

OKLAHOMA LANDMARKS INVENTORY NOMINATION

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

SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

PERNELL SCHOOL AND GYMNASIUM

LOCATION: Vicinity of Pernell, Oklahoma 040, Garvin County 049; NW 1/4, Sec. 22, T 1 N, R 3 W

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

OWNER: Pernell Board of Education; Box 87, Pernell, OK 73076

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Garvin County Courthouse, Pauls Valley, OK 73075

DESCRIPTION: excellent; altered; original site

Single story and consisting of nine classrooms and a gym, the Pernell School is L-shaped (250' x 57' vertically, with a 45' x 65' horizontal extension) and is constructed of rusticated and coursed native sandstone. The roof is arched over the gym and flat above the classrooms; parapets, capped with pre-formed concrete blocks, extend above the roof line. On two of the entryways, exterior walls curve into the recessed doors; all entries are covered with a flat porch of poured concrete; the porch of the main front entry is supported on one side with a poured concrete wall with circle openings; and above the gym entry decorative concrete panels rise to the roof line. All of these features give the building a distinct art deco flavor. Also above the door of the main entry is an inscription. With pre-formed concrete sills, window openings reach to the level of interior ceilings. Excepting the gymnasium, original metal casement windows have been replaced with energy efficient aluminum sash windows. Concrete block additions to the rear corner of the gymnasium do not affect the architectural integrity of the building.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1941-1942; architect/builder: Harold E. Flood

The significance of this facility is primarily in its distinct allusion to art deco architectural style. As such it reflects that over time WPA construction became more conscious of design, incorporating academic styles even in native stone structures. Within the community the building is wholly unique in terms of type, style, materials and workmanship. And the building has had important educational implications: it replaced a condemned wood building, it announced the beginning of modern education within the very rural community of Pernell, and it continues to be the only educational facility in the community.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: less than two acres

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

UTM: 14 636770 3823880

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: On the south edge of the Pernell community, the

property begins at a point 208 feet south and 100 feet east of the NW corner of Section 22, T 1 N, R 3 W, and goes south 312 feet, east 312 feet, north 312 feet and west 312 feet.

PICTURE REFERENCE: 20-a; 20-b; 20-c