

OKLAHOMA LANDMARKS INVENTORY NOMINATION

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

SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

FORT TOWSON HIGH SCHOOL AND GYMNASIUM

LOCATION: 3rd and Cincinnati, Fort Towson, Oklahoma 040, Choctaw County 023

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

OWNER: Fort Towson Board of Education, Box 37, Fort Towson, OK 74735

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Choctaw County Courthouse, Hugo, OK 74743

DESCRIPTION: Excellent condition; altered; original site

A building of more than ten classrooms, the Fort Towson high school and gymnasium is a single story, rectangular (122' x 141') structure with an offset constructed of untooled and uncoursed native stone, primarily grey in color. With the exception of the gym where it is arched, the roof is flat with parapets. Window openings reach to the level of interior ceilings, lintels are of pre-formed concrete, and windows are arranged by twos and threes. On the west front of the gym has been placed a concrete block addition; it does not impair the structural integrity of the building, although it is visually distracting.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1938-1939; builder/architect: unknown

The school building is significant because it enhanced the cause of learning in a region generally deficient in educational interest, providing for the first time a "real" high school. The gymnasium encouraged competitive sports and provided a focus for community activity. For unskilled and unemployed laborers in the rural Fort Towson community construction of the facility meant job opportunities and economic security. As a rural WPA school, the structure is unique because of its grey color (limestone) and its size (scale). To the community it is architecturally unique in its faint art deco style, materials, and workmanship.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Less than one acre

Quadrangle: Fort Towson, Okla.
1:24,000/7.5 min.

UTM: 15 290425 3766660

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Lots 1, 2, 5 and 6, Block 20, Fort Towson original

PICTURE REFERENCE: 26-A, 26-B