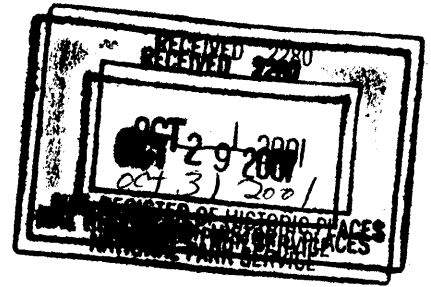


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

13257



=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Dawson School

other names/site number Old Rock School

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number NE Corner, Junction of East Ute Place & North Kingston Place

not for publication N/A

city or town Tulsa vicinity N/A

state Oklahoma code OK county Tulsa code 143

zip code 74115

=====

5. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u> 1 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	buildings
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	sites
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	structures
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 5 </u>	objects
<u> 1 </u>	<u> 5 </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

=====
6. Function or Use
=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: EDUCATION Sub: school

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: RECREATION AND CULTURE Sub: _____

=====
7. Description
=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Romanesque

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE:sandstone
roof ASPHALT
walls STONE:sandstone

other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====
8. Statement of Significance
=====

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance 1908-1927

=====
8. Statement of Significance (Continued)
=====

Significant Dates 1908

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder UNKNOWN

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====
9. Major Bibliographical References
=====

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: City of Tulsa, Urban Development Department, Lee Anne Zeigler/Dawson Files, Tulsa, Oklahoma

=====
10. Geographical Data
=====

Acreege of Property Less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	15	238410	4008060	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

N/A See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Cynthia Savage, Architectural Historian, for City of Tulsa Parks
Department

organization Savage Consulting date March 2001

street & number Rt. 1, Box 116 telephone 405/459-6200

city or town Pocasset state OK zip code 73079
=====

Additional Documentation
=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage
or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form
Dawson School
Tulsa County, Oklahoma

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Property Owner
=====

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Tulsa, c/o Urban Development Department

street & number 110 S. Hartford, Ste. 200 telephone _____

city or town Tulsa state OK zip code 74120

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Dawson School
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SUMMARY

The Dawson School, constructed in 1908, is a simple, sandstone, Romanesque style, two-room building constructed for the purpose of educating the children of the Dawson community. The one-story building features an asphalt-covered, hipped roof with a prominent cross gable creating a covered partial porch. Originally there was a bell tower atop the porch; however, this was removed at an unknown time. All of the windows and doors have been replaced in order to secure the building which is unoccupied except for various community meetings and events. The new windows are metal, one-over-one, double hung with a heavy mesh covering which protects the window from being broken. The windows were replaced in the early 1980s when the city undertook other work on the interior of the building. A 1920 photograph of the students of the Dawson School reveals that historically there was a similar wire covering over the windows. The doors on the building are nonoriginal metal slab. In addition to the two original door openings in the front, two doors on the rear of the building have been cut into the sandstone. Decorative details include an arched partial porch, two semicircular windows flanking the porch, a boxed cornice and gable returns. Although the building has been altered by the removal of the bell tower, replacement of the window and door materials and the creation of two new openings on the back of the building, the school maintains its integrity. These alterations have only a minor impact as most relate to materials and do not significantly impact the design, location, workmanship, feeling or association of the building.

The setting of the building has also undergone some modification. Originally, the outhouses for the school were located to the east of the building. These were removed at an unknown time. A wading pool was constructed to the north of the building in about 1941. The wading pool was probably constructed by the Works Progress Administration. Records at the Carl Albert Center at the University of Oklahoma indicate a WPA project did occur in Dawson at this time, although the exact details of the project are not specified. At the time, the building was a community recreation center, the function of the building changing from a school in 1930. The wading pool was turned into a spray pool in the late 1940s when the city of Tulsa annexed Dawson and undertook improvement on the recreational facilities in the area. Due to a lack of historic association with the Dawson School, the pool is not included in the boundaries of this nomination. However, due to their proximity, a metal bench and the coin machine which operates the spray pool are included. The remainder of the block has historically been a park with modern playground equipment being located to the east of the building probably in the 1980s. The rest of the block includes a black-topped parking lot on the northwest corner and

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several chainlink back stops towards the eastern half of the block. Because of a lack of historic significance and association, these areas are not included within the boundaries.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The Dawson School is a one-story, hipped roof, sandstone building. The color of the sandstone is a mix of yellow/brown with pink. The roof is asphalt-covered with a wide boxed cornice. The cornice has been painted green to match the metal slab doors. The building's foundation is sandstone. The school faces west with multiple windows on the north and south sides. This placement and fenestration pattern allowed the school to rely on the natural north-south light rather than artificial light.

The west elevation contains the front-gabled porch. The porch features a boxed cornice identical to the remainder of the building and gable returns. Two brackets support the inside corners of the gable returns. The wide, arched porch entrance is accessed by concrete steps flanked by stepped, stone, wing walls. The highly ornamental porch arch springs from a single, wide, sandstone impost. The sandstone pier flares outward slightly from the impost to the ground. The wide, sandstone voussoirs are highlighted by a wide, recessed, stone band topped by the narrow, raised, stone extrados. In the center of the arch is an oversize keystone topped by banding identical to the rest of the arch. The keystone is pink in color in contrast to the dominant yellow/brown of the remainder of the porch. The inside north and south walls of the porch are concrete, while the roof is weatherboard. Located in the sandstone main wall are two nonoriginal, metal, slab doors which have been painted green. The single doors are situated towards the sides of the opening rather than in the center. Currently, the top of the door frames extend well above the door. Historically, the doors were probably topped by transoms.

On both sides of the porch are semicircular windows. Historically, the windows were fanlights with a radiating glazing bar system. Currently, the windows are filled with acrylic resin rather than glass and they have no divisions. The windows are set off by sandstone voussoirs with a center keystone. The windows have no sill.

The north and south sides of the building are identical with seven windows. There are no doors on either elevation. The windows do not form a continuous band, rather they are separate single windows. The windows are not equally spaced. The outside windows are spaced further away from the other windows and are slightly narrower. The inside five windows are the same size and are identically spaced.

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The rear elevation is very plain with only two nonoriginal door openings. The doors have been cut into the sandstone, as evident by the marks outside of the door frame in the stone. The doors are metal slab which have been painted green to match the other doors and trim on the building.

Several nonhistoric objects have been placed around the building. These include the wood fence on the west and south sides of the site, the wood sign in front of the building, the metal bench and the coin machine for the spray pool on the northeast corner of the building and an air conditioning unit surrounded by a chainlink fence on the east side. The fence is a simple wood fence which extends along the south and west sides of the block. The wood sign reads "My Backyard/Tulsa Park and Recreation Department/Park Partners/Tulsa Table Tennis Association/Dawson Property Owners Association." Both the wood fence and wood sign were added after 1988. The metal bench is a modern park bench. The coin machine is a simple rectangular object which has been painted a bright blue. The air conditioning unit is a standard free-standing unit which has been surrounded by a chainlink fence for a measure of security. Although all of these are counted as noncontributing, none of them significantly impact the integrity of the building.

ALTERATIONS

The Dawson School has been changed by the removal of the bell tower originally located on the front porch. The Dawson Property Owners Association is currently investigating the possibility of replacing the bell tower but this would probably be several years in the future. Also altering the building has been the replacement of the window and door materials. The windows were probably changed in the early 1980s when other interior modifications were made to the building. These changes are basically a security measure to ensure the interior is not vandalized as the building is vacant the majority of the time. For the most part, the new materials have simply been put into the historic openings; thus the impact on the building is minimal. Only on the back of the building where two new door openings have been cut into the stone is the new material a notable change. However, due to its location on the back of the building, the new doors do not have a significant impact on the integrity of the building.

The setting of the building has been altered slightly over the years. Currently, these alterations are embodied in the noncontributing objects around the building. These include the wood fence, wood sign, metal bench, coin machine and air conditioning unit. Outside of the boundaries, the setting has been changed by the construction of a wading pool, playground equipment and a parking lot on the northwest corner of the block. The remainder of the block is an open grassy area with several chainlink backstops.

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Overall, the Dawson School retains its integrity of location, design, workmanship, feeling and association to a remarkable degree. Although the building's integrity of materials and setting have been impacted by the alterations which occurred since the building changed function from that of a school to a community center, the Dawson School retains its ability to convey its historic appearance.

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SUMMARY

The Dawson School is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with education in Dawson and Criterion C for its architectural significance as an excellent example of a sandstone, Romanesque style, two-room school in Tulsa built during the post-statehood school building boom. The period of significance extends from the date of construction of the building, 1908, until the school's incorporation into the city of Tulsa's public school system in 1927. Although the building continued in operation as a school for several more years, the annexation of the Dawson school district by the Tulsa school district greatly altered the educational system in Dawson. Previous to its annexation, students from first grade through twelfth attended school in Dawson. After 1927, high school and junior high students attended schools in Tulsa and a kindergarten class was added at Dawson. Within two years of the annexation, a new eight-room elementary school was slated for construction in Dawson which relieved the original school building of continued use as a school. Thus, although the school's function did not change until 1930 with the opening of Bryant School, the inclusion of all Dawson students in Dawson schools ended in 1927.

HISTORIC BACKGROUND

The community of Dawson originated in 1882 when the St. Louis and San Francisco Railway Company constructed a line through the Cherokee Nation to about present-day Tulsa, about five miles southwest of Dawson. Although the railway company constructed a depot in Dawson, the economic foundations of the town were built on the coal deposits beneath the community. During the peak years of coal production in the first decade of the twentieth century, more than sixteen railcars a day were loaded from the strip pits in the Dawson area. Although strip pits, largely providing local and railroad needs, were common until the 1950s, in 1910 large-scale commercial underground mining of the coal began. Commercial underground mining also continued until the mid-1950s.¹

Coal mining was not the only industry in the small community. In addition to the surrounding agricultural lands, the town laid claim to several stone quarries. In fact, the first stone building in the city of Tulsa, located at First and Main streets, was constructed using stone from a Dawson quarry in

¹City of Tulsa, Preservation Commission, "A Neighborhood History of Tulsa's Historic Dawson", (Urban Development Department, May 1999), 1 and 12-13.

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1894.²

In 1906, the Dawson Townsite Company auctioned forty lots in a new addition to "...a splendid class of people." At that time, it was expected Dawson would become "...a beautiful suburb to Tulsa and a nice place for a country home." Annexation by the city of Tulsa was also expected to be imminent but this did not occur. By 1908, Dawson was "...a thriving little town of some two hundred people." Within fifteen years of that, the town had grown to include approximately 450 people. At that time, the residents felt the need to incorporate their town. In addition to the anticipation that incorporation would bring an end to the cars speeding through town and a bank to the community by allowing the creation of a police force, the citizens wanted to pave their streets and improve their utilities and sanitary conditions. On 21 May 1923, the town of Dawson was formally incorporated.³

Beginning in the late twenties, a new major economic development began to emerge in the Dawson area. The Tulsa Municipal Airport was located northeast of Dawson in the late 1920s. Operations and industries at the airport continued to expand through the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s. The airport played a critical role in the emergence of the city of Tulsa as a continued economic force in the state following the crash of oil during the Great Depression. Previous to the Great Depression, Tulsa was overwhelming reliant on oil and oil-related businesses for economic support.⁴

Although talk of annexation of Dawson by Tulsa occurred off and on throughout the first half of the twentieth century, the location and vitality of the airport was probably the deciding factor in the 1949 annexation of Dawson into the city of Tulsa. Despite the fact that Tulsans voted six to one in favor of the annexation of Dawson, many Dawsonites were opposed to the move. On 7 July 1949, shortly after District Court Judge Horace D. Ballaine upheld the annexation as lawful, Tulsa Mayor Roy Lundy and other city officials went to Dawson to claim the seal of the town. This was heralded as "The largest annexing move in Tulsa's history...". In addition to bringing an estimated

²The Tulsa (Oklahoma) Democrat, 21 August 1908. See also The Tulsa (Oklahoma) World, 24 October 1993.

³Ibid., 9 November 1906 and 21 August 1908. See also The Daily Oklahoman, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 25 March 1923 and City of Tulsa, "Historic Dawson," 1-2.

⁴Ibid., 15-18. See also The Tulsa (Oklahoma) World, 20 June 1988.

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area of two and a half miles into the Tulsa city limits, approximately a million dollars was added to the Tulsa tax rolls. Following the ceremonial transfer of the seal, along with other projects related to the consolidation of the two towns, Mayor Lundy announced plans to request the Tulsa Parks Department to "...begin work on putting the Dawson park and wading pool into shape for use as recreational facilities in the town (were) lacking." According to the locals, the wading pool was dry and "...it had not been used for some time."⁵

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The first identified school in Dawson was a white frame building located in the vicinity of the existing school building. Although the date of opening is hard to believe as the town had been existence for over twenty years, in February 1905 The Tulsa Democrat announced:

"A government school began at Dawson with an enrollment of 60. The term now will be four months but school will begin in September for nine months. The building and fuel are furnished by citizens of Dawson. The salary of the teacher and other expenses are paid by the Cherokee Nation and the U.S. Government."⁶

Because of a lack of historical records, it is unknown if the government school was the only school in the community.

It is possible that Dawson did not have a school until 1905 due to the town's location in the Cherokee Nation in Indian Territory. As such, Dawson was not subject to the laws of Oklahoma Territory to the west or the greater United States mandating public education. Although the Five Civilized Tribes maintained schools for their children, non-Native American children in Indian Territory generally attended subscription schools, if they attended school at all. As one of its first acts following the joining of Oklahoma and Indian territories into the state of Oklahoma in 1907, the first state legislature enacted a compulsory attendance law mandating the enrollment of all Oklahoma children between eight and sixteen in school.⁷

⁵The Tulsa (Oklahoma) Daily World, 8 July 1949.

⁶City of Tulsa, "Historic Dawson," 30.

⁷Scrapbook Clippings, City of Tulsa, Urban Development Department, Lee Anne Zeigler/Dawson Files, Tulsa, Oklahoma. See also W. David Baird and Danney Goble, The Story of Oklahoma,

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In eastern Oklahoma, the new compulsory attendance law required the election of boards of education and enumeration of eligible children. Additionally lands were assessed to allow for the voting of school bonds to enable the construction of new school buildings. By mid-January 1908 it was estimated that nearly seven thousand children would be required to attend school in Tulsa County. The local newspaper further indicated that "Tulsa will be the richest county in the state of Oklahoma" in terms of resources to build their school districts. The mill levy in Tulsa County was to be based on "...142 miles of railroad, 1,100 oil wells, and six or seven tank farms with a total of some 500 tanks." The example of Glen Pool was cited as "...the richest school district in the county (with) a school levy of only 1-5 of one mill giv(ing) that district one of the best school services in the country."⁸

Although not one of the wealthiest areas, Dawson School District Number 12 was laid out and organized in January 1908. At about the same time, a new school building constructed of sandstone more than likely quarried from the local quarries was erected at the then-streets of Missouri and Booth in Dawson, Tulsa County. By October 1908, The Tulsa Democrat, which served as one of the local papers in Dawson as the town did not have a newspaper of its own, announced that "School houses are being started in many places throughout this section of the country and many have already been completed and are in use this term of school." The paper maintained that "Oklahoma, in a few years, will have as many, if not more, and as good, if not better, school buildings and equipment, than any other state in the Union, according to the population and wealth."⁹ Thus, the construction of the Dawson School occurred during the general trend of school improvements which occurred following Oklahoma's statehood in November 1907. This trend was especially prevalent in eastern Oklahoma where public schools had not previously flourished.

As with the later boom in school building in Oklahoma spurred by the New Deal-era Works Progress Administration, the construction of improved educational facilities following statehood undoubtedly inspired community interest in education and the teaching process. This translated into an increase in school attendance and patron support, especially as the newly created mandatory

(Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 1994), 285-286 and Arrell Morgan Gibson, Oklahoma: A History of Five Centuries, 2nd ed., (Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 1991), 204.

⁸The Tulsa Democrat, 17 January 1908.

⁹The Tulsa Democrat, 30 October 1908.

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attendance law began to take shape. Additionally, the new buildings aided the districts in attracting and retaining quality instructors. Although the construction of the stone Dawson School building did not apparently make the local Tulsa papers, it was doubtlessly a point of pride for the community. Replacing the white frame building with a splendid stone building of the Romanesque style was an obvious community improvement that particularly benefited the children of Dawson. The new building surely enhanced the educational opportunities available in Dawson by providing a safe, clean, modern learning environment for the children.

Similar to most small communities, the Dawson School was also probably an important center of community activities. Indubitably, social and political events, as well as education-related activities, were commonly held at the school building. The school would not have only provided a central location but also the necessary facilities for large crowds. There were no municipal buildings in Dawson until 1942 when a fire house was built for the Dawson Volunteer Fire Department. As late as 1949, the town clerk's office was located in the kindergarten building of the 1930 Bryant School.¹⁰ Thus, the public school building was the obvious location for town events.

From its construction in 1908 until 1927, the Dawson School was a focal point in the educational system for all school children in Dawson. In 1927, Dawson District Number 12 was incorporated into the city of Tulsa's District Number 22. At that time, nearly three hundred students under the supervision of seven teachers attended school in Dawson.¹¹ Although most histories and reminiscences of the community do not address other school buildings, an interview of Mrs. Winifred McGill by Lee Anne Zeigler on 18 November 1998 reveals the presence of at least two additional school buildings in Dawson. Mrs. McGill, born in 1917, recalls a brick building north of the Dawson School which housed the third and fourth graders and another building north of that for the fifth and sixth graders. The date of construction of these buildings and other details of the buildings are sadly lacking. As far as has been determined, no remains of these building currently exist in Dawson.¹²

¹⁰City of Tulsa, "Historic Dawson," 39. See also The Tulsa Daily World, 8 July 1949.

¹¹The Tulsa Tribune, 4 January 1927.

¹²Mrs. Winifred (Clinton) Jackman McGill, Interview by Lee Anne Zeigler, 18 November 1998 at the McGill Residence, 5305 East 4th Terrace, Tulsa, Oklahoma. Copy available at City of Tulsa, Urban Development Department, Lee Anne Zeigler/Dawson Files, Tulsa,

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Following the incorporation of Dawson District Number 12 by Tulsa District Number 22, the Dawson high school students attended Central High School in Tulsa and a kindergarten class was added at Dawson. Additionally, beginning with the 1926-1927 school year, the Tulsa school district had instigated use of junior high schools to relieve crowding in the elementary schools. With the 1927 consolidation of the Dawson and Tulsa schools, children from Dawson in the seventh and eighth grades began to attend Cleveland Junior High which opened the previous year.¹³ This was a dramatic shift in the educational system in Dawson. No longer did all students attend a central school. Rather, Dawson children were bused to schools outside the community limits and their educational experience was correspondingly altered from that of a small town to a major urban center.

In 1929, Tulsa school officials approved construction of a new eight-room elementary school for the Dawson area. Opened in 1930, the new building made the historic Dawson School building surplus. As such, the Tulsa Board of Education conveyed the former school lands to the city of Dawson to be used for "...general municipal purposes."¹⁴ Following this, the school was used as a community center, which it continues to function as today.

Although there were at least three other school buildings in Dawson before the annexation of the Dawson School District by the Tulsa School District in 1927, the Dawson School is educationally significant as the only remaining building from Dawson School District Number 12. The other buildings have largely disappeared from community memory and only the Dawson School remains physically evident. As a representation of the early educational history of the community, the Dawson School is a significant local resource which merits recognition.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Dawson School is architecturally significant as an excellent example of an early twentieth century, two-room, sandstone, Romanesque style school building. The building maintains a fairly high degree of integrity with no additions or

Oklahoma.

¹³The Tulsa Tribune, 21 August 1927 and 26 August 1928.

¹⁴Ibid., 28 July 1929. See also Copy of Deed of Conveyance, Property Known as Dawson Park, Book 935, Page 103. Available City of Tulsa, Urban Development Department, Lee Anne Zeigler/Dawson Files, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

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major alterations. The Dawson School is not a particularly grand example of the Romanesque style. The architectural detail and ornamentation on the building is kept to a minimum on all elevations. The unpretentiousness of the Dawson School was typical of schools built in small working-class towns in the early years of the twentieth century. Overwhelmingly utilitarian in character and style, the Dawson School retains the ability to convey its historic function with remarkable clarity.

Within the confines of the Dawson neighborhood, the school is one of the last remaining vestiges of the town which flourished until its incorporation into the larger municipality of Tulsa in 1949. The annexation of the small town by Tulsa, the second largest metropolitan area in the state, has resulted in a general loss of buildings and vitality throughout the once-thriving community. The Dawson School, reflecting the pride and determination of its builders, stands out as a landmark and symbol of the historic Dawson community.

In the larger context of Tulsa, the Dawson School is significant as an example of a two-room, sandstone school built during the school building boom that occurred around statehood. As the city of Tulsa began to expand as the "Oil Capital of the World" in the first half of the twentieth century, smaller, stone and frame, one- and two-room school buildings were replaced by larger, brick, multi-room buildings. Due to a lack of need, the majority of the smaller school buildings were demolished as the new commodious buildings were constructed. Fortunately, the Dawson School, viewed as surplus by the Tulsa Board of Education in 1930, was returned to the city of Dawson for its use as a community center. Although experiencing periods of neglect and disuse, the former school building managed to avoid demolition and continues to be an integral part of the Dawson neighborhood on the northeast side of Tulsa.

Throughout the state of Oklahoma, numerous historic school buildings have been demolished as the districts modernize their facilities or consolidate. Twenty years after the initial school building boom in the state of Oklahoma, a second wave of school building replaced the majority of the statehood buildings. Using the aid offered by the Works Progress Administration and other New Deal-era programs, school districts across the state constructed new buildings to replace their aging, dilapidating schools. In the following decades, school districts actively sought to consolidate the numerous rural schools with other rural or urban districts. Although all of this occurred after the Dawson School had changed function, it further illustrates the architectural significance of the Dawson School as an example of a building built during the 1908 school building boom. As the majority of the other statehood-era buildings gave way to new districts or facilities, the early schools were typically demolished and, frequently, the site re-used for the new construction.

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The Dawson School is architecturally significant within the city of Tulsa as an excellent, rare example of a two-room, sandstone schoolhouse built during the post-statehood school building boom. To the smaller, now engulfed community of Dawson, the school is one of the few intact reminders of the town and its commitment to the education of its youth. The school represents the first decades of the twentieth century when all Dawson youth were schooled within the local community.

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Dawson School
name of property
Tulsa County, Oklahoma
county and State

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

From the corner of East Ute Place and North Kingston Place, proceed 104 feet north along the curbline of North Kingston Place to a point in the curb corresponding to the sidewalk along the north side of the building, then 109 feet east to the sidewalk behind the school building, then 104 feet south along the sidewalk to East Ute Place, then 109 feet west along East Ute Place to point of beginning, roughly encompassing lots 7, 8 and 9, Block 1, Original Townsite of Dawson, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries include only the property immediately historically associated with the school building. The remaining area on the block contains various playground and recreational facilities which were not present during the building's period of significance.