

OKLAHOMA LANDMARKS INVENTORY NOMINATION

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

SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

WETUMKA ARMORY

LOCATION: St. Louis and Wetumka Streets, Wetumka, Oklahoma 040, Hughes County 063

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

OWNER: Wetumka Board of Education, Box 8, Wetumka, OK 74883

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Hughes County Courthouse, Holdenville, OK 74848

DESCRIPTION: good condition; unaltered; original site

The Wetumka Armory is a single story, rectangular (198' x 117') structure constructed of red brick with running bond. With high interior ceilings, the central portion of the building has an arched roof, while sections on either side with lower ceilings have flat roofs. The central segment has impressive tower-like parapets at each corner. Rusticated and coursed buff colored sandstone is used as quoins, as frames for pilasters and along the top of each wall and pediment. Contrasting with the red brick, the native stone provides a decorative highlight for the entire structure. Metal casement windows and segmental arches over doorways are major characteristics of the structure. It also contains eight garage doors.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1936; architect/builder: unknown

As a WPA building, the armory is exceptional for its use of red brick construction material and its employment of native sandstone for decorative purposes. Its scale is also more impressive than most WPA structures. Architecturally the armory is unique within the Wetumka community in terms of type, style, scale and character of workmanship. Construction of the armory provided job opportunities for destitute oil field workers at a time when starvation and loss of self respect was a realistic option. The building is also significant in that it helped to prepare militarily a unit of the Oklahoma National Guard that later distinguished itself in World War II in North Africa and Italy.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Less than one acre

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

UTM: 14 750820 3902460

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Lots 4, 5 and 6, Block 52, Wetumka City original

PICTURE REFERENCE: 62-A, 62-B, 62-C