

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received JAN 26 1984
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic old Science Building (old)

and/or common Same as above

2. Location

street & number State St. N/A not for publication

city, town Weatherford N/A vicinity of

state Oklahoma code 040 county Custer code 039

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Board of Regents of Oklahoma College

street & number 447 Education Building, State Capitol Complex

city, town Oklahoma City N/A vicinity of state Oklahoma

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of Business Manager

street & number Southwestern State University

city, town Weatherford state Oklahoma

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Oklahoma Comprehensive Surveys has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date November, 1983 federal state county local

depository for survey records Preservation Office - Oklahoma Historic Society

city, town Oklahoma City state Oklahoma

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Science Building at Southwestern State University is a three-story, rectangular classroom building of pressed brick construction and concrete foundation. The Neo-classic Revival structure, with eclectic features, is 165 feet wide by 235 feet long. It is a sixteen bays long and eleven wide, with vertical fixed windows. The hipped roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

The building's outstanding feature is a portico with a triangular pediment, supported by six, fifty-foot Ionic columns on the north or front elevation. The concrete columns also support a third-floor balcony with balustrade. The balcony entrance has been sealed with boards. The triangular pediment has a raking cornice and a louvered tympanum. There is dental molding beneath the cornice of the pediment. On either side of the classical entrance are double, pilaster strips. Two, arched keystone windows are located between the pilaster strips and the balcony on the third floor. Decorative brickwork is below the concrete sills of the third floor windows. The entablature consists of a plain architrave below a projecting cornice. A plain frieze is located between the first projecting cornice and the cornice at the roof-line.

The east and west elevations have paired pilaster strips on either side of their triangular pediments. These pediments also have raking cornices and louvered tympanums. The eleven, third-floor fixed windows have a continuous concrete sill. Decorative brickwork is directly under each window.

The building was altered when aluminum frame windows were added. Also, a 50 feet by 50 feet addition was made to the south, or rear, elevation in 1965.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1909 **Builder/Architect** Charles H. Sudhoelter

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Old Science Building at Southwestern State University in Weatherford, Oklahoma is significant because it is the oldest extant structure associated with the nationwide teacher training movement as it developed in southwestern Oklahoma. The teacher training school (normal school) movement began during the 1830s as an outgrowth of the demand for free public education. During the early 1900s, a shortage of adequately trained teachers created a demand for normal schools, especially in the Western states.

In 1901, the Oklahoma Territorial legislature authorized the establishment of a normal school in southwestern Oklahoma. Custer county residents felt that because it was the only Republican county in Southwestern Oklahoma and the territorial Governor William M. Jenkins, was Republican, it should be awarded the normal school. In fact, this was the case and the normal school was placed in Weatherford in 1902 although other towns outside Custer county had lobbied for the school. The new school was an addition to a regional network of teacher training institutions which included Central State Normal School, Edmond; Northwestern State Normal School, Alva; East Central State Normal School, Ada; Southeastern State Normal School, Durant; and Northeastern State Normal School, Talhequah.

The building program proceeded slowly at Southwestern. The first building, constructed in 1903, served as the Administration and classroom building, however, it burned in 1941. The Science Building was erected in 1909. Senate Bill No. 334 provided \$100,000 for the construction of the building. The new structure actually housed sixteen departments in addition to the sciences, such as history and foreign languages. The number and size of the classrooms provided ample classroom space for 1,500 students. The building was vital to the growth of the school and therefore, to the prosperity of Weatherford. The facility attracted more students, which in turn brought more instructors. This meant more money for the local economy. One newspaper account demonstrated the importance of the Science Building to the area. When news that Governor Charles Haskell had signed the appropriations bill, Weatherford citizens built a huge bonfire, rang every bell in town, and fired skyrockets throughout the night. After completion of the science hall ten years elapsed before the next major additions to the school's physical plant. In 1920, Southwestern Normal School became a four year college until university status was granted in 1974. The Science Building has served continuously as a classroom building, providing a sense of continuity for higher education in southwestern Oklahoma.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Figel, Melvin Frank. A History of Southwestern State College, 1903-1953.
Ed.D dissertation, Oklahoma State University, 1968, pp. 5, 7, 11, 96;
Custer County Republican, July 1, 1909; Custer County Republican, May 7, 1908.

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property Approx. 1 acre

Quadrangle name Weatherford

Quadrangle scale 1:62,500
15 minute

UTM References

A

1	4	5	2	6	6	5	0	3	9	3	2	2	5	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

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D

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Beginning at the west end of State Street, go fifty feet to the SW corner of the building. Proceed 165 feet west, turning north for 236 feet, then turn east for 165 feet, turning south for 236 feet returning to 236 point of origin.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Blane Mays -- Supervised by Mary Ann Anders Ph.D.

organization Oklahoma State University - Preservation date November, 1983

street & number 502 Math Science telephone 405-624-5678

city or town Stillwater state Oklahoma

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature C. Metcalf date 1-23-84

title _____ date _____

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for Deborah Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 2/23/84

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration