

OKLAHOMA LANDMARKS INVENTORY NOMINATION

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

SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

ARKOMA SCHOOL

LOCATION: Arkoma and Blocker Streets, Arkoma, Oklahoma 040, Leflore County 079

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

OWNER: Arkoma Board of Education, Box P, Arkoma, OK 74901

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Leflore County Courthouse, Poteau, OK 74953

DESCRIPTION: Good condition; altered; original site

A four-room building still used as an educational facility, the Arkoma school is a single story, rectangular (74' x 42') structure constructed of cut and coursed native sandstone. The hipped roof has a gable dormer without lights above the front entry archway and recessed doors. End doors are also recessed behind archways. Window openings with concrete sills have been filled with new metal windows or wood inserts. A concrete block structure has been attached to the south end and a portion of the west front. Fortunately the integrity of the building is still intact.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1936-1937; builder/architect: Okla. State Dept. of Education pattern book

Significantly, construction of the school building created jobs and some economic security for destitute coal miners and agricultural workers long on relief and short on self respect. Close to Fort Smith, Arkansas, the Arkoma area was particularly hard hit by the depression. The building also stimulated an interest in modern education and over the last 49 years has continued to nurture it. Within the community the structure is notable architecturally in terms of its allusion to Richardsonian Romanesque style, its materials, its scale and its character of workmanship.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Less than one acre

Quadrangle: South Fort Smith, Okla.
1:24,000/7.5 min.

UTM: 15 369770 3913150

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The nonimated property is contained within a rectangle centered on the above UTM reference point. The west line runs parallel to and 10' from the west wall of the building; the north line runs parallel to and 10' from the north wall of the building; the east wall runs parallel to and 10' from the east wall of the building; and the south line runs parallel to and 10' from the north wall of the building, all in Lots 5, 6 and 7, Block 4, Arkoma original

PICTURE REFERENCE: 85-A, 85-B