

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 GYMNASIUM

LOCATION: 116 Gale Street, Seminole, Oklahoma 040, Seminole County 133

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

OWNER: Indian Baptist Church, 116 Gale Street, Seminole, OK 74868

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

DESCRIPTION: good condition; unaltered; original site

The old Washington School Gymnasium is a single-story, rectangular (103' x 66') structure. It is constructed of untooled and uncoursed stone. The roof is arched with arched parapets on the ends of the building. The front entry is recessed and framed by pilasters, and a square arch. An additional wooden entry is located on the southwest side. All the casement windows except for the rear window are currently covered with green fiberglass insets. The integrity of the building has not been compromised.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1936; builder/architect: unknown

The gymnasium at the old Washington School, a segregated black school, is unique to its setting because of its type, scale, materials, and workmanship. Most of those who worked on the project were black laborers. Construction of the gym provided jobs for many men who were on relief rolls because there were no jobs available in the private sector. The gymnasium also provided educational and recreational facilities for black youths and contributed to their sense of identity and self-esteem, qualities that would have been slow to develop had it not been for the WPA facility.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: less than one acre

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

UTM: 14 711900 3899750

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: A tract 10 feet north, east, south and west of the north, east, south and west walls of the structure centered upon the above referenced UTM, in Block 6 in the Southwest Addition #2 to Seminole original.

PICTURE REFERENCE: 80-a; 80-b