

OKLAHOMA LANDMARKS INVENTORY NOMINATION

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

SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

ROBERT E. LEE SCHOOL

LOCATION: 9th and Louisiana Streets, Durant, Oklahoma 040, Bryan County 013

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

OWNER: Durant Board of Education, 405 N. 5th Street, Durant, OK 74701

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

DESCRIPTION: excellent condition; altered; original site

A building of twelve or more rooms, Robert E. Lee school is a single story, L-shaped (189' vertically, and 114' horizontally) structure constructed of buff brick laid with a running bond. The roof is flat with parapets; the doors are recessed within towers capped by pyramidal roofs of spanish tile. Entryways into the towers are arched. Decorative cornices midway on the wings, the towers, red roof tile, archways and buff brick give a Spanish colonial motif to the building. Window placement on concrete sills is by twos and threes. Original windows have been replaced by ones more energy efficient. The new windows do not infringe upon the architectural integrity of the building.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1937; builder/architect: Albert S. Ross

The school building is significant because construction of it enabled destitute laborers in the Durant area to find useful employment after months, if not years, of unemployment. Also the structure created an educational environment more conducive to learning. As a WPA school building, the structure is notable for its stylistic allusion to Spanish colonial architecture and its use of brick building materials. It also suggests the relative "prosperity" of urban school districts as opposed to those in rural areas. Within the community the building is unique architecturally because of its style and workmanship.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Less than one acre

Quadrangle: Durant South, Okla.
1:24,000/7.5 min.

UTM: 14 741480 3763880

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Lots 7 and 8, Block 246, Durant original

PICTURE REFERENCE: 18-A, 18-B