

OKLAHOMA LANDMARKS INVENTORY NOMINATION

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

SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

TONKAWA PUBLIC LIBRARY

LOCATION: Seventh and North Streets, Tonkawa, Oklahoma 040, Kay County 071

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

OWNER: The City of Tonkawa, Tonkawa, OK 74653

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

DESCRIPTION: excellent condition; altered; original site

The Tonkawa Public Library is a single-story, almost square (59' x 56') structure constructed of rusticated and cut native stone laid in a random coursed ashler pattern. The roof is flat with parapet. The west entrance is a single doorway centrally located on a protruded segment of the building. The door is new and is shaded by a metal awning. Fixed metal windows with stone lintels and lug sills are spaced singly or in pairs. The upper portions of the walls are decorated with stone friezes, pilasters, and archways. The library retains its architectural integrity.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1935; builder/architect: unknown

The Tonkawa Public Library is significant as an excellently preserved F.E.R.A. project, a predecessor of the WPA. The building also serves as an example of the national government's concern with aiding in the development of educational centers. Construction of the building provided a sense of optimism to the community in addition to creating short-term jobs for unemployed workers during the Depression. As a project associated with the WPA, the library is significant for its type, style, workmanship, materials, and state of preservation. Within the community, the structure is unique in terms of its type and workmanship.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Less than one acre

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

UTM: Undetermined

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Lots 30, 31, and 32, Block 7, Tonkawa original.

PICTURE REFERENCE: none