

OKLAHOMA LANDMARKS INVENTORY NOMINATION

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

SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

ALVA SWIMMING POOL AND BATHHOUSE

LOCATION: Flynn and Fourteenth Streets, Alva, Oklahoma 040, Woods County 151; NW 1/4, Sec. 23, T 27 N, R 14 W

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

OWNER: The City of Alva, Alva, OK 73717

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

DESCRIPTION: good condition; unaltered; original site

The Alva Swimming Pool is oval (267' x 140') and constructed of poured concrete. It is supplied with water by an underground pumphouse, and it is surrounded by a poured concrete apron. A smaller wading pool is adjacent. The rectangular (81' x 40') bathhouse is situated just south of the swimming pool and is constructed of poured concrete now painted white. The roof is flat with parapets. The south entry is framed by stepped pilasters, while on the rear of the building the east section is left open and serves as a shaded area for bathers. Windows are filled with opaque glass. The bathhouse has a distinct flavor of art deco architectural style.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1939; builder/architect: unknown

For almost fifty years the Alva Swimming Pool and Bathhouse has been an exceptional resource for the community. Residents have been cooled from the hot and dusty winds of summer and have recreated their spirits from the mundane cares of day-to-day activities. As a part of a larger public park, the facility symbolizes a depression era program tht emphasized people instead of money. Indeed, construction enabled drought stricken and destitute agriculturalists to find employment that salvaged their pride and eased their poverty. At the same time, wages of some 74,000 man-hours of labor revitalized the local economy at a time when business activity was nearly at a stand still. Architecturally, the bathhouse is unusual locally for its art deco style, poured concrete construction material, type, and workmanship.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Two acres

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

UTM: 14 528530 4073140

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: On the west side of Alva, the property begins at a point 832 feet east of the southwest corner of the NW 1/4 of Sec. 23, T 27 N, R 14 W, then goes 416 feet north, 208 feet east, 416 feet south, and 208 feet west.

PICTURE REFERENCE: 23-a; 23-b; 23-c