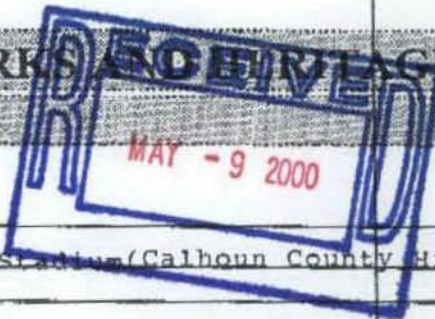


**ALABAMA REGISTER OF LANDMARKS**  
**Nomination Form**



**1. Name** Original Oxford High School Football Stadium (Calhoun County High) historic until 1950's--Oxford Board of Education and/or common

**2. Location** Oxford High School Campus  
 street & number 310 East 2nd Street  
 city, town Oxford ---vicinity of  
 state Alabama county Calhoun zip 36203

**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name Oxford City Board of Education Phone number 256-831-0272  
 street & number 310 East 2nd Street  
 city, town Oxford ---vicinity of zip 36203

**5. Floor plan & site plan.** Use space below to sketch floor plan and site plan or attach additional sheet.

5-9-00

To: Sally Moore

Page 1 of 6

From: Johnny Bentley

# History of Oxford School System

Webb), the Parent-Teacher Association (Mrs. Carl Pace, Mrs. T. J. Patton, Mrs. J. D. Jobson, Mrs. D. F. Cooper, and Mrs. G. H. Wakefield), and principal J. E. Wright, a new auditorium-gym was built. It was used for the first time in the 1930-1931 school year.

The new auditorium-gym was dedicated and named Fulton Hall in honor of H. C. Fulton, a County Board member from Oxford. This auditorium was constructed at an approximate cost of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00); it was eighty feet long and sixty feet wide with a seating capacity of 1,000.

Dodson Hall, the auditorium located on the second floor of the main building of the old Oxford College (now Calhoun County High School) was made into two divisions with a hall way extending from the east to the west from one wing of the building to the other. A two-room home economics department and a music room were located on the south side of the hallway. The north side of the hallway contained a library and an extra large room used as a study hall.

In 1929, a bus was provided to transport students from Coldwater to CCHS. In 1930, students from DeArmanville, Friendship, Mechanicsville, and Eulation entered the school.

In 1930-1931, the faculty consisted of: J. E. Wright, principal, who also taught mathematics; Mrs. N. T. Davis, English; Miss Carrie Lee Abercombie, Latin, social studies, and physical education for girls; Miss Eva Godby, French and home economics; J. L. Nease, science; Dwight B. ("Ox") Clark, history and coach; Mrs. Joseph Bragdon, music; and Miss Leila Jones, dramatics.

By 1931, more varied courses were offered for electives. Those electives included Latin, French, advanced mathematics, sciences and a commercial course. Plans were underway to make more adequate arrangements for taking care of these courses. Rooms with special equipment were included in the plans. In January 1931, a telephone was installed in the principal's office. The Class of 1931 was the first class to graduate in Fulton Hall.

At the height of the depression in 1932, the legis-

lature reduced the already inadequate appropriations to the schools. The Board of Education, under the leadership of Superintendent C. J. Allen, met on December 18, 1932, to discuss the closing of the county schools. The board decided the schools would be closed on December 23, unless additional funds were provided. The teachers were loyal, and during the remainder of the year received certificates or IOU's for pay.

In 1934, most of the county schools were cut short again because of inadequate finances. Calhoun County High School was kept open, because the students paid a nominal fee to receive credit and to graduate. In 1934-1935, new faculty members included Miss Ann Lovill, mathematics; Marvin Vines, assistance coach and occupations; Mrs. Martha Jobson, dramatic arts. The eighth grade was added to the high school.

## STADIUM IS ERECTED

During the summer of 1934, P. W. A. workers were put to work on a new football stadium that would have a seating capacity of 1,500. It was erected at a cost of several thousand dollars. A bathhouse was located on the north end. The field was larger, level, and sodded.

At the dedication game on October 12, 1934, the stadium was filled to capacity to watch Oxford and Anniston play. The team was determined not to lose the first game. The game ended with a 7-7 tie. Sparks made Oxford's touchdown and Monroe made Anniston's score. This was Coach "Ox" Clark's last year with the Yellow Jackets. He was replaced by Coach Roy E. Tucker.

Among the speakers at this dedication game were Judge Hobbs; senator elect, A. C. Shelton; Judge C. S. Leyden.

In the fall of 1935, the seventh grade was moved from the elementary school to the high school. New faculty members included: Miss Leonte Say, junior high subjects; Melton Winfield, occupational work; Miss Sarah Carter, music.

Between 1927 and 1934, 178 students had graduated from Calhoun County High School. It had led the attendance in the county from 1927-1935. At

**6. Description** (See attached instructions for specific guidelines.)

**Condition**

- excellent
- good
- fair

- deteriorated
- ruins
- unexposed

- Check one**
- unaltered
  - altered

- Check one**
- original site
  - moved date \_\_\_\_\_

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

With the exception of a fence that has been erected around the top edge of the stadium and paint on the south bath house I think the stadium is in it's original condition.

JFB

**7. Significance** (See attached instructions for specific guidelines.)

Period	Areas of Significance-Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1935 Builder/Architect C.W.A. / C. Winston Cooper/Auburn  
 Civil Engineer Class of '07

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

This structure is unique in its construction in that it appears that it was constructed by hand with stone individually laid and held together with either concrete or some type of mortar. It is also the only structure of which I am aware which exists in Oxford that was build by the depression era public work force.

**Historical Summary**

The stadium was used as the venue for all Oxford home football games from the fall of 1935 until the "new" stadium was erected on the south end of the campus in 1951. From 1951 until the mid70's when the new elementary school was erected the stadium was used as a playground and for pep rally's and as a backdrop for graduation and club photos. On a personal note, when I played on it as a kid in the mid and late 50's there was not one blade of grass on the field. Thousands of little feet had packed the red dirt until it was like concrete. I would have thought that grass would have never again grown upon such a surface. However up until last fall the 7th and 8th grade football team used the field for practice and the grass is lush and green.

**6. Description** (See attached instructions for specific guidelines.)

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance.**

With the exception of a fence that has been erected around the top edge of the stadium and paint on the south bath house I think the stadium is in it's original condition.

JFB

Page 1 of 2

To: Kim Hardin

From: John Bentley

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In 1934 most of the schools of the county were cut short again on account finances. Calhoun County High School was kept open, because the students, in order to receive credit and to graduate, paid a nominal fee.

### Stadium Is Erected

During this summer C. W. A. workers were put to work on a new football stadium. "It was erected at a cost of several thousands of dollars and has a seating capacity of 1,500 with a bath house on the north end. Being made of concrete, the risers are good for many years to come. The field has been made larger and is now level and sodded."

At the dedication game, October 12, our stadium was filled to capacity. Our boys were determined not to lose the first game. "The score was 7-7. Sparks made Oxford's touchdowns and Monroe made Anniston's score."

Among the speakers at this dedication game were Judge Hobbs, senator elects; A. C. Shelton of Jacksonville, Judge C. S. Leyden of Anniston, and many local patrons and supporters.

This was coach "Ox" Clark's last year with the Yellow Jackets and he was replaced by coach Roy E. Tucker, a 210-<sup>FOUND</sup> pound Birmingham-Southern man.

With the fall of 1935 opening, the removing of the Seventh Grade to <sup>the</sup> high school brought Miss Leonte Say from Howard College to teach junior high subjects, and Melton ~~Winn~~ took over the occupational work. Miss Sarah Carter replaced Mrs. Joseph Bragdon in music.

**Calhoun County/Oxford High School Football Stadium, Oxford High School Campus, 310 East Second Street, Oxford, Calhoun County**

Dating from 1934, the Calhoun County/Oxford High School Football Stadium remains as the earliest and most intact structure associated with the historic Oxford educational campus and is believed by local residents to be the only structure in the community to be built by the Depression-era Civil Works Administration. Accommodating 1500, the stadium contained concrete seats, with rock-faced risers separating the rows and a rock-faced wall supporting the rear. A bath house was situated at the north end. The stadium was dedicated October 12, 1934, and served as the school's primary outdoor recreational facility until construction of a new stadium in 1955.

Established in 1911, following the 1907 passage of state legislation calling for the creation of a secondary school in each county, the Calhoun County High School acquired the facilities of an earlier institution. The Oxford College, which operated from 1867-1900, had completed a two-story octagonal building in 1868. Later, in 1908, two-story wings and a second floor auditorium had been added, during the years that the building operated as a public elementary school, the Oxford Grade School. Following acquisition by the Calhoun County High School, the campus went through additional periods of expansion during which the original building was replaced with new facilities. In 1929, a bus was provided to transport students from nearby communities, and, by the 1930 school term, a new gymnasium/auditorium was added to the campus.

The early 1930s presented hard times for the state's educational system, as economic depression affected all aspects of society. Calhoun County High School was one of the few schools in the county that continued to operate throughout the period, remaining open only by means of collecting nominal fees from its students. In 1934, the school acquired funding for a new football stadium through the Civil Works Administration, providing much-needed employment for local workers, as well as a new athletic facility. Believed by local residents to be the only example of CWA architecture in the community of Oxford, the stadium depicts an outstanding example of federally funded Depression-era recreational architecture. Its use of native rock also reflects the popular early-twentieth trend in utilizing local materials for construction.

Later additions and alterations to the campus occurred during the 1950s and 1960s, resulting in the vast, modern complex that exists today. In 1951, with construction of a new high school on the historic campus, the facility became known as Oxford High School, and, in 1955, a modern stadium was added. Today, the 1934 CWA stadium remains as a landmark in the community.

Sources:

Bentley, John F. Draft nomination and correspondence.

Calhoun County High School/Oxford High School, *Turn of the Century Reunion 2000 Souvenir Book*. Oxford, Alabama, May 5-7, 2000.

Rogers, William Rogers, Robert David Ward, Leah Rawls Atkins, and Wayne Flynt. *Alabama: The History of A Deep South State*. Tuscaloosa: The University of Alabama Press, 1994.



CALHOUN COUNTY/OXFORD HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL STADIUM

Oxford High School Campus  
310 East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Oxford, Calhoun County 36203

Owner:

Oxford City Board of Education  
c/o Louis Higgins, Superintendent  
310 East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Oxford, AL 36203  
256-831-0272

Contact:

John F. Bentley, Councilmember  
City of Oxford  
C/o Oxford Cleaners  
520 Main Street  
Oxford, AL 36203  
256-831-0721 (w), 256-831-1763 (h)

Dating from 1934, the Calhoun County/Oxford High School Football Stadium is a concrete and native rock structure built by the Civil Works Administration as a Depression era federally funded public works project. Seating 1500, it contained seats made of concrete, with rock-faced risers separating the rows and a rock-faced wall supporting the rear. A rock-faced bath house was situated at the north end. The Calhoun County High School stadium was dedicated October 12, 1934, and served as the school's principal recreational facility until construction of a new stadium in 1955.

The stadium is eligible for listing on the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage under Criterion C in the area of architecture. Believed by local residents to be the only example of CWA architecture in the community of Oxford, the stadium depicts an outstanding example of federally funded Depression era recreational architecture. Its use of native rock also reflects the popular early-twentieth trend in utilizing local materials for construction. In 1951, when the name of the school was changed, the stadium became known as Oxford High School Football Stadium, until the new facility replaced it in 1955. It remains today as a rare example of its type and as a landmark in the community.