

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0689122

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	NOV 6 1978
DATE ENTERED	SEP 19 1978

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Haskell State School of Agriculture (Haskell State College)

AND/OR COMMON

Fine Arts Building (of Broken Arrow High School)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

808 East College

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Broken Arrow

VICINITY OF

No. 1

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Oklahoma

40

Tulsa

143

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Board of Education

STREET & NUMBER

Broken Arrow School District

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Broken Arrow

VICINITY OF

Oklahoma

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the County Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

Tulsa County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Tulsa

Oklahoma

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Oklahoma Comprehensive Survey

DATE

1978

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Oklahoma Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Oklahoma City

Oklahoma

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The one and only major building on the Haskell State School of Agriculture campus - the so-called Fine Arts Building of Broken Arrow High School for the past 60 years - was (and still is) a not unhandsome three-story red brick affair, some 51 x 81 feet in size. It faces west from a modest, but thoroughly classic projecting entryway - the severe, one-story portico of which is supported by two massive Doric columns. The lower (basement) level - virtually ground level - accommodates the boiler room, three other rooms. The second and third floors, reached by a central stairway ascending the center of the building, contain four and five rooms respectively. The building has undergone no significant structural changes over its nearly seven decades of existence.

Cornerstone was laid in an elaborate Masonic ceremony on May 25, 1910. The bulletin for the school's 1911-1912 year reports: "The State has just completed a commodious central building which will accommodate more than 300 students. Each department will have rooms in this building designed for its special use - dairy laboratory, soil physics and farm crops, carpentry, blacksmithing, domestic economy (cooking and sewing), general academic work, are all provided for, and in addition to these a library room, offices and a large auditorium. The building is steam heated throughout, and is thoroughly sanitary in all its equipment."

The "large auditorium" has been divided into two classrooms. Otherwise today's Fine Arts Building is not too much difference from Haskell College's old main - although, granted, the academic and vocational furnishings have changed considerably! Gone, of course, long gone, is the Haskell barn, "a large and substantial building," that accommodated "the various live stock kept on the farm, including work animals, the dairy herd, and other livestock" along with a room for regular school work.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1910 - 1917

BUILDER/ARCHITECT W. A. Etherton

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The so-called Fine Arts Building is the last remaining physical evidence of yet another noteworthy effort in the education field by the infant State of Oklahoma - the short-lived Maskell State School of Agriculture. Since its closing as a college in 1917 the building has served the needs of the Broken Arrow High School.

Following statehood in 1907 the Oklahoma legislature authorized establishment of six "normal" schools. At once civic boosters of young Broken Arrow (platted in 1903) determined to win one of the three slated for Eastern Oklahoma. They lost out to Tahlequah, eventually, but their presentation was apparently persuasive enough to cause the legislature to locate the Maskell (for Oklahoma's first governor, Charles N. Maskell) State School of Agriculture in Broken Arrow.

The town agreed to furnish land for the college and an 80-acre site was secured. Cornerstone for the three-story brick building that was to be the college's only major structure (a wooden barn was added later) was laid on May 25, 1910, under auspices of the local Masonic Lodge. Governor and Mrs. Maskell led a large delegation of State dignitaries and, following a basket dinner on the grounds, the governor gave the principal address.

Meanwhile the school had opened the previous November 9 in rented quarters - in the old Opera House and in second floor rooms over two downtown business buildings. A faculty of five had been hired with J. H. Esslinger as superintendent. One hundred and three students were enrolled the first day. The enrollment fee: \$1.50! (Out-of-state students, however, were charged \$2.50 per month.) A bulletin issued for the start of the third year, Sept. 5, 1911, reported:

The cost of living in Broken Arrow is very little greater than the cost of living at home. Good board in private families can be procured at \$12 to \$15 per month, including lodging, lights, and fuel. It will be the aim and purpose of the people of the town and community to make the surroundings of all pupils as pleasant and homelike as possible. Parents can rest assured the best interests of their sons and daughters will at all times be under the immediate care and protection of the superintendent and those families with whom they may find homes.

(See continuation sheet)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Rhoades, H. Cecil, Establishment and Development of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma,
Moongate Enterprises, 1976, pp. 62-65

The Haskell State School of Agriculture bulletin for 1911-1912 school year

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY ^{one} circa/acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Broken Arrow

QUADRANGLE SCALE 7.5 minute

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	5	2	4	9	5	5	5	3	9	9	3	2	5	9
ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING										

B

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING										

C

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING										

D

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING										

E

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING										

F

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING										

G

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING										

H

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING										

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Main (west) door of the Fine Arts Building is exactly 65 feet east from the curb of East College Street (see Map No. 2), which veers south to loop around the building.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Kent Ruth, Deputy

DATE

ORGANIZATION

September 1978

Oklahoma Historical Society

TELEPHONE

STREET & NUMBER

405/884-5456

Historical Building

STATE

CITY OR TOWN

Oklahoma

Oklahoma City

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

Harry L. Kemp

DATE

10-27-78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

12-17-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST

Maude [Signature]

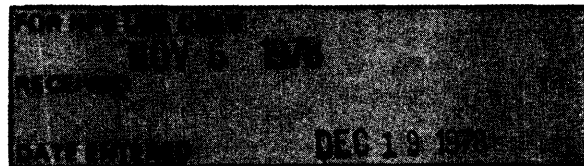
DATE

12-18-78

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**



CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

Haskell offered an extremely practical form of education to all. Experimental work was carried on with special reference to the needs of area farmers. An up-to-date creamery was maintained. Vocational courses on three grade levels were offered boys in such areas as carpentry, blacksmithing, forestry, veterinary science, stock and grain judging, poultry culture, and farm machinery. Girls were offered vocational training in most of these areas of farm life as well as in the more traditional sewing and cooking. Three years of academic courses, of course, were also available to both boys and girls.

The first class was graduated from Haskell in 1912 and several of the students went on to Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College in Stillwater as sophomores. Soon, however, it became apparent that the new state had established more schools that it could properly support. In 1917 Governor Robert L. Williams refused to sign the school's appropriation bill and by an act of the legislature on March 24, 1917, Haskell State School of Agriculture was officially closed, its land and buildings transferred to the Broken Arrow community ever since.

Today, inadequate by some modern standards (notably a critical state fire marshal's report) and somewhat shabby through lack of proper maintenance, it is threatened with razing. Calling for its preservation and possible restoration are more than 200 students who attended high school or college in the Fine Arts Building. They have signed a petition to that effect and presented it to the Board of Education. Action is still pending.