

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number various

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VALLIANT SCHOOL GYMNASIUM/AUDITORIUM

LOCATION: Wilbor and Lucas Streets, Valliant, Oklahoma 040, McCurtain County 089

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

OWNER: Valliant Board of Education, Box 777, Valliant, OK 74764

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: McCurtain County Courthouse, Idabel, OK 74745

DESCRIPTION: excellent condition; unaltered; original size

Measuring 160 feet by 76 feet, the Valliant gym and auditorium is a single story structure with high ceilings constructed of undressed and uncoursed native stone of different colors. The masonry is of excellent quality. The roof ranges from flat to arched with parapets. Pilasters, friezes of different colored stone and continuous concrete lintels decorate the exterior walls. Windows are metal casements; panes are painted to reduce light. Three double, recessed doors provide frontal entry. Roof extensions, vertical lines, and porch covers of concrete, suggest an art deco influence.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1936-1937; builder/architect: unknown

Because it provided space for school and community activities, especially basketball, which fostered a sense of identity and pride not widely known in the region beforehand, the gym/auditorium is particularly significant. A substantial stage permitted performance of dramatic productions. Construction of it also provided work opportunities for unemployed timber product laborers in the Valliant area that had been hit hard by the depression. As a WPA gymnasium, the structure is notable for its distinct reference to art deco style--the clearest allusion of any gym in southeastern Oklahoma. Within the community it is unique architecturally because of its type, style, scale, materials and workmanship.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Less than one acre

Quadrangle: Wright City, Okla.  
1:24,000/7.5 min.

UTM: 15 307200 3764400

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The property begins at the NW corner of "High School Tract," and runs east 200 feet, south 100 feet, west 200 feet, and north 100, all in the High School Addition to Valliant original plat.

PICTURE REFERENCE: 126-A, 126-B

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: Various Date Listed: 9/8/88

Various Various Oklahoma  
Property Name County State

WPA Public Buildings, Recreational Facilities and Cemetery  
Improvements in Southeastern Oklahoma, 1935-1943 TR  
Multiple Name

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

*Carey D. Shuel*  
Signature of the Keeper

9-8-88  
Date of Action

=====  
**Amended Items in Nomination:**

The actual resource count for the entire multiple property nomination should be 50 contributing buildings and 9 contributing structures (no non-contributing resources). Each of the individual properties should be counted as one building with the following exceptions: Roberta School Campus--2 buildings; Spencerville School Campus--2 buildings; Stroup Park Swimming Pool and Bathhouse--1 building, 1 structure; Wetumka Cemetery Pavilion and Fence--2 structures; Twyman Park--2 buildings, 4 structures; Jeff Lee Park Bathhouse and Pool--1 building, 1 structure; and Colony Park Pavilion--1 structure. (Stroup Park Swimming Pool and Bathhouse is being returned to the OK SHPO because of substantive problems which must be clarified.)

Scipio School--Ownership should be private, not public.

Roberta School Campus--Acreage should be two, not less than two.

The level of significance for all properties is local.

The above information was confirmed during a 9/8/88 telephone conversation with Oklahoma Deputy SHPO Melvena Heisch.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

National Register property file  
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)