

OKLAHOMA LANDMARKS INVENTORY NOMINATION

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

SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

PONTOTOC COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS STADIUM

LOCATION: North Broadway Street, Ada, Oklahoma 040, Pontotoc County 123

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

OWNER: Board of Commissioners, Pontotoc County Courthouse, Ada, OK 74820

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

DESCRIPTION: good condition; altered; original site

The superstructure and stands of the Pontotoc Fairgrounds Stadium is constructed of poured concrete and measures 271' x 42'. It has 14 rows of seats plus a box seat section near the front. The stadium was built in two stages: the north 107 feet was built in 1940, the south 164 feet was built in 1938. The stadium is entered by two interior passageways and steps at either end. Parts of the superstructure have been bricked in to form rooms, and a sheet metal roof over the north end of the stadium has been added. These alterations have not affected the integrity of the structure.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1938 and 1940; builder/architect: unknown

As a WPA structure, the stadium is rather unique in terms of type. It was designed primarily as a grandstands for a rodeo arena rather than the usual football field. It, therefore, reflects the wide variety of structures constructed by the WPA and the recognition of that agency that recreational interests differed from region to region, that rodeo was just as legitimate as football. Significantly, construction of the stadium provided jobs for out-of-work oil field workers and agricultural laborers during the depression.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Less than one acre

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

UTM: 14 712500 3852180

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: A tract of land that extends 10 feet nw of the NW side of the stadium, 10 feet sw of the SW side of the stadium, 10 feet se from the SE side of the stadium and 10 feet ne from the NE side of the stadium entered on the UTM identified above.

PICTURE REFERENCE: 56-a; 56-b