

**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: Booker T. Washington School

Other names/site number: Booker T. Washington High School / Booker T. Washington Community Center

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: 801 Pastor Alfred Baldwin Jr. Way

City or town: Enid State: OK County: Garfield

Not For Publication:  Vicinity: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  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  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  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A  B  C  D

<p>_____</p> <p><b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b></p> <p>_____</p> <p><b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b></p>	<p>_____</p> <p><b>Date</b></p>
<p>In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
<p>_____</p> <p><b>Signature of commenting official:</b></p> <p>_____</p> <p><b>Title :</b></p>	<p>_____</p> <p><b>Date</b></p> <p>_____</p> <p><b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b></p>

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#### 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:) \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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#### 5. Classification

##### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

##### Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	sites
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	structures
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION: school

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL: civic

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century

Revivals: Classical Revival

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick

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### Summary Paragraph

The Booker T. Washington School is a two-story (plus basement) former public school building located at 801 Pastor Alfred Baldwin Jr. Way (previously South 5<sup>th</sup> Street) on the southeast corner of said road and East Wabash Avenue.<sup>1</sup> The Booker T. Washington School was constructed in 1921 with a 1926 rear addition that served as the Black community's primary and secondary educational center during Oklahoma's segregation of schools. It significantly impacted the Black community as it served initially as a permanent school to teach first through twelfth grades and later as the first high school for Black students in Enid. The school features Classical Revival architecture with design characteristics that were similar to other early 20<sup>th</sup>-century schoolhouses throughout the United States. The construction of the school occurred in two phases. The first phase, erected in 1921, entails the main body of the school which has a rectangular footprint running north-to-south, and the façade is oriented west towards the street. The main body has two stories with a full and usable basement. The second phase is the east (rear) addition constructed in 1926 with an auditorium on the second story and a manual training room on the first story. The addition matches the style and characteristics of the main building. The exterior walls are constructed with a steel frame and a raked brick veneer. The roofline is capped in cast stone and covered with a waterproof membrane with segmental arched parapets over the central front and side entrances. There is a non-historic poured concrete accessible ramp and stairs on the south (side) elevation of the building. The school was remodeled in 1951 after

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<sup>1</sup> Seven blocks of the road of renamed in honor Pastor Alfred Baldwin Jr. in 2021. Pastor Baldwin was pastor for the First Missionary Baptist Church for 38 years as well as Air Force veteran, teacher, father, and grandfather. He worked on civil right issues and outreach within his community before he passed away in 2019; "Portion of 5<sup>th</sup> officially renamed to honor late Enid reverend," *Enid News & Eagle*, October 23, 2021.

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the neighboring Carver Elementary School was constructed south of the existing schoolhouse. When Carver Elementary School opened, Booker T. Washington School became a permanent high school and it was renovated to meet the appropriate needs of the curriculum, vocational education, and extracurricular activities. In the 1959-1960 school year, the school closed as part of the school district's plan for integration following the Supreme Court decision of *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*. The schoolhouse retains a sufficient amount of integrity that communicates the building's and its addition's original function as a schoolhouse. Modifications to the original windows and the addition of an accessible ramp do not impede the Booker T. Washington School's clear association as a school, and the building is largely intact in its character-defining features from its original construction, the 1926 addition and the 1951 remodel.

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## Narrative Description

### Setting

Booker T. Washington School (presently the Booker T. Washington Community Center) is located in the southeast quadrant of the City of Enid and on the southeast corner of East Wabash Avenue and Pastor Alfred Baldwin Jr. Way (formerly South 5<sup>th</sup> Street). Booker T. Washington School is located on the northeast corner of Block 13 of the East Park Addition and faces west. The school shares the block with the former Carver Elementary School to the south. The area surrounding the former school is primarily residential with single-family houses, vacant lots, and churches. It is south of Government Springs Park and U.S. Highway 412/East Owen K. Garriott Road. The building is connected to the neighborhood by a full-length sidewalk along Pastor Alfred Baldwin Jr. Way and a sidewalk that runs a half-block along East Wabash Avenue. A concrete patio on the north side of the building connects to the sidewalk and has a short metal pipe railing around it. There is a curb cut-out with two accessible parallel parking spaces adjacent to the sidewalk along Pastor Alfred Baldwin Jr. Way. Landscaping is featured along the front of the building with trees and bushes, and there is a poured concrete retaining wall along the northeast corner of the block. There is an asphalt parking lot located directly behind the building that connects to a concrete parking lot on the east side of the property.

### *Booker T. Washington School, First Phase (1921)*

#### West (Façade) Elevation

Extending five bays across, the west elevation is the facade of the Booker T. Washington School (Photograph 1). The building is symmetrical in design and extends two stories in height, and is supported by a steel structural frame with a raked brick veneer. The building sits on a full concrete basement that is partially elevated above grade level. A soldier-course brick water table separates the basement from the first story. On the basement level, each bay except the centered third bay features a pair of three-over-three double-hung wood windows. Each window has a soldier course lintel, and the concrete foundation serves as the sill. In addition, each window is covered by a metal grate, and there is a window air-conditioning unit encased in a metal grate in the second, fourth, and fifth bays. The concrete stairs from the first story cover the third bay.

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On the first story, all the bays except the centered third bay feature paired, sixteen-over-eight hung vinyl windows with a soldier-course brick lintel and rowlock-course brick sill. The centered third bay features a projecting covered entrance accessed by a set of wide concrete stairs with concrete side walls. A non-historic metal handrail is located in the center of the stairs. The covered entrance is rectangular and has raked brick exterior and interior walls and a soldier-course brick header with rectangular cast stone motifs. The entrance roof is flat with copper coping. A non-historic channel-lettered sign reads, "BOOKER T. WASHINGTON COMMUNITY CENTER" over the entrance. The school is accessed through double metal doors with a one-light upper window and a shared one-light transom.

On the second story, each bay is filled with paired sixteen-over-eight hung vinyl windows except the third bay. The centered third bay features slightly smaller, paired twelve-over-six hung vinyl windows. Each window has a soldier-course brick lintel and a rowlock-course brick sill. The window bays are flanked by diamond- and rectangular-shaped cast stone motifs.

The school roof is flat. A soldier brick course is located five courses below the roofline. The parapet above the center bay is a segmental arch with geometric cast stone motifs.

#### North (Side) Elevation

The north (side) elevation is three bays wide and is supported by a steel structural frame with a raked brick veneer (Photograph 2). A soldier-course brick water table separates the basement from the first story. On the basement level, the first (east) bay features a non-historic metal door with a soldier-course brick header. In front of the door, there is a concrete landing with a metal railing. The second (center) bay is covered by the first-story concrete stairs. The third (west) bay features two, three-over-three double-hung wood windows that sit on top of the concrete foundation. The windows feature a soldier-course brick header. On the first story, a projecting entrance covers the centered second bay, and it has wide concrete stairs and concrete side walls. There is a non-historic metal handrail in the center of the stairs. The entrance, similar in design as the façade entrance, is rectangular and has raked brick exterior and interior walls and a soldier-course brick header with rectangular cast stone motifs. The roof is flat with copper trim. The side entrance has a non-historic metal door with a two-light sidelight to the east and a one-light transom. Above the entrance on the second story, there is a pair of twelve-over-six hung vinyl windows with a soldier-course brick lintel. There are geometric cast stone motifs on either side of the windows and the corners of the building. The roofline is flat with a segmental arch parapet over the center. The first and second bays on the first story each have a two-story rectangular brick frame with no openings and cast stone blocks in the corners.

#### South (Side) Elevation

The south (side) elevation is three bays wide and supported by a steel structural frame with a raked brick veneer (Photograph 3). A soldier-course brick water table separates the basement from the first story which is hidden by a poured concrete accessible ramp. There is a non-historic metal door with a concrete landing on the west end that leads to the basement level. On the first story, the centered second bay features a projecting covered entrance similar in design and size

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as the north (side) entrance. The entrance is rectangular and has raked brick exterior and interior walls and a soldier-course brick header with rectangular cast stone motifs. The roof is flat with copper trim. The side entrance has a non-historic metal door with two-light sidelights to the east and a one-light transom. In front of the entrance, there is a non-historic accessible ramp and stair combination. The stairs are located south in front of the entrance and exit south. The stairs have high concrete side walls and a metal railing. The accessible ramp exits to the west with a high concrete sidewall and metal railing. The ramp extends to the sidewalk, returns to the stair wall, and returns to the sidewalk. Above the entrance on the second story, there are paired twelve-over-six double-hung wood windows. The windows have a soldier-course brick lintel and a rowlock-course brick sill. There are geometric cast stone motifs on either side of the windows and the corners of the building. The first and second bays feature a two-story rectangular brick frame with no openings and cast stone blocks in the corners. The roofline is flat with a segmental arch parapet over the center, and there is an interior brick chimney located in the southeast corner.

#### Rear (East) Elevation

The rear (east) elevation is six bays wide from south to north, and it is supported by a steel structural frame with a raked brick veneer. The building features a raised concrete foundation with a soldier-course brick water table on top of the foundation. The water table separates the first story from the basement level. On the basement level, the first and second bays feature a boarded window opening. The third bay features a former coal chute that has been bricked in. The fourth bay features two boarded window openings with a metal vent, and the fifth bay also has boarded window openings with a metal vent. On each of the first and second stories, the first bay has a boarded window opening; the second through fourth bays each feature paired, sixteen-over-eight hung vinyl windows; and the fifth bay has a single, sixteen-over-eight hung vinyl window. All the windows have a soldier-course brick lintel and a rowlock-course brick sill.

The sixth (north) bay comprises the connector between the original schoolhouse and the 1926 addition. It is two stories with a basement and features a concrete foundation flush with grade and a raked-brick exterior wall. The roof height is slightly shorter than the original schoolhouse. On the basement level, there is a boarded window opening with a rowlock-course brick lintel and a concrete sill. The first story has a six-over-six hung vinyl window with a rowlock-course brick lintel and a concrete sill. The second story window opening is slightly off center and contains a twelve-over-six hung vinyl window with a concrete sill.

#### *Booker T. Washington School, Second Phase (1926 addition)*

The 1926 addition is located on the northwest corner of the original school building. When viewed from the north, the addition's west wall is flush with the back (east) wall of the original school for a nearly seamless transition. The addition has a structural steel frame with a raked brick veneer, concrete foundation, and flat roofline. Designed by Roy W. Shaw, the same architect for the original building, the addition is similar in materials, massing, design, and rhythm to complement flawlessly with the 1921 schoolhouse.

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The north elevation features seven bays from east to west (Photograph 2). On the first story, all the bays except the centered fourth bay feature paired nine-over-nine hung vinyl windows. All the windows have a soldier-course brick lintel and the concrete foundation serves as the sill. The centered fourth bay features a projecting covered entrance. The entrance is rectangular and has raked brick exterior and interior walls and a soldier-course brick header with rectangular motifs. The roof is flat with copper trim. A wide concrete walkway leads to non-historic double metal slab doors with a boarded transom. On the second story, the first (east) bay features a window opening with paired vents and a glass block window above it. The second bay features a metal pedestrian door with an aluminum sidelight and transom accessed by a quarter-turn metal stairwell with a metal roof.<sup>2</sup> The third through sixth bays each feature one window opening containing a two-light, aluminum-frame fixed window on the bottom and glass block on top. The last (west) bay features a window opening containing paired vents with glass block above it. All the window openings have a cast stone sill and a soldier-brick course lintel. There is a rectangular inset brick panel above each window. The roofline is flat with a segmental arch parapet and geometric cast stone motifs over the center bay.

The south elevation features seven bays from west to east (Photograph 4). On the first story, the first (west) bay features a boarded window opening with concrete blocks and a large metal vent. The second bay features paired, nine-over-nine hung vinyl windows. The third bay is a boarded window opening that now contains concrete blocks and a metal pedestrian door. The fourth through seventh bays each feature paired, nine-over-nine hung vinyl windows. All the window openings sit on the concrete foundation and have a soldier-course brick lintel. On the second story, the first bay features a window opening with paired metal vents with glass block above it. The second through fifth bays each feature a window opening with a two-light, fixed aluminum-frame window with glass block above. The sixth bay has a metal door with a boarded sidelight and transom. The door is accessed by a straighter metal stairwell with a metal roof. The last (east) bay has a window opening with paired vents with glass block above it. All the windows have a cast stone sill and a soldier-brick course lintel. There is a rectangular inset brick panel above each window.

The west elevation of the 1926 addition features a concrete foundation flush with grade and a raked-brick exterior wall. The only openings are three boarded windows with cast stone sills located on the first story.

The rear of the addition features a raised concrete foundation and a raked-brick veneer exterior wall (Photograph 4). There are four bays, and the only openings are located at grade level. The openings are non-historic garage door openings installed at an unknown date. The first (south) opening is infilled with concrete block and contains a metal slab pedestrian door. The second and third openings are each infilled with concrete blocks. The second opening has been slightly enlarged in height. The final (north) opening contains an operable, metal rolling garage door.

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<sup>2</sup> The door and associated stair appear to date to 1986. City of Enid Building Permits, City of Enid.



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*Metal Shed (Non-contributing)*

There is a small, prefabricated metal shed south of the 1926 addition. This c. 2013 shed faces south and has a low-pitched, metal-clad front gabled roof, metal walls, and a metal door. It is non-contributing because it was erected after the period of significance.

*Booker T. Washington School, Interior Description*

The interior of Booker T. Washington School retains a significant portion of its largest renovation from 1951, when it was converted from an all-grade school building to solely a high school. Each floor was altered to accommodate additional instructional space for subjects such as science and new space for extracurricular activities such as athletics and music.

The Booker T. Washington School features a short central corridor at the main entrance that turns into a long perpendicular corridor that extends the full north-south length of the building (Photograph 5). The corridor ends with a stairwell that leads to the basement level and second story as well as a side entrance/exit on each side of the building (Photograph 10). When the school was completed in 1921, the first story accommodated two classrooms on either side of a full-length corridor. During the 1951 remodel, the southwest classroom was converted into administrative office space, which remains today (Photograph 11). Another conversion included using two of the east classrooms to create one room for a study hall and library. Presently, a portion of the study hall/library is used for a workout area and has a non-historic wood accordion partition wall from the corridor. The floor is devoid of flooring as it was being replaced at the time of this writing, and the original burnt red-brown tile lines the bottom two-thirds of the hallway walls.

The second story was constructed with three classrooms and a library/office on the west side of the building (Photograph 7). The remainder of the floor was open and used as an auditorium. By 1951, the open floor was converted into a corridor and a large science classroom and laboratory were added on the east side and the library/office was used for a classroom (Photograph 8). The second floor retains this configuration today.

On the basement level, there is a full-length corridor that terminates into the previously mentioned stairwells. There are male and female bathrooms and additional classrooms (Photograph 9). The interior wall between two west-side classrooms has been removed to create a larger space, and one of the doors has been boarded. The door trim is still visible and resembles an opening. The connecting wing to the rear addition is accessible on the north side, and it has a non-historic wood ramp with wood sidewalls and railing. It opens into a large open room with a rear storage area. The basement level has undergone the conversion of two west classrooms into one for a "foods room" and another conversion of the other two west classrooms into one for domestic science as part of the 1951 remodel.

On the first story of the 1926 addition, the manual training center was subdivided in 1951 to provide various spaces for the music and athletic programs (practice rooms, dressing rooms, etc.). However, at the time of this writing, this change to the manual training room no longer

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exists and the space is currently a large open area. On the second story of the 1926 addition, the auditorium stage, dressing rooms, and balcony associated with the 1951 are no longer extant (Photograph 6). At an unknown date, the auditorium was converted to a basketball gymnasium with metal bleachers and the ceiling height was lowered to accommodate new lighting and an HVAC system.

### Alterations

Cosmetic changes and upgrades to the school include removing the 1921 wood flooring and 1951 asphalt flooring with carpet. An HVAC system has been installed, and dropped ceilings with suspended ceilings were installed to hide the ductwork. The grids are filled with acoustical tiles. There are non-historic fluorescent light fixtures throughout the building. Such alterations occurred at an unknown date.

On the exterior, the majority of alterations are directed at the building's fenestration. This is common with other schools throughout the country as districts installed new energy-efficient windows as a cost-saving measure or boarded windows to install interior mechanical systems or bathrooms. Booker T. Washington School's original six-over-six double-hung wood windows were replaced with vinyl replacements at an unknown date, and several windows are boarded where they are not visible from the public right-of-way. The second-story glass block windows in the 1926 addition are historic to the 1951 remodel and noted on the blueprints.

Another major exterior alteration is the addition in 2011 of a concrete ramp with concrete sidewalls accessing the entrance on the south side elevation of the 1921 building. The ramp's location is ideal as it does not detract significantly from the building's façade and meets the sidewalk adjacent to accessible street parking.

### Integrity

The Booker T. Washington School retains an excellent degree of integrity and clearly articulates its role as the historically Black primary and secondary school in Enid, Oklahoma. The school is located in its original location and setting, and it remains surrounded by the neighborhood it served when it was open. Now serving as a community center, the current use is compatible to the building's historic function and the property continues to serve Enid and the surrounding neighborhood.

Integrity of design, materials, and workmanship are still intact and easily recognizable. These include the nearly seamless 1926 addition designed by the original architect, Roy W. Shaw. In addition, renovations from 1951 have achieved historic significance in their own right. Although many of the original windows have been replaced, the window groups are in a similar configuration using the same openings and do not detract significantly from the character of the school building. Many of the original character-defining features are extant including the raked brick veneer, geometric motifs, and entrances. The overall feeling and association of Booker T. Washington School's conversion to a high school is articulated through the 1951 renovation by

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M.N. Norris, which is largely still intact. Such features include the reconfigured larger classrooms or office space for specific courses, activities, and administrative work.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- 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.
- 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

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION

ETHNIC HERITAGE:

Black

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1922-1959

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1922

1926

1951

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Shaw, Roy W., architect (original/addition)

Bass and Frankenfeld, builder (original)

Frankenfeld, P.H., builder (addition)

Wheeler, W. N., architect (remodel)

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### Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

Booker T. Washington School was built in 1921, and it was constructed as a segregated public school building to provide better education to Enid's Black students. The school building replaced the original Booker T. Washington School located in present-day Government Springs Park, which taught only first through eighth grades. This new school significantly impacted the Black community as it served as a permanent structure to teach first through twelfth grades during the legal segregation of Oklahoma schools. In addition, it was momentous because it was the first segregated school in Enid that offered a high school and manual (vocational) training. Roy W. Shaw, a local architect, designed the school in the Classical Revival architectural style with an emphasis on stylistic motifs along the entrances, fenestrations, and roofline. The school emphasized light, safety, ventilation, and safety as it was constructed with steel beams, brick exterior walls, large window openings, heating, and electricity. Roy W. Shaw also designed the 1926 rear addition that served as the school's manual training area and auditorium, which later was converted into a gymnasium. The addition was stylistically the same as the school and featured a seamless matching of materials, form, and characteristics. The Booker T. Washington School is nominated under Criterion A for ETHNIC HERITAGE/BLACK and EDUCATION as a school that served Enid's Black students from 1921 to 1959 during legal segregation and witnessed the beginning of integration. The school served as the primary educational institution and manual training center for the Black community until 1949-50, when the neighboring Carver Elementary School was constructed. At that time, Booker T. Washington was converted to a high school and underwent renovations to accommodate larger spaces for new class subjects and activities. The school closed in 1959 as part of Enid Public School District's plan to integrate schools, and the high school students were bussed to other formerly white-only high schools in Enid.

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### Narrative Statement of Significance

#### *Background of Enid and Early History of Enid Public Schools*

Enid, Oklahoma, is the county seat for Garfield County and it is located roughly 90 miles north of Oklahoma City. The origin of the townsite started as a watering place on the Chisholm Trail, and it was later accessible by the Rock Island Railroad in 1889. The stop on the railroad was called "Skeleton Station," and it was changed to "Enid" after a character in Lord Alfred Tennyson's *Idylls of the King*. The townsite was established about a month prior to the opening of the Cherokee Outlet land run of 1893 as a post office location, in addition, it had one of the four United States Land Offices in Oklahoma Territory. When the land run opened, it brought 2,000 new residents to the area who were predominately transplants from Midwestern farms. The prospect of farming the land was hindered by two years of droughts, and the persistent residents

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turned to the railroad as a new opportunity to survive in Oklahoma Territory. A depot was established in 1894, and eventually, wheat farming prospered in the area.<sup>3</sup>

Educational opportunities were important to Enid residents as it reflected community permanence and growth, and the first public school opened shortly after the town was settled.<sup>4</sup> Early schools started in tents, and the first tent school was a “subscription” school opened by Miss Jennie Livingston, with a monthly tuition charge of \$1.50 per student. As school attendance grew to 39 students, it closed at the end of February 1894.<sup>5</sup> Other tent schools steadily transitioned to wood-frame shacks, and these new wood-frame schools were important as they were easier to construct until funds were collected for permanent schoolhouses.<sup>6</sup> By 1900, the student population reach 681, and the Board of Education started replacing the wood-frame schools with permanent brick-and-mortar structures. These early schools constructed in the 1910s and 1920s were built in red brick and were two stories in height with a basement.<sup>7</sup> The Central School opened in 1900; the Black-only Washington School opened in 1901; the Jefferson School opened in 1905; the Kenwood School opened in 1902, and the East Hill School opened in 1907.<sup>8</sup> Each school served different residential neighborhoods surrounding downtown and educated first through eighth grades. The white schools then fed a larger high school that was built in 1906. By 1919, there were seven white elementary schools, one Black elementary school, and one white high school.<sup>9</sup>

Black people have lived in Enid since the Cherokee Outlet land run, but they lived separately from whites in the southeast quadrant of the townsite near Government Springs Park.<sup>10</sup> The territorial legislature segregated public schools before the 1896 Supreme Court decision in *Plessy v. Ferguson*. *Plessy v. Ferguson* ruled that “separate but equal” was constitutional, and it was applied to public institutions and facilities such as schools. The territorial legislature allowed voters of each county to vote on whether to integrate or segregate schools every three years. All the counties, including Garfield County, voted in 1891 and 1894 to segregate schools. In 1901, the legislature passed a law prohibiting teachers to instruct students of the “opposite race.”<sup>11</sup>

The first segregated tent school opened in 1894 at the corner of Fifth Street and Broadway Street. The tent school was replaced with a small wood-frame building purchased by James Yarbrough

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<sup>3</sup> *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Enid, Garfield County, Oklahoma*, Sanborn Map Company, Aug. 1911, Map, "[https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn07080\\_007/](https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn07080_007/)"[https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn07080\\_007/](https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn07080_007/) (accessed April 20, 2023).

<sup>4</sup> Stella Campbell Rockwell, *Enid School History*, (unpublished: Cherokee Strip Heritage Center, 1972), 48.

<sup>5</sup> Garfield County Historical Society, *Garfield County, Oklahoma 1907-1921 Volume II*, (Garfield County: Garfield County Historical Society, 1981), 1022.

<sup>6</sup> Garfield County Historical Society, 1024 ed April 20, 2023).

<sup>8</sup> Rockwell, 82; Hardy, Heck, Moore & Associates, Inc., 32.

<sup>9</sup> Hardy, Heck, Moore & Associates, Inc., “62.

<sup>10</sup> Hardy, Heck, Moore & Associates, Inc., 32.

<sup>11</sup> James Neal, “A look back at school segregation,” *Enid News*, August 20, 2017.

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at the corner of Oklahoma Street and Seventh Street to teach twelve students.<sup>12</sup> The Grayson Baptist Church was also used as a segregated school. In 1901, the school moved to the present-day Government Springs Park and was named the Washington School in honor of Booker T. Washington. The building was a two-story brick building with “two large rooms and a central hall on each floor” and cost \$5,000. The school lacked electricity and used heat stoves for warming, yet the attendance continued to grow to 45 students.<sup>13</sup> A second Black school was built in the northwest part of Enid in 1918, and it remained in service for two years until a new permanent school was built to accommodate all grade levels for Enid’s Black students.<sup>14</sup>

Black students did not have a high school to attend, and parents raised their concerns to the Board of Education to sanction a high school. According to Miss Harris, later Mrs. Umstead and wife of the principal of Booker T. Washington School, the Board of Education did not want to build a Black high school. When the Board of Education agreed to build a new school for Black students, there was a disagreement as to the location of the school. The final location for the school was located in the East Park Addition, which at the time was a “swampy weed patch.”<sup>15</sup>

Local architect, R. W. Shaw, drew the architectural plans for the Booker T. Washington School in June 1921. The new school would cost an estimated \$40,000 to build, and it would be the first Black school in Enid to teach an entire student’s education from first through twelfth grade. The school was designed in the Classical Revival style would be two stories with a full basement, and all the modern conveniences at the time. The students would no longer learn by lamps and daylight through the windows or stay warm in the winter with heat stoves. The new school was built with electricity and heating as well as large windows for light and ventilation. By the following month, the plans were submitted for bids by construction companies. The school would also move from Government Springs Park to the corner of East Wabash Avenue and South 5<sup>th</sup> Street (currently Pastor Alfred Baldwin Jr. Way). When construction bids were being submitted, the old schoolhouse’s fate was uncertain as to whether it would be remodeled for park purposes or demolished. It was ultimately sold to the City of Enid and eventually demolished.<sup>16</sup>

The design of the building was fireproof construction with a structural steel frame and raked brick veneer. The corridors of the school were laid on in a “T” plan with a short main entrance hallway that ended at a perpendicular hallway that ran the length of the school and terminated with exit doors on the sides of the building. Each classroom has large double-hung windows. The new school had four classrooms on the first floor, and there were three classrooms, a

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<sup>12</sup> Booker T. Washington Community Center, Inc., “History of BTWCC,” (accessed May 8, 2023), <http://bookertenid.org/history-of-btwcc/>

<sup>13</sup> *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Enid, Garfield County, Oklahoma*, Sanborn Map Company, Aug. 1911, Map, [https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn07080\\_007/](https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn07080_007/) (accessed April 20, 2023); Booker T. Washington Community Center, Inc.

<sup>14</sup> Garfield County Historical Society, 1027; *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Enid, Garfield County, Oklahoma*, Sanborn Map Company, Aug. 1911, Map, [https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn07080\\_007/](https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn07080_007/) (accessed April 20, 2023).

<sup>15</sup> Hardy, Heck, Moore & Associates, Inc., 62.

<sup>16</sup> “Bids Asked for New School,” *The Enid Events*, July 14, 1921.



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library/office, and an auditorium on the second floor, and a manual training center on the basement level. The first story was designed to house the primary, intermediate, and junior high schools, and the second story was selected to house the high school.<sup>17</sup>

Progressive Era education principles included a new brand of reform. Schools were expected to provide a substantial education beyond reading, writing, and arithmetic. Schools educated the nation's children during their formative years and were expected to train good citizens, impart values and appropriate attitudes, and be a haven that offers stability.<sup>18</sup> Part of training good citizens and instilling values, the school curriculum trained students for the workforce that they would be entering if they did not continue to college. Manual training areas, commonly known as vocational education, were included in the new Booker T. Washington School. The manual training center included a sewing room, laundry room, domestic science, and manual training classrooms that would be used for wood or metal working.<sup>19</sup>

Work was scheduled to begin on the new Booker T. Washington School in August 1921.<sup>20</sup> Five construction firms submitted bids to construct the school: Harter and Wheeler, Joe Shaw, Weller and Reredon, Smith and Greenham, and Bass and Frankenfeld. Bass and Frankenfeld won the bid for approximately \$35,300 to build.<sup>21</sup> The work was delayed due to the inability to get structural steel and other building materials.<sup>22</sup>

Booker T. Washington School opened for the 1922-23 school year, and it immediately became primary education center for Enid's Black community. The *Enid Daily News* declared the school would be the "most modern schools for negroes in the state and will offer the entire course of study now offered in any of the rest of the schools with modern equipment throughout."<sup>23</sup> The Douglass School located in northeast Enid closed, and its students were shuttled to the new school. The Black community primarily lived in the East Park Addition (where the new school was built) and the Southern Heights Addition. The school hired teachers from Kansas State Normal in Pittsburg, Kansas, and Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri, to teach courses in home economics and manual training. In its inaugural year, 142 students enrolled, including 19 in junior high and 25 in high school, and there were seven teachers.<sup>24</sup>

In 1926, an addition was constructed to the northeast corner of the school. Roy W. Shaw was hired as the architect, and he designed an addition that was seamless in the massing, form, and characteristics of the school he designed a few years earlier. The construction bid was granted to

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<sup>17</sup> "New School for Negroes Complete," *The Enid Events*, October 26, 1922.

<sup>18</sup> James Marten, *Childhood and Child Welfare in the Progressive Era: A Brief History with Documents*, (New York: Bedford/St. Martins, 2005), 106-107.

<sup>19</sup> R.W. Shaw, Architect, *Washington School, Enid Okla.*, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Blueprints.

<sup>20</sup> "Begin Work Soon on New Negro School," *The Enid Daily News*, August 9, 1921.

<sup>21</sup> "Award Bid for Negro School," *The Enid Daily News*, July 23, 1921.

<sup>22</sup> "City Briefs," *The Enid Daily News*, November 11, 1921.

<sup>23</sup> "School Site Are Up Again," *The Enid Daily News*, February 19, 1922.

<sup>24</sup> "New School for Negroes Complete," *The Enid Events*, October 26, 1922.

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P.H. Frankenfeld. The addition continued the manual training curriculum in the basement, and the first story housed the school's auditorium. The stage was located at the rear (east) end of the building and a second-story balcony was located on the west end side. The balcony was accessed through the second story of the schoolhouse. The addition used matching red brick as the main schoolhouse with plenty of windows on the first story and large nine-over-nine double-hung wood windows in pairs on the second story.<sup>25</sup>

School construction was modest during the early 1930s. The Great Depression impacted the economy and funding for any new projects, however, school enrollment increased and continued to increase following World War II. In 1934, the *Enid Daily Eagle* commented that there was a ten percent increase in school enrollment from 1933's total school enrollment of 5,150 students.<sup>26</sup> The article further noted, "Such an increase would create a more troublesome problem for the school board...At the present time some of the buildings are inadequate to take care of all the students and classes in others are overcrowded."<sup>27</sup> Enrollment for Booker T. Washington School fluctuated throughout the 1930s and increased during the 1940s. The school's original enrollment was 142 when it opened, and the student population reached a peak of 192 in 1935 but dropped to 170 students in 1936.<sup>28</sup> By 1947, the student population reached 227.<sup>29</sup>

Enid's Board of Education had two building waves during this period. The first was in the late 1930s when the school board released to the voters for a \$250,000 bond ballot to construct a new elementary school and four school additions to rectify the overcrowding in the white schools.<sup>30</sup> The result accumulated in the construction of the Jackson and Taft Schools in 1936 and 1937 and additions were added to three elementary schools.<sup>31</sup> The second wave was during the post-World War II period as the population increased and subsequently, school enrollment increased. Six new schools were constructed in the 1950s to meet the growing population and overcrowding in schools. The Black-only Carver Elementary School and the white-only Coolidge School were constructed in 1950, and the three new white-only elementary schools constructed in 1951 were the Monroe School, the Cleveland School, and the Hoover School. The Wall Junior High School was constructed in 1959.<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> R.W. Shaw, Architect, *Addition to the Booker T. Washington School, Enid Oklahoma*, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Blueprints.

<sup>26</sup> Most likely, this does not include Booker T. Washington's student enrollment. Other newspaper articles leave out Booker T. Washington when identifying enrollment per school.

<sup>27</sup> "Increase Seen In Enrollment of Enid Pupils," *The Enid Daily Eagle*, September 6, 1934.

<sup>28</sup> "Enid Schools Show Gain of 81 Students," *The Enid Morning News*, September 9, 1936.

<sup>29</sup> "School Enrollment Slightly Under '46" *The Enid Morning News*, September 3, 1947.

<sup>30</sup> "Voters Given Statement of School Needs," *The Enid Daily Eagle*, April 2, 1936.

<sup>31</sup> Enid Public Schools. Vertical File. Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center.; Rachel Nugent and Sophie Roak, "Harrison School," (National Register Nomination, Oklahoma Historical Society, 2016), 24.

<sup>32</sup> Enid Public Schools. Vertical File. Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center.

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In December 1949, Principal F.E. King of the Booker T. Washington School announced that plans for a new Black elementary school were complete. The new school, called Carver Elementary School, would be located next door to the south of Booker T. Washington School. Carver Elementary School was intended to alleviate the population of the current school by teaching the grade levels and Booker T. Washington School was transformed into a high school.<sup>33</sup>

Work commenced on the new Carver Elementary School in early 1950, and it was a stark comparison to the two-and-a-half stories red brick school that has served as the educational center for the Black community for nearly 30 years. Designed by M. N. Wheeler, the new school was a modern one-story buff brick with large windows on the façade and side elevations. The school featured pastel walls, modern lighting, and asphalt tile flooring, and the school had six classrooms, administrative rooms, and a gymnasium and auditorium combination.<sup>34</sup>

M. N. Wheeler also designed the remodel for Booker T. Washington's transformation into a postwar high school, and Perry Davis was hired as the contractor for the work.<sup>35</sup> The first floor was altered by creating a school office and principal's office out of one of the classrooms. The balcony in the 1926 auditorium was removed, and the double-hung wood windows were replaced with glass blocks. On the second floor, two of the classrooms were combined to create a science room with an attached laboratory. The manual training area on the basement level was changed to accommodate extracurricular activities and sports. A band room was created on the west side of the 1926 addition. Other rooms were created such as a football dressing room and band practice rooms.<sup>36</sup>

The Booker T. Washington School continued to maintain its emphasis on school-to-work programs throughout the 1950s. A female student could train in nursing, domestic arts, and home economics. In addition, St. Mary's Hospital in Enid offered a nurse's training program for the students. Male students took courses in metal and wood working as well as auto mechanics.<sup>37</sup>

When Carver Elementary School opened, it was only a couple of years before the question of integration resonated throughout Oklahoma with the 1954 Supreme Court Decision, *Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka* ruling "separate but equal" in public schools was unconstitutional. While Enid's transformation to desegregate started after the ruling, it would take another fifteen years before Enid's schools were fully desegregated. Enid's initial step was that any Black student could request "permission to attend Enid High School was granted that right."<sup>38</sup> The integration plan closed select Black schools and transported its Black students to white schools in

<sup>33</sup> "New School For Negroes Scheduled," *The Enid Daily Eagle*, December 13, 1949

<sup>34</sup> "Work Progresses on Negro School," *The Enid Daily Eagle*, April 3, 1950.

<sup>35</sup> M.N Wheeler, A.I.A., Architect, *Remodeling of Booker T. Washington Public School Building Enid, Oklahoma*, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Blueprints. City of Enid Building Permits, City of Enid.

<sup>36</sup> M.N Wheeler, A.I.A., Architect.

<sup>37</sup> Hardy, Heck, Moore & Associates, Inc., 75.

<sup>38</sup> "District 57 Plan," *The Enid Morning News*, August 22, 1965.

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the surrounding area. Before the 1959-60 school year, Booker T. Washington School was the first of Enid's former Black-only schools to close. The school's students were bussed to Emerson Junior High School, Longfellow Junior High School, and Enid High School.<sup>39</sup> Within five years of the *Brown* decision, a large number of Black schools in Oklahoma closed, including 101 elementary schools, 15 junior high schools, and 63 high schools, and 360 Black teachers lost their jobs.<sup>40</sup>

### *Conclusion*

After the Booker T. Washington School closed, it was used as a storage warehouse for the school district. A new vision for the school sprung up in the 1970s to rehabilitate the former school to serve Enid. The United Way and a Community Development Block Grant provided funds to renovate and reopen the school. Ultimately, the school was purchased from the Enid Board of Education and renamed the Booker T. Washington Community Center, and the Enid Youth and Recreation Center was founded.<sup>41</sup> The former school is used by other entities such as the Wheatheart Nutrition Center and Head Start and hosts community programs, early childhood assemblies, and after-school recreation.

### *Roy W. Shaw, Architect*

Roy W. Shaw was born on September 21, 1880, in Geneseo, Illinois. Shaw moved to Enid with his family in 1900, and he established himself as a local architect. Shaw designed an extensive number of buildings in Enid and was a prolific architect for designing Enid's early 20<sup>th</sup>-century schoolhouses. Enid's schoolhouses garnered national attention, and it was published by the *Architectural Record* in New York City, the *American School Board Journal* in Milwaukee, and the *Southern Architect and Building Press* in Atlanta.

Shaw used traditional and historical revival styles for his architecture and progressed into the early 20<sup>th</sup> century using popular styles such as Art Deco and Prairie School. He was limitless in the uses of the buildings he designed. His work included commercial buildings, religious structures, private residences, and public schools. Shaw's schoolhouse portfolio included Enid High School (1911), Longfellow Junior High School (1919), Emerson Junior High School (1919), and Kenwood School. The last school public school Shaw designed was Jackson School in 1939.

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<sup>39</sup> "Desegregation Is Not New Problem In Enid's Public School System." Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Area, vertical file.

<sup>40</sup> Hardy, Heck, Moore & Associates, Inc., 76-77.

<sup>41</sup> Booker T. Washington Community Center, Inc.

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"Begin Work Soon on New Negro School." August 9, 1921.

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“City Briefs.” November 11, 1921.  
“School Sites Are Up Again.” February 19, 1922.

*The Enid Daily Eagle*. “New School For Negroes Scheduled.” December 13, 1949.  
“Work Progresses on Negro School. April 3, 1950.  
*The Enid Events*. “Bids Asked for New School.” July 14, 1921.  
“New School for Negroes Complete.” October 26, 1922.  
“Increase Seen In Enrollment of Enid Pupils.” September 6, 1934.  
“Voters Given Statement of School Needs.” April 2, 1936.

*The Enid Morning News*. “Enid Schools Schow Gain of 81 Students.” September 9, 1936.  
“School Enrollment Slightly Under '46.” September 3, 1947.  
“District 57 Plan for Desegregation.” August 22, 1965.

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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:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid, OK

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 0.92

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

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

1. Latitude: 36.38874                      Longitude: -97.87076

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

Lots 1-14, Block 14 (except south 15 feet), East Park Addition in Enid, Garfield County, Oklahoma.

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**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

This is the property's legal recorded boundaries, as found in the record of the Garfield County Tax Assessor.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Kristin Jo Dyer  
organization: Dyer Need for Preservation, LLC for the City of Enid  
street & number: 117 W. Oak St.  
city or town: Warrensburg state: MO zip code: 64093  
e-mail dyerneedforpreservation@gmail.com  
telephone: 660-441-9089  
date: May 13, 2023

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**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.)



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### 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 date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

Name of Property: Booker T. Washington School

City or Vicinity: Enid

County: Garfield

State: Oklahoma

Photographer: Kristin Jo Dyer

Date Photographed: May 5, 2023

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

- 1 of 11. Façade (West) Elevation. Looking East.
- 2 of 11. Side (North) Elevation. Looking Southeast. The 1921 original school is located on the right side, and the 1926 addition is located on the left side.
- 3 of 11. Façade and Side (South) Elevation. Looking Northeast.
- 4 of 11. Side (South) Elevation of the 1926 Addition. Looking Northwest.
- 5 of 11. Interior image of the central corridor looking at the main entrance.
- 6 of 11. Interior image of the gymnasium on the second floor of the 1926 addition.
- 7 of 11. Interior image of an upstairs classroom.
- 8 of 11. Interior image of the former science room with lab, located on the second floor.
- 9 of 11. Interior image of basement level classroom.
- 10 of 11. Interior image of interior stairwell from the first floor to the basement level.
- 11 of 11. Interior image of the school office on the first floor.

**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.).

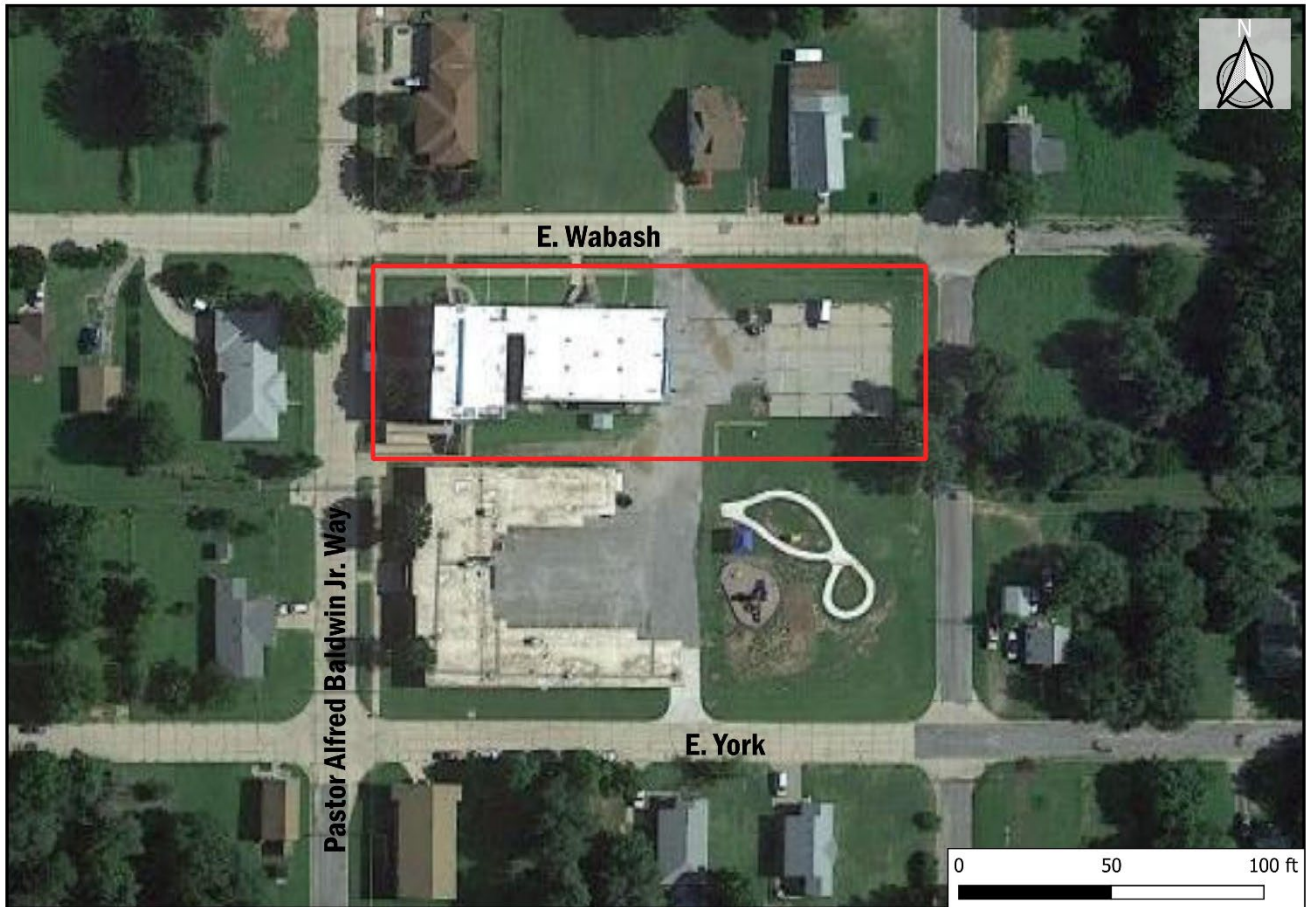
**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form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

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**Photo Key**

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Figure 1: 1930 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map showing the Booker T. Washington School with the 1926 auditorium addition; Source: Library of Congress

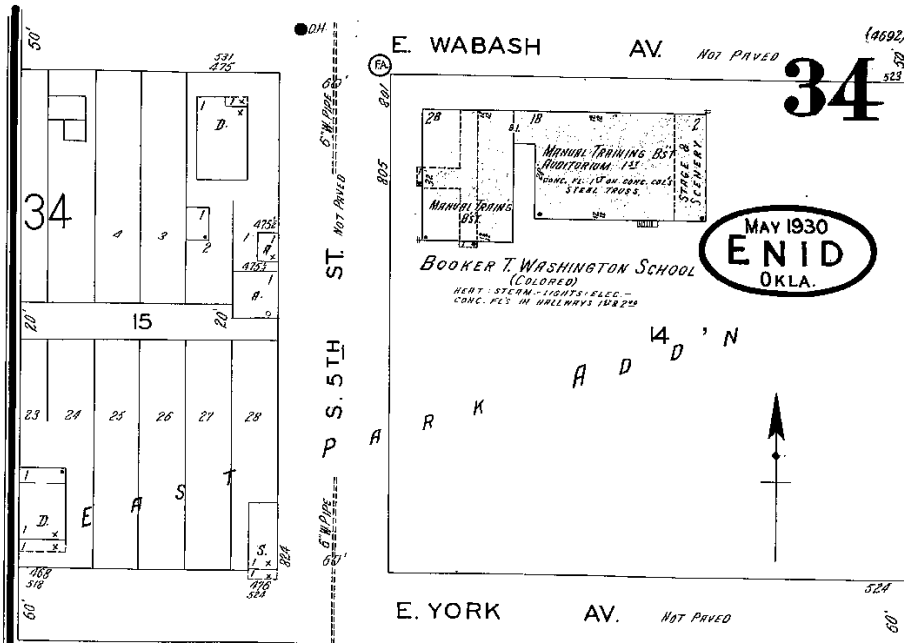
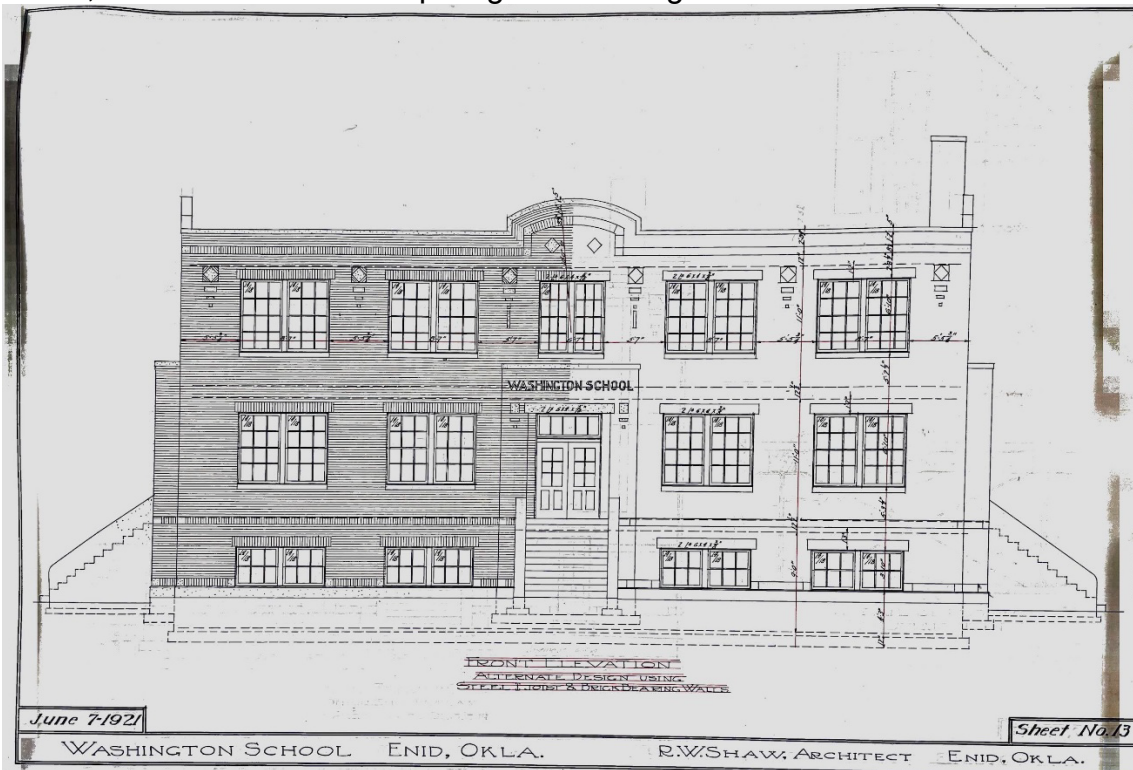


Figure 2: Blueprint of the front (façade) elevation of the Booker T. Washington School, dated June 1921; Source: Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center



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Figure 3: Blueprint of the 1926 addition of the auditorium and manual training area; Source: Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center

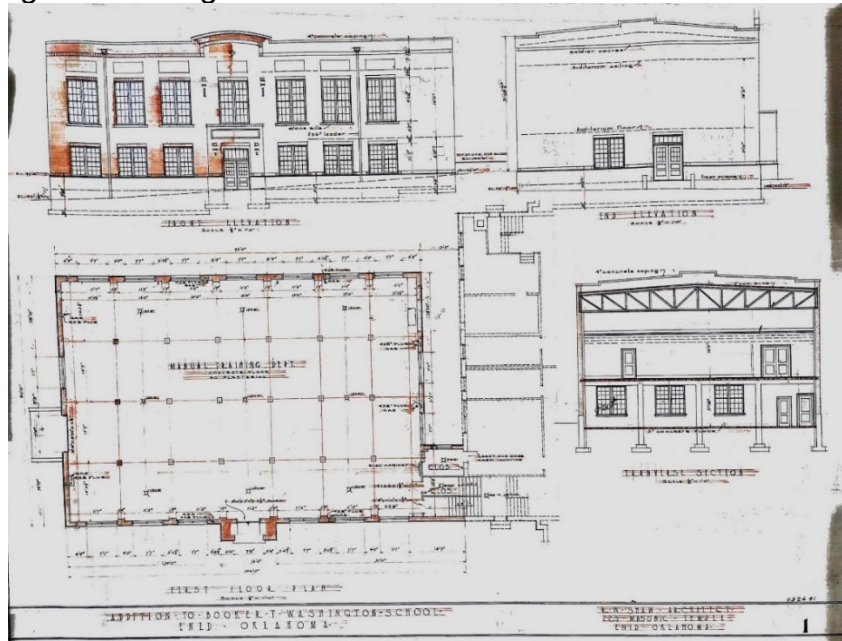


Figure 4: Picture of Booker T. Washington School, dated 1923. Source: Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center



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Figure 5: Picture of the Manual Training Department, dated 1923. Source: Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center



Figure 6: Picture of Domestic Arts Department, dated 1923. Source: Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center



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Photograph 1: Façade (West) Elevation. Looking East.





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Photograph 2: Side (North) Elevation. Looking Southeast. The 1921 original school located on the right-side, and the 1926 addition located on the left-side.



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Photograph 3: Façade and Side (South) Elevation. Looking Northeast.



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Photograph 4: Side (South) Elevation of the 1926 Addition. Looking Northwest.



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Photograph 5: Interior image of central corridor looking at the main entrance.



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Photograph 6: Interior image of the gymnasium on the second floor of the 1926 addition.



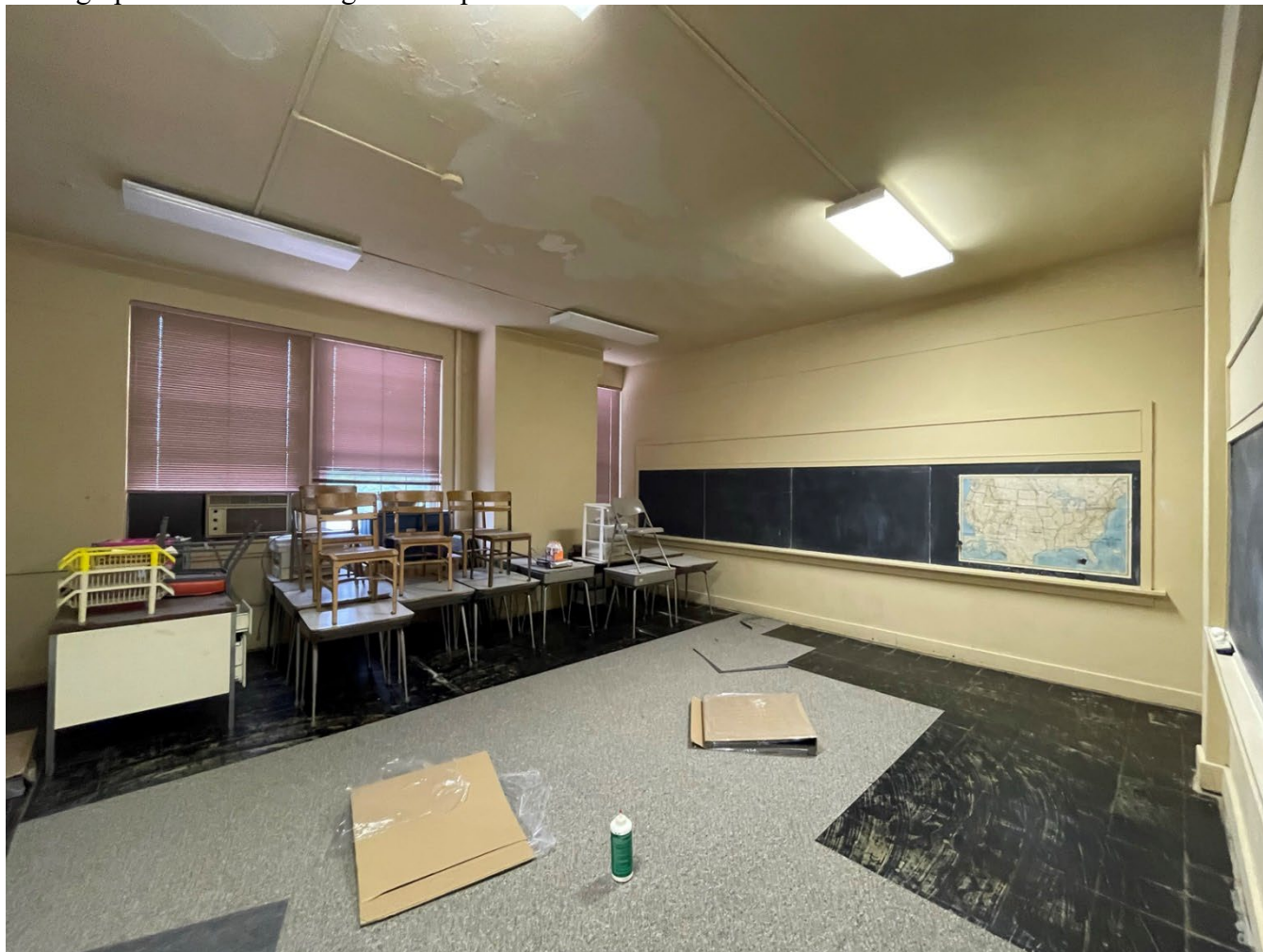
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Photograph 7: Interior image of an upstairs classroom.



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Photograph 8: Interior image of the former science room with lab, located on the second floor.



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Photograph 9: Interior image of basement level classroom.





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National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Booker T. Washington School
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Name of Property
Garfield County, Oklahoma
-----
County and State
NA
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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Photograph 10: Interior image of interior stairwell from the first floor to the basement level.



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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Booker T. Washington School

Name of Property

Garfield County, Oklahoma

County and State

NA

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Photograph 11: Interior image of the school office on the first floor.

