

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED APR 21 1980

DATE ENTERED

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Thematic Resources Relating to Coal Mining, Latimer County

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

See Continuation Page

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Oklahoma

40

Latimer

077

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

☐ DISTRICT☐ PUBLIC☒ OCCUPIED☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ BUILDING(S)☐ PRIVATE☐ UNOCCUPIED☒ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ STRUCTURE☒ BOTH☐ WORK IN PROGRESS☒ EDUCATIONAL☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ OBJECT☐ IN PROCESS☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☒ Thematic☐ BEING CONSIDERED☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ NO☐ MILITARY☒ OTHER: Vacant**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

See Continuation Page

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

See Continuation Page

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Oklahoma Comprehensive Survey

DATE

1979

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Preservation Office, Oklahoma Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Oklahoma City

STATE
OK

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The sites in this thematic nomination of resources in Latimer County, Oklahoma relating to coal mining, are all located in the city of Wilburton. The ruins of the Great Western Coke and Coal Company, Mine #3 and the company store building are on the east side of the city while Mitchell Hall can be found at the west end on the campus of Eastern Oklahoma State College. The Sacred Heart Catholic Church and Rectory fall between the other sites in the middle of Wilburton.

The properties included in this nomination are the physical evidence of the varied impact coal mining had on the development of southeastern Oklahoma. They were the arenas for activities of area people which are representative of commercial, industrial, religious, and educational aspects of life.

The mine is filled now and only a brick low wall is visible, however, the company store, church, and rectory are in fair to good condition and are currently in use. The architectural styles are dissimilar, probably reflecting lack of planning for visual continuity which is typical of most of the area buildings. The exteriors of the three structures remain relatively unaltered although Mitchell Hall's interior has been completely renovated.

The methodology used for this nomination include personal interviews, field investigation, and documentary research in the Wilburton-Latimer County Library and the Edmond Lowe Library at Oklahoma State University.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1903 to 1922

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The thematic resources in Latimer County relating to the coal mining industry are significant because they exemplify the varied impact of mining activity on southeastern Oklahoma. Not only did coal mining have an industrial effect, but also it influenced education, religion, commercial, and social/humanitarian interests.

The most prosperous years for the coal mining industry and residents of Latimer County were from 1903 to 1922. Shaft explosions in the late 1920s and decreasing demand for coal led to the industry's decline in the 1930s. Fuel oil and natural gas replaced coal while bank failures, strikes, and mechanization further added to the coal companies' difficulties. By the late 1930s, coal mining activity had virtually ceased. Today, however, the coal industry is once again emerging as a significant economic factor throughout southeastern Oklahoma.

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Miller, Florences, "History of Wilburton". Unpublished manuscript, Eastern
Oklahoma State College Library), p. 10.

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Third Annual Catalogue of the School of Mines and Metallurgy of the State of
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