

1340

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number various

Page 93

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: Various Date Listed: 9/8/88

<u>Various</u>	<u>Various</u>	<u>Oklahoma</u>
Property Name	County	State

WPA Public Buildings, Recreational Facilities and Cemetery
Improvements in Southeastern 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.

Carol D. Shuel

Signature of the Keeper

9-8-88

Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

The actual resource count for the entire multiple property nomination should be 50 contributing buildings and 9 contributing structures (no non-contributing resources). Each of the individual properties should be counted as one building with the following exceptions: Roberta School Campus--2 buildings; Spencerville School Campus--2 buildings; Stroup Park Swimming Pool and Bathhouse--1 building, 1 structure; Wetumka Cemetery Pavilion and Fence--2 structures; Twyman Park--2 buildings, 4 structures; Jeff Lee Park Bathhouse and Pool--1 building, 1 structure; and Colony Park Pavilion--1 structure. (Stroup Park Swimming Pool and Bathhouse is being returned to the OK SHPO because of substantive problems which must be clarified.)

Scipio School--Ownership should be private, not public.

Roberta School Campus--Acreage should be two, not less than two.

The level of significance for all properties is local.

The above information was confirmed during a 9/8/88 telephone conversation with Oklahoma Deputy SHPO Melvena Heisch.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file