

OKLAHOMA LANDMARKS INVENTORY NOMINATION

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

SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

OAKS MISSION SCHOOL GYMNASIUM

LOCATION: Main Street, Oaks, Oklahoma 040, Delaware County 041

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

OWNER: Oaks Board of Education, Box 70, Oaks, OK 74359

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Delaware County Courthouse, Jay, OK 74346

DESCRIPTION: good condition; altered; original site

This rectangular shaped (106' x 60') gym is constructed of cut and rusticated limestone laid randomly. It has a gabled roof with stepped parapets. The two double-door, recessed entries on the east have poured concrete awnings supported by stone brackets. Two other entries on the north are accessed by steps with stone sidewalls. The windows have stone sills and concrete lintels, but, sadly, most are covered with concrete blocks. The window alterations and an addition built on the west facade have destroyed the integrity of the structure.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1937; builder/architect: unknown

This Cherokee Mission school gymnasium is significant because it constituted an economically important community resource. Its construction provided wages from 37,000 man-hours of labor for local families which were infused back into the depressed local economy. Jobs generated by the construction of the gym restored a sense of pride to many men who might otherwise have been unable to provide for their families. The gym has served for almost fifty years as an educational facility for primarily Cherokee Indian children of the community. Architecturally the structure is significant for its stepped parapets, remarkable limestone materials, excellent masonry and vernacular design.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Less than one acre

Quadrangle: Kansas, Okla.
1:24,000/7.5 min.

UTM: Undetermined

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Block 3 of Oaks original

PICTURE REFERENCE: None