

## OKLAHOMA LANDMARKS INVENTORY NOMINATION

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

SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

MUSKOGEE ARMORY

LOCATION: Court and Callahan Streets, Muskogee, Oklahoma 040, Muskogee County 101

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

OWNER: City of Muskogee, City Hall, Muskogee, OK 74401

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Muskogee County Courthouse, Muskogee, OK 74401

DESCRIPTION: excellent condition; barely altered; original site

The Muskogee armory is a huge two-story, essentially rectangular shaped (260' x 160) building constructed of cut, coursed, and rusticated native stone of buff colors. The masonry is of exceptional quality. The roof is flat with parapets capped with cut stone, except over the central drill floor unit where the roof is arch and parapets are absent. Two door entryways are situated on three sides of the building, but they are hardly noticed compared to the twelve vehicle entrances included in the building that are situated in segmental archways. Elongated metal encased windows rest on cut stone sills on both levels, and on the upper level stone work above the windows and to the roof line is slightly recessed. With the exception of a very few of the windows on the lower level being enclosed with cinder blocks, this structure's architectural integrity is wholly unaltered. These minor changes certainly do not affect the integrity of the armory.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1936-1937; builder/architect: unknown

The construction of this armory provided work for those desperately in need of it during the worst part of the national depression, while it infused wages of some 216,000 man-hours of labor into the Muskogee community. This economic assistance did much to blunt the disastrous effects of the depression in 1936 and 1937. It also contributed to the military preparedness of units of the Oklahoma National Guard, which during World War II would distinguish themselves in the battlefields of North Africa and Italy. Architecturally, the armory is unique as a WPA structure for its massive size, quality of workmanship, and its vernacular style.

### GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Less than one acre

Quadrangle: Muskogee SE, Okla.  
1:24,000/7.5 min.

UTM: 15 286300 3958400

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Lots 4, 5, 10, and 11, Block 392, Muskogee original.

PICTURE REFERENCE: 61-a; 61-b