

OKLAHOMA LANDMARKS INVENTORY NOMINATION

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

SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

MIAMI MUNICIPAL FAIRGROUNDS (Four buildings)

LOCATION: South Main, Miami, Oklahoma 040, Ottawa County 115; NW 1/4, Sec. 31, T 28 N, R 22 E

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

OWNER: Ottawa County, Oklahoma

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Ottawa County Courthouse, Miami, OK 74354

DESCRIPTION: good condition; unaltered; original site

The Miami Fairgrounds contains six depression era structures: two livestock pavilions, an exhibit barn, a wall surrounding the race track, a stable, and a grandstand. The livestock pavilions are constructed of randomly laid, cut, colorful native stone. The 65' x 125' pavilions feature masonry which is in excellent condition. The buildings have arched roofs and two entries at either end. Windows have cut stone sills and a continuous lintel. Window openings have been filled with fiber glass panels. Pilasters on the front facade extend above the arched roof line, lending an crenellated effect.

The exhibit barn is rectangular (76' x 178') and constructed of uncut and randomly laid native sandstone. The roof is arched and parapeted. Pilasters extend above the roof line on either end. A concrete frieze also provides decorative detail. Windows have cut stone sills, while entries rest in archways. Window openings have been filled with fiber glass panels.

An eight-foot high wall surrounds the race track and field. It stands 8 feet high, measures 18 inches thick, and is constructed of cut native stone with beaded masonry. Every fifteen feet the fence is reinforced with a pier; along its entire length it is capped with cut stone.

The rectangular (90' x 70') stable is made of uncut native stone which is in fair condition. It has a gabled roof and an attic.

The fairground grandstand is a rectangular (78' x 205') structure constructed with a poured concrete superstructure enclosed with cut, rusticated and coursed native stone. It rises 26 tiers and is covered with a corrugated iron roof which is supported with steel trusses and purlins.

The Miami Municipal Fairgrounds complex is an excellent example of depression architecture and a public works program. It does not appear, however, to have been a WPA project. Probably it was constructed under a PWA contract.

SIGNIFICANCE: ca. 1940; builder/architect: unknown

Construction of the Miami Municipal Fairgrounds provided important job opportunities

for unemployed workers whose families were destitute. Moreover, the wages paid to those workers were infused into the local economy, thereby enabling it to better weather the depression. Its economic effect has continued to the present in the form of annual fairs and agricultural exhibits and periodic horse races.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: ten acres

Quadrangle: Miami Southwest, Okla.
1:24,000/7.5 min.

UTM: undetermined

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Just south of Miami in the NW 1/4 of Section 31, T 28 N, R 22 E

PICTURE REFERENCE: none