

OKLAHOMA LANDMARKS INVENTORY NOMINATION

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

SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

TECUMSEH WATER PLANT/CHEMICAL HOUSE

LOCATION: Broadway and Cherry Streets, Tecumseh, Oklahoma 040, Pottawatomie County
125

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

OWNER: The City of Tecumseh, City Hall, Tecumseh, OK 74873

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Pottawatomie County Courthouse, Shawnee, OK
74801

DESCRIPTION: good condition; unaltered; original site

The Tecumseh Water Plant/Chemical House is a single-story, rectangular (40' x 27') structure with a basement. It is constructed of brick and has metal casement windows with concrete sills and continuous concrete lintels. A high concrete watertable rises to a point level with the ceiling in the basement. The flat roof has stepped parapets with a concrete cap. The double main entryway door is located high above ground and is reached by poured concrete stairs.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1941; builder/architect: unknown

The water treatment chemical house at Tecumseh is notable architecturally within the community for its type, style, and workmanship. The plant was constructed by unskilled laborers taken from the ranks of the unemployed. Their labors not only allowed them to feed their families, but also kept them off the dole and contributing something to the community. Tecumseh, being in need of new water treatment facilities, was also short on funds to construct one. But with the help of the WPA, local and federal governments worked together on a project of continuing value to the community. The facility is symbolic of the wide variety of construction programs undertaken by the WPA.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Less than one acre

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

UTM: 14 687740 3903940

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Lots 13 through 18 in Block 10 of Outcelts Addition to
Tecumseh original

PICTURE REFERENCE: 67-a; 67-b