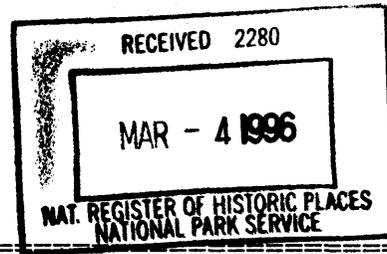


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



1. Name of Property

historic name Chandler High School

other names/site number Chandler Memorial Elementary School

2. Location

street & number 515 Steele Avenue not for publication N/A
city or town Chandler vicinity N/A
state Oklahoma code OK county Lincoln code 081
zip code 74834

=====
5. Classification
=====

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u> 1 </u>	<u> 0 </u> buildings
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u> sites
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u> structures
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u> objects
<u> 1 </u>	<u> 0 </u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) WPA Resources in Lincoln County, Oklahoma

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: EDUCATION Sub: school

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: EDUCATION Sub: _____
RECREATION AND CULTURE museum

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Moderne

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE
roof ASPHALT
walls STONE: limestone
other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====

8. Statement of Significance

=====

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ECONOMICS

ARCHITECTURE

EDUCATION

Period of Significance 1940-1943

Significant Dates 1940

=====
8. Statement of Significance (Continued)
=====

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
 N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Koberling and Fleming, architects
 Works Progress Administration, builder

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====
9. Major Bibliographical References
=====

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)
 preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data
 State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other

Name of repository: Chandler Public Library

=====
10. Geographical Data
=====

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	14	691610	3953110	3	—	—
2	—	—	—	4	—	—
	N/A See continuation sheet.					

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Cynthia Smelker
organization Okla. Historic Preservation Survey date 1 July 1993
street & number Oklahoma State University telephone (405) 744-5679
city or town Stillwater state OK zip code 74078-0611

=====
Additional Documentation
=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage
or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====
Property Owner
=====

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Chandler Schools

street & number 515 Steele Avenue/P.O. Box 576 telephone _____

city or town Chandler state OK zip code 74834-2632
=====

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 9

Chandler High School
name of property
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county and State

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SUMMARY

Chandler High School is the largest school built by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in Lincoln County, Oklahoma. Built over a three year period beginning in 1940, the school cost nearly 110,000 dollars. Constructed under the direction of the Tulsa architectural firm of Koberling and Fleming, the school is located within the incorporated bounds of Lincoln County's primary city, Chandler. The building, with a prominent horizontal emphasis, exhibits the Moderne influence evident in many of the urban, architect designed WPA buildings. The school also features many WPA Standardized style characteristics, such as native stone construction material and an overall permanence in design. The school is T-shaped with a partial basement under the central and north wings. The central portion of the building is two-story with one-story wings. The school is located in the midst of a residential development dating from roughly the 1920s and 1930s. The building no longer functions as a school. Currently, the district administrative offices are located there, as well as a Chandler School District museum. Additionally, the district may make the building available as office space to various businesses. Although the windows and doors have been altered, the building retains its architectural integrity.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

Larger than the typical WPA school with thirteen classrooms and a spacious auditorium, the T-shaped Chandler High School is both one- and two-story high; the center section of the building is two-stories, while the intersecting wings are one-story. The first floor contains administrative offices in the center with classrooms flanking a north-south central hall and the spacious auditorium to the east. Immediately above the auditorium on the second floor and occupying all available space is the school library. Below the auditorium stage area, was a partial basement used as a bandroom. The school's roof is flat with a white cast coping. The walls are constructed of polychromatic native limestone with a concrete foundation. Besides the primary entrance, there are two entry porches located on either side of the wings and three single entries towards the rear of the building. The primary entrance consists of two single, modern, glazed slab doors, while the side porches contain double modern glazed slab doors. The single entries remain wood paneled doors. The windows have all been partially infilled and altered to fixed aluminum to be more energy efficient. Air conditioning units have likewise been placed in one window in each classroom, front and rear. Two white cast belt courses encircle the building accentuating the ribbon windows and rusticated stone. Over the building's three principal entries are eight cast ornamental plaques, four in

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the front entrance and two in each of the side entries. These plaques depict various school related activities, as well as encouraging quotes. The decorative element of the white cast belt courses and coping, as well as the curved corners, are a few of the distinctive features of the school, as well as representative of the more stylistic Art Moderne style.

Located atop a hill, the primary elevation of the high school faces east (Photograph 1). The central portion of the elevation is two-stories with one-story wings extending to the north and south. The wings are divided into bands of seven ribbon windows with three bands on the south and four on the north. The center portion contains the primary entrance and four single windows. The main entrance, decorated with five white cast doric pilasters and a cast entablature, is further offset with a parapet (Photograph 2). The transom lights immediately above the two single glazed slab doors have been infilled with siding. Above the infilled transoms are two cast ornamental plaques. Located to the outside of the pilasters and slightly lower than the others are two additional cast ornamental plaques. A concrete construction plaque is located beneath the southern most single window. A handicap ramp has been added to the primary entrance. The ramp consists of a black railing and gradual sloped concrete addition to the original entrance. The ramp does not alter the original configuration of the front entrance.

The north and south elevations of the building are identical in appearance (Photographs 1, 3 and 4). Each projecting wing contains an entry stoop with double glazed slab doors and cast ornamental plaques immediately above the door and over the flat porch roof. Extending from the center of the wings is the large two-story auditorium. The auditorium windows are paired multi-light windows which have been partially obscured with siding. Single wood paneled doors are located at the west corner of both the north and south elevation, allowing separate access into the auditorium.

The rear of the building, the west elevation, is similar to the east elevation (Photograph 3 and 4). The projecting wings contain the same number of bands of ribbon windows as on the east elevation, however, a single wood paneled door and a chimney are located in the southwest corner of the north wing. Air conditioning units have similarly been installed in one window in each room. The rear of the auditorium is slightly parapeted reminiscent of the east elevation. The west side of the auditorium contains no doors but rather three sets of partially infilled paired windows. The upper story contains single windows on the outer edges of the auditorium.

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ALTERATIONS

Chandler High School retains its integrity to a fairly high degree. Only minor alterations have been undertaken on the building. These primarily consist of modern, aluminum, energy efficient windows and doors which have necessitated the partial infill of the windows and complete infill of the transom lights above the doors. Other alterations include the addition of a handicap ramp to the front entrance. This alteration has not extensively changed the original configuration of the entrance as it consists only of a metal railing and sloped grade. The southern part of the original porch steps, however, have been incorporated into the ramp. Additionally, individual air conditioning units have been installed in each classroom. Chandler High School continues to maintain its integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship and conveys the feeling of its past environment.

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SUMMARY

Chandler High School is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and its educational significance within the Chandler community. The work relief provided by the WPA allowed many destitute people to survive the trying times of the 1930s while also stimulating the local, and therefore state and national, economies. The buildings constructed by the WPA not only bolstered the economy, but they also played an important role in the community for which they were built. Chandler High School served the educational needs of the local children until approximately 1994, when the classroom functions were moved to another site. The school is further eligible for the National Register under Criterion C for its architectural significance as an unusual WPA building in Lincoln County. Although the WPA constructed over fifty-three school buildings in Lincoln County, Chandler High School is significant as the largest school building project in the county and as an example of an urban, architect designed, Moderne style WPA school. Contextually, the school relates to "The Works Progress Administration (W.P.A.) in Lincoln County, Oklahoma, 1935-1943." The associated property type is WPA Resources, subtype Education-Related Buildings.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

Chandler was founded with the land run of 22 September 1891. The town was named after George Chandler of Kansas who was President Harrison's Assistant Secretary of the Interior. The town grew as the county seat for Lincoln County and as the center of an agricultural region growing cotton, livestock and fruit. The town received a major boost when the Frisco Railway constructed a line through Chandler from Sapulpa to Oklahoma City in 1898. Prior to this, all goods had to be transported to and from the closest rail stop in Guthrie. In 1915, oil was discovered west of town. Although the field was not exceptional, it did provide another economic support for the town. Of the twenty-three communities with a recognized population base in Lincoln County in 1930, only Chandler had more than two thousand residents with 2,717 inhabitants.

Due to the unsafe conditions of the high school building erected in 1919, the WPA, in cooperation with the Chandler Board of Education, undertook the construction of a new school in early 1940. The construction of the new building produced not only needed jobs for local men but also increased the economic viability of the immediate area. This in turn fortified the state and national economies. The building project further resulted in an improved

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educational facility which increased the quality of education in Lincoln County while also providing an enhanced space for community events. Additionally, the Chandler High School project allowed for the consolidation of two other city schools with the high school. Conceived using a 20,000 dollar bond passed by the community and 33,000 dollars in WPA funds, plans were drawn up for the new building by the Tulsa architectural firm of Koberling and Fleming in May 1940. In July 1940, in response to revised plans for a partial two-story building with a larger auditorium capable of seating one thousand persons, the community applied for additional WPA funds. Shortly afterwards, an expenditure of 50,213 WPA dollars was approved with the community share rising to 28,200 dollars. By November, over 100 WPA workmen were laboring on the site, demolishing the old building and working on the foundation for the new. While construction was underway, temporary quarters were used for the 1940-1941 school year, including the Chandler National Guard Armory (NR 1991) built by the WPA in 1935-1937. Within two months, the foundation was complete and much of the necessary native limestone, quarried from the Pospiesel farm south of the Sac and Fox Agency in Lincoln County, was ready.¹

Construction work continued through May 1941 when financial troubles started to torment the project. Due to a miscalculation by the architect concerning the amount of money needed by the community and the cost of materials, additional money was initially requested from the community through passage of an additional five mill levy. However, within a month it was discerned that without additional WPA aid the school could not be finished. Although negotiation with the WPA was underway, work on the school stopped at the end of July due to a lack of building material. By August 1941, the WPA allocated an additional 19,547 dollars to the project with the district contributing 4,713 dollars more. Work was then scheduled to resume in October with an anticipated three month finish date. Work, however, still had not resumed by mid-November. It was estimated then that work would commence sometime in December but due to a shortage of skilled labor, construction would be slow.²

By January 1942, Fred Corley, the new project superintendent, estimated "that by using extreme care the project might be finished without additional expense." He further predicted that the building would be available for use by the start of the 1942-1943 school year. Work continued to be slow due to an overall restriction in materials, work force and WPA disbursements due to the United States' entry into World War II. In mid-July work was again temporarily halted due to a lack of WPA funds. Corley, however, managed to resume work within a week by utilizing non-labor funds. At the same time, the Board of Education succeeded in meeting the necessary monetary WPA match by using materials from the old school. The Board continued to seek supplemental funds

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to finish the building. By the end of the month, the WPA allocated sufficient monies to keep a full crew toiling for five weeks, sufficient estimated time to complete the building. Additionally, it was felt that the Priorities Board in Washington D.C. would release the necessary materials for installation of the plumbing and electrical fixtures.³

Two years after construction began, Chandler High School opened for its first academic term on 7 September 1942. Although the building was not complete, the Board of Education felt that starting the school year at the new site would be less confusing than moving the entire school from the armory building after classes began. Finishing touches, specifically to the auditorium and band areas, continued to be accomplished throughout 1943. The school continued to function as originally intended until approximately 1994.⁴

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Due to its construction by the WPA, Chandler High School is architecturally significant. WPA-built architecture varied in size, shape, exterior features and decorative details. In many of the larger schools located in the more prosperous, urban areas, such as Chandler, the WPA project sponsor employed an architect to design the building. The Tulsa architectural firm of Koberling and Fleming designed the new high school. Chandler High School is architecturally representative of not only the WPA Standardized style, but also an architectural style popular during the time period, Art Moderne. The school blends the two styles by combining limited characteristics common to both. Chandler High School is built of native construction materials with ribbon windows, both standard features of the WPA Standardized style. The curved corners and white stone trim, however, are representative of Art Moderne.

Chandler High School is unique among the WPA schools in Lincoln County. Although the Stroud Grade School was also designed by the architectural firm of Koberling and Fleming using Art Moderne characteristics, it is smaller in scale and does not reflect the grandeur of the Chandler High School. Chandler High School is the best representative example of the more modern architectural capabilities of the WPA in Lincoln County. Additionally, it is the largest and most expensive of the WPA schools in Lincoln County.

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ENDNOTES

1. The Lincoln County Republican, (Chandler, Oklahoma), 17 April 1940; 1 May 1940; 24 July 1940; 7 August 1940; 6 September 1940; 20 November 1940; 15 January 1941.
2. Ibid., 7 May 1941; 11 June 1941; 23 June 1941; 28 August 1941; 19 November 1941.
3. Ibid., 7 January 1942; 15 July 1942; and, 22 July 1942.
4. Ibid., 2 September 1942; 12 May 1943; 19 May 1943; 11 August 1943; and, 1 September 1943. See also The Chandler News Publicist, 22 April 1943; 6 May 1943; and, 22 July 1943.

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1942. National Archives (Microcopy T-935 Rolls 54-56; T-926 Roll 11; T-936
Roll 13), Washington, D.C.

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The Lincoln County Republican. Chandler, Oklahoma. 17 April 1940; 1 May 1940;
24 July 1940; 7 August 1940; 6 September 1940; 20 November 1940; 15 January
1941; 7 May 1941; 11 June 1941; 23 June 1941; 28 August 1941; 19 November
1941; 7 January 1942; 15 July 1942; 22 July 1942; 2 September 1942; 12 May
1943; 19 May 1943; 11 August 1943; and, 1 September 1943.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All of Block 30 minus the west 132' of the block, Original Townsite, Chandler,
Oklahoma.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries include the property that historically has been associated with
the building but excludes a non-WPA gymnasium constructed after the period of
significance.