

## OKLAHOMA LANDMARKS INVENTORY NOMINATION

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

SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

TUSKAHOMA SCHOOL CAMPUS (Four structures)

LOCATION: Vicinity of Tuskahoma, Oklahoma 040, Pushmataha County 127; Sec. 26, T 2 N, R 19 E

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

OWNER: Tuskahoma Board of Education, Box 97, Tuskahoma, OK 74574

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Pushmataha County Courthouse, Antlers, OK 74523

DESCRIPTION: excellent condition; altered; original site

The Tuskahoma school campus includes four WPA structures: an home economics building, a gymnasium/auditorium, a teacherage and a well house. The home economics building is a single story, essentially rectangular (65' x 50') structure with offsets and is constructed of untooled and uncoursed, river washed sandstone, polished and vividly red. The roof is gabled, with intersecting gables at either end on the front. Between the intersecting gables is a porch and entryway without a covering; on the back side of the building is an exterior chimney. On the west end the window opening that reaches to the eaves has been reduced in size with wood inserts and smaller, energy efficient windows installed. Original wood sash windows are utilized elsewhere. A beautiful building, the window alteration does not impeach its architectural integrity.

Some 525 feet south of the home economics building is located the gym. A rectangular (95' x 82') structure, the gym is constructed also of untooled and uncoursed dark red native sandstone with beaded mortar. The roof is arched. Parapets and pilasters give the building an art deco flavor. Wood sash windows on pre-formed concrete sills have been painted white.

Directly west of the gym 114 feet is the well house. Measuring 11 feet by 11 feet, four foot high walls with pilasters at the corners are constructed of untooled and uncoursed native sandstone. A wood frame with clapboard siding extends the walls another foot higher. A hipped roof covers the structure.

One hundred twenty-three feet directly south of the well house is the teacherage. Shot-gun in style, the teacherage is wood frame and covered by clapboard siding. The roof is gabled. The porch roof is also gabled, supported by a pedistal and three small shafts on each corner. Blind rails enclose most of the porch. Double sash windows are placed by twos.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1937-1940; builder/architect: unknown

The four structures are significant because construction of them provided work opportunities for unskilled and destitute laborers, many of whom were of Choctaw Indian extraction. "Useful" jobs came along just in time to prevent the total economic and spiritual collapse of the Tuskahoma community. Obviously an inducement to education and group pride, the structures demonstrate a comprehensive approach by the WPA to education: clean water,

home management, athletic facilities and teacher inducements. As rural WPA school buildings, they are remarkable for their number and size. Within the Tuskahoma community they are notable for their type, style, scale, materials and workmanship.

**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:**

Acreage: Two acres

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

UTM: A—15 291380 3882950; B--15 291400 3882840; C--15 291340 3882790

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:** The school buildings are located one quarter of a mile south on U.S. highway No. 271 on the paved county road leading to Tuskahoma. The property has a point of beginning in the SW corner of the NE 1/4, of the SW 1/4, of the NE 1/4 in Sec. 26, T 2 N, R 19 E, and runs east 450 feet, north 330 feet, west 120 feet, north 330 feet, west 115 feet, south 330 feet, west 115 feet, and south 330 feet to the point of beginning.

**PICTURE REFERENCE:** 157-A, 157-B, 157-C, 157-D, 157-E, 157-F, 157-G, 157-H