

OKLAHOMA LANDMARKS INVENTORY NOMINATION

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

SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

COLBERT SCHOOL GYMNASIUM/AUDITORIUM

LOCATION: Snider and Collins Streets, Colbert, Oklahoma 040, Bryan County 013; Sec. 18, T 8 S, R 8 E

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

OWNER: Colbert Board of Education, Box 310, Colbert, OK 74733

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Bryan County Courthouse, Durant, OK 74701

DESCRIPTION: excellent condition; altered; original site

The Colbert gym and auditorium is a single story, rectangular (74' x 102') structure constructed of poured concrete and painted white. The roof is arched with parapets; pilasters decorate the walls. Pilasters and vertical incising give the structure an art deco flavor. A concrete block/brick addition of 51' x 74' has been added to the front of the building. Since the addition required no structural changes in the gym, it retains its architectural integrity.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1937-1939; builder/architect: unknown

As a WPA building, the Colbert gym is notable in its poured concrete construction materials and its art deco style. Within the community it is unique architecturally because of its type, style, scale, materials and workmanship. Most significant is that construction of it provided work opportunities for destitute laborers in the Colbert area where none existed in the private sector and that it provided a place for school and community-wide activities, especially basketball competition. The latter fostered a sense of identity and pride not widely known in the region beforehand.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Less than one acre

Quadrangle: Dennison Dam, Okla.
1:24,000/7.5 min.

UTM: 14 730800 3749200

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: From a point 150 feet south of the intersection of Snider Ave. and Collins Street, in Sec. 18, T 8 S, R 8 E, go west 225 feet, south 125 feet, east 225 feet and north 125 feet.

PICTURE REFERENCE: 13-A, 13-B