

OKLAHOMA LANDMARKS INVENTORY NOMINATION

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

SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

WALKER SCHOOL AND GYMNASIUM

LOCATION: Vicinity of Pauls Valley, Oklahoma 040, Garvin County 049; NW 1/4, Sec. 16, T 3 N, R 2 E

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

OWNER: Walker Board of Education, Route 1, Wynnewood, OK 73098

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Garvin County Courthouse, Pauls Valley, OK 73075

DESCRIPTION: excellent; altered; original site

An eight room class and gymnasium building, the Walker School is U-shaped, measuring 169 feet across the north front and 83 feet on each of the two sides. The interior courtyard is 28 by 30 feet. The building is constructed of red brick with a flat roof and parapets. The front doorway is recessed behind an entry framed with pilasters and a roofline pediment. The pediment and wall caps are of cut limestone, as is the lintel above the east entryway. Window openings, with pre-formed concrete sills, have been reduced in size with wood inserts and energy efficient aluminum sash windows installed, except on the gym where original metal casement windows remain. The window alterations have not affected the integrity of the architectural style of the building.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1939; architect/builder: Harold F. Flood

The Walker School and Gymnasium is significant in that its size, brick materials and professional architectural design are unusual for rural educational plants constructed by the WPA. Within the community itself it is unique architecturally in terms of type, style, materials and workmanship. The school is also symbolic of the consolidation movement common to the 1930s when several rural schools combined into one district. This combination and the WPA-built facility permitted educators to introduce an advanced curriculum into the region. Of course, the construction of such a large facility permitted destitute agricultural and oil field workers to find steady employment after years of being on relief rolls.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Less than two acres

Quadrangle: Pauls Valley NE, Okla.
1:24,000/7.5 min.

UTM: 14 673590 3845380

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Situated six and one-half miles east of Pauls Valley on a paved county road, the Walker school occupies property that begins 208 feet south of the NE corner of the NW 1/4 of Sec. 16, T 3 N, R 2 E and runs 325 feet west, 175 feet south, 325 feet east and 175 feet north.

PICTURE REFERENCE: 23-a; 23-b