

OKLAHOMA LANDMARKS INVENTORY NOMINATION

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

SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

KEMP HIGH SCHOOL

LOCATION: Main and 6th Streets, Kemp, Oklahoma 040, Bryan County 013

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

OWNER: Town of Kemp, Kemp, OK 74747

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

DESCRIPTION: Good condition; altered; original site

A six-room building, Kemp High School is a single story, rectangular (54' x 114') structure constructed both of cut and uncut native stone. The exterior walls of undressed stone have horizontal friezes of cut and lighter colored stone; pilasters with vertical frieze decorate the entryway. For external chimneys also contain vertical friezes. Masonry in this structure becomes an artform. The roof is hipped, and window openings, with concrete sills and that reach to the eaves, have been enclosed with wood inserts. The later alteration, however, does not impeach the architectural integrity of the building.

SIGNIFICANCE: ca. 1940; builder/architect: Okla. State Dept. of Education pattern book

As a rural WPA building, the structure is notable for the quality of its masonry, especially the horizontal friezes in the exterior walls. To the community the building is architecturally unique because of its type, style, scale, materials and workmanship. Other WPA educational structures within Kemp have been destroyed. The building is also significant because it provided work opportunities for unskilled and unemployed labor made destitute by the depression of the agricultural economy. Moreover, it created a new environment conducive to learning for students unaccustomed to modern educational facilities.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Less than one acre

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

UTM: 14 745020 3739760

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Lots 1, 2 and 3, Block 10, Kemp original

PICTURE REFERENCE: 20-A, 20-B, 20-C