

OKLAHOMA LANDMARKS INVENTORY NOMINATION

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

SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

BUFFALO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

LOCATION: Second and McMinn Streets, Buffalo, Oklahoma 040, Harper County 059

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

OWNER: Buffalo School Board, Drawer E, Buffalo, OK 73834

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Harper County Courthouse, Buffalo, OK 73834

DESCRIPTION: good condition; altered; original site

The Buffalo Elementary School is a rectangular structure (150' x ca. 35') constructed of poured concrete now painted light brown. The roof is gabled, while the recessed front entryway is impressively framed by pilasters and a curved cornice, also of poured concrete. Suggesting a bell tower and mission revival architectural style, in the center of the cornice is a large circular opening with the name of the school inscribed above and below. Incising in the entry facade provides decorative effect. Metal encased windows, arranged by twos, rest on concrete slip sills. Unfortunately, to either end have been added major additions of classrooms, all of which impeaches the integrity of the structure.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1939; builder/architect: unknown

In drought stricken Harper county, construction of Buffalo Elementary School provided work opportunities for destitute farmers. Income received permitted the proud northwesterners to feed their families and retain their pride. The building is particularly significant for its hint of mission revival architectural style and the modernization of the educational curriculum it brought to the Buffalo Schools. The latter was especially apparent in the separation of the elementary school from the high school.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Less than one acre

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

UTM: Undetermined

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: From the corner of Second and McMinn Streets in Buffalo go north 200 feet, east 50 feet, south 200 feet, and west 50 feet.

PICTURE REFERENCE: None