

OKLAHOMA LANDMARKS INVENTORY NOMINATION

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

SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

CROWDER SCHOOL AND GYMNASIUM

LOCATION: East Bond Street, Crowder, Oklahoma 040, Pittsburg County 121

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

OWNER: Crowder Board of Education, Box B, Crowder, OK 74430

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Pittsburg County Courthouse, McAlester, OK 74501

DESCRIPTION: excellent condition; altered; original site

A building of more than fifteen classrooms, the Crowder school and gymnasium is a single story, E-shaped (206' along the vertical segment and 94' along the horizontal wings) structure constructed of rusticated native sandstone coursed but randomly placed. Masonry is excellent; the mortar is incised. With the exception of over the gym where it is slightly arched, the roof is flat with parapets. Windows, which extend to the level of interior ceilings and rest on cut stone sills, are placed by threes except on the central front section where they are singly placed. Angular lines and vertical extension of the roof lend an art deco flavor to the building. Installation of energy efficient metal windows has not impeached the architectural integrity of the building.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1940; architect/builder: unknown

Dependent upon the coal mining industry, the Crowder community was particularly hard hit by the depression. The school building is significant because construction of it provided work opportunities for destitute miners, enabling them to sustain themselves and their families without resorting to begging. The building also considerably improved the community's school plant, creating a new physical environment that promoted learning. As a rural WPA building, it is remarkable for its scale/size and its stylistic allusion to art deco. To the community it is unique architecturally because of its style, scale, materials and workmanship.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Less than one acre

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

UTM: 15 256680 3889860

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Lots 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, Block 23, Crowder original

PICTURE REFERENCE: 132-A, 132-B, 132-C