

OKLAHOMA LANDMARKS INVENTORY NOMINATION

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

SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

TAHLEQUAH NEGRO SCHOOL

LOCATION: 225 North Waters, Tahlequah, Oklahoma 040, Cherokee County 021

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

OWNER: Board of Education, Box 517, Tahlequah, OK 74464

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Cherokee County, Tahlequah, Oklahoma 74464

DESCRIPTION: excellent condition; altered; original site

The old segregated, negro school at Tahlequah is rectangular (32' x 75') and constructed of cut, rusticated and coursed native stone. Masonry is excellent. The roof is gabled with one step, while the south, main entry is recessed in an archway. Window openings rise to the eaves. Somewhat altered, the later, however, have been filled with fixed, metal windows. On the northwest corner a cinder block addition has been attached. The alterations, unfortunately, impeach the integrity of the structure.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1937-1938; builder/architect: Okla. State. Dept. of Instruction Pattern Book

This structure is significant in that it was constructed for the black community of Tahlequah with black workers made destitute by the depression. It provided an economic salve for the laborers and a boost to their self-esteem. The building also enhanced the quality of education for the segregated youngsters it served, replacing a condemned wood frame structure.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: less than one acre

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

UTM: undetermined

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: From the intersection of Downing and Waters Street, go south 105 feet to a point of beginning, then west 65 feet, south 80 feet, east 65 feet and north 80 feet, all in the northeast corner of block 55, Tahlequah original.

PICTURE REFERENCE: none