

OKLAHOMA LANDMARKS INVENTORY NOMINATION

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

SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

BISHOP SCHOOL GYMNASIUM/AUDITORIUM

LOCATION: Vicinity of Arnett, Oklahoma 040, Ellis County 045; NW 1/4, Sec. 26, T 18 N, R 26 W.

CLASSIFICATION: building; private; public acquisition--N/A; unoccupied; unrestricted; present use--storage

OWNER: Murry and Brooks Eggleston, Rt. 1, Box 73, Shattuck, OK 73858

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Ellis County Courthouse, Arnett, OK 73832

DESCRIPTION: fair condition; altered; original site

The Bishop School Gymnasium/Auditorium is a large, rectangular (79' x 55') structure constructed of planed lumber with a gabled roof in poor condition. An enclosed wood porch and entrance with gable roof is located on the north side. Wood sash windows are double spaced, and the southwest corner of the building contains an exterior brick chimney. Besides the installation of a garage door on the south side of the building, the building retains its architectural integrity although it is rapidly deteriorating.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1940; builder/architect: unknown

The construction of the Bishop School Gymnasium/Auditorium near the Texas border provided employment to an area especially hard hit by the dust storms and Depression. In addition, the local area benefitted from the establishment of local educational facilities. In particular, the auditorium/gymnasium provided the opportunity for increased community activities. As a WPA building, the Bishop School Gymnasium is unique in terms of its style, workmanship, and wood construction materials. Within the community, the Bishop School is unique as being representative of the rapidly disappearing country school. It is the only one of three WPA buildings remaining.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Five acres

Quadrangle: Antelope Hills, Okla.
1:24,000/7.5 min.

UTM: undetermined

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Five acres of land, unsurveyed, in the extreme southwest corner of the SW 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Sec. 26, T 18 N, R 26 W.

PICTURE REFERENCE: none