

OKLAHOMA LANDMARKS INVENTORY NOMINATION

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

SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

WELCH SCHOOL

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

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

OWNER: Jack Wells, Rt. 2, Pryor, OK 74361

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

DESCRIPTION: excellent condition; altered; original site

This rectangular (85' x 50') school is constructed of cut, coarsed, and rusticated native stone. The roof is flat with parapets. The entrance is slightly recessed behind wide pilasters that reach beyond the roof line. The windows are paired at the entrance and placed in threes on other sides. All the windows have continuous brick sills and above them is a brick frieze. The stone building has been sprayed with polyester resin and fiberglass as well as white paint, an application that cannot be removed and thus impeaches the integrity of the building.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1938; builder/architect: unknown

This school is significant because it constituted an economically important community resource at a time when residents faced the spectre of starvation and ignorance. Its construction provided local families with wages from some 32,000 man-hours of labor which were infused back into the depressed local economy. Jobs generated by the construction of the school restored a sense of pride to many men who might otherwise have been unable to provide for their families and prevented total destitution. The school enhanced educational opportunities for children in the area and stimulated an interest in academic excellence. Architecturally, it is unique in terms of type, style, materials, scale, and workmanship.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Less than one acre

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

UTM: undetermined

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Go 7 miles east and three miles north of Pryor to a two acre tract in the southeast corner of the SW 1/4, Sec. 28, T 22 N, R 20 E.

PICTURE REFERENCE: none