

## OKLAHOMA LANDMARKS INVENTORY NOMINATION

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

SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

DAYTON SCHOOL

LOCATION: Vicinity of Lamont, Oklahoma 040, Grant County 053; SW 1/4, Sec. 26, T 25 N, R 3 W.

CLASSIFICATION: building; public; public acquisition--N/A; unoccupied; semi-restricted; present use--none

OWNER: Mr. Kenneth Schuelein, 815 Sandifer Road, Elk City, OK 73644

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Grant County Courthouse, Medford, OK 73759

DESCRIPTION: fair condition; unaltered; original site

The Dayton School is a single-story, rectangular (43' x 22') structure constructed of lightly coursed and rusticated native stone of a dark red color and of fair masonry quality. The gable roof is now covered with metal sheeting, and on the building's north side is an exterior chimney constructed of native stone and brick quoins. The southwest entrance is recessed behind an archway of brick with an inscribed concrete frieze above. Wood sash windows reach to the eaves and rest on brick slip sills. Bricks are also used to "square" the windows to the stone walls.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1936; builder/architect: Oklahoma State Dept. of Instruction Pattern Book

The exceptional significance of the Dayton School building is related to its architecture. A "stretched" one-room school, the structure perfectly reflects the character of early WPA building projects: unskilled workmen utilizing native materials. In addition to the rather crude masonry, the squaring of window openings with brick and the use of brick quoins on the chimney suggest a work force with little experience in the building trades. They also date the structure as early in the life of the WPA, for over time masonry skills improved. Equally significant is that the Dayton School is unlike most other WPA-constructed schools in Northwestern Oklahoma in that it was built of native stone and that it was only one room. Elsewhere in the region the schools were of brick and of multiple rooms. Construction also impacted the economic and social well-being of the Dayton community in that it infused some 6800 man-hours of wages into the local economy and prevented the further erosion of the self respect of destitute agricultural laborers.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: One acre

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

UTM: 14 634330 4052710

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Go six miles south and three east of Lamont to the school site in the west 1/2 of the SW1/4 of Sec. 26, T 25 N, R 3 W, more particularly described

as beginning at the northwest corner of said west half and running south 975 feet to point of beginning, then east 208.71 feet, then south 208.71 feet, then west 208.71 feet, then north 208.71 feet to point of beginning.

PICTURE REFERENCE: 7-a; 7-b