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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet

Item number

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OMB No. 1024-0018 Exp. 10-31-84

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For NPS use only received IIII 25 1990 date entered

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BUFFALO CITY PARK PAVILION

LOCATION: South State Highway 64, Buffalo, Oklahoma 040, Harper County 059; SW 1/4, Sec. 12, T 27 N, R 23 W.

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

OWNER: The City of Buffalo, Buffalo, OK 73834

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Harper County Courthouse, Buffalo, OK 73834

DESCRIPTION: good condition; altered; original site

The Buffalo City Park Pavilion is a single-story, rectangular (52' x 20') structure built of wood and coursed native stone. Resembling a dog-trot structure, the building contains two restrooms divided by an open pavilion with wooden benches and a stone drinking fountain. A wood shingle gable roof supported by the stone restrooms and wooden columns covers the entire structure. Fixed wood windows are single spaced with stone sills. Above each window a wooden crossbeam has been inserted in the stone wall. Despite the addition of wire fencing along the northwest and southeast sides of the structure, the pavilion retains its architectural integrity.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1936; builder/architect: unknown

The Buffalo City Park Pavilion is exceptionally significant in that it impacted the quality of life within the community. Prior to the 1930s, there were few picnic and other recreational facilities through northwestern Oklahoma, but a people burdened with economic difficulties and drought conditions need moments of rest and relaxation. The Buffalo facility responded to this need, providing an important new dimension to the quality of life. It is exceptionally significant too because it stands as a symbol to a work program that sought to preserve human dignity through meaningful labor. This approach was most important in northwestern Oklahoma where the work ethic was and is extremely strong and those who take "doles" were and are ridiculed. That the WPA was able to operate in this climate, employing hundreds of destitute, was because it understood that work and wages went hand in hand.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: One acre

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

UTM: 14 443430 4075810

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: From the southwest corner of Sec. 12, T 27 N, R 23 W, go east 1248 feet and north 416 feet to a point of beginning and then go 208 feet east, 208 feet

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north, 208 feet west and 208 feet south.

PICTURE REFERENCE: 9-a; 9-b

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

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

Various Property Name County

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

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.

9-8.88

Date of Action

Signature of the Keeper

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.

DISTRIBUTION: National Register property file Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)