

OKLAHOMA LANDMARKS INVENTORY NOMINATION

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

SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

POTEAU SCHOOL GYMNASIUM/AUDITORIUM

LOCATION: Walter and Parker Streets, Poteau, Oklahoma 040, Leflore County 079

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

OWNER: Poteau Board of Education, 300 N. Walter, Poteau, OK 74953

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Leflore County Courthouse, Poteau, OK 74953

DESCRIPTION: excellent condition; altered; original site

The Poteau gym and auditorium is a two story, rectangular (100' x 78') structure constructed of rusticated and coursed, cream colored native sandstone. The roof is both flat and gabled, with parapets. The facade on the south front is slightly extended and contains two entryways with arches. Side doors and upper and lower windows with concrete sills have been enclosed with concrete blocks. These alterations do not impeach the integrity of the structure.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1936-1937; builder/architect: unknown

The gym/auditorium is significant because it provided space for school and community activities, especially basketball, which fostered a sense of identity and pride lacking in the depression era. Construction of it also provided work opportunities for unskilled and unemployed laborers in the Poteau area where few had existed previously. As a WPA building, the structure is notable for its size/scale. Within the community it is unique architecturally because of its type, style, scale, materials and workmanship.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Less than one acre

Quadrangle: Poteau East, Okla.
1:24,000/7.5 min.

UTM: 15 352500 3879760

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Lot 7, Block 64, Poteau original

PICTURE REFERENCE: 109-A, 109-B