

OKLAHOMA LANDMARKS INVENTORY NOMINATION

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

SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

EAST CENTRAL UNIVERSITY ATHLETIC FIELD AND STADIUM

LOCATION: East Central University campus, Ada, Oklahoma 040, Pontotoc County 123

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

OWNER: Board of Regents, East Central University, Ada, Okla. 74820

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Pontotoc County Courthouse, Ada, OK 74820

DESCRIPTION: good condition; altered; original site

Rectangular and measuring 199 feet by 56 feet, the East Central University Stadium has a superstructure of poured concrete and exterior walls constructed of rusticated and coursed native stone. The stands of the stadium rise some twenty tiers, and the rear wall is crowned with a stepped cornice. The wall also contains window openings fashioned into arches, a feature duplicated as entryways beneath the superstructure on either end. Openings have been reduced in size by opaque glass, wood inserts or cinder blocks, but these adjustments and the addition of a press box have not impeached the integrity of the structure. A rock wall extends some 254 feet north of the stadium.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1936-1941; builder/architect: unknown

The stadium is architecturally unique within Ada in terms of style, workmanship and materials. It is symbolic of the major works program undertaken by the federal government through the WPA during the depression and the resulting improved self image and economic status of those unemployed workers who found work with such a program. The stadium also suggests the broad interpretation the WPA put on its mandate to provide "useful" structures. Places of recreation, during times of economic turmoil, were, to the WPA, "useful."

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Less than one acre

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

UTM: A-14 714100 3850060; B-14 714250 3850060; C-14 714160 3849960

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The west 1/2 of the NW SE of Section 34, T 4 N, R 6 E

PICTURE REFERENCE: 53-a; 53-b