

OKLAHOMA LANDMARKS INVENTORY NOMINATION

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

SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

HIGGINS SCHOOL

LOCATION: Vicinity of Hartshorne, Oklahoma 040, Latimer County 077; Sec. 17, T 4 N, R 18 E

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

OWNER: Higgins Community Improvement Club, Rural Route, Wilburton, OK 74578

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

DESCRIPTION: Good; unaltered; original site

A two-room building originally, the Higgins school is a single story, rectangular (30' x 78') structure with an offset and is constructed of rusticated and coursed native sandstone. Covered by composition shingles, the roof is gabled with one step; classroom wood sash windows reach to the eaves; two of the three entryways are recessed behind arches. There is a faint allusion to Richardsonian Romanesque style.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1937-1938; builder/architect: Okla. State Dept. of Education pattern book

The school building is significant because construction of it provided work opportunities for virtually destitute laborers who had been hard hit economically by the closing of the coal mines in the early 1930s. Within the Higgins community the building is unique architecturally because of its type, Richardsonian style, scale, materials and workmanship. Of course, the structure strengthened the commitment of the community to formal education, a commitment that directly affected the future well being of hundreds of youngsters. As a community center, it today is still important in the life of area residents.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Two acres

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

UTM: 15 277230 3854705

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Follow state highway No. 1 east from Hartshorne to the Latimer County line and continue east four and one-half miles to school building property on the north side of the road, it being a two acre square tract (295 feet by 295 feet) in the SE corner of the SW 1/4 of Sec. 17, T 4 N, R 18 E.

PICTURE REFERENCE: 73-A, 73-B