

OKLAHOMA LANDMARKS INVENTORY NOMINATION

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

SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

WASHINGTON SCHOOL

LOCATION: Louisa and Hayes Streets, Shawnee, Oklahoma 040, Pottawatomie County 125

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

OWNER: Shawnee Board of Education, 326 N. Union, Shawnee, OK 74801

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Pottawatomie County Courthouse, Shawnee, OK 74801

DESCRIPTION: excellent condition; unaltered; original site

The Washington Elementary School is an exceptionally attractive brick building. It is a two-story, essentially rectangular (167' x 76') structure with a single-story wing on each end of the structure. The building has a basement that is completely above ground on the west end. The front of the wings extend out from the central portion of the building and have round walls. The building has a flat roof with concrete capped parapets which are significantly lower on the wings. The central front, three door entry is covered by a poured concrete porch roof, while the side, two door auditorium entrance is framed by three lines of darker colored brick. The windows, placed in various patterns, have continuous sills and lintels of the darker colored brick. Two bay-type windows are located on the rear. The vertical lines, the friezes and the rounded corners give the structure a distinct art deco flavor.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1937; builder/architect: unknown

Washington School is significant because of its clear reference to art deco style, and because it reflects the dramatic difference between rural and urban schools. One frequently draws upon academic schools of architecture, while the other almost always does not. Construction also provided employment opportunities for men made destitute by the depression and facilitated the educational processes by providing an environment more conducive to learning.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: 1.25 acres

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

UTM: 14 688350 3910280

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Lots 1 through 5 in Block 66 and Lots 14, 15, and 16 in Block 101, A.P. addition

PICTURE REFERENCE: 65-a; 65-b