

OKLAHOMA LANDMARKS INVENTORY NOMINATION

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

SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

BEGGS ARMORY

LOCATION: Main and Osage Streets, Beggs, Oklahoma 040, Okmulgee County 111

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

OWNER: The City of Beggs, City Hall, Beggs, OK 74421

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Okmulgee County Courthouse, Okmulgee, OK 74447

DESCRIPTION: good condition; altered; original site

This armory is a single-story, rectangular (141' x 112') building constructed of coursed and rusticated native stone of buff color. The front part of the armory has a flat roof, while the back part has an arched roof. Both parts have parapets. The pilasters framing the main entrance and located on the corners give this building an art deco flavor. Vertical lines made on the stone walls also display the art deco style. Some metal encased windows on the main entrance have green plastic inserts and a rain shelter has been attached to the east side of the structure. These alterations do not impeach the integrity of the structure.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1936-1937; builder/architect: unknown

As a WPA building, the armory is exceptional for its quality of workmanship. Few structures in Beggs were of comparable scale. It is unique within the community in terms of type, style, materials, scale, and workmanship. Construction of the armory provided job opportunities for unskilled and unemployed laborers at a time when there were few within the region. Through this project the WPA infused wages of some 50,000 man-hours of labor into the local economy. It is also significant that the building itself contributed to military readiness of the National Guard unit in Beggs. This armory still serves the city as the location of the city government and fire department.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Less than one acre

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

UTM: 14 764930 3959200

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Lots 15 through 21, Block 26, Beggs original.

PICTURE REFERENCE: 81-a; 81-b