

## OKLAHOMA LANDMARKS INVENTORY NOMINATION

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

SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

VARNUM SCHOOL SHOP

LOCATION: Vicinity of Seminole, Oklahoma 040, Seminole County 133; NE 1/4, Sec.5, T9N, R6E.

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

OWNER: Varnum Board of Education, Route 4, Box 148, Seminole, OK 74868

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Seminole County Courthouse, Wewoka, OK 74884

DESCRIPTION: excellent condition; altered; original site

The WPA built a single-story, rectangular shaped (51' x 34'), one-room shop on the Varnum School campus. It is constructed from rusticated and coursed native sandstone. The roof is gabled; a single doorway faces south while a double entry door is located on the west side. The metal casement windows rest on concrete sills. Enclosure of some windows by wood inserts has not compromised the integrity of the building. A small gabled roof supported by two wood shafts covers the single entry door.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1936; builder/architect: unknown

The school building at Varnum is significant in that it was constructed by unskilled laborers drawn from the relief rolls. Many of these men had been out of work for several years. They could either receive handouts from the dole or they could be allowed to work on government-sponsored and financed projects and thus remain productive. The shop that they produced at Varnum is notable for its type, style, and materials. It also demonstrates the willingness of the WPA to sponsor projects fostering innovative curriculum changes- here vocational education.

### GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: less than one acre

Quadrangle: Prague SW, Okla.  
1:24,000/7.5 min.

UTM: 14 710100 3906970

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Go four miles north on State Highway 99 and one mile west of Seminole to vicinity of school property, a tract 10 feet north, east, south and west of the north, east, south, and west wall of the structure centered on the above referenced UTM, in the NE, NE 1/4 of Sec. 5, T 9 N, R 6 E.

PICTURE REFERENCE: 82-a; 82-b