

OKLAHOMA LANDMARKS INVENTORY NOMINATION

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

SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

BETHEL SCHOOL

LOCATION: Vicinity of Shawnee, Oklahoma 040, Pottawatomie County 125; SW 1/4, Sec. 20, T 10 N, R 3 E

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

OWNER: Bethel Board of Education, Rt. 4, Box 402, Shawnee, OK 74801

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Pottawatomie County Courthouse, Shawnee, OK 74801

DESCRIPTION: excellent condition; altered; original site

A fourteen room school, the Bethel school building is a single-story, essentially rectangular (159' x 50') structure constructed of red brick. The roof is flat with parapets capped with pre-formed concrete blocks. The two front entryways are recessed behind arcade-type enclosures. The casement windows, set by twos, have brick sills and continuous lintels of soldier bricks. Brick additions at the east end and the northwest corner, and enclosure of one side entryway, have not compromised the integrity of the structure.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1936-1937; builder/architect: unknown

The Bethel School is significant because construction of it provided employment for laborers, many of whom had been out of work for over a year. The value of the WPA in the promotion of learning is evident from the fact that the building is still being used as a school today. The school building is unique because of type, style, scale, and workmanship. The arcade-like entryways are particularly significant when compared to other WPA-constructed schools and within the community of Bethel.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Two acres

Quadrangle: Shawnee Reservoir, Okla.
1:24,000/7.5 min.

UTM: 14 680310 3910100

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Located five and one-half miles west of Shawnee, the property begins at a point 208 feet west of the SW corner of Sec. 20, T 10 N, R 3 E, and goes north 208 feet, east 416 feet, south 208 feet and west 416 feet.

PICTURE REFERENCE: 59-a; 59-b