United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. **Name of Property**
   Historic name: _Seminole High School_
   Other names/site number: 
   Name of related multiple property listing: ____ N/A ____
   (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. **Location**
   Street & number: _501 North Timmons Street_
   City or town: _Seminole_ State: _OK_ County: _Seminole_
   Not For Publication: _☐_ Vicinity: _☐_

3. **State/Federal Agency Certification**
   As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
   I hereby certify that this _X_ nomination _☐_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
   In my opinion, the property _X_ meets _☐_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:
   ___national ___statewide _X_local
   Applicable National Register Criteria:
   _X_A ___B _X_C ___D_

   ____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

   Signature of certifying official/Title:                     Date

   ____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

   State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

   In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

   ____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

   Signature of commenting official:                       Date

   ____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

   Title: State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government
4. National Park Service Certification
I hereby certify that this property is:
__ entered in the National Register
__ determined eligible for the National Register
__ determined not eligible for the National Register
__ removed from the National Register
__ other (explain:) _____________________

Signature of the Keeper  Date of Action

5. Classification
Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:  
Public – Local  X
Public – State  
Public – Federal  

Category of Property
(Check only one box.)

Building(s)  X
District  
Site  
Structure  
Object  

Seminole County, OK
County and State
### Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

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Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register ________

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6. **Function or Use**

**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions.)

- **EDUCATION:** school

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions.)

- **VACANT/NOT IN USE**
7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.)

Art Deco

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a summary paragraph that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Seminole High School, designed by Josephus O. Parr with the distinguished Oklahoma architectural firm of Hawk and Parr, was constructed in 1930 in Seminole, Seminole County, Oklahoma. As originally constructed, the school was prominently located at the intersection of North Timmons Street and West Seminole Avenue on an oversize block of primarily unplatted land with a spacious front lawn. Further enhancing the location was the alignment of the north elevation of the building with the intersection of North Timmons Street and West Simpson Avenue (now Mike Snyder Avenue). Although the residential area around the 1930 building was subsequently re-developed with multiple school-related resources, the imposing high school building remains the recognizable City Beautiful piece of the development. Opening for the spring 1931 semester, the school remained in use for eighty-six years before being abruptly abandoned in 2015. Since 2015, the building has remained vacant. The buff brick, combination two- and three-story with a clock tower, Art Deco style building originally had a flat, multi-part, composite roof that was altered in about 2005 by the addition of raised, green metal, multi-part, low-pitched, hipped roof. Typical of a school building, the original, multi-light, wood, exterior doors were replaced twice, with the current bronze-colored metal-framed glazed doors dating to 1982 with later Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant doors. The original metal casement windows were also changed in 1982 to the existing, three-part, bronze-colored, metal, one-over-one, hung windows with a fixed, opaque, top pane. The limestone window headers and sills remain in place, along with the original size and pattern of the window openings. The
interior doors were changed from multi-light wood doors to single light wood doors in 1988. Emblematic of its Art Deco style, the symmetrical decorative details on the Seminole High School building include a variety of limestone and brick geometric elements with particular emphasis around the multiple entries and the use of arrow-type ornaments, symbolic of the high school’s mascot of the Chieftains. The only addition to the high school building was the construction of an elevator tower on the west elevation in the early 2000s. Due to its back location and compatible materials, the tower does not interfere with the ability of the building to convey its architectural significance. Although the modifications to the roof, windows and doors diminished the building’s integrity of materials and changes to the buildings and structures around the high school have lessened the integrity of setting, overall, the Seminole High School retains its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association to ably convey its architectural and historical significance.

**Narrative Description**

The historic Seminole High School building has a concrete foundation and a multi-part, raised, green, metal, low-pitched, hipped roof atop the old, multi-part, flat roof. The new roof, added in about 2005, has a metal framing system that allows it to rise above the roofline. Thus, the new roof is visible from the ground. However, the visible roof is easily identified as new due to the modern materials and color. The new roof was carefully designed to not cover the original limestone and brick decorative details of the building. The original decorative spires at the top of the vertical brick pilasters along the roofline were removed in about 1967 for unknown reasons. The spires are visible in early photographs but, beginning about with the 1967 Seminole High School Yearbook, were gone. The other projected limestone decorative detail along the roofline, including the original steps in the roofline, remain in place and visible.

The walls of the high school building are a buff brick laid predominately in a stretcher bond. Every eighth course, the stretcher bricks alternate with header bricks. Large expanses of wall are broken up by ornamental brickwork consisting of rectangles created by soldier bricks and highlighted by limestone corners. These decorative rectangles are on large expanses of multiple walls, such as on the recessed portions of the corners on the east elevation, as well as between and above windows on all four elevations. In the center three-story portion, on both the east and west elevations, the brick rectangles outline limestone tables that feature a stylized sunburst design.

**EAST (FRONT) ELEVATION (Photographs 0001-0004 and 0015):** The front elevation of the Seminole High School consists of three symmetrical sections: the center three-story section which is flanked by nearly identical two-story sections. For descriptive purposes, each section is then divided into bays. As needed, the bays are then divided into parts. The matching two-story sections are described first and then the center three-story section.

Each of the two-story sections are divided into two unequal bays. The defining difference between the north two-story section and the south two-story section is that the north section has the name of the school in metal letters on the outside bay and the south section has two metal benches bolted to the sidewalk in front of the outside bay. The outside bays on each side of the
two-story sections are set forward from the inside bays and contain no windows or doors. Mimicking the broader front elevation, the outside bays on the far north and south sides of the east elevation each consist of two projected rectangular sections flanking a wider recessed area that contains only one of the large rectangular brick outlines with limestone corners. The rectangular brick outline in the center portions of the outside bays of the two-story sections are vertical and cover most of the wall. The four corners of each brick outline are marked by square limestone ornaments. Centered on the north side bay only are the words “Seminole High School” in metal letters. Flanking the center recessed part of the outside bays of the two-story sections of the east elevation are matching projected rectangular sections. Towards the lower wall on each side are blank, recessed, limestone tables. The upper wall of the flanking portions of the outside bays are more decorative. Also divided into three sections, the two outside portions are plain except for a wide limestone cap. The center section is recessed with an ornamental limestone element that has an arched top over a trefoil set at the same height as the top of the brick outline in the larger center section of the outside bay.

The inside bays of the two-story sections of the east elevation are also symmetrical with a prominent secondary entry in the center of each. The recessed entries in both the north and south two-story sections now consist of three non-historic, dark colored, aluminum, glazed slab commercial doors with metal kickplates. The doors are slightly different colors, indicating that some of the doors were likely replaced more than once. The south entry in each inside bay consists of a single door with a divided full-height sidelight. These doors are probably the more recent addition, having been changed to allow for a wider automatic door that is accommodating to wheelchairs and other special needs. The north entry on each inside bay consists of double doors. Above each set of doors is a wide, bronze colored, fixed, aluminum transom.

The entries in each inside bay are inset in an open vestibule with multi-colored glazed ceramic tile walls, concrete floors and stucco ceilings. Modern security lights are attached to the ceiling and on the walls between the transoms. On the outside, the vestibule features a low, limestone, segmental arch that is topped by divided, recessed, limestone spaces ornamented with raised grapevines. Above this on each side is a recessed, rectangular, multi-colored, tile panel that has a limestone shield in the center with the date of construction divided by a diagonal strip, “19/30.” Around the multi-colored tile panel is a raised limestone trim ornamented with a grapevine design. Directly above the tile panel are three replacement, three-part, aluminum, one-over-one, hung windows topped by an opaque pane. The three windows have a continuous limestone sill and narrow limestone dividers. In place of the typical narrow limestone headers, the triple window in the center portion of the inside bays is topped by a large, three-part, stepped, limestone piece that is decorated with three onion dome ornaments, the center one being larger than the matching flanking elements. The replacement green roof was carefully added to leave the limestone panels with onion dome ornaments clearly visible.

Separating the center portion of the inside bays from the flanking sections are projected brick pilasters. With limestone bases that feature a recessed blank panel, the pilasters have matching stylized arrow-type ornaments of limestone and brick located at the same height as the top of center entry. On the second floor, at about the level of the top opaque pane, are limestone,
stylized, arrow-type ornaments from which the spires originally extended from. As mentioned previously, the spires were removed in the late 1960s.

The flanking sections of each inside bay in the two-story sections of the east elevation contain three symmetrical windows on each floor. The matching windows are all three-part, replacement, bronze colored, one-over-one, hung with an opaque top pane. The windows have separate narrow limestone sills and continuous limestone headers. The walls between the first and second floor windows are ornamented with small, rectangular, closer brick outlines with limestone corners aligned to each window. Above the second floor windows, there is a single soldier brick rectangular outline with limestone corners. The corners of each upper wall are also marked with larger limestone squares.

The center three-story section of the east elevation is highlighted by the clock tower which forms the projected middle portion of the five-bay center section of the east elevation. The white clock face with black hands and numbers is centered in the lower center portion of a six-part limestone and brick element. The clock is surrounded by a limestone square with matching stepped limestone rectangles to each side. Above the lower portion is a three-part design that features two of the smaller stepped limestone elements flanking a larger center limestone element with an incised rock-shaped element. The top of the clock tower is stepped with the modern metal roof following each step. Directly below the clock is a two-story, three-sided, projected, bay window. The windows in the projected bay match the other windows, being replacement, brown metal, one-over-one, hung with a third top opaque pane. The windows on the third floor are separated from the second floor windows by limestone panels which feature a shield design. Forming the bottom of the bay window is the limestone, main, entry vestibule which features a large, three-pointed arch with limestone panels above. The entry consists of two sets of double, replacement, bronze aluminum, glazed slab doors with divided fixed transoms. Separating the two sets of doors is a metal railing which extends from the inset doors past the two concrete steps that provide access to the vestibule. The vestibule walls are glazed ceramic tile, the ceiling is stucco and the floor is concrete. The vestibule has two modern security lights, one in the center of the ceiling and one between the doors. There is also a security camera located on the south vestibule wall.

Marking both edges of the front of the center clock tower are full-height brick pilasters with matching pilasters on the north and south sides of the projected bay of the clock tower. At the base of the pilasters are limestone panels. Directly above the limestone panel on the north side pilaster is the black granite cornerstone emplaced on September 18, 1930. The front (east) side of the cornerstone reads “Board of Education/G.F. Killingsworth/President/B. E. Brodnax/Vice-Pres./W. D. Grisso D. C. Davis/J. W. Edwards/Jas O. Seger, Clerk/L. W. Kitchens, Supt./Hawk & Parr  R. H. Chase & Sons.” The north side of the cornerstone reads “Laid By/M. W. Grand Lodge/A. F. & A. M./{Masonic Symbol of a Square, Compass, G with a radiating background} /Samuel H. Lattimore/Grand Master/Wm. M. Anderson/Grand Secretary/A.D. 1930 A. L. 5930.”

At the level of the bottom of the vestibule’s three-pointed arch on each side are stylized brick and limestone arrows with limestone bases. The same ornaments are featured on the north and
south sides of the projected portion of the center section. At the level of the third floor windows, there are large square flared limestone ornaments. The north pilasters are topped by rectangular limestone ornaments that feature a small recessed rectangular panel. The south pilasters are taller with a small limestone cap and a small section of limestone that continues from the south and the stepped top of the clock portion. All pilasters have a narrow vertical limestone ornament that extends down the pilaster.

To each side of the center clock tower portion of the center section of the east elevation are matching classroom bays that are symmetrically divided by stepped brick pilasters that are capped with limestone ornaments and originally featured metal spires. The bay pilasters also feature a narrow, limestone, vertical ornament. The first, second and third floor windows in the bays are all identical, consisting of three-part, replacement, metal, one-over-one, hung windows with a top opaque pane. The windows are all paired and have limestone sills and headers. Separating the windows on each floor are matching limestone panels with a stylized sunburst design. The upper walls of the bays are ornamented with rectangular soldier brick tables with limestone corners. To add depth to the design, the brick corners of each section between the pilasters also have larger limestone square ornaments.

Mimicking the side sections of the east elevations, the center section has narrower stairwell bays on the outside. The stairwell bays each have two projected pilasters flanking a recessed center section. The narrow center section in each stairwell bay has a single, one-over-one, hung, replacement, metal window at the mid-level between the first and second floors and at mid-level above the third floor. The lower window has a limestone sill and soldier brick header. The upper window has a limestone sill and header. Immediately above the upper windows, there are limestone panels with a gothic window design. The flanking brick pilasters are plain except for a rectangular limestone ornament with an arched top set at the first floor window height and, at about the height of the center gothic window design, a small limestone ornament featuring an onion dome design. The tops of the pilasters have limestone caps with a stepped back brick and limestone cap on top of this.

**NORTH ELEVATION (Photographs 0004 – 0007):** The north elevation is separated from the adjoining black-topped Mike Snyder Avenue by a wide concrete sidewalk. Towards the east side of the sidewalk, there are two square landscape areas that used to contain trees with only the tree stumps now remaining. The portion of the sidewalk aligning with the only entry on the north elevation is sloped towards the street to facilitate access to the building. The grade of the building site slopes towards the west with the concrete foundation increasingly visible towards the west side. Also towards the west side of the sidewalk is the small, noncontributing, brick, ticket booth (described in more detail below). Due to the north elevation’s alignment with the intersection of Timmons Street and Mike Snyder Avenue, the north elevation has a higher visibility than the typical side elevation.

The two-story north elevation is not as symmetrical as the east elevation of the Seminole High School. Instead, the north elevation is divided into two uneven sections, which are then divided into bays. The east section is evenly divided into three bays with the only north elevation entry in the center bay. Containing only one set of double, replacement, bronze colored, glazed slab,
metal doors with no transom, the north elevation entry nonetheless appears wider than the secondary entries on the east elevation. Because the doors do not fill the entire space, the north elevation has glazed ceramic tile on both sides of the entry. In addition to the glazed ceramic tile walls, the vestibule has a stucco ceiling and concrete floors. The center bay, above the north elevation entry, is ornamented the same as the second entries on the east elevation, including the flanking pilasters and tile panel with limestone shield that reads “19/30.” However, in place of the triple window on the second floor, the north elevation features a single, centrally-located, fixed, metal window on the second floor with a limestone sill.

To the east of the north elevation entry bay, there is a three-part bay that contains on each floor the standard, three-part, replacement, metal, one-over-one, hung windows that are topped by an opaque top pane. The windows are paired with continuous limestone sills and headers. The three sets of windows are separated by narrow brick pilasters that only extend to the height of the top of the third floor windows. The top of the pilasters are capped by limestone caps. Above the windows is a single, rectangular, soldier brick table with limestone corners with a second set of corner markers at the edges of the upper wall. The east end of the north elevation is marked by projected, double, brick pilasters with stone caps. The outside pilaster is taller than the narrow inside pilaster, creating a stepped effect.

To the west of the center entry bay in the east section of the north elevation, there is a similar sized bay to the east side bay but the west side bay has dividing pilasters that are wider, allowing for smaller windows. To the immediate west of the entry, the two-part windows on both the first and second floors are single, one-over-one, replacement, metal, fixed windows with the top panes being opaque. Both the east windows have metal round vents in the top opaque pane. On the west side of the bay, the windows are paired with the first floor windows matching the three-pane configuration of the other windows. The second floor windows are two-part, replacement, bronze colored, one-over-one hung with the top pane being opaque. The far west window on the second floor has a square vent in the top pane. All of the windows have narrow limestone sills and wider limestone headers. The dividing brick pilasters have limestone caps situated at the height of the third floor window headers. A brick table matching the east bay on the north elevation is above the third floor windows. A drain hole above the east pilaster in this bay has been covered with the green metal that matches the non-historic roof. Marking the west side of the east section of the north elevation is projected, double, brick pilasters with stone caps that match the pilasters on the east end of the north elevation.

The west section of the north elevation is evenly divided into three bays by two pilasters that are similar to the end pilasters in the east section. The west section dividing pilasters extend above the roofline and are flanked on both sides by narrow pilasters, creating a stepped effect. Shorter pilasters divide each bay into two parts. All of the pilasters have limestone caps. There are no entries in the west section with the center section containing a set of standard, paired, three-part windows on each floor. The two flanking bays are symmetrical with each having two sets of standard paired windows on both floors. The upper wall of the west section is ornamented the same as on the east section except for the brick outline above the center third floor windows.
WEST (REAR) ELEVATION (Photographs 0007 – 0012): The rear elevation of the Seminole High School building overlooks the former tennis courts and active school football stadium. Accordingly, the west elevation has a higher visibility that most rear elevations, although only the upper portion of the elevation is visible in most historical photographs with the lower area generally obscured. The rear elevation is also distinctive because it exhibits the U-shape of the building, consisting of the inset center three-story portion flanked with two-story parallel wings. Underneath the three-story section only, there is a small mechanical room with a sub-level space also underneath the auditorium in the north wing that originally functioned as a band/music room.

The north wing of the rear elevation contains the auditorium space with classrooms on the north side. Originally, the school cafeteria was located on the first floor north of the auditorium but after removal of the cafeteria in about 1953, the room became a classroom. The west wall of the north wing is unevenly divided with the stage portion of the auditorium area projected forward, creating two notched areas. The classroom portion of the west wall of the north wing has two entries, one on the first floor and a non-historic entry on the second floor. The first floor entry, situated just north of the projected wall of the auditorium section, has double metal slab doors, concrete steps and a soldier brick header. Above the doors is a single, metal, one-over-one, hung window with a narrow limestone sill and soldier brick header. Directly above this, at what appears to be mid-level height, is the non-historic metal single door that is accessed by a metal exterior firestair. The outline of the original second floor window, which was located above the door height, remains visible due to the subtle differences in brick color. To the east of the first floor double doors are two sets of paired windows. The three-part windows have opaque top panes, as well as narrow continuous limestone sills and soldier brick headers. The second floor also features two sets of paired windows that also have narrow continuous limestone sills and soldier brick headers. However, the second floor windows do not feature the top opaque pane.

The auditorium portion of the west wall of the north wing contains five basement-level openings set in the exposed concrete foundation. The northernmost and center basement opening both contain metal louvers. The other openings have one-over-one, hung, replacement windows. Above the concrete foundation, the west wall of the auditorium portion of the north wing is divided into three sections. The center portion is projected out with brick pilasters featuring the same decorative detailing as on the outside bays of the front elevation’s two- and three-story sections. In between the pilasters, in a recessed vertical detail, is a single, one-over-one, hung metal window topped by a limestone ornament containing the gothic window design also found on the front elevation. The two flanking portions of the auditorium section are plain with only some brick corbelling along the upper wall. On the south corner of the west wall of the north wing, there is a notched area with no openings. The pilasters marking the corners of the west wall are all taller than the roofline and have limestone caps.

The south wall of the north wing of the west elevation is divided by narrow, brick, full-height pilasters with limestone caps into four sections. The west section contains four symmetrical, single, metal, one-over-one, hung windows, two on the first floor and two on the second floor, all with limestone sills and soldier brick headers. The adjacent section contains a single, centrally located, metal, slab door with a concrete step and modern security light above. Above this, at
mid-level between the first and second floors, is a single, rectangular, metal, one-over-one, hung window, also with a limestone sill and soldier brick header. The next section contains two single windows on each floor, although these windows are larger than the four windows in the west section. The first floor windows in the third section from the west are single, one-over-one, hung, metal. The second floor windows are one-over-one, hung, metal with a fixed transom, as well as having limestone sills and soldier brick headers. The narrow east section of the south wall contains a small single window on each floor. The first floor window is two-part with the second floor window being three-part due to the fixed transom on top. These windows also have limestone sills and soldier brick headers.

The west wall of the center three-story portion of the west elevation is highlighted by a three-sided, three-story, projected bay in the center. The projected bay contains three visible openings with louvers in the above-grade concrete foundation, consisting of two openings on the center portion of the foundation and one on the south side. On the north side of the bay, the foundation opening is covered by a utility box with a couple of other smaller boxes directly above and to the side. The fenestration patterns on the three floors of the bay are identical, consisting of single windows on the sides and wide paired windows in the center. All of the three-part windows are replacement, metal, one-over-one, hung with a opaque pane on top. The windows also have narrow limestone sills, continuous for the paired windows, and soldier brick headers. Between the first and second level and second and third level are limestone panels featuring a stylized sunburst design. The sunburst panels on the sides of the bay are more square in form than rectangular but have the same design. The limestone panels are outlined by closer bricks with limestone corners. On the upper wall, above the third floor, there is a limestone panel in the center with the gothic window design. The upper walls of the two sides have a closer brick outline with limestone corners in the larger area. The roofline of the bay is stepped with brick pilasters on the corners with the center roofline being raised above the pilasters and the side roofline being lower than the pilasters. Except for the lower side areas, the roofline on the bay has a limestone cap.

While the north and south sides of the west wall of the three-story portion of the west elevation are similar, they are not identical in size with the gymnasium portion of the south wing being wider and shorter than the auditorium portion of the north wing; thus covering different portions of the edges of the west wall of the center three-story portion of the west elevation. Also setting the north side apart from the south side is the enclosed, brick, elevator tower that was added in the early 2000s. The elevator tower brick is lighter than the original brick, allowing the addition to be easily identified as not original.

The setback north side of the three-story section of the west elevation is divided off-center to the south by a wide double brick pilaster that extends above the roofline. The pilaster has a pointed stone cap and is ornamented at the top by a plain vertical element. To the south of the double pilaster, the windows on each floor are singles, being separated by a narrow brick pilaster, also with a narrow stone cap set at the top of the third floor windows. The standard type windows have narrow limestone sills with the first and second floor windows having soldier brick headers and the third floor windows limestone headers. To the north of the double pilaster, the windows are paired except for the northernmost third floor window which is a single. The paired windows
are the standard configuration and replacement materials with continuous limestone sills. The first and second floor windows have matching soldier brick headers, while the third floor paired windows also have continuous soldier brick headers and the third floor windows have continuous limestone headers. Between the windows are limestone panels with the sunburst design and outlined with closer bricks with limestone corners. The size of the panels and brick outlines vary, depending on if the distance between the narrow brick pilasters that vertically divided each set of windows. The upper wall of the north side of the three-story section of the west elevation are ornamented the same as the upper walls on the other elevations with soldier brick outlines with two sets of limestone corners aligned above each set of windows. The two sets of double pilasters on the north side of the section are also taller than the other elements and have limestone caps. Between the pilasters, above the third floor single window, is a limestone panel with a gothic window ornament.

The setback south side of the three-story section of the west elevation is divided by the projected elevator tower addition. The elevator tower has a one-story projection on the west side that features a stepped roofline created by two brick columns raising above the center portion. The center portion and brick columns all have limestone caps. To the east of this, the projection has a low-pitched, gabled roof clad with green standing seam metal. On the north side of the one-story projection is the only exterior opening in the elevator tower, a metal slab door that opens onto a small equipment room. Above the projection, the upper walls of the elevator tower on the west and north sides are ornamented with limestone panels with sunburst designs and brick outlines with limestone corners. The south side of the elevator tower is plain except for a green metal down spout. The roofline of the elevator tower is stepped like the lower projection, including the limestone caps. The double pilaster that divided the south side of the three-story section of the west elevation is partially visible behind the elevator tower with the same ornamentation as the double pilaster on the north side.

To the north of the elevator tower, there is a basement door accessed by a concrete stairwell. The basement door is metal slab with a center vent. The stairwell is covered by a non-historic, rectangular covering that is supported by the building in the northeast corner and square wooden poles on the other three corners. The covering has a metal roof with exposed wood posts. The covering partially covers one of the two single windows on the first floor north of the elevator tower. There are matching single windows on the second and third floor north of the elevator tower. To the south of the elevator tower, there are standard paired windows on each floor. The window sills and headers match the corresponding sills and headers on the north side of the three-story section of the west elevation. Between each set of windows on both sides of the elevator tower are limestone panels with the sunburst design outlined with brick and limestone corners. The upper wall is also ornamented the same. In the far south section of the three-story portion, there is only one third floor window topped by a limestone panel with a gothic window design. The lower wall, partially covered by the perpendicular gymnasium portion, has no openings or ornamentation.

The north wall of the two-story gymnasium portion of the west elevation is divided into three equal bays and one narrower bay by above-the-roof brick pilasters with stone caps. In each of the three equal bays, there are two single windows on each level. The replacement windows are
wider than the standard window. The first floor windows are the three-part, one-over-one with opaque top pane, metal, hung windows. The second floor, two-part windows are smaller, one-over-one, hung, metal with no opaque pane. In the narrower bay, located in the east corner of the north wall, there are matching single windows on each level. All of the windows have limestone sills and soldier brick headers.

The west wall of the two-story gymnasium portion of the west elevation is symmetrically divided into five bays with a sixth one-story bay on the far south end. The first and fifth bay of the west wall were historically matching; at an unknown time, the second floor window of the first (northernmost) bay was altered to a pedestrian metal slab door accessed by a metal fire stair. The fifth bay retains its window opening, containing a standard two-part window with limestone sill and soldier brick header. On the first floor of both the first and fifth bays are single, pedestrian, metal, slab doors. The first floor doors have a soldier brick header with a modern security light centered above both of them. The first and fifth bays are defined by a square-topped pilaster on the outside and a double pilaster with an arrow top on the inside. The double brick pilaster has the narrow limestone ornament found on similar pilasters across the west elevation.

The third and fourth bays of the west wall of the two-story gymnasium portion of the west elevation are also matching with each containing two sets of large, four-by-four, metal windows. The windows have limestone sills and soldier brick headers. The sets of windows are divided by a brick pilaster that has just its limestone cap above the roofline. The center bay is similar to the stairwell bays on the east elevation, including a limestone panel with a gothic window design above a single, one-over-one window with a limestone sill and header.

The one-story section of the west wall of the gymnasium portion of the west elevation has three replacement, rectangular, three-part, hung windows with limestone sills and soldier brick headers. The replacement metal roof is taller on the north side than the south side of the one-story portion with a metal vent above the northernmost window.

**SOUTH ELEVATION (Photographs 0012 – 0014):** The south elevation of the Seminole High School Building has three different setbacks with the west one-story section, consisting of a classroom and a multi-room dressing/locker room, situated the farthest south. The south wall of the one-story section is divided into three bays by comparatively shorter, double, brick pilasters featuring the pointed limestone top with the limestone arrow ornament. The westernmost bay features a center door flanked by two taller, three-part, metal windows. The three-part windows, typical of the building, are one-over-one, hung with a top opaque pane, limestone sills and soldier brick headers. A large metal vent is located to the east of the door. The middle bay of the one-story section has only two matching windows, the eastern one of which has a modern security light mounted to the top opaque pane. The eastern bay, likely the original shop area, originally had a large door on the west side which has been infilled with beige brick and a single metal slab pedestrian door. The longer, original, soldier brick header for the door remains in place. A small concrete ramp with a metal railing has been added in front of the door. To the east of the door, there is a set of paired standard windows with continuous limestone sills and a continuous soldier brick header. The roofline of the one-story section has steps created by the corner and dividing pilasters, all of which were carefully outlined when the standing seam metal
roof was added. On the east wall of the one-story portion of the south elevation, there is a set of paired windows that match the paired windows around the corner.

In the middle section of the south elevation, which is also one-story, the brick wall is divided into two bays with each bay containing two single windows divided by narrow brick pilasters. The windows in this section of the south elevation have narrow limestone sills and wider limestone headers. The two bays are divided by a double brick pilaster, which although shorter than on the other elevations, matches the decorative detail with a pointed top and narrow vertical limestone arrow. The east wall of this one-story portion of the south elevation features one set of paired, standard, three-part windows with limestone sills with the header obscured by a tree.

The two-story east section of the south elevation is divided into two symmetrical bays by a full-height brick pilaster. Each bay is further divided into symmetrical parts, each of which contains a set of paired windows on each floor. Between the first floor and second floor windows are small rectangular soldier brick outlines with limestone corners. Above the windows are larger undivided soldier brick outlines, also with limestone corners. The roofline of the two-story section of the south elevation is shorter than the adjacent roofline around the corner on the east elevation. Thus, there is a larger section of standing seam metal roof on the south elevation than on the east elevation.

INTERIOR: The interior of the Seminole High School is typical of a 1930s educational building with a center double-loaded corridor on each floor dividing the school into front and back sections. The majority of classrooms are located in the front section with the auditorium, school offices, gymnasium, library and a handful of classrooms being located in the back section. The configuration of space in the building remains overall the same, although some original spaces, such as the cafeteria in the northwest corner of the first floor and some of the combined classrooms, are not recognizable. All of the interior spaces have been modernized, some more than others. The most notable original interior material is the terrazzo floors in the corridors and stairwells.

Defining the interior of the building are the main north-south corridors (representative photographs 0020 – 0022, 0032 and 0037). While the ceiling height of the corridors, as well as the classrooms and offices, have been altered by the addition of drop ceilings in the 1980s as part of the addition of air conditioning, the width of the corridors, along with the terrazzo floors, remain a defining attribute. The north-south corridors extend the full length of the building. As originally designed, the corridors were able to be closed off to control after-hours access to certain portions of the building. Modern metal firewalls, consisting of double slab doors flanked by fixed full-height divided light sidelights, have replaced the original wood partitions with probably additional firewalls added to meet modern safety standards. A significant feature in the corridors is the pattern of openings, including both the doors and rows of metal lockers. The multi-light wood doors themselves were replaced in the early 1980s with modern slab doors with a single rectangular light. The inset metal lockers along the corridor have also been replaced over the years, but the pattern of the lockers in defining the corridor walls remains. On the third floor, evidently replacing some of the original lockers, are a series of wood and glass display cases that were added in 1959-1960 for the science department as documented in the 1960 Seminole
Yearbook available via *Ancestry*. On the corridor side, the glass in the cases have been covered with artwork and, thus, are not readily visible.

On the south side of the first floor only, there is an east-west corridor that provides access to the original shop area/later science rooms, gymnasium and boys locker room. The corridor is set below-grade, level with the below-grade gymnasium floor. This caused the addition of steps to the inside of the doorways of the classrooms. As with the main corridors, the east-west first floor corridor is defined by its width, pattern of door openings and terrazzo floors. The corridor is also distinguished by the visible concrete block wall on the north side of the corridor which wraps around the west end, corresponding to the south gymnasium wall and the boys locker room area. As with the rest of the building, the height of the corridor has been reduced by the 1980s drop ceiling.

The Seminole High School has four lobbies. The main lobby (photographs 0018-0019) corresponding with the primary front entry in the center of the east elevation, has been diminished by the replacement of the original, wood, multi-light, interior doors, installation of the drop ceiling and enclosure of the original reception area, which altered the original view of the lobby. The width of the main lobby, including the two original cutouts for the display cases on either side of the east portion of the lobby, and terrazzo floors remain the defining features of the space.

Of the other three lobbies, two are located on the east (front) wall, corresponding to the secondary entries on the building’s façade. The fourth lobby is on the north wall, corresponding to the only entry on the north elevation. The two secondary lobbies on the east wall are matching rectangular spaces off the main north-south corridor. The east lobbies have been altered by the installation of the drop ceilings and replacement of the exterior doors. The defining attributes of the eastside lobbies is the width of the spaces and terrazzo floors.

The north lobby is narrower than the two east secondary lobbies to allow for the addition of a narrow stairwell on the east side. The terrazzo floor in the north lobby is slightly ramped with a full-length ledge on the west side. Probably due to the stairwell, the ceiling in the north lobby was not modified. Accordingly, the width, height and terrazzo floors of the north lobby define the space.

The building has four interior stairwells (representative photographs 0023, 0036 and 0038). The north stairwell, mentioned above, is a minor stairwell due to its size and obscure location in the northeast corner of the building. The two major stairwells on the east side of the building go from the first floor to the third floor. The south stairwell only provides access between the first and second floors. The most visible of the stairwells is the south stairwell, which is located in the open at the south end of the first floor north-south corridor (photograph 0022). The two east stairwells are located off the main north-south corridor, rather than being part of the corridor. The defining attributes of the stairwells are the terrazzo floors, generous widths of the stairwells, configuration of the stairs and the original ceiling heights, as well as the window openings in the two east stairwells. The solid half-wall railings in the stairwells are plain and of indeterminate age.
The Seminole High School has about thirty classrooms (representative photographs 0027 – 0029) of various sizes and multiple office rooms. The classrooms and offices would have been private areas, thus the individual classrooms and offices are of minor significance to the overall building. Many of the classrooms retain their original wood-framed chalkboards with wood chalk ledges and wood cabinets set in the inside wall, creating a corresponding bump-out in the corridors that is obscured on the corridor side by the inset lockers lining the corridor walls.

Centrally located opposite the main lobby is the historic school reception area (photograph 0018). The administrative offices and supply rooms then branch off the reception area. Originally, the reception area was inset off the main corridor with just a high counter separating the area. The terrazzo floor defines the original reception area with the counter area evident in the replacement wood flooring. The reception was closed off prior to the mid-1980s by a combination of double wood doors and four oversize fixed windows. Due to its separation from the main corridor and lobby, the reception area is considered private space similar to the other offices and classrooms in the building.

Designed and constructed with all the latest in late 1920s amenities, the Seminole High School included a commodious auditorium (photographs 0025 – 0026) on the northwest side of the building. Used for general assemblies and all large gatherings, including graduations, plays, speeches and numerous yearbook photos, the auditorium was the primary public space in the building. The configuration of the auditorium remains the same with the stage defined by a proscenium arch that contains the letters “SHS” at the top. In front of the stage, there is a orchestra area. The concrete auditorium floor is sloped towards the stage. On the east wall, there is a full-width balcony with a center projection room. The backstage area included several support rooms, including a room under the stage that was intended to serve as a band/music room. The materials of the auditorium have been modernized, including the wooden theater seats which were replaced at least in the late 1950s and the acoustic drop ceiling with modern light fixtures. The walls have been painted a dark color and possibly coated with an acoustic material.

The gymnasium (photographs 0030 – 0031) on the southwest side of the building had a large floor area with relatively narrow, balcony-style, concrete seats on the north and south sides. The smaller girls locker rooms were under the north seats with the more commodious boys locker room situated in the far west part of the adjoining one-story section. The original maple gym floor was replaced with a modern rubber floor at an unknown time. The utilitarian nature of the gym is reflected in the glazed ceramic tile walls and exposed metal roof rafters. As a functional space that was predominately used for class purposes, the gymnasium is classified as secondary space, the same as the other classrooms and offices.

As originally constructed, the cafeteria (photograph 0024) was located on the northwest side of the first floor, adjacent to the auditorium. Around 1953, the cafeteria was moved to the separate building and the original cafeteria space became classroom space, most recently being used as a combination yearbook and computer lab. No evidence of the original cafeteria remains visible.
Above the historic cafeteria space on the second floor, is the “model public speaking room” (photograph 0035). As built, this east-west rectangular room included a raised stage area with a small proscenium arch on the west side. The room was intended to supplement the auditorium by providing a smaller space for class and meeting purposes. With the 1980s drop ceiling obscuring the upper proscenium arch and similar in size to several of the other larger classrooms, the public speaking room is categorized as secondary space.

As constructed, the school library (photograph 0033) was located on the second floor above the reception/office area on the first floor. Predominately a north-south rectangular space with offices on the north side, the library was modernized over the years so the original configuration of the space is unclear. The ceiling height has been lowered by the addition of the 1980s drop ceiling and the floors carpeted at an unknown time. In the south corner of the west wall, an elevator door was added in the early 2000s as part of the exterior elevator tower addition. Because the library was always self-contained and remodeled multiple times, the library is also classified as secondary space.

Rivaling the library for size was the domestic science area (photograph 0034) located in the northeast side of the second floor. The domestic science area originally included a “model house,” consisting of a living room, dining room, kitchen, bedroom, bathroom and closets. Adjoining the model house were study area and classrooms. Updates to the domestic science area include the 1980s drop ceiling, carpeted floors and probably 1980s double kitchen on the south side. In about the center of the room, on the east wall, there is a cabinet area with closet space to the side and, in the northeast corner, there is a small room, both spaces possibly remnants of the model house. While the domestic science area is interesting, it is non-public space that has been dramatically changed over the years.

On the third floor, the southwest room (photograph 0039 – 0040) was occupied by the science department at least in 1959-1960 and possibly originally. More recently, the classroom was evidently used for art purposes with the science department moved to the south side of the first floor at an unknown time. However, in about 1960, the east wall of the science classroom, corresponding to the southwest wall in the third floor corridor, was altered by the addition of multiple display cases. As seen inside the classroom, the cases remain in place, although the previously discussed corridor glass faces were covered with artwork. The cases likely displaced an original bank of lockers in the third floor corridor.

**SETTING (See Date of Construction Map on Continuation Sheet 3):** Sited to emphasis its monumentality, the Seminole High School is situated at the intersection of North Timmons Street and West Seminole Avenue. Accordingly, the school fronts towards downtown Seminole with the connecting street (West Seminole Avenue) terminating at the school property. On the north side, with North Timmons Street jogging to the west around the school property, the school building also sits at the intersection of North Timmons Street and (as now named) Mike Snyder Avenue (historically West Simpson Avenue).

To the front (east) of the nominated building, there is an expansive front lawn that is centrally divided by an east-west drive aligned to West Seminole Avenue. Along the front of the building,
there is a north-south drive that includes black-topped parking on both sides. The basic design of the City Beautiful-inspired front lawn was developed in 1934 by workers employed by the New Deal Civil Works Authority (CWA) program. The front lawn, including both the north and south sections with drives and parking areas, is counted as a single contributing site.

Near the center of the north section of the front lawn, there is a metal flagpole that is surrounded by a circle of vegetation. The flagpole was added in 1940 to the front lawn by the class of 1940 and is counted as a contributing object. To the direct north of the flagpole is a modern sign on a buff brick base with a concrete foundation. The sign, added in about 2000 to the front lawn, is counted as a noncontributing object because it was not present when the property achieved its significance.

Currently situated off the northwest corner of the high school building, in the center of the west end of the concrete sidewalk along the north side of the building, is a small ticket booth that the school uses to control access to the football field. Constructed in about 1956, the ticket booth originally had broad enclosed eaves with probably an asphalt roof. Currently, the building has no eave overhang and, matching the rest of the Seminole school buildings, a green metal roof. A course of soldier bricks ornaments the upper wall. Added after the period of significance and lacking historic integrity, the ticket booth is counted as a noncontributing building. The square building features centered, two-pane, sliding windows on the north, east and south elevations. The windows have striated soldier brick sills. Centrally located on the west elevation, there is a single paneled metal door in a wood frame. Due to its small scale and location in the far northwest corner of the site, the ticket booth does not diminish the integrity of the high school building.

Just a few feet off the west side of the ticket booth is a modern black fence that prohibits entry into the tennis courts/parking area and football stadium (both discussed in more detail below). The fence extends north to the curb from the northwest corner of the high school building with a gate to the north of the ticket booth. At the concrete curb, the fence turns west along the curb to the driveway for the tennis courts/parking area which features inset double metal gates. The fence then goes back to the curb to continue west past the football stadium. Because only a small portion of the fence is within the nomination boundaries, it is considered part of the overall high school site and is not counted separately.

Defining the back of the nominated property is a stone retaining wall that historically divided the school from the c. 1935 tennis courts/parking area (discussed below). The retaining wall (photographs 0008 – 0012), included in the nomination as a contributing structure, is an original feature that served the practical purpose of holding the back of the building site in place above the lower grade tennis courts. The retaining wall also marks the probable separating line between a new private owner and the school district.

Just above the retaining wall, corresponding to the open space created by the U-shape of the west elevation, is a fenced enclosure containing the school’s mechanical unit (photograph 0010). The unit sits on a concrete pad. The unit was in place prior to 1995 but is not historic in age. Due to
the size of the unit and the fenced enclosure, the unit is counted as a noncontributing structure within the nomination boundaries.

Marking the south boundary of the property is the east-west concrete sidewalk that extends along the south side of the high school building, separating the historic high school building from the mid-twentieth-century cafeteria/shop building (discussed in more detail below). Preventing access to the tennis courts/parking area and football stadium is a modern, black, metal fence stretching north-south across the sidewalk. Due to their small scale and ubiquitous nature, the sidewalk and fence are not counted separately in this nomination.

The former tennis courts located to the west of the contributing retaining wall, and now a parking area, are not included in the property boundaries because the courts lack historic integrity. The three courts, which quit being used in about 1985, are no longer recognizable due to the striping for parking and the 2010 construction of the pavilion on the south side. The west wall of the tennis courts was formed by the original east side seating for the Seminole High School football field. Constructed using funds from the New Deal-era Civil Works Authority (CWA) and Public Works Administration (PWA) in 1934, the football field also lacks historic integrity due to significant modifications. In addition to lengthening the east stadium bleacher on both the north and south ends in about 1950, the west bleacher was replaced in 1947 by a combination football bleacher with press box and Future Farmers of America (FFA) vocational agricultural building. At that time, the size of the field was also changed from its original 1934 dimensions. In 1949, a practice field was added off the west side of the football field. At an unknown time, a concrete block concession building in the northwest corner of the stadium, a metal building in the southwest corner and new goalposts and scoreboards were also added to the field.

When the school was constructed in 1930, it was the only school facility in the area. Across the street to the east and northeast of the school, there were historically two churches, the Church of the Nazarene and, completed in 1932 directly across from the north wing of the high school building, the Christian Church. Only the Christian Church remains in place today. Historically, across the street to the north of the high school building and south of the Christian Church at the corner of North Timmons Avenue and Mike Snyder Avenue were typical residential properties of the 1920s with the Harber Hospital sited in a direct line south of the high school building. Beginning in the early 1950s, the area around the high school began to fill with school resources.

In 1953, a new Modern Movement style, combination cafeteria/shop building designed by the well-known mid-twentieth-century Oklahoma architectural firm of Hudgins, Ball and Thompson was erected to the south of the high school building. The cafeteria/shop building is a separate facility from the historic high school and remains in use by the Seminole Public Schools as a cafeteria. Probably due to the distinctive mid-century roof that is nearly flat with eaves that flare upward, the cafeteria/shop building is the only school building in the area that did not have its roof replaced with a green metal gable roof in the early 2000s. Between about 1995 and 2003, a rectangular mechanical unit was added to the east elevation of the cafeteria, diminishing the design and feeling of the cafeteria/shop building. Due to this integrity issue, combined with the marked different architectural style that reflects its mid-century, baby boomer construction as
compared to the 1920s, oil-boom opulence of the high school building, the cafeteria/shop building is not included in the historic high school nomination boundaries.

In 1961, a new, separate gymnasium was constructed directly across Mike Snyder Avenue from the tennis courts, replacing the small residences that previously lined Mike Snyder Avenue to the west of North Timmons Street. Also designed in the mid-century Modern style, the gymnasium originally featured a round barrel roof with a flat-roofed entry. Thirty years after construction of the gymnasium, a commodious middle school addition was added to the back (west) side of the gymnasium. In the early 2000s, when the raised green metal roof was placed on the high school building, a similar metal roof was added to the original portion of the gymnasium, altering the character defining barrel roof to a front-gabled roof. A metal hipped roof was also placed over the originally flat-roofed front entry. Accordingly, the gymnasium bears little resemblance to its original 1961 appearance.

By 1965, the houses to the northeast of the high school building had also been removed, creating a parking lot across from the separate gymnasium and the high school. The exact date of the parking lot’s creation is unknown; however, according to the May 21, 1965, issue of the Big Chief, the Seminole High School newspaper, the student council was “presently engaged in re-surfacing the parking lot across from the new physical education building.” In addition to the gymnasium’s radical changes in appearance and size, the 1960s gymnasium and parking lot were excluded from the nomination boundaries due to a lack of historic association, being constructed after the high school building’s 1930 to 1940 period of significance.

Outside the original boundaries of the high school, the school constructed a new early childhood center in about 2003 on the former location of the Harper Hospital. The originally, east-west, rectangular building was added onto in 2009 with a north-south addition that more than doubled the size of the building. Due to the lack of historic association, the early childhood center is not included in the boundaries of this nomination.

**ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS:** There has been one addition to the Seminole High School Building consisting of the elevator tower located on the rear of the building, added in the early 2000s. Due to the use of compatible but yet different colored brick, application of matching ornamental detail, the relatively small scale and rear location, the elevator tower is easily understood as an addition and does not detract from the ability of the building to convey its significance.

The materials on the interior of the building have been updated multiple times. The interior doors were replaced in the early 1980s and drop ceilings throughout installed in the mid-1980s. The corridor floors remain terrazzo with the other rooms having a mix of concrete, wood and carpet. The dominant arrangement of space defined by the double-loaded corridors on each floor remains evident, although several of the secondary spaces along the corridor may have been reconfigured.

The exterior of the building has been most noticeably altered by the replacement of the windows and addition of the green standing seam metal roof. Because the original roofline and
fenestration pattern remaining overwhelming intact, these changes do not destroy the building’s historic integrity. Over its nearly ninety years of use as a school, other updates and modernizations were undertaken, including the addition of air conditioning in the mid-1980s and addition of fire escape doors and stairs on the rear elevation. However, the building, overall, retains its distinguishing characteristics to ably convey its 1930-1940 period of significance in the areas of community planning and development, education and architecture.

The setting of the building also continued to evolve over the decades with the loss of numerous historic resources. However, the distinguishing siting of the building and its impressive front lawn allow the historic high school building to continue to dominant the area. Overall, the Seminole High School retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, feeling and association to merit listing on the National Register of Historic Places for its historic and architectural significance as an exemplary, pre-New Deal, Art Deco style, 1930 high school inspired by the City Beautiful Movement and designed by the master Oklahoma architectural firm of Hawk and Parr.
Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- [x] A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- [ ] B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- [x] C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- [ ] D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark “x” in all the boxes that apply.)

- [ ] A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- [ ] B. Removed from its original location
- [ ] C. A birthplace or grave
- [ ] D. A cemetery
- [ ] E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- [ ] F. A commemorative property
- [ ] G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years
Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMUNITY PLANNING &
DEVELOPMENT

EDUCATION

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance
1930-1940

Significant Dates
1931
1934
1940

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Parr, Josephus O., Hawk & Parr, architect
Chase, R.H., and Sons, builder
Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Seminole High School, located in Seminole, Seminole County, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under Criterion A in the areas of community planning and development and education and under Criterion C for its architectural significance. The high school is significant in the area of community planning and development as a tangible product of the City Beautiful Movement in Seminole. In the area of education, the construction of the new, expansive, modern in every aspect, high school allowed an expanded curriculum, including the addition of a junior college beginning with the fall term of the 1931-1932 school year. Under Criterion C, the building is architecturally significant as an exemplary example of a modern, pre-New Deal, Art Deco style school designed by J. O. Parr of the preeminent Oklahoma architectural firm of Hawk and Parr. The period of significance for the Seminole High School extends from the start of construction of the building in 1930 and extends to 1940 to encompass the development of the front landscape and the September 11, 1940 dedication of the school flagpole. The year 1931 is included as a significant date as that is when the school opened to students, greatly enhancing the educational opportunity in the area. The year 1934 was a significant date because that is when the front landscape was developed into its recognizable form by workers employed under President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal. The year 1940 marked the installation of the flagpole, the crowning object for the landscape and school. While the school-related development continued to expand in the area from 1930 to the present time, the nominated property, consisting of the 1930 High School building and expansive front lawn, are the only historic elements that retain historic integrity.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

BACKGROUND:

In the early 1880s, a “tiny hamlet” named Tidmore developed at a switch of the Choctaw, Oklahoma and Gulf (CO&G) Railroad within the lands granted in 1856 to the Seminole Nation in Indian Territory. In 1890, the Seminole Nation established the Mekusukey (also spelled Mekasukey) Academy (NRIS #74001668) for boys near the town of Tidmore. The Tidmore post office was established on May 17, 1902. In 1906, a townsite company was formed that purchased 80 acres of land from a Seminole Freedman. Located about a mile west of Tidmore, the new community had the advantage of allowing residents to own the land on which their house and business buildings sat. In Tidmore, the residents built their buildings on leased land. By the fall of 1906, the former “Tidmorites moved, bag, baggage, houses and all,” to the new community. With a post office established in February 1907, the new community was designated Seminole after the Indian tribe. Although “cattlemen of the surrounding territory” made the town into a

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1 *The Big Chief*, (Seminole High School, Seminole, Oklahoma), September 25, 1940.
regional trading hub, “from statehood until 1926 Seminole remained just a small agricultural community.”

In 1926, following discoveries of other small oil pools in the area, the Fixico Number One blew in, creating “one of the greatest oil pools in the history of the nation” with the town of Seminole in the center. With thirty-nine small oil pools in and around Seminole County forming the Greater Seminole Field, Seminole’s population jumped 1342.8% in the late 1920s to officially number 11,459 residents in 1930 with unofficial estimates placing the boomtown population as high as 25,000 to 30,000. Although the oil boom ended in the mid-1930s, Seminole’s population held relatively stable at around 11,000 until about 1970.

At the peak of oil activity, oil from the Greater Seminole Field accounted for 2.6% of the world’s production. Between 1927 and 1929, the field produced between 150 million to 200 million barrels of oil a year. It was during this period that the town of Seminole nicknamed itself the “Miracle City.” On the national level, the impact of this incredible production included a drop in oil prices down to $.17 a barrel at one point. Accordingly, “The Greater Seminole was the last Oklahoma petroleum field allowed to practice unbridled oil production, and the excesses of the area had much to do with major state oil and gas conservation reforms enacted in the 1930s.”

On the local level, the oil developments created an unprecedented opportunity for community growth. Seminole, along with multiple other towns and cities in Oklahoma, embraced the City Beautiful Movement as the key for development in the first decades of the twentieth century. The City Beautiful Movement was a nationwide trend in urban planning that originated at the turn of the twentieth century to rectify the decay and demoralization of communities through the beautification of the city. Urban areas across Oklahoma, such as Seminole, were experiencing exponential growth, and leaders increasingly realized the critical importance of community planning, not only in sustaining urban growth but also for the continued health and safety of residents and visitors. Proponents of the City Beautiful Movement believed that by beautifying an urban area with wide elegant avenues, carefully planned landscape designs, and opulent, usually light-colored, buildings, the pride of the city would be restored, and inner cities would maintain their central position within the expanding community.

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4 Mullins, “Seminole County.” See also Weaver, “Greater Seminole Field” and *The Seminole (Oklahoma) Producer*, 26 February 1928.

In Oklahoma, the City Beautiful Movement endured longer than in other states. While nationwide the movement generally fell from favor in the 1910s, many Oklahoma communities, including Seminole, Oklahoma City, Tulsa, Chickasha, Bristow, Norman, Edmond, Enid, and Ponca City, undertook various City Beautiful campaigns in the 1920s and 1930s. While much attention was paid to park development, other areas of interest included city planning and zoning, landscape design, and creation of a modern infrastructure that included paved streets, trash removal, sewer systems, and street lighting. Although the City Beautiful Movement in Oklahoma as a whole was no longer touted in the 1940s, many elements of the movement permeated city planning and development.6

A significant contributing factor in the execution of many City Beautiful plans in Oklahoma in the 1930s was President Franklin Roosevelt’s New Deal, which created a cascade of programs and agencies to respond to the Great Depression. Despite increasing signs of a major recession throughout the 1920s, particularly in agricultural communities, the depression manifested itself largely with the 1929 Wall Street stock market crash. Following the Wall Street collapse, the nationwide recession steadily grew for three years, culminating in 1932. While conditions did not improve after 1932, they ceased the marked downward spiral of the proceeding years. In all, the Great Depression lasted for over ten years, resulted in prolonged massive unemployment and the worse economic depression in American history. The economic stimulus provided by President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal policies and wartime industries finally bought the county out of the depression by about the early 1940s.7

Between 1933 and 1939, President Roosevelt legislated twenty-nine different acts that sought to assist citizens in distress, as well as stimulate the national economy. The bills were structured to sustain various parts of the economy with some programs lasting only a few months and others enduring for years. The majority of the acts sought to provide some type of relief for the unemployed. The Federal Emergency Relief Act (FERA) of 1933 was one of the first bills to aid the destitute. This act channeled federal money to state and local agencies, which then dispensed the funds to impoverished families. Other than direct money, relief was dispensed under the auspices of the FERA in the form of limited work relief projects. These projects sought to preserve the dignity of the unemployed by allowing them to work for their money rather than receive an abhorrent handout from the government. The work relief program under the FERA went through several stages of development. Early projects were essentially state projects which happened to use available FERA funds.8

In late 1933, the Roosevelt Administration established the Federal Civil Works Authority (CWA) in response to the large scale unemployment still incapacitating the nation. The CWA was considered a separate organization from the FERA although the same people administered

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6 Ibid.
both programs with much collaboration in activity. While the CWA was in operation, however, the FERA work relief program was discontinued. Solely a federal program, the CWA employed the jobless in building various public construction projects. At its peak in January 1934, over four million people were employed. Intended only as an interim program, Roosevelt discontinued the CWA in March 1934 due to the excessive cost and the fear of creating a permanent relief class.9

The FERA took over for the terminated CWA, establishing the Emergency Work Relief Program to continue the work of the CWA by finishing its projects and undertaking new public works projects. Under the Emergency Work Relief Program, work relief projects fell largely in the jurisdiction of the state but with limited federal regulations. These regulations mandated that employment was granted through local relief agencies who determined need and pay scale; projects had to fall within broad FERA categories; the work had to meet certain federal regulations; and, all projects had to have a sponsor. Although effective in assisting the destitute for two years, the FERA ceased operation in May 1935. Critically, the FERA served as a model for subsequent work relief programs.10

Seminole’s first high school was a two-story, brick, six-room building constructed in 1909 that served as a combination grade and high school. With the building “showing signs of being outgrown,” school bonds for an $8,000 addition passed in 1912. The same year, the school was accredited as a four-year high school, reportedly the only accredited high school in Seminole County. From the initial 1909 enrollment of two high school students, the number of students in the Seminole High School grew to number between forty and fifty by 1913. By 1917, enrollment increased to about seventy-five students. Despite many students leaving Seminole to fight in World War I and the temporary closing of the school in response to “the terrible influenza epidemic” which was “still recalled with a shudder by old timers because of the toll of lives which it exacted,” the number of students taking classes at Seminole High School in November 1918 reached seventy-eight, “the largest number up until that time in the history of the high school.”11

With the school “rooms terribly crowded,” a new high school building was constructed in 1921 at what was then the north end of downtown Seminole. As with most high schools at the time, the Seminole High School “continued to be the crux around which most of the life of the town centered.” While the 1921 school building was adequate to handle the normal growth, the 1926 discovery of oil that made “Seminole the center of what was at that time the greatest oil field on earth,” resulted in the downtown rapidly expanding to encompass the high school building. Among several other inadequacies for a town with “facilities to accommodate almost a thousand souls,” but faced with a boomtown population in excess of 25,000 residents, the educational facilities were “one of the greatest and most serious.” In the late 1920s, school enrollment in Seminole rose 500% with the number of teachers going from eight to forty-six and then to ninety

9 Ibid, 2-7. See also Leuchtenburg, 120-123.
10 Ibid.
11 The Big Chief, 15 November1957.
during the 1927-1928 school year. The school district responded to the swell in students and teachers by constructing five grade schools in various locations around town.\textsuperscript{12}

Although the 1921 high school building was “completely overhauled and remodeled” in time for the 1927-1928 school year, the local newspaper announced in February 1928 that the next major improvement project planned by the school district was the construction of a new high school building, preferably away from the downtown area. While forward movement on the new building apparently stalled, Seminole school superintendent L. W. Kitchens announced in August 1928 that the Seminole school district was adding a junior high unit to their schools. The new unit would allow the 8\textsuperscript{th} grade students an easier transition with the “languages and heavier mathematics” pushed to their later high school years.\textsuperscript{13}

**HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE**

With the valuation of the Seminole school district increasing to $9 million in early 1929, community support for construction of a new high school, with an “ample field for athletic games,” was renewed. In the first week of January 1929, \textit{The Seminole Producer} announced the list of twenty-five public improvement program that it deemed “most essential” for a “very complete and comprehensive program of civic improvement.” Although the order of the list did “not in any way indicate their importance,” second on the list was the construction of a new high school building. Describing the 1921 building as “inadequate to meet the requirements of the present enrollment” and “poorly situated,” the newspaper also suggested that the city acquire the 1921 building for a community center.\textsuperscript{14}

In all, the 1929 list was a testament to the City Beautiful Movement that permeated Seminole planning and development activities at the time. Typical of the City Beautiful Movement, the activities ranged from the mundane to the lofty with emphasis on improving conditions within Seminole, as well as enhancing the perception of Seminole as an advanced, modern city rather than an oil-fueled, shanty-filled boomtown. Other items on the list consisted of development of a city lake and park; the addition of more playgrounds/parks around town; replacement of frame buildings with “modern brick buildings” in the downtown area; paving of Highway 48 across the county with paving or graveling of lateral roads; development of an airport; completion of a hotel; improvement for housing, including development of “restricted residential additions,” construction of more apartment houses and “replacement of shacks with modern homes;” addition, repair and replacement of sidewalks; a federal census to allow Seminole’s “true population” to be listed on road maps and other documents; a survey for suitable industries with a campaign to secure those industries; marking all streets; extension and improvement of street lighting; sign control, including getting rid of overhanging and “unsightly” signs; enforcement of ordinances against grifters, peddlers and other non-tax paying merchants; efforts to lower insurance rates through improvement of fire-fighting capabilities; widening of First Street due to its change from residential to commercial; completion of a Market Square and establishment of

\textsuperscript{12} Ibid.  
\textsuperscript{13} \textit{Seminole (Oklahoma) County News}, 18 August 1927. See also \textit{The Seminole Producer}, 19 February 1928 and \textit{Seminole (Oklahoma) Morning News}, 12 August 1928.  
\textsuperscript{14} \textit{Seminole Producer}, 6 January 1929 and 7 January 1929.
monthly sales day; a “progressive agricultural program” with a focus on reclaiming oil fields; organization of a welfare society with a paid welfare worker; development of a modern public tourist camp; a more efficient disposal systems for trash and waste; clean streets; and, marked parking for cars.  

By mid-January 1929, local headlines proclaimed “Enough Funds Available to Build in 1929” and “Miracle City Will Live Name” with the new high school projected to be ready for the 1930-1931 school year. The estimated cost of the building was $150,000 with the school board expecting to be able to levy $140,000 in 1929 for the building, thus avoiding the need for a school bond. Although definitive on wanting a new location for the building that would allow for a gymnasium and athletic field, the school board did not have a specific site under consideration. Because many of the students rode a bus to school anyway, the school board was of the opinion that “distance means nothing” so the board was not interested in building the new high school on an existing school site. Plans for the new building, which was to “include every available feature of what is a modern in schools in this day and time,” were anticipated to be ready by June 1, 1929. 

The Seminole board of education called for an election in mid-June 1929 for the purposes of levying a 5-mill tax for the erection of the new high school. The exact cost of the building had not definitively been worked out, although it was known it would be over $100,000. The new “entirely modern in every respect building” was to include “up to date science departments with all necessary laboratory equipment; various study hall and recitation rooms; office rooms; storerooms; a library room with added literature; an athletic gymnasium; locker rooms and clothes closets; modern plumbing and lavatory facilities, and any other convenience identified with what it takes to make a completely modern high school building.” The board of education had not yet decided on the location of the new building, although they had specified that it would be within the city limits and on the outskirts of the main business district. 

In addition to the 5-mill levy for the high school building, the 1929 school election asked voters to approve an additional 10-mill levy, which in combination with the regular 5-mill levy would “provide a fund large enough to maintain the school system for the year and build the proposed high school building without bonding the school district.” With the polls open until 7 p.m., less than 100 voters had cast a vote by 3 p.m. on June 14, 1929; however, the low voter turnout was blamed on the hot weather with more voters “expected to vote late in the cool of the day.” Although the voter turnout was lower than anticipated, the mill levy measures were approved by 226 voters with only six voters rejecting. 

Within two days of the election, the school board purchased a six-acre site north of the Harber Hospital that was described as being “at the head of Seminole on Timmons just across the city line.” Part of the Strother estate, the site was acquired for the reported price of $3,800. It was anticipated that the building would face east with a drive “from Seminole to the front of the

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15 Ibid.
16 Ibid, January 16, 1929. See also Seminole Morning News, January 16, 1929.
17 Seminole Morning News, 7 June 1929.
18 Seminole Producer, 13 June 1929. See also Seminole Morning News, 14 June 1929 and 15 June 1929.
building.” It was anticipated that the county excise board would approve the amount available at the end of June, allowing the construction project to start on August 1, 1929. However, the excise board did not approve the school funds until late September 1929. Additionally, due to increased operational costs, the funding amount for the new building was only $139,000, short of the anticipated $175,000 cost.19

At about the same time that the county excise board was working in late September 1929, the school board approved the initial plans for the building designed by the Oklahoma City architectural firm of Hawk and Parr. With the plans being submitted three times and sent back twice, the final plans were approved by the school board at its October 21, 1929, meeting. With the bidding expected to “take a considerable period,” the building was not anticipated to be ready for the start of the 1930-1931 school and the anticipated cost of the building increased to $200,000.20

Proceeding faster than anticipated, the first advertisement for bids was published just a day after the board approved the plans. Two weeks later, the board rejected all sixteen bids due to high cost with the bids ranging from a low of $198,000 to a high of $230,190. To reduce costs, the board planned to have several changes made to the plans with the next set of bids anticipated to be based on “an entirely different set of plans.” By the end of November 1929, the engineer and architect, J. O. Parr of Parr and Hawk, had revised the plans to stay within a $175,000 limit and the second advertisement for bids was first published on November 24, 1929. Despite exceeding the set limit, the contract for the high school was awarded to R. H. Chase of Seminole on December 10, 1929. With eleven bids filed, Chase’s successful bid was $194,544. This was the low bid except for the bid by Harmon and Madison which included proposals that were not acceptable to the school board.21

With the contract calling for the building to be completed by the first week of September 1930, the construction stakes were driven in the ground in mid-February 1930. Excavation work was anticipated to be minimal as the building was “to be constructed on a high, dry place which is almost level.” While the building was not yet complete, the “huge marble” cornerstone prominently located on the right side of the main entry was dedicated with much fanfare on September 18, 1930.22

The completion of the building was hailed in mid-December 1930, although the building lacked some “finishing details” and would not be occupied until the start of the spring 1931 semester in January. Although evidently not addressed in the newspaper earlier in 1930, the gymnasium was further behind then the rest of the building due to it being let in a separate contract. The price of the building, without the gymnasium or furniture and fixtures, was reported as $164,890. The gymnasium contract was an additional $31,985 and the cost of the land was reported in late 1930 as $4,650. Related to the cost of the gymnasium and other “enlargements,” the school board

19 Seminole Producer, 16 June 1929 and 24 September 1929.
20 Ibid, 26 September 1929 and 20 October 1929.
21 Ibid, 28 October 1929, 5 November 1929, 25 November 1929, 1 December 1929, 4 December 1929, 5 December 1929 and 10 December 1929.
22 Ibid, 23 February 1930. See also Seminole Morning News, 18 September 1930.
evidently ended up floating a five-year bond for $75,000, bringing the total bonded debt for the district to $190,000.23

As described in 1930, the concrete reinforced with steel building was “splendid and presents a very attractive appearance from any angle.” The exterior was clad with buff brick “with a trim of natural Indiana limestone.” As reported in the local classroom, the building had about thirty-five classrooms, although it is unclear what spaces exactly were considered classrooms. In 1931, the building contained an auditorium with a stage and projection room; a public speaking room also described as a “small theatre” with its own mini-stage on the second floor, north of the auditorium; a library on the west side of the second floor; a domestic science area that, as popular at the time, contained what was essentially a model apartment; a gymnasium with showers and dressing rooms; a manual training (shop) area on the ground floor with an oversize door that would allow an automobile to be driven into the building; a commercial department area on the front (east) part of the second floor; science rooms with the latest in modern laboratory equipment; a cafeteria in the northwest part of the first floor; and a large trophy case in the first floor corridor to hold the “prizes and cups taken by individuals and teams from the Seminole high schools.”24

With the 1930-1931 spring semester commencing on Monday, January 5, 1931, the school board formally accepted the high school on Friday, January 2, 1931. The local newspaper included a special section in the Sunday, January 4, 1931, issue that repeated much of the same information from the December 14, 1930 issue, as well as advertisements and articles about the various people and entities involved in the construction and use of the building.25

Nine months after the building was completed, the first full school year got underway in the new high school. The city was “justly proud of (its) new temple of knowledge” with “physical plant and equipment of high school second to none.” With a new building that met all modern requirements and had ample room for both the junior and high schools, it was also announced in August 1931 that a junior college would be added the high school’s offering. Initially just one year of instruction, the junior college offered local students college instruction while remaining at home. Initially, six teachers taught eight subjects, including English, French, physics, science, mathematics and history. The junior college advanced to a two-year program the next year.26

While the high school continued to be used by the Seminole Junior College until about 1969, the Seminole Junior High until about 1991 and the Seminole High School until 2015, the building made its significant educational contribution to the community in 1931 when it replaced the inadequate 1921 building.

23 Seminole Producer, 14 December 1930.
24 Ibid.
25 Seminole Morning News, 3 January 1931. See also Seminole Producer, 4 January 1931.
While the building was completed and put into use in 1931, the landscape around the building awaited additional funding. With the Great Depression in full effect in Seminole, as well as elsewhere, in the early 1930s, the district was unable to muster the resources to complete the landscape until 1934 when the federal government’s CWA provided the means and opportunity to complete the work. By early February 1934, there were more than twenty CWA projects in Seminole County.\(^\text{27}\)

Among the Seminole County CWA projects was a project to pave with concrete Seminole Avenue between Jefferson and Timmons streets and the half-block leading from Timmons Street to the high school building. Because there was not a great demand for pavement-laying in Seminole, all of the paving was “done by hand labor, rather than the huge paver” with the CWA employing about twenty “cement workers” on the project. After several weeks work preparing the ground, the half-block to the high school was nearing completion by the second week of February. As described in the local newspaper, “The pavement will help to beautify the now blank campus of the high school.” Additionally, it was reported that “As soon as the pavement is finished plans are being made to plant trees and shrubbery on the campus to offset the fine building and magnificent athletic stadium now under construction.”\(^\text{28}\)

Just days later, among the fifty-four CWA projects approved by Carl Giles, state civil works administer, was the $12,956 project for the “Seminole high school ground improvement.” With the paving project ongoing, the CWA and “school board crew” transplanted a “huge Bermuda grass patch” to the school campus in March 1934.\(^\text{29}\) A separate project that started as a CWA project but was completed as a FERA project was the athletic stadium to the rear (west) of the school. Also completed in 1934 and still in use as the school football field, the stadium was extensively modernized over the years, including lengthening the east bleachers and widening the field, and, thus, is not included in the boundaries of this nomination due to a lack of historic integrity.

With various trees, shrubs, lights and other typical elements added to the front landscape in the ensuing years, the crowning object to the Seminole High School’s front lawn was the flagpole. A gift of the class of 1940, the flagpole was dedicated on September 11, 1940. The timing of the flagpole was particularly auspicious given the looming war clouds of World War II. As noted in the student newspaper, the flagpole “not only adds to the appearance of our school, it helps to arouse patriotism among the students.”\(^\text{30}\)

The Seminole High School is a testament to the City Beautiful Movement in Seminole. The monumental, light-colored building was sited on the west side of town in a developing residential area to front towards downtown Seminole with a large front lawn divided by a central drive and a main entry “of imposing massive construction.” As described in 1931, “The whole occupies a slight knoll, making the building visible from all sections of the city and the two trunk state highways going through Seminole.” The alignment of the north elevation of the high school

\(^{27}\) Seminole Producer, 5 February 1934.  
\(^{28}\) Ibid, 9 February 1934.  
\(^{29}\) Ibid, 11 February 1934 and 3 April 1934.  
\(^{30}\) The Big Chief, 25 September 1940.
building with the intersection of Timmons Street and Mike Snyder Avenue, another common City Beautiful Movement tactic, also emphasized the commanding presence of the building. Overall, the scale, color, style and positioning of the building were emblematic of the City Beautiful Movement, as was the expansive front lawn. The inherent improvement to local educational opportunities presented by the new high school was also an element of community development championed by the City Beautiful Movement. As with other City Beautiful developments in Oklahoma, the completion of the project would have been delayed or possibly never implemented if not for the New Deal work relief programs, such as the CWA.31

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Seminole High School is architecturally significant as an exemplary example of a pre-New Deal, Art Deco style, brick high school designed by J. O. Parr of the noted Oklahoma architectural firm Hawk and Parr. Although constructed after the technical start of the Great Depression, the architectural splendor of the Seminole High School was a product of the local boom in population and economic conditions as related to the Greater Seminole Oil Field. While the front landscape came to fruition only after involvement of the federal government, the building itself was constructed and in use two years before the first New Deal programs were enacted.

Although there is not a comprehensive, statewide survey of Art Deco style high schools in Oklahoma, the 1930 pre-New Deal construction date placed the Seminole High School among the earliest Art Deco style high schools constructed in the state. Although not a high school, the Art Deco style Taft Junior High (NRIS #07000515) in Oklahoma City was completed in 1931, one year after Seminole High School was completed. Overall, most of the noteworthy Art Deco style high schools in Oklahoma were built in the mid- to late-1930s directly related to various New Deal programs. This included the construction of Tulsa’s opulent Will Rogers High School (NRIS #07000918) beginning in 1939 and aided by the Public Works Administration (PWA). Also a PWA project was Oklahoma City’s Northeast High School, which was constructed in 1937 with multiple later additions. Although on a smaller scale, the stone Chandler High School (NRIS #9600032) was a 1940-1943 Works Progress Administration (WPA) project. A Streamline Moderne example of an Art Deco style high school was the 1939-1940 brick Sallisaw High School (NRIS #97000614), also a WPA project. The historic 1934-1935 Chickasha High School, now the Chickasha Middle School, was built in the Art Deco style using PWA monies to replace the 1909 building that burned in 1933.

Within Seminole itself, the high school is one of two noteworthy public buildings designed in the Art Deco style. The other public building is the Seminole Municipal Building (NRIS #15000580). Located on the site of the 1921 high school building, which was destroyed in a gas explosion on December 29, 1934, the Seminole Municipal Building was a PWA project constructed in 1936. Designed by the architectural firm of Winkler and Reid, the Municipal

31 Seminole Producer, 30 August 1931.
Building was also constructed of light colored brick but with cast stone trim. Overall, the Seminole Municipal Building is an excellent example of the less ornate, blockier, PWA-vernacular of the Art Deco style while the Seminole High School reflects the less-institutional, pre-New Deal, Art Deco style.

While drawing upon earlier influences, the Art Deco style emerged as a popular architectural style in the late 1920s. The style relied on ornamentation applied to light colored walls with an emphasis on verticality and stylized geometric designs. Characteristics of the Art Deco style expressed in the Seminole High School include the prominent vertical clock tower; the repetitious use of rectangles in both the form of the building, as well as the ornamentation; the stylized decorative details including the multiple vertical ornaments and sunburst panels; the use of light colored brick for wall material and white limestone for the building trim; the decorative emphasis on the entries; the stepped roofline; and, the symmetry of the building form and fenestration pattern.

Although the highly ornamental Beaux Arts style was originally espoused by the City Beautiful Movement, the Art Deco style was popular among the executed City Beautiful Movement designs in Oklahoma. In addition to the Seminole High School, one of the most prominent City Beautiful Movement developments is the Civic Center in Oklahoma City. Also a PWA project completed in the mid-1930s, the four buildings composing the Civic Center were all in the Art Deco style. Of particular note is the Municipal Auditorium (NRIS #16000850), which was also designed by Josephus O. Parr, AIA.

Born in Texas in 1877, Parr partnered with Edgar Smith in the architectural firm of Smith and Parr in McAlester, Oklahoma, prior to 1910. Around 1910, the pair moved the firm to Oklahoma City. Before and after this, the firm of Smith and Parr designed a number of high profile school buildings throughout the state, including the Administration Building at the Oklahoma College for Women (NRIS #01000950) in Chickasha, Oklahoma. Within Oklahoma City, the firm designed the Administration Building for the Oklahoma City College for Young Ladies and the campus for the St. Joseph’s Industrial School, among other projects. Smith and Parr also worked outside of Oklahoma, being responsible for the 1912 design of the Carnegie Library in Winfield, Kansas, the commission coming after inspection of the firms’ First Presbyterian Church in Oklahoma City by the library’s building committee.

The architectural firm of James Watson Hawk and Josephus Overton Parr formed in 1914. Previous to joining forces, Hawk was a partner in the preeminent Oklahoma architectural firm of Layton, Wemyss-Smith and Hawk. In addition to being named the architect for the Oklahoma state capitol building in 1910, the firm of Layton, Wemyss-Smith and Hawk designed many buildings of note in Oklahoma City, including the Baum Building, Oklahoman Building, American National Bank Building, Majestic Building, Sturms’ Magazine Building, Insurance Building, High Street School, Oklahoma City (Central) High School (NRIS #76001570) and

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33 Daily Oklahoman, (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma), 16 November 1910, 28 January 1912 and 4 February 1912.

Section 8 page 34
Seminole High School, among many others. Born on March 26, 1864, in Kenton, Ohio, Hawk came to Oklahoma in about 1899 from Saint Joseph, Missouri. Apparently, Hawk did not attend a formal architecture school but he had “had careful training and experience of great value in modern building.” By 1907, it was estimated that Hawk was the “designer of 80 percent of the largest and best constructed buildings in the (Oklahoma) city devoted to business, as well as many of the best designed and most expensive homes in the city.” One of Hawk’s first contracts, shortly after arriving in Oklahoma Territory, was for the $40,000 Epworth University Building.\(^{34}\)

The alliance of Hawk and Parr in 1914 was notable as the firm quickly became one of the most distinguished architectural practices in the state. In 1915, the firm was responsible for the design of the $100,000 courthouse in Perry, as well as the plans and specifications for the new Science Hall at the University of Oklahoma, located in Norman. By 1917, the practice was at work on the YMCA Building on West Second Street in Oklahoma City, as well as a school in Custer County. The following year, bids were advertised for construction of the firm’s school buildings at Alex and Luther, as well as the First Presbyterian Church of Hugo. In 1919, Hawk and Parr designed the $150,000 high school at Henryetta, the $20,000 school in Fletcher and the $25,000 First Christian Church of Fairfax, as well as the ten-story, $300,000 Tradesman State Bank (NRIS #80003292), $35,000 Grace Methodist Episcopal Church and the $200,000 Magnolia Petroleum Building (NRIS #79002007).\(^{35}\)

The 1920s continued development of Hawk and Parr’s wide body of work. During 1920, the firm worked on two buildings in Miami, both at the School of Mines, plus two buildings nearly across the state in Altus, these ones being a municipal hospital and a combined memorial auditorium and community building. The early 1920s also brought the commission for the $3 million Scottish Rite Temple in Guthrie, as well as the Oklahoma Club building and Farmer National Bank building in Oklahoma City. By the mid-1920s and in addition to the approximately $100,000 Tonkawa Lodge No. 157 A. F. and A. M. (NRIS #07000910), Hawk and Parr were at work on the Immanuel Baptist Church, the twelve-story Perrine Building and a five-story addition to the Shops Building. The practice’s popularity continued through the latter 1920s and early 1930s with the pair working in Oklahoma City on the Wesley Hospital addition, the $700,000 YWCA Building, the $65,000 Sunbeam Home Residence, the over $4.5 million Biltmore Hotel and the Stonewall Jackson Junior High School in Capitol Hill, as well as the Oklahoma National Bank Building in Duncan and the Seminole High School in Seminole.\(^{36}\)

The last commission the firm of Hawk and Parr received was for eighteen buildings at the federal penitentiary in El Reno. The partnership of Hawk and Parr dissolved in 1932 upon Hawk’s retirement from architectural practice. Parr continued to operate his own firm until his death in 1940. Among his latter solo works was the 1937 Municipal Auditorium (NRIS #16000850) in Oklahoma City, one of the main elements in Oklahoma City’s City Beautiful civic center complex. Hawk passed away in 1947, having moved to Arkansas and Louisiana after his

\(^{34}\) Ibid, 10 March 1907 and 22 December 1947.

\(^{35}\) Ibid, various dates 1911-1920.

\(^{36}\) Ibid, various dates 1911-1920.
retirement before returning to Oklahoma City. At the start of World War II, Hawk moved to Guthrie to the Masonic Home he had designed years before.\textsuperscript{37}

As a highly prolific firm from 1914 through 1932, Hawk and Parr was one of the preeminent architectural partnerships in Oklahoma during the first part of the twentieth century. In addition to the Seminole High School, the firm was responsible for the design of many eminent buildings, including the Scottish Rite Temple in Guthrie and the demolished Biltmore Hotel in Oklahoma City. As an outstanding example of their work in Seminole, the Seminole High School building merits recognition as a work of Hawk and Parr. The building is an outstanding example of a pre-New Deal, Art Deco style building in the community. The Seminole High School is also noteworthy as an exceptional example of the City Beautiful Movement in Seminole, as well as for its contribution to the betterment of educational facilities in Seminole in 1931.

\textsuperscript{37} Ibid, 29 January 1940 and 22 December 1947.
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The Seminole (Oklahoma) Producer. 19 February 1928; 26 February 1928; 6 January 1929; 7 January 1929; 16 January 1929; 13 June 1929; 16 June 1929; 24 September 1929; 26 September 1929; 20 October 1929; 28 October 1929; 5 November 1929; 25 November 1929; 1 December 1929; 4 December 1929; 5 December 1929; 10 December 1929; 23 February 1930; 14 December 1930; 4 January 1931; 30 August 1931; 5 February 1934; 9 February 1934; 11 February 1934; and, 3 April 1934.


Seminole High School
Name of Property

Seminole County, OK
County and State


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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

___ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
___ previously listed in the National Register
___ previously determined eligible by the National Register
___ designated a National Historic Landmark
___ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
___ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #
___ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #

Primary location of additional data:

X State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
___ Other

Name of repository: _____________________________________

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property ___ 3.4 Acres MOL

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: 
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 35.227883  Longitude: -96.677875
Seminole High School
County and State

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Beginning at the intersection of Mike Snyder Avenue and North Timmons Street, go about 415’ south along North Timmons Street to the intersection of North Timmons Street and the unnamed drive on the south side of the high school building, then about 222’ west/northwest along the drive to the intersection of the unnamed drive and the alley between the high school building and the cafeteria, then about 177’ south along the alley to the stone retaining wall, then about 366’ north along the retaining wall to Mike Snyder Avenue, then about 385’ east along Mike Snyder Avenue to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes the property historically associated with the Seminole High School that retains its historic integrity and is part of the 1930s building development.

Form Prepared By

name/title: _Cynthia Savage, Architectural Historian, for
organization: GuRuStu
street & number: 346 County Road 1230
city or town: Pocasset state: OK zip code: 73079
e-mail: archconsulting.savage@yahoo.com
television: __________________________
date: November 2020

Additional Documentation
Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs
Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo
Seminole High School
Name of Property

Seminole County, OK
County and State

Date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and does not need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Seminole High School
City or Vicinity: Seminole
County: Seminole
State: OK
Photographer: Cynthia Savage
Date Photographed: September 24, 2020

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 0001: Façade (east elevation), camera facing west.
Photo 0002: Center portion of façade (east elevation), camera facing west.
Photo 0003: North side of front lawn (foreground) including contributing flagpole (center middle ground) and noncontributing sign (right middle ground) and façade (background), camera facing southwest.
Photo 0004: Façade (left) and north elevation (right), camera facing southwest
Photo 0005: North corner of façade (left), north elevation (right) and noncontributing ticket booth (far right background), camera facing southwest.
Photo 0006: North elevation and ticket booth (far right), camera facing south.
Photo 0007: North elevation (center background), noncontributing ticket booth (center middle ground) and north side of the west elevation (right), camera facing southeast.
Photo 0008: West (rear) elevation (background) and contributing stone retaining wall (west Boundary – middle ground), camera facing southeast.
Photo 0009: North side of west elevation and contributing stone retaining wall, camera facing southeast.
Photo 0010: Center portion of west elevation (background), noncontributing mechanical unit (center middle ground) and stone retaining wall (lower foreground), camera facing east.
Photo 0011: West elevation and stone retaining wall, camera facing northeast.
Photo 0012: South corner of west elevation (background), stone retaining wall (middle ground) and west side of south elevation (right), camera facing northeast.
Photo 0013: West side of south elevation, camera facing northwest.
Photo 0014: South elevation, camera looking southwest.
Photo 0015: Façade (left) and parking/drive in front of building, camera facing northwest.
Photo 0016: South side of front lawn (right and center) with center drive (left) and south side of façade (background), camera facing southwest.
Photo 0017: North side of front lawn including flagpole (off-center to right background) and sign (center background), camera facing northwest.
Photo 0018: Interior, Main Lobby looking towards reception area, camera facing southwest
Photo 0019: Interior, Main Lobby looking towards front doors with built-in trophy cases, camera facing northeast.
Seminole High School  
Name of Property  

Seminole County, OK  
County and State

**Photo 0020:** Interior, north side of First Floor Corridor, camera facing north.  
**Photo 0021:** Interior, First Floor Corridor, camera facing north.  
**Photo 0022:** Interior, south side of First Floor Corridor looking towards south stairwell, camera facing south.  
**Photo 0023:** Interior, South First Floor Stairwell, camera facing east.  
**Photo 0024:** Interior, Cafeteria/Classroom, camera facing northwest.  
**Photo 0025:** Interior, Auditorium looking towards stage, camera facing southwest.  
**Photo 0026:** Interior, Auditorium looking towards backwall/balcony, camera facing southeast.  
**Photo 0027:** Interior, Representative Classroom, camera facing southeast.  
**Photo 0028:** Interior, Representative Classroom, camera facing northwest.  
**Photo 0029:** Interior, Representative Classroom, camera facing northeast.  
**Photo 0030:** Interior, Gymnasium, camera facing southeast.  
**Photo 0031:** Interior, Gymnasium, camera facing northeast.  
**Photo 0032:** Interior, Second Floor Corridor, camera facing north.  
**Photo 0033:** Interior, Library, camera facing northwest.  
**Photo 0034:** Interior, Domestic Science, camera facing southeast.  
**Photo 0035:** Interior, Public Speaking Room, camera facing northwest.  
**Photo 0036:** Interior, Second Floor North Stairwell, camera facing northeast.  
**Photo 0037:** Interior, Third Floor Corridor, camera facing northeast.  
**Photo 0038:** Interior, Third Floor North Stairwell, camera facing northeast.  
**Photo 0039:** Interior, Science/Art, camera facing south.  
**Photo 0040:** Interior, Science/Art, camera facing northwest.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.
Seminole High School
501 North Timmons Street
35.227833 -96.677875
Seminole, Seminole County, Oklahoma

Legend
Approximate Boundary

Section number  Location Maps  Page  1
Seminole High School

501 North Timmons Street
35.227883-96.677875
Seminole, Seminole County, Oklahoma

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number  Location Maps  Page 2
Seminole High School
Name of Property
Seminole County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number  Date of Construction Map  Page  3

Seminole Schools Development Map 1930-2020

Ticket Booth - 1956

Sign - c. 2000

Flagpole - 1940

Landscape - 1934

Added c. 2009

c. 2003
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number  Current School Boundary Map  Page  5

Seminole High School
Name of Property
Seminole County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Current School Boundaries
Seminole High School
501 North Timmons
35.227883 -96.677875
Seminole, Seminole County, Oklahoma

Legend
Nomination Boundary
Approximate Current School Boundary

Google Earth
©2009 Google
Seminole High School

501 North Timmons Street
Seminole, Seminole County, Seminole

Legend

- Seminole Boundary

Exterior Photo Key Map

Section number: Exterior Photo Key Map
Page: 6
Seminole High School
Seminole County, Oklahoma
N/A

Section number: Interior Photo Key Map – 1st Floor
Page: 7
Seminole High School
Name of Property
Seminole County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

OK_Seminole County_Seminole High School_0001
Seminole High School
Name of Property
Seminole County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

OK_Seminole County_Seminole High School_0002
Seminole High School
Seminole County, Oklahoma
N/A
OK_Seminole County_Seminole High School_0003
Seminole High School
Name of Property
Seminole County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

OK_Seminole County_Seminole High School_0004
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Seminole High School

Name of Property: Seminole County, Oklahoma
County and State: N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable): OK_Seminole County_Seminole High School_0005
Seminole High School

Name of Property: Seminole County, Oklahoma

County and State: N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable):

OK_Seminole County_Seminole High School_0006
Seminole High School
Name of Property
Seminole County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

OK_Seminole County_Seminole High School_0007
Seminole High School
Name of Property
Seminole County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

OK_Seminole County_Seminole High School_0008
Seminole High School

Name of Property
Seminole County, Oklahoma

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

OK_Seminole County_Seminole High School_0009
Seminole High School
Name of Property
Seminole County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

OK_Seminole County_Seminole High School_0010
Seminole High School

Name of Property: Seminole County, Oklahoma

County and State: N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable): OK_Seminole County_Seminole High School_0011

Section number: Photographs

Page: 11 of 40
Seminole High School

Name of Property
Seminole County, Oklahoma

Section number Photographs  Page 12 of 40

OK_Seminole County_Seminole High School_0012
Seminole High School

Name of Property
Seminole County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

OK_Seminole County_Seminole High School_0013
Seminole High School
Name of Property
Seminole County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number  Photographs  Page  14 of 40

OK_Seminole County_Seminole High School_0014
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Seminole County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Section number _Photographs_  Page _16 of 40_

OK_Seminole County_Seminole High School_0016
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Photographs Page 17 of 40

Seminole High School
Name of Property
Seminole County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

OK_Seminole County_Seminole High School_0017
Seminole High School
Name of Property
Seminole County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

OK_Seminole County_Seminole High School_0018
Seminole High School

Name of Property

Seminole County, Oklahoma

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

OK_Seminole County_Seminole High School_0019
Semino High School
Name of Property
Seminole County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

OK_Seminole County_Seminole High School_0020
Seminole High School
Name of Property
Seminole County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)
OK_Seminole County_Seminole High School_0021
Seminole High School
Name of Property
Seminole County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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County and State: Seminole County, Oklahoma
Name of multiple listing (if applicable): OK_Seminole County_Seminole High School_0025
Seminole High School

Name of Property
Seminole County, Oklahoma

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

OK_Seminole County_Seminole High School_0026
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Photographs Page 28 of 40

Seminole High School
Name of Property Seminole County, Oklahoma
County and State N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

OK_Seminole County_Seminole High School_0028
Seminole High School
Name of Property
Seminole County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photographs Page 29 of 40

OK_Seminole County_Seminole High School_0029
OK_Seminole County_Seminole High School_0030
Seminole High School

Name of Property
Seminole County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

OK_Seminole County_Seminole High School_0031
Seminole High School

Name of Property: Seminole High School

County and State: Seminole County, Oklahoma

Name of multiple listing (if applicable): N/A

OK_Seminole County_Seminole High School_0032
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Photographs  Page 33 of 40

Seminole High School
Name of Property
Seminole County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

OK_Seminole County_Seminole High School_0033
Seminole High School
Name of Property
Seminole County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

OK_Seminole County_Seminole High School_0035
Seminole High School
Name of Property
Seminole County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)
OK_Seminole County_Seminole High School_0036
Semino High School
Name of Property
Seminole County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

OK_Seminole County_Seminole High School_0037
Seminole County, Oklahoma

OK_Seminole County_Seminole High School_0038
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number  Photographs  Page  39 of 40

Seminole High School
Name of Property
Seminole County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

OK_Seminole County_Seminole High School_0039
Seminole High School
Name of Property
Seminole County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

OK_Seminole County_Seminole High School_0040