.

The upper story of the façade is very symmetrical in appearance. The two end bays (the first & eight from the west) are wider and have wider boarded window openings with cast stone lintels. A stepped and capped parapet wall continues across the façade, along with a cast stone belt course creating a linear appearance. The central six bays are identical, except for the second and seventh bays because the windows in these two bays are not boarded and show the paired nine-pane metal casement windows. The remainder of the windows are boarded. All the windows have a cast stone lintel. All the upper portions of the pilasters that divide the bays have a simple cast stone cap. A parapet wall runs the length of the building and there are simple round cast stone ornaments over each bay. The two end bays have a stepped parapet and more elaborate ornamentation; the round cast stone elements have four cast stone bricks that create a burst giving the illusion of a sunbeam.

The east elevation is also decorative and is also constructed from buff brick. The northern portion of this elevation is two-story and has a cast stone water table that runs along this portion. There are three large pilasters that separate this portion of the elevation into two bays. The pilasters are all capped with cast stone and have a cast stone element below the cast stone belt course. Each bay in this portion have two windows all with cast stone lintels on each level, these windows are further separated by smaller uncapped pilasters. The two story portion has two round cast stone decorative elements that have four cast stone bricks that create a burst giving the illusion of a sunbeam.

The one story portion of the east elevation has seven identical bays. Each bay has a single boarded window with a cast stone lintel and a stone belt course above. There are single round

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decorative cast stones symmetrically placed above each window. All the bays are separated by capped pilasters with cast stone bases and cast stone below the cast stone belt course. Also visible from this elevation is the monitor in the roof with clerestory windows in the center of the roof line. The windows are multi-light metal casements. Additionally, there is a large brick chimney located in the rear of the building.

The south elevation is constructed from red brick and is far less decorative than north and east elevations. From the east to west there is a decorative metal gutter immediately followed by a paired window that is partially boarded it is a multi-light metal casement window with a cast stone sill. To the west of that is an entry that has been boarded. Toward the western end of the elevation is another boarded window with a cast stone sill. West of that is a single entry that has been boarded, followed by another metal gutter. Finally on the western corner is a large overhead metal door.

The west elevation is also constructed of red brick. From the south moving north there are eight bays each bay is separated by a simple brick pilaster with no ornamentation. The first bay has no openings. The second bay has an entry door that is surrounded by a window opening both have been boarded. The window portion has a cast stone sill. The third bay has no openings. The fourth bay has a single window opening that is boarded and has a cast stone sill. The fifth bay has a metal feature that had an industrial application. The sixth bay has a single boarded window with a cast stone sill. The seventh bay has no openings. The eighth bay is part of the two story portion of the building and has a large boarded opening and no other openings or ornamentation.

### **Alterations**

The major alteration to the building was the addition of the “drive-in” or drive-thru it was added to the existing structure in 1953. The two vehicle size entrances were added to the facade of the building to allow traffic to flow through the interior of the building. Evidence of this use is still apparent in the poured cement in the main level along with the curb cut that runs through the path. There are also polished brick walls along the route with windows presumably to allow customers the opportunity to see into the laundry at work.

### **Interior**

Sunshine Cleaners has been vacant for a number of years leaving the building exposed to the elements, vandalism, and varmints. The large one story portion of the building is missing the roofing material. The steel beam supports and monitor are in place but the interior is exposed to the elements and vegetation has taken root. Many of the interior walls are still in place despite these challenges due to the sturdy materials used to construct this industrial building.

### **Object**

On the roof of the two story portion of the building is a neon sign with a sun burst pattern in yellow at the top. Then the sign states below in red reads “SUNSHINE” Then below “LAUNDRY – CLEANERS” in green at the bottom in red “Drive In SERVICE”. This large sign has three sides and each side has the same verbiage and decoration.

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## 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 grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1929-1953  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1929  
\_\_\_\_\_  
1953  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**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.)

Sunshine Cleaners in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria C at the local level in the area of Architecture as an excellent example of an industrial building constructed in the Art Deco style. Located approximately one mile west of the central business district in primarily industrial area, Sunshine Cleaners stands out due to the its Art Deco styling.

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

Sunshine Cleaners is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria C at the local level in the area of Architecture as an excellent early example of an industrial building constructed in the Art Deco Style. The property is also significant in the area of architecture as a good example of an industrial building constructed to meet the needs of a specific industry, with large open interior spaces, natural daylighting, and good air circulation. Built in the Art Deco style, the character defining exterior features include the oversized entrances with a metal awning, symmetrical division of bays by pilasters, and large multi-paned metal windows. The roof supports along with the monitor and intact clerestory windows are extant while the roofing material is gone and the interior is currently exposed to the elements in the industrial space.

When the founders of Oklahoma City arrived they knew that industry represented the future progress and prosperity that could only be achieved by taking advantage of natural and manmade conditions.<sup>1</sup> Those conditions included the favorable and often extreme climate of the Southern Plains; quality soil and good grazing land; the availability of timber, sand, gravel, and clay for building materials; water resources from the North Canadian River; and the intersection of railway lines. Oklahoma City was always intended to be a metropolis.<sup>2</sup> Three railroad lines—the Santa Fe, Rock Island, and Frisco all intersected in the flourishing Oklahoma City. In addition to access to the railroads, there was access to a robust labor supply and vigorous leadership to encourage growth.<sup>3</sup>

The area surrounding Sunshine Cleaners had a strong industrial presence due the Rock Island Railroad tracks. Development of industry in Oklahoma City was centered near the rail lines creating strips of industrial properties near the rail road tracks. The Rock Island railroad ran north of Sunshine Cleaners. In 1916 the Ford Motor Company Assembly Plant opened and spurred the development of automobile related industries to the area, according to the 1922 Sanborn Map with the 1948 update there were Auto Sales yards, auto supply stores, and auto

<sup>1</sup> *Final Survey Report: Reconnaissance Level Survey of Oklahoma County Industrial Resources*. (1991. Available Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma), 90.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid* pg. 91

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid* pg. 94

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painting facilities located in the area surrounding the plant. The area was also the location of the General Mills Inc. Southwest Division which included large grain elevators and a variety of facilities associated food production and storage. Food and automobile production were major industries in the immediate area; there were also warehouses dedicated to farm implements, home appliances, and even laundry supplies. At the time Sunshine Cleaners was constructed, it was a highly desirable industrial area.<sup>4</sup>

Sunshine Cleaners began modernize with the addition of a “drive-in” or drive-thru that coincided with the expansion/conversion of Olie Avenue into Classen Boulevard. The official name changed happened in 1952.<sup>5</sup> In addition to widening and renaming the boulevard the City of Oklahoma City also illuminated the street with a street lighting campaign. Classen was officially illuminated on April 27, 1953.<sup>6</sup> The neon sign on top of Sunshine Cleaners that has been a landmark in the area was also added to the building during this time.<sup>7</sup>

An Art Deco Building in Oklahoma City is not an uncommon sight in Downtown Oklahoma City. However, it is unusual to find an Art Deco industrial building. The majority of Art Deco buildings in Oklahoma City tend to be high style public buildings, such as the buildings in the Municipal Civic Center Complex and the Oklahoma County Courthouse; or large skyscraper type commercial buildings such as the Southwestern Bell Building and the First National Building all in the central business district of Oklahoma City.

The 1991 Reconnaissance Level Survey of Oklahoma County Industrial Resources does not identify Sunshine Cleaners in the survey but this survey was not intended to be a comprehensive review of all industrial buildings in Oklahoma County. The survey does discuss the Unit Parts Company building located at 1117 North Robinson. This building is a contributing resource in the Automobile Alley Historic District, constructed in 1937 it is a later example of the style. Another, building discussed in the Industrial Survey is the Southwestern Bell Telephone building located at 405 North Broadway, while classified as an industrial building because serving as a public utility it represents the public service aspect of industry and this building is a skyscraper and had no processing or manufacturing and is a high style example of the Art Deco style.<sup>8</sup>

The modern look of the Sunshine Cleaners is evident in the Art Deco style of the building. The style is expressed in the geometric form of the building, symmetrical design, linear ornamentation and muted natural motif with a simplified sunburst pattern in the parapet wall. The use of this architectural style in the construction of an industrial building in an industrial area makes Sunshine Cleaners unusual. Therefore, the Sunshine Cleaners is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria C for its Art Deco style.

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<sup>4</sup> Sanborn Map 1922 updated in 1948.

<sup>5</sup> *Daily Oklahoman* August 27, 1952

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.* April 28, 1953.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.* November 24, 1953.

<sup>8</sup> *Industrial Survey*, 121.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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

*Daily Oklahoman*. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. August 27, 1952; April 28, 1953; November 24, 1953.

*Final Survey Report: Reconnaissance Level Survey of Oklahoma County Industrial Resources*. 1991. Available Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma <http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/thematic/rlsindustrialokcnty.pdf> (Accessed September 10, 2015)

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. "Oklahoma City." 1922, 1922-1948, 1922-1950, 1922-1955.

Schwenk, Sally, "Downtown Oklahoma City Intensive Survey – Phase I." 2009. On-file at the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma <http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/nominations/fairviewcommcenter.pdf> (Accessed September 10, 2015)

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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  
 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:

- State Historic Preservation Office  
 Other State agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other  
Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

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### 10. Geographical Data

**Acreege of Property** less than 1 acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

#### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 35.468604 | Longitude: -97.529124 |
| 2. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |
| 3. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |
| 4. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |

**Or**

#### UTM Referenes

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |          |           |           |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

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**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The building occupies a lot bounded by Northwest 1<sup>st</sup> Street to the north, Classen Boulevard on the east, a public alley on the south, and a parking lot to the west. The property occupies lots 10-15 of block 23 of Main Street 2<sup>nd</sup> Addition Plat.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary for the nominated property includes the parcel of land historically associated with the resource.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Allison A. Archambo  
organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number: PO Box 180  
city or town: Union state: MO zip code: 63084  
e-mail allison.archambo@gmail.com  
telephone: 405-698-9883  
date: November 20, 2015

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**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.)

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**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: Sunshine Cleaners

City or Vicinity: Oklahoma City

County: Oklahoma State: Oklahoma

Photographer: Meredith Black

Date Photographed: September 1, 2015

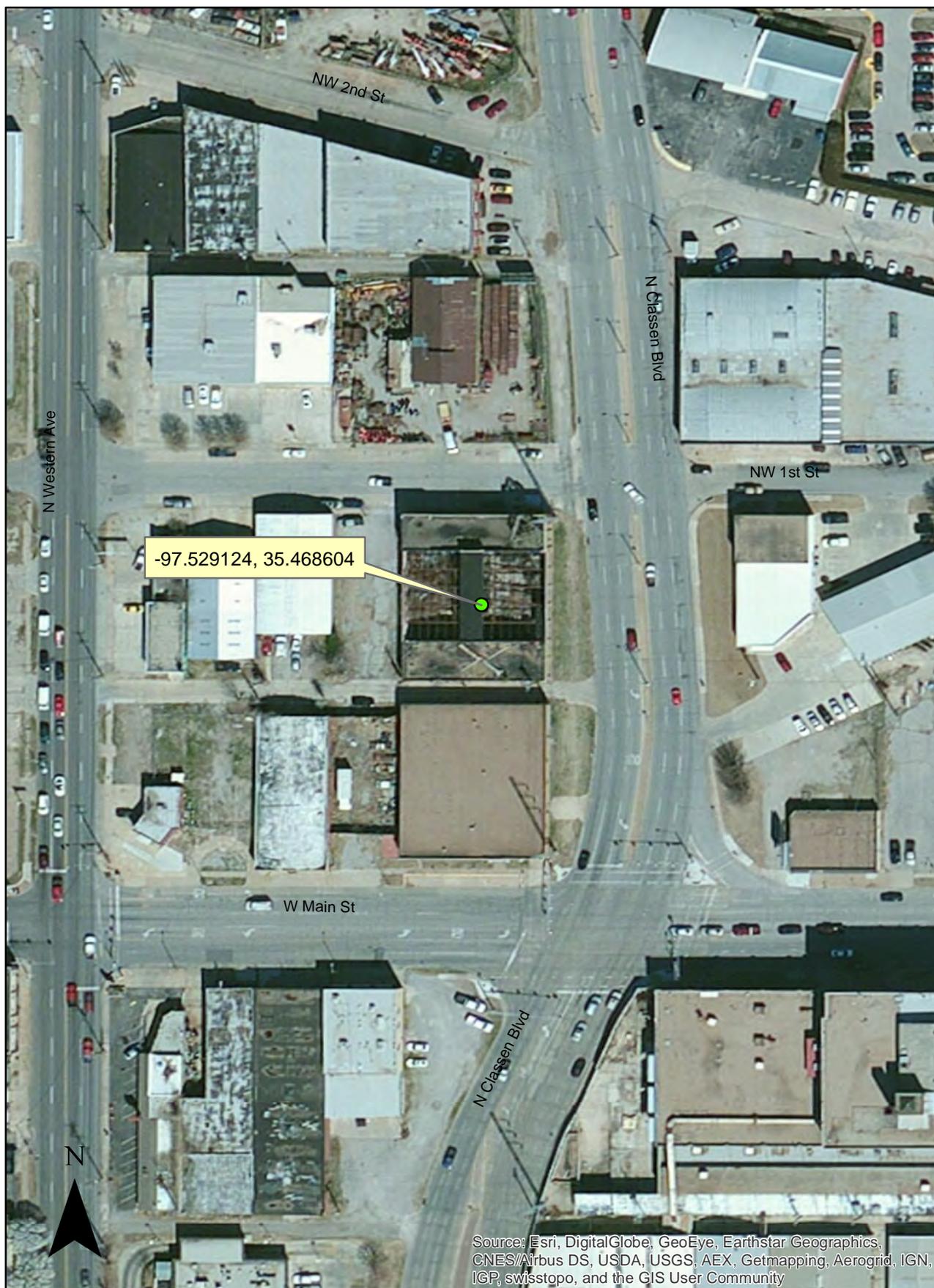
Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photograph Number	Subject	Direction
0001	Facade	Southwest
0002	West Elevation	Northeast
0003	South and West Elevation	Northeast
0004	Neon Sign	South
0005	East Elevation	West
0006	Façade and East Elevation	Southwest

**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.

# Sunshine Cleaners, 1002 NW 1st Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County, Oklahoma



0 0.01 0.02 0.04 Miles

SUNSHINE  
AMPHITHEATRE  
RESTAURANT & BAR

STOP









SUNSHINE  
LAUNDRY & CLEANERS  
IN SERVICE







SUNSHINE  
SUNSHINE  
SUNSHINE  
SUNSHINE

LEFT HAND  
MARKET