

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



981

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

1. Name

historic Wilson School

and/or common

2. Location

NW of Henryetta

street & number 7 m. NW of

\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Henryetta

vic.

\_\_\_ vicinity of

congressional district No. 2

state Oklahoma

code 40

county Okmulgee

code 111

3. Classification

Category

- \_\_\_ district
- building(s)
- \_\_\_ structure
- \_\_\_ site
- \_\_\_ object

Ownership

- public
  - \_\_\_ private
  - \_\_\_ both
- Public Acquisition
- \_\_\_ in process
  - \_\_\_ being considered

Status

- occupied
  - \_\_\_ unoccupied
  - \_\_\_ work in progress
- Accessible
- \_\_\_ yes: restricted
  - yes: unrestricted
  - \_\_\_ no

Present Use

- \_\_\_ agriculture
  - \_\_\_ commercial
  - educational
  - \_\_\_ entertainment
  - \_\_\_ government
  - \_\_\_ industrial
  - \_\_\_ military
- \_\_\_ museum
  - \_\_\_ park
  - \_\_\_ private residence
  - \_\_\_ religious
  - \_\_\_ scientific
  - \_\_\_ transportation
  - \_\_\_ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Wilson School District I-7

street & number Route 1 - Box 260

city, town Henryetta

\_\_\_ vicinity of

state Oklahoma

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the County Clerk

street & number Okmulgee County Courthouse

city, town Okmulgee

state Oklahoma

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Oklahoma Comprehensive Survey

has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_ yes \_\_\_ no

date 1980

\_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records Oklahoma Historical Society

city, town Oklahoma City

state Oklahoma

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## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

wilson School was built in 1918 of gray sandstone cut from James Hill, located just north and east of the school. The original two-story building - 50 x 44 feet - contained four rooms on the first floor (two on either side of a hall running south-to-north through the building), two rooms and an auditorium on the second. In 1932 a 30-foot extension was made to the west side of the building, adding four more rooms (two on each floor) and bringing the school's total width to 80 feet.

Design was plain and utilitarian. Entrance was unadorned - a few concrete steps leading to a slightly recessed entry and double doors. Now traditional steel-frame, all-glass affairs, they are almost the sole evidence of modernization. Windows, in sets of two and three for the most part, are wood-framed ... four-paned and double-sashed. A plain stone course serves as cornice. Traditional cartouche, recessed in the wall above the entry, reads "WILSON HIGH SCHOOL Independent Dist. No. 7."

The building, in full use until last year, is in relatively good condition. The 1932 addition blends completely with the 1918 original. But for the modern front door its external integrity is almost complete.

# 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 checked="" 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 1917-1919 Builder/Architect N/A

## Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Wilson School is a 62-year-old monument to the role the rural school has traditionally played - up until the last few decades - in bringing together and enriching the lives of people living in relatively isolated communities. Tiger Flats has been such a community since the late 1820s when Creek Indian families began to arrive from the Southeast over "The Trail of Tears" and settle here along Honey and Salt Creeks. For a time the valley, taking its name from the Tiger family, supported three distinct communities: Sharp, Honey Creek, and Salt Creek. Each centered on an elementary school, a church or two, a few small businesses. And for a time during the early oil boom years between 1910 and 1920 all three flourished. Then a move toward consolidation began.

In 1918 Honey Creek and Salt Creek Schools were joined to form Wilson School and the valley got its first high school. Wilson soon became the center of activity for the entire area and, although that activity is considerably reduced today, the school continues to serve in that capacity. In 1932 Wilson annexed Sharp School to become the only one in Tiger Flats. The consolidated district that year had a population of 1500 and a school enrollment of 430. By 1940, however, the valley began to lose population. School enrollment today is approximately 150.

Annexation of Sharp in 1932, with the resulting increase in enrollment, caused a two-story, four-room wing to be added to the west end of the original building. Wilson School thus consolidated its predominant position in the valley and today only a building or two - and/or a cemetery - remain to mark the three original communities. Wilson meanwhile has a modern church, a community building (1960), and a new 14-room school building.

Wilson School can hardly claim to have had a hand in shaping the life of Moty Tiger. He died in 1921 at the age of 100 ... three years after the school was built. However, a reverse role of influence could perhaps be advanced, if not documented. Monty arrived in this area with his family 1930. In time he built a home on Honey Creek and lived there until his death. And he served the Creek Nation well over the years, becoming a dominating force in tribal government in the 1890s. He helped establish the Creek Nation's Orphan Asylum in 1892. At nearby Okmulgee in 1892. With the death of Chief Pleasant Porter in 1908 he became chief of the Creek Nation, serving in that office the rest of his life. In a tenuous way, then, Wilson School - as the last remaining school and community center for all of Tiger Flats - stands as something of a memorial to the valley's best known and most influential citizen, and the Creek Nation's last pre-statehood Principal Chief.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

History based largely on the undocumented memories of eight long-time residents, as gathered by the Wilson School superintendent.

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

# 10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property one acre

Quadrangle name Okmulgee, OK

Quadrangle scale 7.5 minute

UMT References

A 

1	4	7	6	8	9	2	4	3	9	3	3	2	0	9
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

The SE one acre of the SE/4 of SE/4 of Sec. 16, T 12 N, R 13 E of Indian Meridian, Okmulgee County, Oklahoma.

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kent Ruth, Deputy

organization Oklahoma Historical Society date August 1980

street & number Historical Building telephone 405/884-5456

city or town Oklahoma City 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature [Signature]  
title SHPO date 11/21/80

For HCRS use only  
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

[Signature] date 1/28/81  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
Chief of Registration