

## OKLAHOMA LANDMARKS INVENTORY NOMINATION

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

SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

ELMWOOD CEMETERY FENCE

LOCATION: Ninth and Parkinson Streets, Wagoner, Oklahoma 040, Wagoner County 145

CLASSIFICATION: structure; public; public acquisition--N/A; occupied; unrestricted; present use--cemetery

OWNER: City of Wagoner, 231 Church Street, Wagoner, OK 74467

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Wagoner County Courthouse, Wagoner, OK 74467

DESCRIPTION: excellent condition; unaltered; original site

The Elmwood Cemetery Fence is constructed of unrusticated and uncoursed native sandstone. Mortar is beaded on the exterior wall. It is 12 inches wide (although it tends to be somewhat thicker at the base), stands 3 to 4 feet high with a cut stone cap, and is 1070 long. Visually it is an arresting piece of masonry.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1936; architect/builder: unknown

Along with armories, construction of cemetery improvements was some of the earliest WPA activity. Given the depressed condition of Wagoner county, construction of this particular fence provided needed employment for laborers who had little hope of making it through the winter of 1935-1936. For this and other cemetery improvements wages from some 200,000 hours of labor were poured into the local economy, an infusion that helped to buffer the Wagoner mainstreet from some of the worst effects of the depression. In addition to symbolizing economic security for the destitute, it reflects the progression of type and nature of projects undertaken by the WPA. As a rule, they tended to be less substantive, as the fence suggests. Architecturally, the fence is most impressive for its length of nearly 1/4 mile, requiring an amount of stone that would have built a rather large building. Within the community and the county, there is nothing similar that is as impressive.

### GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: less than one acre

Quadrangle: Wagoner East and West  
1:24,000/7.5 min.

UTM: A-15 286280 3982920; B-15 285740 3982920

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Beginning at the southeast corner of "Elmwood Cemetery" tract of the Wagoner original plat, go west 1200 feet, north 30 feet, east 1200 feet, and south 30 feet.

PICTURE REFERENCE: 163-a