

## OKLAHOMA LANDMARKS INVENTORY NOMINATION

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

SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

ALVA ARMORY

LOCATION: Choctaw and Third Streets, Alva, Oklahoma 040, Woods County 151

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

OWNER: Alva Public Schools, 14th and Barnes, Alva, OK 73717

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Woods County Courthouse, Alva, OK 73717

DESCRIPTION: good condition; altered; original site

The Alva Armory is composed of two segments: a drill floor unit with a high ceiling and a two-story garage/office unit. Rectangular (133' x 121') in shape, the armory is constructed of coursed red brick. The roof over the drill floor is arched with gable parapets; elsewhere it is flat with parapets. Crenelated concrete caps crown the parapets. The main entry on the south is crdcessed within a segmental arch and sequential insets of bricks. Windows are metal encased, while four garage doors on the south front cover segmental archways. There are three garage entryways at other locations in the building. Stepped pilasters capped with molded concrete, patterned brickwork above the second story windows, and masonry insets give the structure considerable decorative style.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1936; builder/architect: unknown

The Alva Armory is an exceptional resources for the local community. Architecturally, as a WPA building it is unique in its use of brick construction materials, contrasting with armories in the state other than those in the northwestern counties which were built with native stone. Locally it is outstanding for its extensive use of concrete moldings at the roofline and on top of pilasters. The use of the building by the Oklahoma National Guard for more than forty-five years underscores its significance. There units of the guard prepared themselves for military action in World War II and the Korean conflict and for civil defense and disaster relief at home. In other ways the structure has also contributed to an improved quality of life in Cherokee. Construction of the armory poured wages from some 66,000 man-hours of labor into the local economy at the depth of the depression helping to revitalize mainstreet. Those same wages also enabled the laborers on the project, most of whom were agriculturalists driven to destitution by the drought, to provide for their own families and to tide themselves over the economic slump until better times appeared.

### GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Less than one acre

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

UTM: 14 530240 4073270

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Commencing at the SW corner of Block 20, in the original city of Alva, running thence north 140 feet, thence east 150 feet, thence south 140 feet to the south line of said Block 20, thence west 150 feet to the place of beginning.

PICTURE REFERENCE: 22-a; 22-b