

## OKLAHOMA LANDMARKS INVENTORY NOMINATION

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

SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

TULSA FAIRGROUNDS CAFETERIA

LOCATION: Vicinity of 21st and Yale Streets, Tulsa, Oklahoma 040, Tulsa County 143

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

OWNER: Tulsa County Board of Commissioners, County Courthouse, Tulsa, OK 74147

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Tulsa County Courthouse, Tulsa, OK 74174

DESCRIPTION: good condition; altered; original site

A single story, essentially rectangular (140' x 80') building, the Fairgrounds Cafeteria was constructed of red brick laid with running bond. The rounded extensions of the building on either side required skilled masonry work, suggested also by the frieze above the window line. The roof is flat with parapets, and the windows are of the metal casement variety. Sills and wall caps are of pre-formed concrete, as are the letters above the front entry spelling out "C-A-F-E". The latter, the casement windows and the rounded side wings give the structure a distinct art deco flavor. An enclosed walkway connecting the front door of the cafeteria with another building and an enlargement of the cafeteria by adding a brick addition to its rear have not impeached the integrity of the structure.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1937-38; architect/builder: unknown

The annual Tulsa fair was one of Oklahoma's two largest fairs. On the grounds of the fair was also held the world famous Oil Exposition. The construction of the cafeteria by the WPA was intended to better serve the needs of the crowds attending these events. Other improvements were also undertaken by the WPA at the fairgrounds, but the cafeteria alone remains to reflect the contribution of the agency. Architecturally, the distinct art deco style is uncommon for WPA structures, while a cafeteria-type of facility is entirely unique. The building, also, reflects the broad definition of "useful" employed by WPA officials. Given the context of the construction program, the cafeteria is also significant because of the job opportunities it gave to persons whose economic fortunes had been devastated by the national depression.

### GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: less than one acre

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

UTM: 15 236500 4002620

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Situated in "Expo Square," the property begins at a point 832 feet east and 208 feet north of the southwest corner of SE 1/4, and then goes east 208 feet, north 208 feet, west 208 feet and south 208 feet.

PICTURE REFERENCE: 151-a; 151-b