

OKLAHOMA LANDMARKS INVENTORY NOMINATION

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

SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

ELM GROVE SCHOOL

LOCATION: Vicinity of Muskogee, Oklahoma 040, Muskogee County 101; NW 1/4, Sec. 14, T 13 N, R 19 E

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

OWNER: Mrs. Ella Goff, Route 2, Box 306, Muskogee, OK 74401

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Muskogee County Courthouse, Muskogee, OK 74401

DESCRIPTION: good condition; altered; original site

The Elm Grove School is a two-room, single story rectangular (42' x 27') structure constructed of uncut huge rocks laid randomly but with some interest in an ad hoc design. The mortar is beaded. The roof is hipped with an intersecting center gable that extends beyond the front entrance and is supported by six wood shafts on rock piers. The single door front entry has a pre-formed concrete lintel; an identical side door is covered with a gabled awning and, like the front door, reached by a concrete stoop. Wood sash windows on the west front are singly placed, while window openings on the rear have concrete sills and reach to the eaves. The rear window openings have been reduced in size with cinder blocks and smaller, more energy efficient sash windows installed. This alteration impeaches the architectural integrity of the structure.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1939; builder/architect: Okla. State Dept. of Education Pattern Book

This one room school is significant because it inaugurated an era of modern education in an isolated and rural community and because construction of it significantly blunted the impact of the national depression of the 1930s in the region. Wages for some 13,000 man-hours of labor enabled previously destitute and unemployed men to provide for their families, and those same wages when spent helped save local commercial establishments from financial ruin. Moreover, the building is significant because of its vernacular architecture, especially the remarkably large building stone.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: one acre

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

UTM: 15 294510 3942800

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Go ten miles south on U.S. 64 and five miles east on paved county road from Muskogee to the northwest acre (208 square feet) in Sec. 14, T 13 N, R 19 E.

PICTURE REFERENCE: none