

OKLAHOMA LANDMARKS INVENTORY NOMINATION

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

SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

HERD SCHOOL

LOCATION: Vicinity of Bowring, Oklahoma 040, Osage County 113; NW Sec. 35, T 28 N, R 10 E

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

OWNER: Jim B. McKinley, Trustees, Box 99, Pawhuska, OK 74056

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Osage County Courthouse, Pawhuska, OK 74056

DESCRIPTION: good; altered; original site

A three-room structure originally, the Herd School building is constructed of rusticated and coursed native sandstone. It is T-shaped (35' x 72', with a 34' x 25' extension), and the roof, now covered by composition shingles, is hipped. The main entryway is covered by a gabled porch supported by two wood shafts. Original wood sash windows extend to the eaves; window sills are of cut stone. Under the T or the rear an addition of concrete blocks has been constructed, but this alteration has not destroyed the architectural integrity of the structure.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1937-1940; architect/builder: unknown

Situated in a community isolated by the expanses of northern Osage County, the Bigheart School constituted the principal manifestation of the WPA in a region at least 150 square miles in size. In a much larger area it is the only WPA-built structure that remains. As such the building had an educational significance of major proportion, providing a modern facility that promoted progressive standards of education. Within the community it is wholly unique in terms of type, style, materials and workmanship. And as a WPA structure it is notable for its T-shape and a principal entryway that extends off the underside of the T parallel to the stem.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: less than one acre

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

UTM: 14 749330 4083300

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The property is one mile east of the intersection of state highways Nos. 10 and 99, on the north side of the road and begins at a point 832 feet east and 1040 feet north of the southwest corner of the NW 1/4 of Sec. 35, T 28 N, R 10 E and goes 208 feet east, 208 feet north, 208 feet west and 208 feet south.

PICTURE REFERENCE: 105-a; 105-b