

## OKLAHOMA LANDMARKS INVENTORY NOMINATION

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

SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

TAHLEQUAH ARMORY

LOCATION: Water Avenue and Delaware Street, Tahlequah, Oklahoma 040, Cherokee County 021

CLASSIFICATION: building; private; public acquisition--N/A; unoccupied; unrestricted; present use--other

OWNER: Jeff Bennett, P.O. Box 1272, Tahlequah, OK 74465

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

DESCRIPTION: good condition; unaltered; original site

The Tahlequah Armory is a single-story, rectangular (126' x 142') structure consisting of a central drill floor unit and one wing on the west. The armory is constructed of random ashlar masonry; many of the cut stones are hugh. The drill floor section has a high arched roof with parapets which rise to points on the ends. The wing has a flat roof with parapets. All the parapets are capped with cut sandstone blocks. Double-door entryways are recessed under cut stone arches and framed by a high cornice and pilasters which reach to the roofline. Elongated metal casement windows rest on preformed concrete sills. Garage doors are located on the north facade of the building. Castellations of the building's facade add decorative relief to the structure.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1936; builder/architect: unknown

The construction of armories constituted a major share of WPA constructions in Oklahoma, especially in the very early days of the agency. The role of the armories in the military preparedness of the country was and is inestimable. The 80,000 manhours that were spent on the construction of this building generated wage money to laborers that was spent locally and helped to soften the blow the depression for mainstreet. This also greatly eased the suffering of those lucky enough to find employment with the WPA. Certainly the jobs generated by the construction of this structure helped maintain the pride of men who thereby found the means to support their hungry families. Architecturally the structure is significant for its fortress-like appearance, its castellated facade, and its colorful rock walls.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Less than one acre

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

UTM: 15 322340 3975880

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The south 73 feet of Lot 3 and all of Lot 4 in Block 69 in the City of Tahlequah original plat

PICTURE REFERENCE: 9-a; 9-b