

OKLAHOMA LANDMARKS INVENTORY NOMINATION

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

SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

WAINWRIGHT SCHOOL AND GYMNASIUM

LOCATION: Second and Walnut streets, Wainwright, Oklahoma 040, Muskogee County 101

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

OWNER: Board of Education, Box 188, Wainwright, OK 74468

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

DESCRIPTION: good condition; altered; original site

This school of eight or more rooms is a rectangular (225' x 67') constructed of cut, coursed, and rusticated native stone of buff and auburn colors laid randomly. The roof is hipped with intersecting valleys and gables. The gable ends have stepped parapets; over the gym the roof tails off into a cat slide. On the front facade, the double door main entry with side and transom lights is located beneath a centrally placed gable and is accessed by steps with sidewalls. Facades that extend down from gables on the ends of the north front have three vertical insets filled with brick. Most of the windows are placed by threes; the windows at the entrance are paired. All windows contain cut limestone sills. The windows of the attached gymnasium are placed in threes and are arched; some have been filled with wood inserts. Elsewhere new energy-efficient windows have been added, but these do not impeach the integrity of the structure.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1941-42; builder/architect: unknown

The Wainwright School and Gymnasium was one of the latter educational complexes constructed in Oklahoma by the WPA. As such it is important architecturally for the maturity of workmanship the structure demonstrates and the sophistication of educational design. It suggests, too, that as late as 1941 the disastrous consequences of the depression were still being felt in southwestern Muskogee County, for the Wainwright project infused wages for some 92,000 man hours of labor into the local agricultural economy. At the same time the project permitted the employment of hard core relievers who continued out of work despite some general improvement of economic conditions nationwide. Educationally the building is significant because at one stroke the WPA permitted Wainwright to have totally new facilities for every grade level. In Wainwright, the WPA meant educational reformation and academic excellence.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Four acres

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

UTM: A-15 267630 3943750; B-15 267570 3943720

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: On the north edge of Wainwright, the property begin 624 feet north of the southwest corner of the SE 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Sec. 12, T 13 N, R 16 E, then goes east 416 feet, north 416 feet, west 416 feet and south 416 feet.

PICTURE REFERENCE: 66-a; 66-b