

OKLAHOMA LANDMARKS INVENTORY NOMINATION

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

SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

MCALESTER ARMORY

LOCATION: Third and Polk Streets, McAlester, Oklahoma 040, Pittsburg County 121

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: Pittsburg County Courthouse, McAlester, OK 74501

DESCRIPTION: excellent condition; unaltered; original site

The McAlester Armory is a single story, rectangular (203' x 120') structure constructed of rusticated and coursed native sandstone. With a high interior ceiling, the central portion of the building has an arched roof, while sections on either side with lower ceilings have flat roofs. Parapets dominate the entire roof line, but they are especially prominent on the center segment. Simplified, stepped pilasters and recessed window lintels of pre-formed concrete that reach to the top of the wall provide decorative relief and an allusion to art deco style. Segmental arches above doorways and eight garage openings, as well as stone selection and placement suggest high quality workmanship.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1936; architect/builder: unknown

As a WPA building, the McAlester Armory is exceptional for its scale and its suggestion of art deco style. These same qualities make it architecturally significant within the community, as does its type, materials of construction, and character of workmanship. Equally important is that the armory was completed in time to help prepare units of the Oklahoma National Guard for duty in World War II. Construction of it, moreover, permitted the hiring of unskilled and unemployed laborers who in 1935 and 1936 had little prospect of income and faced a real possibility of starvation.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Less than one acre

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

UTM: 15 247890 3870040

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Lots 7, 8, 9 and 10, Block 99, McAlester City original

PICTURE REFERENCE: 138-A, 138-B, 138-C