

OKLAHOMA LANDMARKS INVENTORY NOMINATION

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

SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

BLACKWELL ARMORY

LOCATION: Sixth and Doolin Streets, Blackwell, Oklahoma 040, Kay County 071

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

OWNER: The Oklahoma Military Department, 3501 Military Circle, N.E., Oklahoma City, OK 73111

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

DESCRIPTION: excellent condition; unaltered; original site

The Blackwell National Guard Armory is a two-story, essentially rectangular (126' x 116') building constructed of red brick laid in a running bond. Extending north from the central drill floor is a unit of one and two stories. The roof over the drill floor is arched; elsewhere it is flat. Parapets capped by concrete blocks appear over both segments. The central entryway on the north is recessed, while individual windows are fixed and metal encased. Four garage doorways on the north have segmental arches. Pilasters with vertical insets are crowned with molded concrete, attributes of the building that give it an ornate appearance.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1936; builder/architect: unknown

The Blackwell Armory is an exceptional resources for the local community and the region. 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 northwest which were generally built of native stone. The use of the building by the Oklahoma National Guard for the past 50 years underscores its significance. There units of the guard have prepared themselves for military action in World War II and Korea and for civil defense and disaster relief. In other ways the structure has also contributed to an improved quality of life in Blackwell. Construction of the armory poured wages from some 68,000 man-hours of labor into the local economy during a critical portion of the depression, materially improving the community's economic condition and quality of life. Those same wages also enabled the laborers on the project, many 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 returned.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Less than one acre

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

UTM: 14 652440 4075080

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: From the intersection of Sixth and Doolin Streets go

141 feet east, 150 feet south, 141 feet west and 150 feet north in Block 4, Northend Addition, Blackwell original.

PICTURE REFERENCE: 10-a; 10-b