

OKLAHOMA LANDMARKS INVENTORY NOMINATION

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

SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

SPIRO HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING

LOCATION: State Highway 9 West, Spiro, Oklahoma 040, Leflore County 079

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

OWNER: Spiro Board of Education, Box 118, Spiro, OK 74959

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

DESCRIPTION: excellent condition; unaltered; original site

A building of fifteen or more rooms, Spiro High School is a single story, U-shaped (149' frontage with wings of 137' on the west and 92' on the east) structure constructed of uncut and general uncoursed native stone. The wings were constructed at different dates by separate WPA crews as the east wing has beaded mortar while the west does not. Windows with concrete sills are arranged by threes except on the central front section where they are set by twos. Over the later are square lintels fashioned from pre-formed concrete slabs. The roof is flat with parapets; doors are recessed behind archways. Stylistically the structure alludes to art deco.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1936-1939; builder/architect: unknown

The school building is significant because it created a new environment conducive to learning for students previously housed in a brick structure cramped for space. As a WPA building, the high school is notable for its allusion to art deco style and for its scale, suggesting the relative "prosperity" of urban school districts as opposed to those in rural areas. Within the Spiro community the building is unique architecturally in terms of style, scale, materials and workmanship. At a time when there were none, significantly, construction of the school provided jobs for destitute workers, enabling them to survive the dark days of the depression.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Two acres

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

UTM: 15 351840 3900720

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: From the northeast corner of the School Addition, Spiro original, go west 416 feet to a point of beginning, then go south 280 feet, west 280 feet, north 280 feet and east 280 feet.

PICTURE REFERENCE: 111-A, 111-B