

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received JUN 4 1984  
date entered JUL 1 1

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

1. Name

historic Douglass High School Auditorium

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 800 "M" N.E. Street N/A not for publication

city, town Ardmore N/A vicinity of congressional district

state Oklahoma code 40 county Carter code 019

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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: (storage)

4. Owner of Property

name Ardmore Public Schools

street & number 800 "M" N.E. Street

city, town Ardmore N/A vicinity of state Oklahoma 73402

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Carter County Courthouse

city, town Ardmore state Oklahoma 73402

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 Oklahoma Historic Preservation Office

city, town Oklahoma City state Oklahoma 73105

---

## 7. Description

---

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

---

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Douglass High School Auditorium is a one-story, detached, educational facility approximately 60' x 90'. It has a gabled roof with stepped false front at east and west ends. There are two 10' x 15' restroom wings in rear at the northeast and southeast corners. The red brick wall finish is laid in the running bond with header course every eighth layer.

The facade, or west side, has two entry doors, one each at northwest and southwest corners. They are metal with glass panels and have small metal canopies over them. Two long, rectangular shaped openings with round arches have been bricked in. They now have metal vents in the upper half of what was the opening.

The south side has nine long, rectangular-shaped openings that have been bricked in. Toward the east end of south side are four square-shaped openings that have been bricked in. Two door openings are also located toward east end. One contains a metal door with glass panel in the upper half and the other has been bricked in.

The north side is almost identical to south side except it has only one door opening that has been bricked in.

The rear, or east side, has two long, rectangular openings and two smaller, rectangular openings between the two restroom wings. All have been bricked in except two which have metal ventilator grilles. The two restrooms each have one square-shaped opening which has been bricked in.

Decorative elements are minimal, however, the facade features six brick pilasters topped with triangular pediments of smooth masonry. The false front of the facade has a slight pediment. The openings have round arched brickwork above each. The north and south window openings have brick sills laid in rowlock fashion as does the openings in rear. The false front in the rear is stepped and has no pediment.

Although window openings were covered ca. 1950, they are of the same red brick used for wall finish. Other than this alteration the building remains intact. At the upper level of the facade a plain masonry panel is inscribed with the words:

"19 AUDITORIUM 30  
DOUGLASS HIGH SCHOOL"

# 8. Significance

<b>Period</b>	<b>Areas of Significance—Check and justify below</b>			
<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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) (Ethnic)

**Specific dates** 1930–1969                      **Builder/Architect** Unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Douglass High School Auditorium is historically significant because: (1) it is one of the few remaining properties associated with the all-black community of Ardmore, (2) it is the only educational resource still standing identified with the all-black Douglass High School in Ardmore, and (3) it is one of the oldest and largest buildings of its type in southern Oklahoma.

Ardmore was established in 1887 as a rail outlet for agricultural products when the Santa Fe extended its tracks across the Chickasaw Nation. With the coming of the railroad, the largely undeveloped area around Ardmore was occupied by farms and ranches; and cotton, corn, and cattle became the principle products. Ardmore grew steadily and by 1910 had become the regional trade center for south central Oklahoma with a population of 8,618.

Because of Ardmore's preeminence as a regional agricultural center, it developed substantial business districts for both blacks and whites. Ardmore's black population by 1910 reached 1,628, or roughly 19 percent of the city's total. By 1920 the black population of Ardmore had increased to slightly more than 2,000.

Separate schools for blacks and whites were legalized by the Oklahoma state constitution of 1907. The funding for black educational facilities, however, was different than for white educational properties. Black school systems were allocated funds from only county wide tax levies, whereas white schools were allotted funds from both individual school district property taxes as well as county tax assessments. Based on this tax system, black schools did not always have equivalent facilities as compared with white schools. This was the case in Ardmore.

The first and only black high school in Ardmore was Douglass, established in the early 1900s. The black youth, however, were deprived of an auditorium until 1930 when the nominated property was constructed near the high school. From 1930 to 1969 the Douglass High School Auditorium served as a significant social, educational, and recreational focal point for the black community. Hundreds of black youth participated in music programs, dramatic productions, graduation exercises, and athletic contests held in the auditorium. The 60' x 90' structure was the largest black facility of its type in southern Oklahoma. The only other comparable facility for black high school youth in southern Oklahoma was at McAlester and it was constructed in 1934 with P.W.A. funding.

In 1969 the old high school was replaced with a new high school complex, which included an auditorium, and the high school system was integrated.

The auditorium is still owned by the Ardmore Public School System. Located near the new high school complex, the property is currently used as a bus barn and for maintenance personnel offices. For over 53 years, the Douglass High School Auditorium has remained an integral part of the educational and ethnic history of Ardmore.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Interview: H.F.V. Wilson, July, 1983

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Ardmore East, OK.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000  
7.5 minutes

### UMT References

A 

1	4	6	7	3	0	4	0	3	7	8	3	5	5	0
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 and justification

Lots 1-2, Block 127, Original Townsite of Ardmore, Oklahoma

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

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 5-22-84

title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

### For NPS use only

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

Beth Grosvenor date 7/11/84  
for Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration