

OKLAHOMA LANDMARKS INVENTORY NOMINATION

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

SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

PETERS SCHOOL

LOCATION: Vicinity Ponca City, Oklahoma 040, Osage County 113

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

OWNER: Donald J. Nieman, Sr., Rural Route 3, Box 593, Ponca City, OK 74601

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

DESCRIPTION: good; altered; original site

A rectangular structure (25' x 50'), the Peters School is constructed of rusticated and coursed native sandstone. The roof is hipped and is still covered by wood shingles. A full basement lies beneath the building. The recessed, front entryway is reached by steps; below the steps is the entry to the basement. Windows that rise to the eaves are wood sash. The partial windows that open to the basement have been enclosed with concrete blocks, but this alteration does not affect the basic integrity of the structure.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1937; architect/builder: Okla. State Dept. of Education Pattern Book

The uniqueness of the Peters School lies primarily in its full basement. No other WPA-built rural school in Osage County, or elsewhere in Oklahoma given the state of our present knowledge, contains a basement. Since the adjacent community no longer exists, the building is relatively significant in terms of type, style, materials and workmanship. It is notable too because it provided the basis of modern education in a remote area previously without facilities appropriate to progressive instruction. Of course construction of it provided job opportunities for unskilled laborers who had been reduced to poverty and welfare rolls by the national depression.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: less than one acre

Quadrangle: Ponca City SE, Okla.
1:24,000/7.5 min.

UTM: 14 676940 4053040

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: From the Arkansas River bridge on U.S. highway No. 60, go approximately two and one-half miles east to an intersection with a paved county road; go south five miles to the school building property, being the NW 208 square feet in Sec. 31, T 25 N, R 3 E.

PICTURE REFERENCE: 111-a; 111-b