

OKLAHOMA LANDMARKS INVENTORY NOMINATION

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

SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

BUFFALO VALLEY SCHOOL AND GYMNASIUM

LOCATION: Vicinity of Talihina, Oklahoma 040, Latimer County 077; Sec. 18, T 3 N, R 20 E

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

OWNER: Buffalo Valley Board of Education, Rural Route #2, Box 250, Talihina, OK 74571

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Latimer County Courthouse, Wilburton, OK 74578

DESCRIPTION: excellent condition; unaltered; original site

A ten room or more building, the Buffalo Valley school and gymnasium is a single story, L-shaped (147' x 54' vertically and 63' x 116' horizontally) structure constructed of untooled and uncoursed native sandstone. The masonry rises to the level of art. The roof is flat with parapets except for that above the gym, where it is arched. The recessed entryway is at the outer angle of the L. Window placement is generally by fives, reaching to the level of the interior ceiling. Sash windows rest on concrete sills.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1942; builder/architect: unknown

The school building is significant because it provided work opportunities for unskilled and unemployed laborers in the isolated Buffalo Valley area, permitting them a measure of economic security. It was important as well because it promoted the cause of learning and provided a focus of community activity and spirit. School basketball teams became a source of pride at a time when there was little else in which to take pride. As a rural WPA building, the structure is notable for its size, quality of masonry, colorful rocks and lateness of construction. To the community it is unique architecturally because of its type, style, scale, workmanship and materials.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Two acres

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

UTM: 15 294410 3845400

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Follow state highway No. 1 west from Talihina and its intersection with state highway No. 2 approximately eleven miles to the site of the building on the north side of the road, it being on property described as starting 150 feet north and 309 feet west of the SE 1/4, of the NW 1/4 of Sec. 18, T 3 N, R 20 E, and running 268 feet north, 318 feet west, 268 feet south and 318 feet east.

PICTURE REFERENCE: 69-A, 69-B, 69-C