

OKLAHOMA LANDMARKS INVENTORY NOMINATION

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

SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

MIDWAY SCHOOL

LOCATION: Vicinity of Chouteau, Oklahoma 040, Mayes County 097

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

OWNER: Orie Detweiler, Chouteau, OK 74337

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Mayes County Courthouse, Pryor, OK 74361

DESCRIPTION: good condition; altered; original site

This rectangular (28' x 40') single story school building of two rooms is constructed of cut, coarsed, and rusticated native stone of buff and auburn colors. The roof is gabled with a cross center gable decorated by stickwork extending over the entrance that is recessed behind columns supporting the gable. Roof gables are filled with wood siding. On the front sash windows are singly placed and contain concrete sills, while on the rear window openings extend to the eaves. New metal encased doors, rain shelters and wood inserts in the rear windows have been added, but do not impeach the integrity of the building.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1940; builder/architect: unknown

This school is significant because it stands as a symbol of a government program that sought to preserve people instead of economic systems. At the same time, it suggests that the WPA program was economically important in those communities in which it operated. In this Amish/Mennonite area, construction of the school infused wages from some 8600 man-hours of labor into the local economy and enabled destitute agriculturalists to feed their family and retain their self respect. Equally important is that the structure was responsible for the introduction of modern education into the community, replacing a condemned wood frame structure.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Less than one acre

Quadrangle: Chouteau NW, Okla.
1:24,000/7.5 min.

UTM: 15 283720 4006020

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Go west of Chouteau on a county road 3 miles then south on county road 1 mile to the school site which is a 208 square foot tract in the northeast corner of Sec. 32, T 20 N, R 18 E

PICTURE REFERENCE: 39-a; 39-b