

OKLAHOMA LANDMARKS INVENTORY NOMINATION

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

SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

PICHER HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUS (Three Structures)

LOCATION: Ottawa and A Streets, Picher, Oklahoma 040, Ottawa County 115

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

OWNER: Picher Board of Education, Box 280, Picher, OK 74360

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Ottawa County Courthouse, Miami, OK 74354

DESCRIPTION: good condition; altered; original site

The Picher High School campus includes three WPA structures: the Hayman athletic field, a gymnasium, and a vocational education building. The massive (264' x 572') wall is constructed of coarse, uncut native stone on the interior and poured concrete on the exterior. Incorporated in the walls are two, pour concrete stands which on the west extends 240 feet and on the east 160 feet. Both stands rise six tiers. Unfortunately on the north end of the field the gym has been extended over and into the field area.

The gymnasium measures 100' x 95' and is constructed from random ashlar of an orange color. It has an arched roof with parapets capped with concrete. Concrete additions to the north and south walls have destroyed the integrity of this building.

The vocational education shop, located southwest of the gym, is a rectangular shaped (80' x 74') structure made of oversized orange concrete bricks. It has a monitor roof with wood siding covering the upper portion and projecting eaves. Single door entries are found at various places on the structure. Windows are singly placed and have concrete sills. A concrete block addition with a new roof has been built onto the west side of the building.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1936; builder/architect: unknown

WPA constructions at the Picher school are significant because they constituted an economically important community resource early in the depression era. Their construction provided local families with wages from some 15,000 man-hours of labor which were infused back into the depressed local economy. Jobs generated by the construction restored a sense of pride to many destitute and unemployed lead and zinc miners who might otherwise have been unable to provide for their families. The educational importance of the structures remains significant in that they are still being utilized by the school district.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: less than two acres

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

UTM: Undetermined

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: From the NE corner of the NW 1/4 of Sec. 20, T 29 N, R 23 E, go west 208 feet to a point of beginning; then go west 416 feet, south 624 feet, east 416 feet, and north 624 feet.

PICTURE REFERENCE: None