

## OKLAHOMA LANDMARKS INVENTORY NOMINATION

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

SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

COWETA SCHOOL AND GYMNASIUM/AUDITORIUM

LOCATION: North Broadway Street, Oklahoma 040, Wagoner County 145

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

OWNER: Coweta Board of Education, Box 550, Coweta, OK 74429

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Wagoner County Courthouse, Wagoner, OK 74467

DESCRIPTION: excellent condition; altered; original site

Constructed of uncut and unrusted native sandstone and laid with beaded mortar, the Coweta school classroom and gymnasium is L-shaped (309' x 58' section vertical to a 108' x 59' section, the latter the gym) with a flat roof except over the gym where it is arched. Both roof lines are parapeted. Wall caps and window sills are of pre-formed concrete. Window openings in the classroom wing have been reduced in size with wood inserts and metal sash windows installed, while in the gym the original metal casement windows are intact (except in the rear where openings have been enclosed with inserts of wood). Two entryways on the front of the classroom section, recessed behind arches, are symmetrically placed. Pilasters at these entries and along the exterior walls of the gym, wall extensions and angular lines in general give the building a faint art deco style. A wall enlarging an enclosed passageway connecting the gym with the educational facility has been added, but it no way affects the architectural integrity of the building.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1937-38 (gym), 1939 (classrooms); architect/builder: unknown

The Coweta educational facility is unique in that its uncut and unrusted native stone exterior is unusual for WPA buildings of such size and urban setting. It is especially significant that the classrooms and gym are still in use, indicating that education in Coweta would over time have been seriously handicapped without them. Architecturally, the buildings are notable for their style and workmanship. The size of the structures and that they were under construction for almost three years meant that a number of workers long unemployed were given meaningful jobs and economic security. Moreover, the local economy was infused with the wages of more than 100,000 man-hours of labor.

### GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: less than one acre

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

UTM: A-15 261050 3981820; B-15 261050 3981710

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Lots 13-17, Block 30, and Lots 18-22, Block 37, New Coweta

PICTURE REFERENCE: 156-a; 156-b; 156-c