

OKLAHOMA LANDMARKS INVENTORY NOMINATION

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

SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

BOSWELL CITY JAIL

LOCATION: Vicinity of 7th and Hunter Streets, Boswell, Oklahoma 040, Choctaw County 023

CLASSIFICATION: building; public; public acquisition--N/A; unoccupied; restricted; present use--government

OWNER: Boswell City Council, City Hall, Boswell, OK 74727

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Choctaw County Courthouse, Hugo, OK 74743

DESCRIPTION: fair condition; unaltered; original site

A single story, rectangular (15' x 9') structure, the Boswell City Jail is constructed of poured concrete. The roof, also of concrete, is shed-like in style. Fashioned from steel straps, the doors of both cells open directly to the outside. Each cell also contains two small window openings covered with steel bars. In appearance the jail has the style of an elaborate horse barn.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1937-1939; architect/builder: unknown

The City Jail is unique in Boswell in terms of type and materials. It is equally unique as a WPA project in that the agency did not often sponsor jails, especially of the non-progressive variety. The building suggests the rather primitive character of penal facilities in the 1930s in southeastern Oklahoma. Also the building did provide work opportunities for destitute laborers who had been without jobs for over a year.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Less than one acre

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

UTM: 15 235180 3768610

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The north 25 feet of Lot 24, Block 40, Boswell City original

PICTURE REFERENCE: 24-A, 24-B