

OKLAHOMA LANDMARKS INVENTORY NOMINATION

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

SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

ATOKA ARMORY

LOCATION: Ohio and C Streets, Atoka, Oklahoma 040, Atoka County 005

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

OWNER: City of Atoka, City Hall, Atoka, OK 74525

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Atoka County Courthouse, Atoka, OK 74525

DESCRIPTION: excellent condition; unaltered; original site

The Atoka Armory is a single story, rectangular (198' x 120') structure constructed of rusticated and coursed native sandstone of auburn and buff colors. The walls are eighteen inches thick. The strategic placement of the darker colors raises the masonry to the level of art. The high ceiling central portion of the building has an arched roof, while that on either side is flat. Parapets are on all sections. Pilasters at doorways and vertical friezes above each casement window provide decoration. Garage entrances are through segmental arches. Roof extensions and vertical lines give the armory an art deco flavor.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1936; architect/builder: unknown

As a WPA building, the armory is exceptional for its quality of workmanship that reaches the level of artistic expression. Few structures were of comparable scale. Architecturally it is unique within the Atoka community in terms of type, style, scale, materials and especially workmanship. Construction of the armory provided job opportunities for destitute workers at a time when there were few within the region. Atoka was one of those counties that suffered an influx of unemployed population, a condition that made public work opportunities particularly important. It is also significant that the building itself contributed to the military readiness of a National Guard unit that distinguished itself during the course of World War II.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Less than one acre

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

UTM: 14 764530 3808740

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Lots 3 and 4, Block 13, Atoka City original

PICTURE REFERENCE: 1-A, 1-B,