

OKLAHOMA LANDMARKS INVENTORY NOMINATION

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

SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

RUSSELL CREEK SCHOOL

LOCATION: Vicinity of Welch, Oklahoma 040, Craig County 035; SW 1/4, Sec. 17, T 29 N, R 21 E

CLASSIFICATION: building; private; public acquisition--N/A; unoccupied; unrestricted, present use--other

OWNER: Charles Christian Krider, 722 Walnut Street, Chetopa, KS 67336

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Craig County Courthouse, Vinita, OK 74301

DESCRIPTION: excellent condition; unaltered; original site

The Russell Creek School is a rectangular (35' x 70') building with random ashlar masonry. It has a hipped roof and the double-door front entryway is framed by pilasters with a concrete lintel topped with a pointed cornice capped with concrete. The steel casement windows are singly placed in front and grouped into bands on the rear facade of the structure. All have concrete sills and wide concrete lintels.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1937; builder/architect: unknown

The construction of this school in a remote rural area of northeastern Oklahoma is significant in that it characterizes the WPA's commitment to the future of this country by providing educational facilities, even one room schools, for rural children as well as urban children. The construction of this school provided employment for men suffering the effects of the depression and infused wages from some 6200 man-hours of labor into the economy of the local community. For many of the workers the wages earned through the WPA were the only source of income available to them at that time. The work maintained their pride and saved them the shame of not being able to provide for their families. Architecturally the structure is unique for its austere style and lack of ornamentation.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: One acre

Quadrangle: North Welch, Okla.
1:24,000/7.5 min.

UTM: 15 316280 4095710

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Go 8 miles north of Welch on U.S. highway 59, then east approximately 1 mile to a point 150 feet south of the NW corner of the SW 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Sec. 17, T 29 N, R 21 E; thence running east 208.7 feet, thence south 208.7 feet, thence west 208.7 feet, thence north 208.7 feet to the point of origin.

PICTURE REFERENCE: 12-a; 12-b