

## OKLAHOMA LANDMARKS INVENTORY NOMINATION

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

SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

CHEROKEE COUNTY HEALTH BUILDING

LOCATION: Choctaw and Water Streets, Tahlequah, Oklahoma 040, Cherokee County 021

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

OWNER: Board of County Commissioners, Cherokee County, County Courthouse, Tahlequah, OK 74464

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Cherokee County Courthouse, Tahlequah, OK 74464

DESCRIPTION: very good condition; altered; original site

This County Health Building is "U" shaped (112' along the front; 84' along the exterior sides) and constructed of uncut and uncoursed native stone. The mortar is incised. The roof contains clipped gables and intersecting valleys. Wood sash windows, placed singly or by twos, rest between pre-formed concrete sills and lintels. Singly entry doorways on the east are reached by concrete and rock stoops; they also contain concrete lintels. An opening originally a garage door has been filled with a wood insert and redesigned as a single-entry doorway. This alteration does not impeach the integrity of the facility.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1939; builder/architect: unknown

The county health building is notable for its economic impact upon the Tahlequah community during the period of its construction. It offered WPA jobs to destitute laborers, enabling them to provide for their families and to regain a measure of their self-respect. Wages from some 54,000 man-hours of labor also were fused into the local economy, helping to prevent the devastation of Tahlequah's mainstreet. The building is also notable in that it improved the quality of health care offered to the residents of the county. As a WPA building it is unique in type, for there were few health buildings constructed by the agency.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: less than one acre

Quadrangle: Tahlequah, Okla.  
1:24,000/7.5

UTM: 15 32210 3975700

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Lot 10, Block 89, Tahlequah original

PICTURE REFERENCE: 10-a; 10-b