

## OKLAHOMA LANDMARKS INVENTORY NOMINATION

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

SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

PITTSBURG SCHOOL AND GYMNASIUM

LOCATION: Vicinity of Pittsburg, Oklahoma 040, Pittsburg County 121; Sec. 20, T 3 N, R 14 E

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

OWNER: Pittsburg Board of Education, Box 118, Pittsburg, OK 74560

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

DESCRIPTION: excellent condition; unaltered; original site

A building of some fifteen classrooms, the Pittsburg school and gymnasium is a single story, U-shaped (152' across; 152' on one wing; 132' on another) structure constructed of buff brick. The roof is flat with parapets. Wood sash or metal casement windows rise to interior ceilings and are placed by twos and threes. Doors are recessed behind arches. Red tiles over the front entry ways, the gym entry pediment, and a scrolled cornice above the gym give the building an architectural style reminiscent of mission revival and art deco.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1936-37; architect/builder: unknown

As a rural WPA school building, it is remarkable for its scale/size, its use of buff colored brick, and its art deco/mission revival style. To the community it is unique architecturally because of its type, style, scale and workmanship. But the school building is especially significant because it provided work opportunities for unemployed coal miners primarily in the Pittsburg area who had long been on state relief rolls, giving them some self respect and a measure of economic security. In that the structure provided space for a grade school and a high school as well as a gym, it constituted the beginning of modern education in the area--which it continues to nurture.

### GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Two acres

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

UTM: 15 738630 3844780

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Situated on the western edge of the community, the school property is described as a two acre square tract (295 feet by 295 feet) in the SE corner, of the SW 1/4, of the NW 1/4, of the SE 1/4 of Sec. 20, T 3 N, R 13 E.

PICTURE REFERENCE: 144-A, 144-B