

## OKLAHOMA LANDMARKS INVENTORY NOMINATION

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

SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

RED OAK SCHOOL AND GYMNASIUM

LOCATION: North Main Street, Red Oak, Oklahoma 040, Latimer County 077

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

OWNER: Red Oak Board of Education, Box 310, Red Oak, OK 74563

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

DESCRIPTION: Excellent condition; unaltered; original site

A building of ten or more classrooms, the Red Oak school and gymnasium is a single story, essentially rectangular (222' x 67', with 69' x 75' vertical extension for the gym) structure constructed of rusticated and coursed native sandstone. The roof is flat with parapets except for the gym where it is arched. Two different front entryways are recessed behind arches; pilasters, two with decorative rock work, are symmetrically placed on the exterior. Windows are grouped by threes; openings reach to the level of interior ceilings, the size of which has been reduced by wood inserts. A beautiful stone fence surrounds the entire school yard.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1939-1940; builder/architect: Okla. State Dept. of Education pattern book

The school building is significant because it provided work opportunities for unskilled and unemployed coal miners and agricultural workers in the rural Red Oak community, offering some economic security and promoting self esteem. It also furthered the cause of modern education and provided a source of community pride, especially in the victories of the basketball team playing in the new gym. As a rural WPA school building, the structure is remarkable because of its scale. To the community it is unique architecturally because of its art deco-like style and the quality of workmanship.

### GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Less than one acre

Quadrangle: Red Oak, Okla.  
1:24,000/7.5 min.

UTM: 15 310150 3869900

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: All of Lot 9 and the east one-half of Lot 10, Addition One to Red Oak original.

PICTURE REFERENCE: 81-A, 81-B