

## OKLAHOMA LANDMARKS INVENTORY NOMINATION

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

SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

FORT GIBSON SCHOOL/GYMNASIUM

LOCATION: South East Avenue and East Poplar Streets, Fort Gibson, Oklahoma 040, Muskogee County 101

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

OWNER: The City of Fort Gibson, City Hall, Fort Gibson, OK 74434

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Muskogee County Courthouse, Muskogee, OK 74401

DESCRIPTION: good condition; unaltered; original site

The school/gym is a single-story, E-shaped (171' x 124' at the outside edges), approximately twelve room building constructed of tooled native stone of buff and auburn colors in a random pattern. The roof of the school is gabled, has eyebrow gables as vents and has intersecting cross gables, while the roof of the gym is arched with parapets. The double sash wood windows of the classroom rest on continuous or slip sills, rise to the eaves, and are placed by twos or threes. In the gym the windows are metal encased. The double door front entry with fan lights is recessed behind an arch, the sides of which are constructed of interlaced brick and white stone and the voussoir and keystone of which are fashioned from pre-formed concrete. An identical theme is carried out on symmetrically placed gabled facades. The gym has unique protruding pilasters topped with concrete.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1940; builder/architect: unknown

This school/gymnasium is significant because it constituted an economically important community resource. Its construction provided wages for local families which were infused back into the depressed local economy. Jobs generated by the construction of the school restored a sense of pride to many men who might otherwise have been unable to provide for their families. For them WPA income was literally the difference between life and death. The school served for many years as an educational facility for children of the community. Architecturally, the structure is a remarkable example of vernacular style, and the pattern masonry is unique for WPA structures.

### GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Less than one acre

Quadrangle: Muskogee NE, Okla.  
1:24,000/7.5 min.

UTM: 15 297000 3963750

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The west 200 feet of block 72, Fort Gibson original.

PICTURE REFERENCE: 56-a; 56-b