

OKLAHOMA LANDMARKS INVENTORY NOMINATION

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

SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

NEWKIRK BATHHOUSE AND SWIMMING POOL

LOCATION: Peach and Tenth Streets, Newkirk, Oklahoma 040, Kay County 071

CLASSIFICATION: building; public; public acquisition--N/A; occupied; unrestricted; present use--recreational

OWNER: The City of Newkirk, Newkirk, OK 74647

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Kay County Courthouse, Newkirk, OK 74647

DESCRIPTION: good condition; altered; original site

The Newkirk Bathhouse is a single-story, rectangular (51' x 26') structure constructed of poured concrete. The bathhouse roof is flat and the walls above the windows and around the front door are decorated with offsets and incising. Single spaced window openings have been filled in with concrete. Despite this, the building retains its hint of art deco style and integrity.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1937-1938; builder/architect: unknown

The Newkirk Bathhouse and Swimming Pool are significant because they demonstrate the commitment of the WPA to the provision of facilities that would enhance the quality of life in a rural and drought stricken community. Recreational improvements were designed to lift the spirits of a people weighed down by the consequences of a national economic depression compounded by searing heat. Additionally, the facility impacted the community in a more tangible way: it poured wages from some 16,800 man-hours of labor into the local economy, helping to revitalize main street. These wages also lightened the burden of the depression for previously jobless workers, addressing the problems of hunger and self-pride. Architecturally, the facility is notable locally for its art deco style, poured concrete construction material, and recreational type.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Less than one acre

Quadrangle: Newkirk, Okla.
1:24,000/7.5 min.

UTM: 14 672500 4083000

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Lots 9 through 16, Block 16, Academy Addition to Newkirk original.

PICTURE REFERENCE: 12-a; 12-b