

National Register of Historic Places  
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Educational Resources Associated With All-Black Towns in Oklahoma

1. ✓ Miller-Washington School (No. 1 on Sketch Map and Photo Nos. 1-4)

Location: ✓ Market Street  
✓ Red Bird, OK 74458

County: Wagoner ✓ Code: 145

Owner of Property: Miller-Washington Non-Profit Organization  
Red Bird, OK 74458  
C/O Isaac Cook  
Box 98  
Red Bird, OK 74458

Location of Legal Description: Office of County Clerk  
Wagoner County Courthouse  
Wagoner, OK 74467

Description: The Miller-Washington School, built in ca. 1920, is a one-story, detached, educational building with a gambrel roof of slightly pitched slopes. It is a rectangular-shaped structure of approximately 35' x 70' dimensions. The wall finish to plate is red brick, now painted white, and from the plate to roof eaves is weatherboard. The brick is laid in the running bond.

The facade, or east side, has a 10' x 25' entrance pavilion with catslide roof. There is one fixed pane window with sixteen lights in the pavilion section and one fixed pane window with sixteen lights in main wall plane of the facade. Double metal entry doors are located on south portion of the pavilion. Just below the roof ridge of the facade is a metal ventilator grille.

The south side has three sets of paired, fixed pane windows, each with twenty four lights. Each have plain masonry sills and no lintel elements.

The north side has two large, square-shaped windows, each with eight lights, two rectangular-shaped windows, each with sixteen lights, and two more rectangular-shaped windows with twelve lights. To the northwest corner of the north side is a wooden framed door of horizontal planks with a light in the upper half. The rear, or west side, has an extension of approximately 18' x 25' with a gable roof. It contains paired windows of double-hung sash type with 8/8 lights. A concrete block restroom addition was completed to the southwest corner of the building in the 1940s. It has a hipped roof. There are small 1/1, fixed pane casement windows in the north and south walls of the addition and three small, fixed pane, casement windows in west wall. A wooden framed, wooden door is located in the addition near the southwest corner of the original building.

The most unique decorative element is the gambrel roof similar to Swedish gambrels which have gently pitched slopes and no bell-like flare at eaves. There is dentil-type ornamentation in the bricks just below the boxed cornices.

Although window lights are broken and the red brick has been painted white, the basic structure remains intact and could be easily restored to its original condition.

Statement of Significance: The Miller-Washington School is historically significant because it is the only remaining educational facility associated with the all-black town of Red Bird founded in 1902.

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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.