

OKLAHOMA LANDMARKS INVENTORY NOMINATION

Oklahoma Historic Preservation Survey, Oklahoma State University, 502 Math-Science Bldg., Stillwater, OK 74078

SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

CLEORA SCHOOL

LOCATION: Vicinity of Afton, Oklahoma 040, Delaware County 041; NW 1/4, Sec. 4, T 24 N, R 22 E

CLASSIFICATION: building; public; public acquisition--N/A; occupied; unrestricted; present use--educational

OWNER: Cleora Board of Education, Rt 2, Afton, OK 74331

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Delaware County Courthouse, Jay, OK 74346

DESCRIPTION: good condition; unaltered; original site

This essentially "L" shaped structure (188' x 156 on the exterior sides) is constructed of rusticated and random laid limestone. It has a flat roof and parapets capped with concrete. Recessed entryways have paired doors with transoms framed by poured concrete columns with entablature and squared cornices. The large wood sash windows are framed by pilasters and have continuous concrete sills and lintels. Continuous friezes above and below the windows and curved corners give this building an art deco appearance.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1940; builder/architect: unknown

The Cleora school is easily the largest structure in this small rural community. Its construction brought large quantities of money into this region during the depression years of the 1930's; indeed it infused wages from some 114,000 man-hours of labor into the local economy. The significance of this cannot be overestimated. Wage money spent locally stimulated business activity and helped offset the ill effects of a limited money supply. These wages also constituted the only available source of income for many men who might not have been able to feed their families had they not found employment with the WPA. Architecturally the building is unique for its modernesque style as most rural schools tended to assume more austere forms.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: less than two acres

Quadrangle: Bernice, Okla.
1:24,000/7.5 min.

UTM: A-15 324230 4051090; B-15 324180 4051050

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Go approximately 9.5 miles south of Afton on U.S. highway 60 to the southeast corner of the NW 1/4 of Sec. 4, T 2 N, R 22 E, and go 832 feet west and 200 feet north to a point of beginning, then go north 216 feet, west 312 feet, south 216 feet, and east 312 feet.

PICTURE REFERENCE: 26-a; 26-b