

OKLAHOMA LANDMARKS INVENTORY NOMINATION

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

SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

HUGO ARMORY

LOCATION: Jefferson and Third Streets, Hugo, Oklahoma 040, Choctaw County 023

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

OWNER: State of Oklahoma, Military Department, 3501 Military Circle, N.E., Oklahoma City, OK 73111

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

DESCRIPTION: excellent condition; unaltered; original site

The Hugo Armory is a single story, rectangular (140' x 96') structure constructed of untooled and uncoursed native sandstone of multiple colors. In the eighteen inch thick walls, stone selection and placement raises the masonry to the level of art. The west end wall alone deserves to be placed in an art museum or a sculpture garden. The high ceiling portion of the building has an arched roof, while the other section has a flat roof. Both portions have parapets. Pilasters on corners and at doorways provide a hint of art deco style.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1936; architect/builder: unknown

As a WPA structure, the Hugo armory is exceptional for its masonry which becomes a form of artistic expression, making it one of the most attractive depression era buildings in Southeastern Oklahoma. Within the Hugo area it is architecturally significant in terms of type, style, scale, materials and quality of workmanship. Also, construction of the armory provided job opportunities for destitute workers at a time when there were few in the region and starvation was a real possibility. One black gentlemen walked eight miles to the job site and then again from it, working eight hours on the project for one dollar per day. Equally important is that the building itself contributed to a state of military preparedness which enabled the Oklahoma National Guard to distinguish itself during World War II.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Less than one acre

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

UTM: 15 268200 3765730

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Lot 8 and east 1/2 of lot 9, Block 89, Hugo City original

PICTURE REFERENCE: 28-A, 28-B