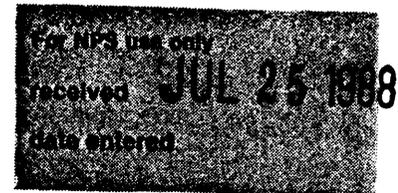


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TONKAWA ARMORY

LOCATION: Third and North Streets in Tonkawa, Oklahoma 040, Kay County 071

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

OWNER: Tonkawa School Board, Box 10, Tonkawa, OK 74653

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Kay County Courthouse, Newkirk, OK 74647

DESCRIPTION: good condition; altered; original site

The Tonkawa National Guard Armory is a two-story, rectangular (136' x 124') structure constructed of native limestone which has been cut, rusticated, and laid in a random coursed ashler pattern. The flat roof with parapets is built of concrete with coverings of asphalt and building paper, except over the drill hall, where an arched gable roof is constructed of steel. On the south side are located four garage doors under brick round arches. Centrally located is a single doorway recessed within an extended segment of the wall. Fixed metal windows are single spaced with stone slip sills. The armory retains its architectural integrity despite the attachment of a concrete block addition to the east side and a metal addition on the west side.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1936-1937; builder/architect: Bryan Nolen, State WPA architect, and K. Ahler, District Architect

Construction of the Tonkawa National Guard Armory was significant as being representative of the WPA concern for national defense. Until recently, the armory served as a training center for local National Guard units. Moreover, the project provided jobs for unemployed workers during the Depression. The building contractor, Robert Schwab, reported that the "outstanding feature" in the construction of the building was the conversion of the labor force into efficient and skilled workers. It also poured wages from some 68,000 man-hours of labor into the local economy. Schwab noted too that as a WPA project, the armory was impressive due to its "massive size, architectural beauty, and its sense of security and stability." The armory remains notable architecturally for its scale, style, type, workmanship, materials, and state of preservation.

**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:**

Acreage: Less than one acre

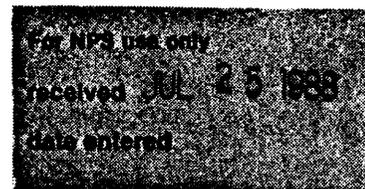
Quadrangle: Tonkawa, Okla.  
1:24,000/7.5 min.

UTM: 14 651640 4061660

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Nominated property is described as follows: in the University Preparatory School Second Addition, Tonkawa original from the intersection of

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North and Third Streets, go 89 feet east and 44 feet north to point of beginning; then 124 feet east, 136 feet north, 124 feet west, 136 feet south to point of beginning.

PICTURE REFERENCE: 16-a; 16-b

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 88001359-83001371 Date Listed 9/8/88

Property Name	County	State
Various		OK

WPA Public Buildings, Recreational Facilities and Water Quality  
Improvements in Northwestern Oklahoma, 1935-1943 TR  
Multiple Name

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

*Carew Shue*

Signature of the Keeper

*9-8-88*

Date of Action

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Amended Items in Nomination:

All of the individual resources included with this multiple property nomination can each be counted as one contributing building with the following exceptions: Medford Bathhouse and Swimming Pool (one contributing building and one contributing structure), Buffalo City Park Pavilion (one contributing structure), Blaine Stadium and Fieldhouse (one contributing building, one contributing structure), and Woodward Crystal Beach Park (one contributing building, two contributing structures). This is consistent with the total multiple property resource count of 12 contributing buildings and 5 contributing structures listed in the nomination cover form. This information was confirmed with Melvena Heisch, Oklahoma Deputy SHPO, during a 9/8/88 telephone conversation.

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DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file  
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)