

OKLAHOMA LANDMARKS INVENTORY NOMINATION

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

SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

HARDY MURPHY COLISEUM

LOCATION: 600 Lake Murray Drive, Ardmore, Oklahoma 040, Carter County 019

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

OWNER: City of Ardmore, Box 249, Ardmore, OK 73402

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Carter County Courthouse, Ardmore, OK 73402

DESCRIPTION: good condition; altered; original site

The Hardy Murphy Coliseum is a two-story, rectangular (364' x 270') structure constructed of rusticated and coursed native sandstone as well as cut limestone blocks. With the exception of the front entry facade, the second story is fishrope from poured concrete blocks. The roof is arched over the central section of the structure, although it is flat over the front portion and that part of the building that is single story. Parapets are capped either with sand or limestone. Excepting the center segment, on the front most corners are curved and windows are filled with opaque glass. These features, and the framing of side front doors with limestone pilasters and lintels, give the building a distinct art deco flavor. On the second story the window openings are filled with metal encased panes or metal sash windows. Entry into the arena of the coliseum is achieved through a host of garage doors on either side. Filling of some of these doors with wood inserts and some of the upper windows with cinder blocks has not destroyed the essential architectural integrity of the building.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1941-1942; builder/architect: unknown

The Hardy Murphy Coliseum is most notably significant because of its scale. It is easily one of the largest structures erected by the WPA in Oklahoma. Also important is the fact that the construction of the coliseum provided jobs for unskilled and destitute citizens of the area. Over the years, the coliseum has provided facilities for rodeos, concerts, fair activities, and many other types of recreational activities. Unique for its type, style, scale, materials, and workmanship, Hardy Murphy Coliseum is one of the best-known and most loved structures in the city of Ardmore.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: four acres

Quadrangle: Ardmore East, Okla.
1:24,000/7.5 min.

UTM: A-14 673220 3781520; B-14 673330 3781450

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Beginning at a point 1248 feet east and 1040 north of the SW corner of Sec. 32, T 4 S, R 2 E, go 416 feet east, 416 feet north, 416 feet west and 416 feet south.

PICTURE REFERENCE: 2-a; 2-b; 2-c