

## OKLAHOMA LANDMARKS INVENTORY NOMINATION

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

SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

BOWERS SCHOOL

LOCATION: Vicinity of Wilburton, Oklahoma 040, Latimer County 077; Sec. 8, T 5 N, R 18 E

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

OWNER: Mr. Roger L. Coyer, 1108 W. 2nd Place, Mesa, Ariz. 85201

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Latimer County Courthouse, Wilburton, OK 74578

DESCRIPTION: good; unaltered; original site

Originally a two-room building, the Bowers school is a single story, rectangular (28' x 68') structure with an offset and is constructed of cut blocks of native sandstone laid in courses. The roof, now covered with composition shingles, is gabled with one step; the two-door entry way is recessed and covered by a centrally placed porch with gable. The porch rests on concrete pillars and an architrane. Wood sash classroom windows, resting on concrete sills, reach to the eaves. On the north end of the building a small room of concrete blocks has been added. It does not impeach the integrity of the structure.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1936-1937; builder/architect: Okla. State Dept. of Education pattern book

The school building is architecturally significant within the community because of its type, allusion to Richardsonian style, scale, materials and workmanship. Equally important is that construction of it provided work opportunities for unskilled and unemployed laborers in a rural and remote area hard hit by the depression, enabling them to preserve themselves and their families with "useful" employment. The structure also promoted a new enthusiasm for learning, depressed in the recent past due to decayed facilities.

### GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Two acres

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

UTM: 15 278795 3865960

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Follow U.S. highway No. 270 west from Wilburton until the road turns southwest, a point one mile west of the Wilburton Municipal Airport. At the Y continue on west on the paved county road for one-half mile to the school building on the north side of the road. The property begins at a point 20 feet north of the extreme SW corner of the SE 1/4, then runs 26 rods east, 13 rods north, 26 rods west and 13 rods south, all in Sec. 8, T 5 N, R 18 E.

PICTURE REFERENCE: 68-A, 68-B