

National Register of Historic Places  
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Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 3

Educational Resources Associated With All-Black Towns in Oklahoma

The school originally served the all-black town as its only high school during an era when Red Bird's population peaked at approximately 400 and when Oklahoma statutes provided for separate high schools for blacks. It remained in that capacity until the 1950s when school consolidation forced transfer of secondary students to a high school with larger enrollment and one that was integrated. From the mid-1950s to 1977, the property housed the Red Bird elementary school. At that time, the elementary school closed due to small enrollments.

The Miller-Washington School, built ca. 1920 served the all-black town of Red Bird for more than 55 years as the principal educational institution of the community and stands today as the only remaining educational resource of the community.

Major Bibliographical References:

Tolson, Arthur L., The Black Oklahomans, A History: 1541-1972. New Orleans: Edwards Printing Co., 1972.

Personal Interview: Isaac and Josephine Cook, July, 1983.

Quadrangle Name: Red Bird, OK

Scale: 7.5 minutes

UTM: 15/266512/3975400

Verbal Boundary Description: Lots 8-20, Block 122, Original Townsite of Red Bird, OK.

✓ 2. Rosenwald Hall (No. 2 on Sketch Map and Photo Nos. 5-9)

Location: College Street  
Lima, OK 74884

County: Seminole Code: 133

Owner of Property: New Lima School District  
C/O Bryce Hill  
Lima, OK 74884

Location of Legal Description: Office of County Clerk  
Seminole County Courthouse  
Wewoka, OK 74884

Description: Rosenwald Hall is a rectangular-shaped, detached, educational building with flat roof. Its wall finish consists of red brick laid in running with a header/stretcher course every sixth layer. The rear, east, and west sides have partial finishes of clapboard painted white and the raised basement, especially visible along western end of facade and west side, is of native sandstone laid in random pattern. The flat roof has a two foot parapet along the facade and extending around midway on east and west sides. Square-shaped chimney stacks are located on northeast and southwest corners.

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date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 4

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The facade, or south side, has a segmental arched entryway which frames a wooden double door entrance topped with a fixed pane transom of six lights. There are eight, double-hung sash windows, six of which have 6/8 lights and the other two 4/6 lights. Two openings in facade have been bricked in and two of the eight remaining windows have been reduced in size with bricking at lower level. At the basement level on west end of the facade are two segmental arched openings which have been covered with wood paneling.

The east side has three sets of fixed pane windows each of which have twenty lights. There is a plain metal door located in center of east wall.

The west side has four sets of fixed paned windows two of which have twenty lights and the other two have fifteen lights. The raised basement has five segmental arched openings which have been covered with wood paneling. There is a plain wooden door located near the southwest corner of the west side. A small shed roof protects this entrance.

The rear, or north side, has band of four windows, the outer two have fifteen lights and the inner two have twenty lights,

Decorative elements include a small pediment in parapet above the main entryway, segmental arches of brick above main entrance alcove and above window openings at basement level, rowlock brick at cornice level and horizontal plane division between main floor and basement levels, and a masonry inscription above front door which reads "19 ROSENWALD HALL 21".

Although some of the windows have been bricked in, the basic integrity of the building has been preserved for more than 62 years.

Statement of Significance: The Rosenwald Hall, built in 1921, is historically significant because it is the only remaining school in the all-black town of Lima founded in 1907 and it is the only remaining school building in any of the existing twelve all-black towns constructed with funds by the Julius Rosenwald Foundation, a philanthropic organization which funded educational facilities for blacks in the American South. It is estimated that by 1930 approximately ten percent of all black children in Oklahoma studied in school buildings constructed with the aid of Rosenwald funds.

Rosenwald Hall served the all-black community of Lima from 1921 to 1966 as the only elementary school, a period of 45 years. Since 1966, the property has been used as a day care center and is still owned by the Lima School District. For more than 62 years, Rosenwald Hall has stood as an educational symbol for blacks in the Lima area and continues to play a vital role in the social history of the town.

Major Bibliographic References:

Franklin, Jimmie Lewis, Journey Toward Hope. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1982.

Personal Interview: Bryce Hill, July, 1983.

Quadrangle Name: Wewoka West, OK

Scale: 7.5 minutes

UTM: 14/717700/3894770