

OKLAHOMA LANDMARKS INVENTORY NOMINATION

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

SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

ATOKA ARMORY

LOCATION: Ohio and C Streets, Atoka, Oklahoma 040, Atoka County 005

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

OWNER: City of Atoka, City Hall, Atoka, OK 74525

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Atoka County Courthouse, Atoka, OK 74525

DESCRIPTION: excellent condition; unaltered; original site

The Atoka Armory is a single story, rectangular (198' x 120') structure constructed of rusticated and coursed native sandstone of auburn and buff colors. The walls are eighteen inches thick. The strategic placement of the darker colors raises the masonry to the level of art. The high ceiling central portion of the building has an arched roof, while that on either side is flat. Parapets are on all sections. Pilasters at doorways and vertical friezes above each casement window provide decoration. Garage entrances are through segmental arches. Roof extensions and vertical lines give the armory an art deco flavor.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1936; architect/builder: unknown

As a WPA building, the armory is exceptional for its quality of workmanship that reaches the level of artistic expression. Few structures were of comparable scale. Architecturally it is unique within the Atoka community in terms of type, style, scale, materials and especially workmanship. Construction of the armory provided job opportunities for destitute workers at a time when there were few within the region. Atoka was one of those counties that suffered an influx of unemployed population, a condition that made public work opportunities particularly important. It is also significant that the building itself contributed to the military readiness of a National Guard unit that distinguished itself during the course of World War II.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Less than one acre

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

UTM: 14 764530 3808740

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Lots 3 and 4, Block 13, Atoka City original

PICTURE REFERENCE: 1-A, 1-B,

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SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

ATOKA COMMUNITY BUILDING

LOCATION: First and Delaware Streets, Atoka, Oklahoma 040, Atoka County 005

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

OWNER: City of Atoka, City Hall, Atoka, OK 74525

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Atoka County Courthouse, Atoka, OK 74525

DESCRIPTION: excellent condition; altered; original site

This mulitple purpose building is a single story, T-shaped (58 feet long, 60 feet across at its widest point, and 42 feet across at its smallest) structure constructed of both cut and uncut native stone laid with and without courses. The use of both techniques of masonry suggest the high quality of workmanship. The roof consists of intersecting gables and valleys, and window lintels and sills are constructed of preformed concrete. External chimneys are at the end of each wing, while the front entryway is covered by a gabled porch and the rear entry is covered by a flat roof porch. Both porches are supported by square columns constructed of native stone. New metal sash windows have been installed, but this alteration does not impeach the architectural integrity of the building.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1937; architect/builder: unknown

Within the town of Atoka, the community building is remarkable for its multi-purpose usage over time. Early it was an agriculture exhibit hall; now it serves as a library and office building. It is also notable architecturally for its type, WPA style, materials and character of workmanship. Within the community there is no comparable building! Most significant is that construction of the building provided jobs for destitute laborers who faced the spectre of starvation without the position.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Less than one acre

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

UTM: 14 764160 3808340

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The west 80 feet of lots 7 and 10, Block 34, Atoka City original

PICTURE REFERENCE: 2-A, 2-B

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SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

DUNBAR SCHOOL

LOCATION: Dunbar and High Streets, Atoka, Oklahoma 040, Atoka County 005

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

OWNER: Atoka Board of Education, 202 W. 1st Street, Atoka, OK 74525

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Atoka County Courthouse, Atoka, OK 74525

DESCRIPTION: good condition; altered; original site

A four room building, the Atoka Dunbar school is a single story, rectangular (71' x 52') structure constructed of untooled and uncoursed native sandstone. Masonry is rather crude. The roof, now covered with composition materials, is gabled, and entryways are recessed and covered by porches. Reaching to the eaves, window openings with preformed concrete sills, have been enclosed with concrete block inserts. The latter alteration, however, has not permanently impaired the architectural integrity of the building.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1936-1939; builder/architect: unknown

The Dunbar school was the black school prior to integration in Atoka. WPA laborers who worked on it were also black. Thus the school building is significant because construction of it provided work opportunities for unskilled and unemployed black laborers made destitute by the depression and because it created a new environment conducive to learning for black students previously deprived educationally. Indeed, the first decent school facilities for blacks in southeastern Oklahoma, and Atoka in particular, date from the late 1930s. As a WPA school building in an urban area, it is notable for its modest scale. To the community it is unique architecturally because of its type (black school), style, materials and workmanship.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Less than one acre

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

UTM: 14 764300 3807290

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: From the intersection of High and Dunbar streets go 125 feet east, 150 feet north, 125 feet west, and 150 feet to the point of beginning, all in Block 2, Highland Addition to Atoka original.

PICTURE REFERENCE: 3-A, 3-B

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

SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

ATOKA FOOTBALL FIELD AND STADIUMS

LOCATION: West Third Street, Atoka, Oklahoma 040, Atoka County 005

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

OWNER: Atoka Board of Education, 202 W. 1st Street, Atoka, OK 74525

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Atoka County Courthouse, Atoka, OK 74525

DESCRIPTION: good condition; altered; original site

There are two spectator stands at the Atoka Football Field. Situated on the west side of the gridiron and measuring 125 feet by 38 feet, the larger one has three exterior walls constructed of rusticated and coursed native sand stone. The tiered floor and seats of the stands were built from poured and pre-formed concrete. At either end an arched doorway opens into space beneath the stadium seats. Across the field is a stands of eight tiers constructed completely of poured concrete and built into an earth embankment. Atop the thirteen tiers of the larger stadium, a press box has been built. This and a coat of white and maroon paint on that part of the stands facing the field have not altered the integrity of the structures.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1937-1940; architect/builder: unknown

The Atoka Football Field and Stadiums have significance in that they demonstrate the varied dimensions of the WPA building program and the agency's interpretation of "useful" public works. At a time when spirits and self-esteem were low, the athletic field promoted sporting events that enabled Atoka residents to forget their problems and cheer for winners. Moreover, it was the genesis of a fierce football tradition still evident in the community. The Atoka athletic facility also provided job opportunities for dozens of persons whose only previous support had been public relief. The payrolls generated helped ease the consequences of the depression among mainstreet merchants.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Less than two acres

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

UTM: A--14 763690 3808340; B--14 763620 3808360

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Beginning in the southeast corner of the Atoka School Addition to Atoka City original plat, the football field property runs 350 feet north, 330 feet west, 350 feet south, and 330 feet east.

PICTURE REFERENCE: 4-A, 4-B, 4-C

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SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

REYNOLDS SCHOOL

LOCATION: Vicinity of Kiowa, Oklahoma 040, Atoka County 005; Sec. 11, T 2 N, R 13 E

CLASSIFICATION: building; private; public acquisition--N/A; unoccupied; unrestricted; present use--vacant

OWNER: Mr. Coy Parsley, Rural Route 1, Kiowa, OK 74553

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Atoka County Courthouse, Atoka, OK 74525

DESCRIPTION: Fair condition; unaltered; original site

A two-room building, the Reynolds school is a single story, rectangular (67' x 28') structure constructed of rusticated and coursed native sandstone. Mortar is beaded; the roof is hipped with a cross gable over the frontal and recessed two-door entryway. With pre-formed concrete sills, classroom window openings reach to the eaves. The walls are in excellent condition, although the roof is in need of repair.

SIGNIFICANCE: ca. 1940; builder/architect: Okla. State Dept. of Education pattern book.

The school building is significant because construction of it provided work opportunities in a rural, remote and impoverished area which had been absent for at least a decade. The structure also enhanced the quality of education in that it replaced a wood frame building in a state of virtual decay and located elsewhere in the region. Interestingly, the new site was never deeded to the school district. Architecturally the building is unique in the community because of its type, style, scale, materials and workmanship.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Two acres

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

UTM: 15 233560 3899240

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: From the southern city limits of Kiowa, Oklahoma, follow U.S. highway No. 69 south to the Atoka County line, turning left on to what was "old" highway 69. From the turnoff, go south one mile to county road; turn east across the railroad tracks and at Y follow the south branch for approximately two miles, at which point the road turns north. From the turn in the road proceed east some three-quarters of a mile to where the road turns back north. On the east side of the road, the property begins at a point 1320 feet south of the NW corner of the NW 1/4, of the NE 1/4 of Sec. 11, T 2 N, R 13 E, and runs 414 feet east, 207 feet south, 414 feet west, and 207 feet north.

PICTURE REFERENCE: 5-A, 5-B

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SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

STRINGTOWN SCHOOL

LOCATION: Highland and Cumberland Streets, Stringtown, Oklahoma 040, Atoka County 005

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

OWNER: Stringtown Board of Education, Stringtown, OK 74569

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Atoka County Courthouse, Atoka, OK 74525

DESCRIPTION: Excellent condition; altered; original site

A four-room building, the Stringtown school is a single story, rectangular (54' x 69') structure constructed of untooled and uncoursed native stone. Mortar is beaded; the roof is hipped. Two end doors are recessed behind arched entryways. Classroom window openings with cut stone sills and that reach to the eaves have been reduced in size with wood inserts and smaller metal sash windows installed. The integrity of the building is intact.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1939; builder/architect: Okla. State Dept. of Education pattern book.

The school building is significant because construction of it provided work opportunities for destitute quarry laborers in Stringtown who had been without work for more than a year. It also created a new environment conducive to learning for students with a history of limited educational opportunities. The structure still serves as a school. Architecturally the building is unique in the community because of its style, scale, materials, and workmanship.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Less than one acre

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

UTM: 14 770780 3817580

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Lot 1, Block 14, Stringtown original

PICTURE REFERENCE: 6-A, 6-B

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SOURCE OF NOMINATION: Contract Survey

WARDVILLE SCHOOL

LOCATION: Vicinity of Wardville, Oklahoma 040, Atoka County 005; Sec. 10, T 2 N, R 12 E

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

OWNER: Wardville Community, Wardville, OK 74576

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Atoka County Courthouse, Atoka, OK 74525

DESCRIPTION: Good condition; altered; original site

A three room facility, the Wardville school building is a single story, rectangular (59' x 60') structure constructed of untoolled native stone. Masonry is random rubble in style with beaded mortar; the roof line is gable. The recessed, twin door entry way is asymetrically placed under a cross gable. Some window openings, with cut stone sills, have been filled with wood inserts, but the original integrity of the building remains intact.

SIGNIFICANCE: 1939; builder/architect: Okla. State Dept. of Education pattern book

The school building is significant because construction of it provided a new physical environment that promoted the cause of learning in an area noted for educational apathy. It also gave employment opportunities in a rural area for unskilled laborers that had been without work for years. Architecturally the building is unique in the community because of its type, style, scale, materials and workmanship.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: One acre

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

UTM: 14 772175 3839060

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: From state highway No. 131, turn north on the main street/county road, going through the community of Wardville to its northern edge, where the road jogs at the site of the school building, which is located on property described as the southwest most acre (208' x 208') in the SW 1/4, of the NE 1/4, of Sec. 10, T 2 N, R 12 E.

PICTURE REFERENCE: 7-A, 7-B