

## OKLAHOMA LANDMARKS INVENTORY NOMINATION

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

SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

BATTIEST SCHOOL

LOCATION: Vicinity of Battiest, Oklahoma 040, McCurtain County 089; Sec. 7, T 2 S, R 23 E

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

OWNER: Battiest Board of Education, Box 199, Battiest, OK 74722

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: McCurtain County Courthouse, Idabel, OK 74745

DESCRIPTION: excellent condition; altered; original site

A building of ten classrooms, the Battiest school is a single story, rectangular (58' x 199') structure constructed of untooled and uncoursed native sandstone. The roof is flat with parapets; the entryways are recessed. Windows openings with continuous concrete sills and lintels on the front reach to interior ceilings. Grouped in threes, energy efficient metal windows have replaced original wood sash windows. There is a faint allusion to art deco style. On the south front are two rock retaining walls.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1939; builder/architect: Okla. State Dept. of Education pattern book

The school building is significant because it constituted the genesis of modern education in the isolated area of Battiest, a community not even yet on the state highway system. Still in use, it remains the principal educational facility within the community. Architecturally it is unique to the town because of its type, style, scale, workmanship and materials. And as a rural WPA school building, the structure is remarkable because of its scale and allusion to art deco style. Especially significant is that long unemployed and destitute forest workers and small farmers found work opportunities in the construction of the building, affording them a measure of economic security.

### GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: One acre

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

UTM: 15 323020 3807400

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: On the east edge of the Battiest community, the school property begins 418 feet south of the NE corner of the SE 1/4 of Sec. 7, T 2 S, R 23 E, and runs west 209 feet, south 209 feet, east 209 feet and north 209 feet.

PICTURE REFERENCE: 117-A, 117-B