

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received MAY 24 1984

date entered JUN 22 1984

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Manual Training High School for Negroes

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number 704 Altamont N/A not for publication

city, town Muskogee N/A vicinity of

state Oklahoma code 40 county Muskogee code 101

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	N/A being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: storage

4. Owner of Property

name Muskogee Public Schools

street & number 570 North Sixth

city, town Muskogee N/A vicinity of state Oklahoma 74401

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of County Clerk

street & number Muskogee County Courthouse

city, town Muskogee state Oklahoma 74401

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1983 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Oklahoma City state Oklahoma 73105

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Manual Training High School for Negroes is a 92' x 130' detached educational building located in the northwestern part of the City of Muskogee. The building has three stories on its west side and two stories on the east side. Each story is articulated differently similar to the Second Renaissance Revival Style of architecture. A brick watertable with dentils separates the second and third stories on the west side and continues around the east side where it becomes the roof cornice. The building is constructed of yellow brick laid in the running bond with occasional rows of brick laid in header courses. A flat roof covers the building and this has a brick parapet on the three-storied west end. The parapet consists of four rows of yellow brick laid in header courses, topped by five rows of running bond brick. On the lower edge of the parapet is a decorative brick cornice with dentils. A single stack interior brick chimney is located at the southeast end of the building.

The front or south side of the building has three stories at the southwest end. The main double entrance door has a wooden frame. The door is panelled with two fixed window lights on either side and wooden panels below. The door frame is set in a smooth ashlar surround which is slightly set back from the outside line of the building. Above the door surround, three rows of brick laid in the header course form a segmented arch. Seven smooth ashlar steps with a low wall either side lead up to the door. The four wooden framed windows with brick header course sills on the first story have been covered. The second story has four double hung, 3/3 sash-type windows with wooden frames. The windows have sills constructed of a single row of header course bricks with brick tothing supports. Decorative brickwork is found above each window. The five windows on the third story have semi-elliptical brick arches above, and the sills are formed by the brick watertable. Each window is wooden framed and is of the double hung, 3/3, sash-type. The two story, southeast end of the front has nine covered windows on the first story, two of which are three times the width of the remaining seven. These windows are similar in construction to those at the west end, as are the eight windows on the second story. There is a wooden framed door with a single light panel located at the east end of the front of the building.

The west side of the building has two wings extending outwards beyond the central section of this side. The brickwork of the parapet on both wings has been laid so as to rise to a point on the upper face of the building. Both wings have two covered windows on the first story. The recessed central section of the west side has nine covered windows on the first story, and nine double hung, 3/3, sash-type windows on the second and third stories. All windows have the same construction and decoration as those on the west side of the front of the building.

The north or rear side of the building is similar in elevation to the south side, with three stories at the west end and two stories at the east end. The three story west end is identical to the three story west side of the front of the building, except on the second story, where the four double hung windows have been covered leaving only five window lights visible in the two central windows. Likewise, the first story windows have been covered in the east section and the eight central windows on the second story have been partially covered. The north east end has twelve double hung, 2/2, sash-type windows with wooden frames and brick sills. Three of these windows have also been covered.

The east side of the building is divided into three sections set back from each other. The outer wing has three covered windows with brick sills on the first story and a single, double hung, 2/2, wooden framed, sash-type window located on the second story. The central east section has five covered windows on the first story and five double hung, 2/2 wooden frame, sash-type windows on the second story. The last section of the east side has no windows or doors.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) (Ethnic)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1910-1954

Builder/Architect Architect: Charles W. Dawson

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Manual Training High School for Negroes is historically significant because it is the oldest black educational institution in Muskogee and one of the oldest remaining black secondary schools in eastern Oklahoma having been constructed in 1910, three years after Oklahoma statehood.

From the date of its founding in 1872, Muskogee quickly developed as the major urban center of Indian Territory. Because of suitable soil for cotton production, the town soon emerged as a principal trading, storage, and processing center for cotton producers. Muskogee also became a major rail center for Indian Territory as three railroads laid tracks through the town during the period from 1872 to 1885. In 1904, oil and gas fields were opened in the surrounding area and one of Indian Territory's first petroleum refineries was completed in Muskogee shortly thereafter.

Muskogee's commercial and industrial growth continued to flourish. By 1910, there were six railroads with fourteen passenger trains daily and Muskogee became division headquarters for the Katy, Missouri Southern, Muskogee Union, and Pullman Company. Muskogee boasted of three cotton gins, a cotton compress, a vitrified brick plant, a concrete block plant, two daily newspapers, and four weekly papers.

All of these facilities brought increased population. In 1910 Muskogee had reached 25,275 and was the second largest city in the new state of Oklahoma, exceeded only by Oklahoma City.

Because of the industrial and commercial growth of Muskogee, it became an attractive urban center for black migrants seeking employment, especially those who were living in rural areas of eastern Oklahoma. Historically the black population of Oklahoma had been concentrated in old Indian Territory because the black freedmen of the Five Civilized Tribes had settled there following the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863 and a majority of the all-black towns, a movement of the 1890s and early 1900s, had been established in that area.

Muskogee's 25,278 population in 1910 consisted of 7,831 blacks, or approximately 31 percent. Its thriving black community had developed a business district including several retail stores, physicians and attorneys offices, a black-owned bank, and a black newspaper, the Muskogee Cimeter.

Because of the growing black population of Muskogee, educational facilities were needed. Oklahoma's state constitution of 1907 mandated separate educational facilities for blacks and whites. Funding for all-black schools was based on a county wide tax levy on all taxable property. A school bond proposal was approved on August 2, 1909 to build an all-black high school for the Muskogee black community. Drawing upon the prevailing philosophy of Booker T. Washington, black educator who promoted vocational training for black youth, the new high school was named Manual Training High School for Negroes. According to Dr. Charles Adams, a graduate of Manual and former teacher and principal of the school, the name did not reflect the school curricula. He stated that the school's program from the outset was not only vocational in emphasis but also comprehensive in nature because it included a full range of academic subjects including Latin, mathematics, history, and science. The building included grades 7-12 until 1953 when the high school grades 9-12 were moved to a new site. Grades 7-8, however, remained in the building until 1980 when the school was closed. Enrollment peaked in the 1950s at approximately 750 students. Many of its graduates have held key leadership positions within the state including Avalon Reece, member of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Dr. Charles Adams, Interview, July, 1983.

West, C.W., Muskogee: From Statehood to Pearl Harbor. Muskogee: Muskogee Publishing Co., 1976.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Northeast Muskogee, OK

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000
7.5"

UTM References

A

114	28158110	31951931410
Zone	Easting	Northing

B

Zone	Easting	Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at a point 320' northeast of the southeast corner of the intersection of Fond Du Lac and Altamont, or at the southeast corner of the intersection of Altamont and an alley to the north of the property, proceed southeast 220' along the alley along the north side of said property, then southwest 92', then northwest

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries (see continuation sheet)

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Bryan Brown Supervised by Dr. George Carney

organization Department of Geography date February, 1984

street & number Oklahoma State University telephone 405-624-6250

city or town Stillwater state Oklahoma 74078

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 C E Metcalf date 5-21-84

title date

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Beth Croson date 6/30/84
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet

Item number 8

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The building is currently owned by the Muskogee Public School System and is used for storage. There has been discussion of making the building into an educational museum.

For 70 years, Manual High School was a significant educational institution in the Muskogee black community and stands as an historic reminder of the black struggle for educational equality in Oklahoma.

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Continuation sheet Verbal Boundary

Item number 10

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220', then northeast 92' along east edge of Altamont to point of beginning. The property lies within these boundaries.