

OKLAHOMA LANDMARKS INVENTORY NOMINATION

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

SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

DUNBAR SCHOOL

LOCATION: Streets unmarked, Poteau, Oklahoma 040, Leflore County 079

CLASSIFICATION: building; public; public acquisition--N/A; unoccupied; restricted; present use--vacant

OWNER: Mt. Calvery Baptist Church, Poteau, OK 74953

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

DESCRIPTION: deteriorated condition; altered; original site

A two room building, the black school in Poteau is a single story, rectangular (66' x 21') structure with an offset constructed of rusticated and coursed native sandstone. Masonry is rather crude. The roof, now covered with composition shingles, is gabled; the front entryway is located on the corner; openings of windows that reach to the eaves have been filled with inserts and smaller windows installed. On the southeast corner of the structure an addition of rusticated and coursed native stone has been attached. Despite the alterations, the architectural integrity of the building remains intact.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1936-39; builder/architect: unknown

This structure was the black school in Poteau before integration of education. The WPA laborers on the project were black. Thus this building is significant because construction of it provided work opportunities for destitue black laborers in the Poteau area at a time when few were available and because it created a new environment conducive to educational development. As an urban WPA school building, it is remarkable for its modest scale. Within the community it is unique architecturally because of its type (black school), style, scale, materials and workmanship.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Less than one acre

Quadrangle: Poteau East, Okla.
1:24,000/7.5 min.

UTM: 15 352920 3879020

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Lot 5, Block 26, Poteau original

PICTURE REFERENCE: 106-A, 106-B