

OKLAHOMA LANDMARKS INVENTORY NOMINATION

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

SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

BURKHART SCHOOL

LOCATION: Vicinity of Octavia, Oklahoma 040, Leflore County 079; Sec. 26, T 1 N, R 23 E

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

OWNER: Smithville Board of Education, Box 8, Smithville, OK 74957

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Leflore County Courthouse, Poteau, OK 74953

DESCRIPTION: good condition; unaltered; original site

A three room building, the Burkhart school is a single story, rectangular (48' x 79') structure constructed of rusticated and coursed native sandstone. The gable roof is intersected by a frontal gable, the latter asymmetrically placed over an arched entryway leading to recessed doors. Classroom window openings, with concrete sills and wood sash windows, extend to the eaves. The roof is in need of repair.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1940; builder/architect: Okla. State Dept. of Education pattern book

Situated in a very remote area, the Burkhart school constituted the genesis of modern education in its service region. That role continues today, with the structure still being used as a headstart facility. Equally important is that construction of the school building provided work opportunities and some economic security for unskilled and unemployed agricultural and forest industry laborers long restricted to the relief rolls of the state. The only structure of its kind in the region, the building is significant architecturally for its type, style, scale, materials and character of workmanship.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Two acres

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

UTM: 15 330095 3822860

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Follow U.S. highway No. 279 north across the Leflore County line to the first paved county road intersecting from the west; turn west and go approximately ten miles through Octavia and Ludlow to the school site on the south side of the road. The property line begins at a point 209 feet west of the NE corner of Sec. 26, T 1 N, R 23 E, and runs 418 feet south, 209 feet west, 418 feet north and 209 feet east.

PICTURE REFERENCE: 89-A, 89-B