1. Name of Property
   Historic name: Alva Municipal Swimming Pool and Bathhouse
   Other names/site number: Alva Municipal Swimming Pool
   Name of related multiple property listing: __N/A____
   (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location
   Street & number: _1402 Flynn Street
   City or town: _Alva   State:  OK   County:  Woods
   Vicinity: 

3. State/Federal Agency Certification
   As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
   I hereby certify that this  X_ nomination   request for determination of eligibility meets
   the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic
   Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
   In my opinion, the property  X_ meets   does not meet the National Register Criteria. I
   recommend that this property be considered significant at the following
   level(s) of significance:
   ___ national     ___ statewide     X__ local
   Applicable National Register Criteria:
   ___ A     ___ B     ___ C     ___ D

   Signature of certifying official/Title:                        Date
   __________________________________________________________

   State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

   In my opinion, the property   __ meets   ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

   Signature of commenting official:                           Date
   __________________________________________________________

   Title :      State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

   1
4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register
___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ determined not eligible for the National Register
___ removed from the National Register
___ other (explain:) _______________________

_________________________  _________________________
Signature of the Keeper      Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)
Private:   

Public – Local  
X

Public – State  

Public – Federal  

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

Building(s)  

District  

Site  

Structure  
X

Object  


Sections 1-6 page 2
Alva Municipal Swimming Pool and Bathhouse

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contributing</th>
<th>Noncontributing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
RECREATION AND CULTURE/sports facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
VACANT/NOT IN USE
7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)
OTHER: WPA Art Moderne

________________________
________________________
________________________
________________________

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property: CONCRETE

________________________

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a summary paragraph that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Completed in 1940, the Alva Municipal Swimming Pool and Bathhouse is an Art Moderne-style recreational facility sponsored by the federal Works Projects Administration (WPA) located in Hatfield Park in Alva, Oklahoma. The single-story bathhouse, equipment/pump room, and gazebo are constructed of board-formed concrete and painted, while the swimming pool and wading pool are poured concrete and painted. Built with the dual purpose of alleviating economic hardship resulting from the Great Depression and providing Alva with a recreational facility and source of civic pride, the Alva Municipal Swimming Pool and Bathhouse contains five contributing resources all built in 1940: 1) a large, shield-shaped swimming pool; 2) a wading pool; 3) a bathhouse; 4) an equipment/pump room; and 5) a gazebo. Together, the pool and other contributing resources provide an excellent example of a WPA-constructed recreational facility in northern Oklahoma. The Alva Municipal Swimming Pool and Bathhouse symbolizes civic improvement as part of the WPA’s efforts to construct municipal structures for the benefit of local communities and serves as a unique, local example of Art Moderne-style architecture employed in the construction of a WPA project in Oklahoma.
Site and Setting

The Alva Municipal Swimming Pool and Bathhouse is located at 1402 Flynn Street in Hatfield Park, in Alva, Woods County, Oklahoma. The pool complex is sited in the southeast corner of the park, which the City of Alva acquired from W. Frank Hatfield in 1908. The surrounding area was and is residential to the east. Alva High School is across Flynn Street to the south. To the west lies Alva Municipal Cemetery, and Hatfield Park borders the complex to the north. The site encompasses 2.29 acres. Contributing resources include a large swimming pool, a wading pool, a bathhouse, an equipment/pump room, and a gazebo. Ancillary site features include entry sidewalks stamped with a WPA logo and a collection of concrete benches. Sidewalks are five feet wide and enclose three separate irregularly shaped grass spaces (two in front of the façade and one off of the west elevation). Four original park benches sit underneath the roof of the gazebo. Each park bench is constructed of concrete and are concrete slabs atop two columned pedestals that resemble miniature versions of the fluted columns surrounding the bathhouse. A non-historic tower slide with three-tiered walkup and towers capped by plastic hipped roofs (installed in ca. 2010) is also on site.

The setting is transitional from an urban to a rural area that, at the time of construction, lay outside the western boundary of Alva city limits. Taking advantage of the largely undeveloped land Mr. Hatfield had deeded to the city for the purpose of creating a civic park, the transitional area was an ideal location to provide residents with a place to enjoy outdoor recreation. The undulating topography in the vicinity, including a large ravine with a steep slope descending westward from the pool site, inhibited housing development and rendered use as farmland undesirable. But the city engineer and builders capitalized on this uneven ground in constructing the pool, as the natural hill reduced the amount of excavation and backfilling.

Alva is the county seat of Woods County. Oklahoma State Highway 64, which is one mile south of the property, runs east-to-west through Alva.

Resource Descriptions

The following is a description of each resource associated with Alva Municipal Swimming Pool and Bathhouse. Names of contributing resources are indicated in **bold**.

1. **Swimming Pool.** 1940. (Photos #0008, #0016, #0020)

The swimming pool has an oblong shape resembling a shield, gradually tapering in width by nearly half from southeast to northwest, with rounded corners. It is set on a slight northwest-to-southeast axis. The pool contains a ramped entrance at the shallow (southeast) end that measures nine feet wide and thirty-five feet long. The pool is two hundred feet in length (not including the ramped entrance) and measures one hundred feet at its widest at the shallow end, tapering to sixty-five feet at its narrowest at the deep (northwest) end. The pool is formed of poured concrete,
with a capacity of 500,000 gallons of water, containing twelve return lines from which water fills the pool to prevent too much chlorine being dumped at one location. The basin of the pool is painted white. Lighting in the pool walls is original. General Electric engineers were commissioned to draw lighting specifications for the premium General Electric lights installed in the sidewalls of the pool, with thirty lights regularly spaced around the perimeter walls of the pool. Rectangular, concrete coping with filleted edges surrounds the pool and a recessed skimmer trench with bullnosed lip is set directly below the coping for water drainage. A twenty feet concrete apron surrounds the pool on the north, east, and west sides. To the south, the concrete apron stretches fifty feet south from the southeast end of the pool to the north elevation of the bathhouse.

2. **Wading Pool.** 1940. (Photos #0017, #0018)

The circular-shaped wading pool, constructed of painted, poured-in-place concrete, is thirty feet in diameter and is centered equidistant from the southeast (shallow) end of the swimming pool and the north (back) elevation of the bathhouse. The entirety of the wading pool is two feet deep with a one-foot-tall curb encircling the pool. The basin slopes down gradually toward the center, where a drain is located.

3. **Bathhouse.** 1940.

The bathhouse is set perpendicular to the overall northwest-to-southeast orientation of the pool. Rectangular in plan, the bathhouse measures eighty-two feet wide and forty-two feet deep. The elevations are symmetrical with the load-bearing exterior walls constructed of board-formed, poured-in-place concrete and then painted. A stepped, concrete parapet extends above the surface of the otherwise flat roof. In terms of architectural design, the bathhouse is an example of Art Moderne style. The single-story building with rounded corners, horizontal fenestration, and smooth-edged low relief ornamentation around the entry door are all characteristic of the Art Moderne style and can be seen in the design of the bathhouse.

**Façade (Southeast Elevation) (Photos #0001, #0002, #0006, #0010, #0011)**

The front façade (southeast elevation) is eighty-two feet wide and divided into five bays separated by six fluted pilasters with beveled corners. A stepped roofline (parapet) extends along the southeast elevation, which mirrors the stepped appearance of the center bay. Door is set at grade in the center. The front entrance opening is original, but currently contains a replacement slab door. Historic photography does not clearly reveal what the original door(s) looked like. The date when the front door was replaced is unknown.

The top height of the frontispiece is twelve feet. A four feet wide door is centered in the center bay. A wood plaque with the street number is affixed above the door. “CITY OF ALVA 1939” is

---

impressed in the concrete above the plaque. To the right (east) of the door is a metal plaque commemorating the opening of the pool in 1940. There is one electric light to each side of the entrance, and the lights are symmetrical and level with the top of the door. Historic photography reveal different lights were installed in 1940. It is unknown when the original lights were replaced.

Fenestration is symmetrical, with one narrow, horizontal, metal-framed window centered in each of the flanking bays. Each window consists of a single row of eight lights. The center four lights are framed as a hopper window. A pair of fixed lights are located on each side of the center operable unit.

Southwest Elevation (Photos #0002, #0019)

The southwest side elevation is subdivided into two bays of equal width, separated by pilasters. The southernmost bay has a six foot by one foot hopper window with sidelights centered in bay. The northernmost bay has a boarded over window opening. The opening is six feet by three feet. The window opening cover is cut out for casement window hinges. The window opening is also boarded over on the interior of the building. A one foot by one foot ventilation grate is located to the right of the window opening, centered between the window opening and the center pilaster. The top of the grate is at the same height of the window headers.

Northwest Elevation (Photos #0004, #0005, #0008, #0009, #0017- #0020)

The northwest (back) elevation is eighty-two feet wide and divided into five bays. Three rectangular, fluted, freestanding columns delineate the easternmost-two bays, which are recessed to the center of the building, to form a covered porch. A chain link fence is set between the columns to separate the patio from the open pool deck. Three pilasters subdivide the back (south) porch wall into two bays. The stepped back wall has three engaged columns and a pair of six feet by one foot hopper windows.

The centermost bay of the elevation is slightly recessed, flanked by a freestanding square column to the left (east) and a pilaster to the right (west). A pair of metal, flush doors is the main entry to the pool area from the bathhouse. The right wall of the center step back has a three foot by six feet pedestrian opening that connects the center bay to porch. The left wall of the center step back has a wood door.

The westernmost two bays are delineated by pilasters. Window openings are centered in the bays. The westernmost six foot by three feet window opening is boarded over like the southwest elevation window opening. The bay to the left has a six foot by three feet window. The window is arranged eight lights wide by three lights tall. Similar to the hopper window assembly, two pairs of fixed lights flank an operable section of the window, but the operable portion of the window are a pair of casement windows. Windows are steel framed and the lights and the frames are painted white.
Northeast Elevation (Photos #0005, #0009)

The northeast elevation is forty feet long and divided into two equal bays separated by rectangular, fluted, pilasters with one-and-one-half inch bevels at the corner. The southernmost bay is similar to the south bay of the southwest elevation. The northernmost bay is open to the sheltered patio described with the northwest elevation.

Interior (Photos #0012, #0013, #0014, #0015)

The original functions of the bathhouse are evident with a central area utilized for administrative purposes, which is bracketed by shower/dressing rooms on either side. Original, interior, formed-concrete walls separate the original, central, shallow, U-shaped administrative area from men’s and women’s locker-dressing-shower areas. The administrative area was enlarged with wood framed walls, lengthening the arms of the U-shape towards the southeast (front) of the building. The extensions create a pair of hallways that lead to men’s and women’s locker-dressing-shower rooms that flank each side of the central administrative area. The hallways lead to the entrance of the pool and the northeast elevation.

Entering the interior from the main entrance (facade), a non-original desk, sink, and metal wire storage bins and racks are found in the central bay. The concrete beams supporting the roof are original. Non-original, wood-framed walls extend the original concrete walls and create hallways providing access to the shower/dressing rooms. Each changing room contains lavatory/toiletry areas near the entrance. A concrete curb on the floor surrounding the wall-mounted shower heads is found in both the men’s and women’s dressing/shower rooms to assist in containing shower water runoff. Wood partitions and benches are placed in the center of the changing rooms.

4. **Equipment/Pump Room.** 1940. (Photos #0003, #0021- #0024)

The equipment/pump room, located on the northwestern-most end of the pool complex, is set into the hillside and below the grade of the pool deck. The northwest-facing elevation is sixty feet wide. The building has a flat roof with no parapet. The roof is level to and adjacent with the pool deck, providing a walking and seating area near the deep end of the pool (reference Photo #0021). The southwest and the northeast elevation extend twenty feet from the concrete back of the pool. The exterior walls of these elevations are only partially exposed due to sloping topography. The entrance is located on the far northwest wall of the pool complex, with “ALVA 1939” impressed into the concrete façade above the center entrance. A keystone-shaped protrusion is centered above the door. A metal door provides access to the equipment/pump room, which houses four metal containers associated with the pool pumps. The façade has four window openings, with the westernmost opening currently boarded over. Metal-framed, hung windows are located in the opening with wood-framed screens. A concrete lintel is set atop each window opening. A flush metal door is located at the easternmost side of the northwest elevation.

A non-historic lean-to abuts the equipment/pump room. The south and east sides of the lean-to are enclosed with an open, metal frame and metal wire cage. The enclosure was used to store
hazardous materials as indicated by signage on the gate approximately centered on the east side. The south wall of the lean-to is the concrete wall of the equipment/pump room. The west wall is a concrete retaining wall similar to the retaining wall on the east side of the equipment/pump room. The lean-to is covered by a corrugated metal roof.

5. **Gazebo.** 1940. (Photos #0008, #0018)

The circular-shaped gazebo is thirty feet in diameter and sits equidistant between the southeast (shallow) end of the swimming pool and the northwest (back) elevation of the bathhouse. The gazebo is similarly and symmetrically arranged to the wading pool in relation to the pool ramp. Constructed of formed concrete, the gazebo consists of eight square columns on the perimeter set at regular intervals and one square column at the center. The entire structure is capped by a flat roof. Faces of each column and beam are impressed with a single line to mimic the fluting in the bathhouse’s pilasters and columns. Each column has a beveled bracket supporting the perimeter beam.

Four original benches sit underneath the roof of the gazebo (reference Historic Image #2 in Section 11). Each park bench is constructed of concrete and are concrete slabs atop two columned pedestals that resemble the fluted pilasters of the bathhouse.

**Alterations/Modifications**

Visible modifications to the Alva Municipal Swimming Pool and Bathhouse include expected repairs from a site being in continual use. In the 1970s, the City of Alva appropriated funds for replacement of the pool deck, as well as repairs to the plumbing and pool interior lighting. A non-original lean-to was added to the Equipment/Pump room in the 1980s. Trenched repairs to plumbing beneath the pool in the 1990s is evident by patches of concrete in the pool basin. The slide tower is not original, nor is a diving board currently on site. Locals recall that originally, as an accessory structure, an Olympic diving tower containing three diving boards at regulation height provided elegance as well as entertainment. However, the diving tower is no longer extant, and the date of removal is unknown. It is unknown if any of the lifeguard stands, or pool ladders are original. Framed walls were added to the bathhouse interior at an unknown date.
8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark “x” in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years
Alva Municipal Swimming Pool and Bathhouse

Woods County, Oklahoma

Name of Property

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)
ECONOMICS
ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance
1940

Significant Dates
1940

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Works Projects Administration, builder
Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The Alva Municipal Swimming Pool and Bathhouse is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A at the local level of significance for its association with Economics and Entertainment/Recreation in Alva. The contributing resources are significant for their association with President Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s New Deal programs, specifically the Works Projects Administration (WPA). Attempting to mitigate the disastrous hardships of the Great Depression, the federal government created WPA-sponsored construction projects like the Alva Municipal Swimming Pool and Bathhouse to provide economic relief, and today such recreational sites serve as visual reminders of the historical past in the built environment.

Additionally, under Criterion C, the Alva Municipal Swimming Pool and Bathhouse is architecturally significant as an excellent local example of the WPA Art Moderne Style applied to the construction of entertainment/recreation sites of the period. The complex differs from other WPA-funded pool complexes throughout Oklahoma in that its architectural style is Art Moderne rather than the more popular rustic or revival designs (typically Spanish Colonial). The contributing resources provide important landmarks that symbolize Alva’s historic development. The period of significance is 1940, when the Alva Municipal Swimming Pool and Bathhouse was completed and opened to the public.

Narrative Statement of Significance

HISTORIC CONTEXT

The Alva Municipal Swimming Pool and Bathhouse is located in Hatfield Park in the northwestern section of the city of Alva, Oklahoma. Situated in the sparsely populated northwestern quadrant of Oklahoma, Alva is the county seat of Woods County, which borders Kansas to the north and to the west is separated from the Panhandle region of Oklahoma by a single county. Founded prior to the Cherokee Outlet opening in September 1893, the city of Alva developed after the Southern Kansas Railway (later a subsidiary of the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railway) selected the burgeoning town as an initial railroad depot connecting Kansas to the Texas Panhandle. The rail station provided access for residents to get their livestock and agricultural products to larger markets, which, in turn, attracted supporting businesses. Prosperity increased population and soon Alva was granted the only teacher’s college in western Oklahoma (the current Northwestern Oklahoma State University), and Alva quickly became a regional center for business, transportation, agriculture, and education.²

Alva’s economy, like many Oklahoma towns, has always relied heavily on agriculture. Initially, that reliance provided some insulation from the Great Depression that plagued most of the 1930s. An independent food supply, combined with the likelihood that during the “Roaring Twenties” a farmer’s cash typically went toward practical farm matters rather than extravagant purchases, helped agricultural communities stave off the more devastating effects of the financial crisis witnessed in urban areas of the United States. However, being tied to the land, once a persistent, severe drought frequently accompanied by intense heat took hold of the country beginning in the spring of 1930, reaching the Great Plains in 1931, and lasting throughout the decade, rural farmers felt the full brunt of the economic recession. As Donald Worster contends in his seminal work on the Dust Bowl, the “financial cost of the 1934 drought alone amounted to one-half the money the United States had put into World War I.” By 1936, more than 2 million farmers received government-issued relief payments in an attempt to try and cover farm losses that nationally equaled $25 million a day.3 For Alva, where the cultivation of wheat was a significant component of the economy, the relentless drought was exceptionally hard. In nearby Cimarron County, also a big wheat producer, annual valuations reveal the devastation that befell the area. Prior to the drought reaching the Great Plains, the market value of the 1931 Cimarron County wheat harvest was estimated at close to $1.2 million. Yet, two years after the prolonged absence of water and suffocating heat plagued the area, the wheat harvest of 1933 was valued at only $7,000. That same year the nation witnessed the highest number of farm foreclosures (5% of U.S. farms totaling $3 billion in property).4

By 1933, the Great Depression was entering its fourth year and relief appeared to be nowhere in sight. Hoping governmental assistance might alleviate the blows of economic recession until private industry could once again provide jobs, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt inaugurated federal relief organizations with the dual purpose of creating jobs to remedy mass unemployment and, in turn, stimulating the economy by putting capital into the hands of more citizens. When the intended two-year lifespan of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) expired in 1935, Roosevelt created the Works Progress Administration (renamed Works Projects Administration in 1939 and hereinafter referred to as WPA) to replace FERA. In existence from 1935 to 1943, the WPA employed more than 8 million workers and furnished relief to nearly one-quarter of American families.5

4 Ibid., 120, 123.
Mirroring the national average, the unemployment rate for Oklahomans was grim. At the statistical worst of the Great Depression in 1935, 150,000 Oklahomans found themselves jobless, and most of those joined the 700,000 Oklahomans receiving poor relief.6 The figures were even worse in some rural areas of the state where the numbers reached as high as 50 percent of the local population being unemployed.7 Alva, like the rest of Oklahoma, needed help.

CRITERION A: ECONOMICS, ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

Alva municipal leaders envisaged WPA projects as not just relief measures but investments as well. Certainly, putting residents to work was a priority; however, because local financing was required to supplement the partial federal contribution, city governments selected projects designed to provide modern, public amenities to enhance civic beauty and prestige. Public swimming pools and bathhouses added sophistication to towns by providing locals and visitors with a deluxe entertainment/recreation venue—especially welcome in the midst of a seemingly never-ending drought and economic depression. But a first-class swimming pool and bathhouse required a good amount of land. So, Alva turned to one of its' founding fathers and most prominent citizens, W. Frank Hatfield.

W. Frank Hatfield, a thirty-year veteran of the newspaper trade and publisher of Alva’s (as well as Woods County’s) first newspaper the Alva Pioneer, purchased the forty-eight acres of land in 1906 that eventually became Hatfield Park with the intention of creating a public recreational facility that would be the pride of the community. At the time, few envisioned Hatfield’s idea of transforming the distant, prairie land described as a “yawning canyon basking in the Oklahoma sun, covered by only a few scrubby elm, hackberry and chinaberry trees” into a civic park providing “the peace and quiet that is so prevalent there now.” Nearly three decades later a local reporter, with admiration for Hatfield’s foresight, pointedly asked Mr. Hatfield: “Why did you decide to make a park out of the canyon?” Hatfield acknowledged that he viewed his purchase as part financial investment, but also stressed his wish to beautify Alva’s landscape by developing a public recreation facility. “Oh, I had been on a trip . . . and had seen so many nice parks. I had decided to lay part of the land out in town lots and the part that could not be used for this I would turn into a park. Besides . . . I thought the town needed a good park,” replied Hatfield.8 He envisioned a modern, outdoor space that would be the envy of northwestern Oklahoma for “all the people of Woods County and Alva for their use and for the use of their children and their children’s children forever.” In so doing, fellow prominent citizen Dr. W.W. Parker echoed the thoughts of many by praising Hatfield’s efforts which not only “endeared himself to this community,” but also built “a monument for hisself [sic]—not here in stone but in the hearts of all of us.”9

---

6 Gibson, Oklahoma, 379; As a nation, 1935 was statistically the worst year of the Great Depression. However, the worst years for hardship varied. For example, Tulsa experienced its harshest year of the Depression in the winter of 1932-33. William H. Mullins, “Great Depression,” The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture, https://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=GR014.
7 Marjorie Barton and Bob Burke, Leaning on a Legacy: The WPA in Oklahoma (Oklahoma City, OK: Oklahoma Heritage Association), 8.
8 “City Park Gift of Former Alva Editor,” Alva Review Courier, n.d.
9 “1,500 Gather to Pay Tribute to Frank Hatfield,” Alva Review Courier, October 20, 1930.
By 1935, city budget cuts resulting from the Great Depression had produced areas of the park that were overgrown with weeds, dead trees, and public facilities in various states of disrepair, causing Mayor C. A. Gibler to complain: “This will never do.” Despite hard times, maybe even more now than ever, the downtrodden residents of Alva deserved a nice place to recreate. Further, the unkempt park grounds were bad for much needed business revenue. “Visitors coming in [to Alva] . . . might run away with the idea they were passing the city dump,” lamented the mayor.10 Similarly, a local businessman encouraged fellow representatives of city organizations to support a potential bond issue to fund park improvements that included the Alva Swimming Pool and Bathhouse. “Through improvement of the park we can improve our business conditions, for more people will come to Alva,” he told the assembly, reminding them that “our proportionate share of the cost of obtaining a large project would be very small, and would be worth many times what it will cost.”11

Local newspaper articles reveal plans to utilize FDR’s stimulus programs to offset construction costs for a municipal pool as early as 1934, appropriating $4,560.50 (mostly for labor) and an additional $900 for materials as part of a project that included the installation of equipment for and construction of a “first-class swimming pool.”12 However, city officials were not quite ready to justify spending precious dollars to fund a costly swimming complex for recreation when many residents lacked basic necessities such as food and shelter. Ultimately, it was a collection of disasters that led to the construction of the Alva Municipal Swimming Pool and Bathhouse. Firstly, unprecedented unemployment resulting from the Great Depression continued to increase annually and created a growing need to provide relief and stimulate the local economy. Large-scale pool construction required lots of labor that did not need specialized skills; therefore, many Alva residents could benefit. Secondly, bad news arrived when locals accustomed to swimming in a nearby lake in Hatfield Park were informed that the lake had been deemed unsanitary and swimming was prohibited.13 Nobody wanted to experience the brutal Oklahoma summer sun, made worse by an unabated, record drought, without the relief of “taking a dip” in cooling waters. Thirdly, Northwestern State Teachers College, also located in Alva, had planned to build an indoor swimming pool as part of a federally funded relief project. Unfortunately, just before allocating funds for the project, a fire completely destroyed the administrative building referred to as the “Castle on the Hill,” so funds earmarked for the pool were redirected toward rebuilding the wrecked campus.14 Given the school’s misfortune, city officials seized the opportunity to have the only large-scale pool in northwestern Oklahoma. The time was now right, decided Alva’s town council, to gauge public opinion by placing the construction of the pool as a bond issue.

Central to the success of the WPA was its support of projects that maximized employment opportunities for the local labor force. To achieve this, 75 percent or more of the WPA’s employment was devoted to the construction of public buildings or roads; projects that required few workers with technical knowledge while the majority provided sweat and muscle. U.S. government officials estimated that 50 percent of the workforce on public buildings were unskilled laborers; that number increasing to 75 for road construction. Popular among WPA construction projects was the creation of recreational facilities like public parks and swimming pools. Throughout the 1930s the federal government, under the supervision of the WPA, its short-lived precursor FERA, and the one-year Civil Works Administration, disbursed $750 million on community recreation facilities like the Alva Municipal Swimming Pool and Bathhouse.

Municipal swimming pools like the Alva Municipal Swimming Pool and Bathhouse were also popular WPA-building projects because of the contemporary cultural significance attached to “public bathing houses.” In the 1920s and 1930s, historian Jeff Wiltse notes the swimming pool became emblematic of “a new, distinctly modern version of the good life that valued leisure, pleasure, and beauty. They were, in short, an integral part of the kind of life Americans wanted to live.” Boasting of the quality of the local pool, the Alva Daily Record assured the local populace that the new swimming pool was first-rate, replete with dressing rooms of “the latest modern type.” Not just alluring destinations to exercise and sunbathe, public pools functioned as integral locations of community life and civic engagement. Receiving a WPA-sponsored pool was a big deal for towns like Alva—it not only provided jobs, but also contributed civic prestige and served as an attractive gathering spot to enhance the quality of life at a time when folk really needed it.

Considering local governments funded the lion’s share of WPA construction projects, the decision to build a swimming pool and bathhouse was well-considered and deliberate. Civic administrators certainly hoped to attract tourist and local revenue, but they also recognized recreational facilities had become “vital to the smooth functioning of civilization” and “expected features of urban life,” no longer considered luxurious amenities found only in the most cosmopolitan of cities. With a population just over five thousand, Alva could hardly be classified as urban. But counted among its denizens, particularly some faculty members from the nearby teacher’s college, were those familiar with life in metropolitan cities. Furthermore, local officials thought Alva should possess amenities to substantiate its perception as a regional hub, and a first-rate modern swimming complex certainly qualified.

18 “Municipal Swimming Pool Here Will Be Opened May 1st,” Alva Daily Record, March 17, 1940.
19 Phoebe Cutler, The Public Landscape of the New Deal (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1985), 27; Section 8 page 16
Finally, after numerous construction and weather-related delays, on Sunday, May 12, 1940, the *Alva Daily Record* proudly announced the grand opening of the “new swimming ‘hole’” that afternoon for “swimmers, divers, soakers, and sweltering citizens of entire northwest Oklahoma” to enjoy.20 Pool manager Wesley Beck and his family had moved into the designed caretaker’s apartment located in the west wing of the bathhouse nearly two months prior. Beck and his crew began filling the 500,000-gallon pool three days before the opening date, requiring two days of “full blast,” non-stop pouring of water through the 4-inch main at 250 gallons a minute. Once full, another 8 hours were needed to run the pool capacity through the modern, top-of-the-line filtration system.21 Admission was set at 25 cents for adults and 10 cents for children. Individual season tickets were available for $5, and local “insurance-man” Kent W. Johnson the “honor” of purchasing the first season ticket. Anticipating great demand, officials also developed a “party rate,” which admitted groups of 25 or more at 10 cents each. Patrons fortunate to get in on the 2 P.M. to 7 P.M. grand opening, as well as those who visited throughout the summer, marveled at the modernity, luxury, and sheer size of “Alva’s concrete ocean.” Described as “gigantic,” “mammoth,” and the “Little Ocean,” the swimming pool was in 1940 the largest swimming pool in the state, able to accommodate 1,000 swimmers at a time.22

The formal dedication ceremony for the Alva Municipal Swimming Pool and Bathhouse followed on Memorial Day, March 30, 1940. Mr. and Mrs. Hatfield, who were given pride of place for their contribution of the land to the city, along with other local dignitaries watched as Mayor John A. Renfrew praised the community for supporting the bond issue that funded the pool construction and wished “good health” to the “good people” of Alva. Over 2,000 people attended the all-day festivities that included swimming and diving contests, a baseball and softball game, and, of course, plenty of home-cooked delights to keep the revelers going. The day was a huge success; not only did Alva citizens and guests from neighboring communities overwhelmingly approve of the magnificent new pool and bathhouse, but the Chamber of Commerce, who sponsored the event, took in $48.04, which a member gleefully noted was a “nice profit” after subtracting the $17 spent on the day’s festivities.23

Official statistics from a federal report issued in 1938 estimated WPA-funded crews had constructed 433 new swimming pools and renovated 143 to date; similarly, 324 new and 47

tions/enc/entry%3Fentry%3DAL015.

20 “Old Swimming Hole to Open in Alva Today,” *Alva Daily Record*, May 12, 1940.

21 “Municipal Swimming Pool Here Will Be Opened May 1st,” *Alva Daily Record*, March 17, 1940. It is interesting to note pool officials estimated 5,000 gallons of freshwater needed to be pumped into the pool daily to account for water lost through evaporation and “sloth-over.”


23 “Full Program Is Scheduled for Big Event, *Alva Daily Record*, May 30, 1940; “2,000 People at Dedication,” *Alva Daily Record*, June 1, 1940.
renovated wading pools dotted the national landscape. The same report concluded 11 percent of
the WPA budget went to funding “parks and playgrounds and other recreational facilities,” with
about 80 percent of that money being spent on “construction work.” Five years later at the end of
the WPA, the total number had increased to more than 1,900 swimming and wading pools built or
rehabilitated, with the total square footage of construction or rehabilitation coming in at an
impressive 10,987,000 for new works and 5,844,000 for rehabilitated properties.\textsuperscript{24}

**CRITERION C: ARCHITECTURE**

Alva Municipal Swimming Pool and Bathhouse is an excellent local example of a WPA
construction project located seven blocks from downtown Alva. The pool complex exemplifies
WPA projects in that most WPA structures were “structures of public usefulness” (such as school
buildings, armories, and recreational facilities) intended for community benefit rather than
individual interest. Again, the Alva pool complex not only provided residents with a place to
recreate, but also put to work many unemployed locals who, in turn, were able to put money
earned back into the local economy. WPA architecture tended to be straightforward and
utilitarian—the designed use easily conveyed by the building or structures exterior architecture.
Also, WPA architecture, emphasizing functionality, typically was rather simplistic and evoked an
impression of solidity and permanence. Tied to the idea of simple construction and a heavy
reliance upon concrete was the fact that the purpose of the WPA was to put people to work;
consequently, many of the laborers were unskilled.\textsuperscript{25}

Among those currently listed in the National Register, the Alva Municipal Swimming Pool and
Bathhouse is architecturally significant because it is the only WPA constructed pool complex in
Oklahoma reflecting an Art Moderne style. Art Moderne is a product of the Art Deco movement of
the 1930s. Symbolizing the austerity of the Great Depression, Art Moderne design sought to
get away from the luxurious and ostentatious ornamentation of the Art Deco style so popular in
the flush “Roaring Twenties,” in favor of a more simplistic, streamlined design. Art Moderne
architecture emphasizes soft or rounded corners, which are found throughout the Alva Municipal
Swimming Pool and Bathhouse, particularly the prevalence of beveled corners of the concrete
benches and the walls, opening columns, and parapets of the bathhouse, gazebo, and
equipment/pump room. Like the Alva recreational facility, Art Moderne buildings typically are
single-story, flat roofed, originally painted white, and have little to no ornamentation. Both Art
Deco and Art Moderne design feature long, smooth parallel lines, but Art Moderne replaces the
angular corners found in Art Deco, with soft, eased corners as seen in the bathhouse pilasters and
the gazebo columns. Additionally, Art Moderne has a horizontal emphasis and is evinced by the
horizontal fenestration on all elevations of the bathhouse.\textsuperscript{26}

\textsuperscript{24} Works Progress Administration, *Inventory, 11-20; Final Report*, 131.

Section 8 page 18
The Art Moderne style and materials used in constructing the Alva Municipal Swimming Pool and Bathhouse is unique among municipal pools in Oklahoma funded as WPA projects that are currently listed in the National Register. The building style is contemporary rather than an historical or revival style as reflected in other WPA swimming facilities throughout the state.\(^{27}\) Instead of local stone, brick, or Concrete Masonry Units (CMU)—colloquially known as cinder block—the pool and bathhouse in Alva are built primarily of concrete formed in situ.\(^{28}\) The painted concrete walls show the indentations of the wood formwork associated with concrete construction.

Alva residents were full of excitement when city engineer J. Ralph Houghton and works supervisor Earl Dunn revealed the ambitious plan for the Alva Municipal Swimming Pool and Bathhouse, guaranteeing locals they would have the finest pool in northwest Oklahoma. Measuring 200 feet long and 100 feet wide, the pool was to be built in shield-shaped form and hold 500,000 gallons of water. Sloping downward from southeast to northwest, the 150 feet of water ranged in depth from 30 inches to 12 feet, with the last 50 feet of water stretching 70 feet in width. Equipped with the finest technology available, General Electric engineers were brought in to provide electric lighting surrounding the complex and within the pool. Crowning the deep end of the pool was a regulation height, three-tier, Olympic diving tower. Complimenting the top-of-the-line pool was a bathhouse situated directly south of the pool. The 82 feet by 42 feet bathhouse was to be of concrete construction and included first-rate amenities such as large dressing rooms for men and women and a built-in space for concessions to provide visitors with refreshments.\(^{29}\)

Originally set to commence in December of 1938 and completed by July 1, 1939, construction of the Alva Municipal Swimming Pool and Bathhouse experienced numerous delays ranging from weather and equipment delays to legal issues. Missing targeted start dates in January and February of 1939, finally, heavy machinery including a Caterpillar tractor and Heil scraper arrived to begin excavating the ground in mid-March of 1939.\(^{30}\) The first concrete was poured in early April. Officials estimated they needed three days to pour the concrete footings for the pool, however, despite the delayed start project managers were still “confident” the pool would be opened ahead of schedule on June 1. To achieve the bold goal, the original 50-man crew was expanded to 60 and then 100 as the deadline approached.\(^{31}\)

By August of 1939 the *Alva Review Courier* reported only two sections in the swimming pool floor remained in need of concrete pouring. Yet, despite the “rapid pace,” relayed the local paper, the

\(^{27}\) Other Oklahoma WPA swimming pool and bathhouse complexes listed in the National Register of Historic Places include: El Reno Municipal Swimming Pool Bath House, Medford Bathhouse/Swimming Pool, and the Pawnee Municipal Swimming Pool and Bathhouse.

\(^{28}\) Final construction figures for concrete totaled 6,600 sacks of cement, 800 cubic yards of rock, and 725 cubic yards of sand. “Municipal Swimming Pool Here Will Be Opened May 1\(^{st}\),” *Alva Daily Record*, March 17, 1940.


likelihood of the pool opening in 1939—obviously already missing the original date of July 1—was “doubtful.” In the end, the $55,000 Alva Municipal Swimming Pool and Bathhouse did not open until the following year. But the crowds that gathered for their inaugural swim in the long-anticipated Alva Municipal Swimming Pool and Bathhouse did not mind that the calendar read 1940, finding their patience rewarded with a public space that was a modern marvel.

CONCLUSION:

The Alva Municipal Swimming Pool and Bathhouse serves as a visual reminder of the city’s efforts to combat unemployment, sweltering Oklahoma heat, and local desperation resulting from the economic hardships of the Great Depression. Providing around $35 per month for unskilled labor, the WPA workers who built the Alva pool complex were certainly not going to get rich, but they were grateful. In turn, they helped construct a modern recreational marvel that lent sophisticated beauty to Alva. True, some city officials were reluctant to spend precious funds on a pool—during a severe depression in the midst of a record-breaking drought—which they were told would lose and need replacing an estimated five thousand gallons of water per day as a result of evaporation and natural “slosh-over.” But prominent citizens persisted, residents supported the bond issue, and municipal leaders coordinated efforts culminating in a WPA project distinctive in its Art Moderne architectural style.

After nearly sixty years of providing swimmers and sunbathers with a nice place to recreate, the Alva Municipal Swimming Pool and Bathhouse reluctantly closed its doors in 2019 (temporarily it is hoped). Water leaks and other repair issues normally associated with time grew in size and number, and rising maintenance costs forced the pool complex to shut down. Yet, a current on-site inspection of the recreational facility reveals the pride the city of Alva has always had for its beloved municipal pool and bathhouse. One can see evidence of extensive repair work undertaken in the 1970s and 1990s. The property shows no signs of neglect. It is still secured and maintained, including the landscape surrounding the pool area, bathhouse, and equipment/pump room. Overall, the pool once dubbed the “Little Ocean” and the other contributing resources remain in good shape.

The Alva Municipal Swimming Pool and Bathhouse retains its architectural and aesthetic character, serving as the only example of an Art Moderne WPA pool complex in Oklahoma. The recreational facility is a local landmark in which the built environment tells a chapter in the town’s history, as well as the role Alva played in the national struggle to cope with the hardships of the Great Depression. Faced with unprecedented unemployment and record drought, Alva council members and residents chose to construct a municipal pool with the dual purpose of stimulating the local economy and modernizing Alva; and, in so doing, created a shared identity in the form of a permanent recreational facility to hand down to future generations.

32 “Most of Concrete Work on Park Done,” Alva Review Courier, August 3, 1939.
33 “Municipal Swimming Pool Here Will Be Opened May 1st,” Alva Daily Record, March 17, 1940.
34 WPA wages in Oklahoma from 1939 to 1943 ranged from $31.20 to $79.30 per month (dependent upon skill level) with most laborers earning near the minimum. Final Report on the WPA Program, 25.
35 “Municipal Swimming Pool Here Will Be Opened May 1st,” Alva Daily Record, March 17, 1940.
9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Articles


Books


*Inventory: An Appraisal of Results of the Works Progress Administration*.

Lane, Wayne. *Northwestern Oklahoma State University: A Centennial History*.


**Newspapers**

*Alva Daily Record*. 1940.

*Alva Review Courier*. 1939-1940.

**Reference Collections and Databases**


**Reports**

Alva Municipal Swimming Pool and Bathhouse

Name of Property

Woods County, Oklahoma

County and State

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

___ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
___ previously listed in the National Register
___ previously determined eligible by the National Register
___ designated a National Historic Landmark
___ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
___ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #
___ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #

Primary location of additional data:

__ X  State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
___ Other
   Name of repository: _______________________________________

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): ____________

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property  _2.29 acres_________

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84: __________
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)
1. Latitude: 36.805013  Longitude: -98.680141

2. Latitude: 36.805013  Longitude: -98.681063

3. Latitude: 36.806249  Longitude: -98.681063

4. Latitude: 36.806249  Longitude: -98.680141
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The Alva Municipal Swimming Pool and Bathhouse is on the northwest side of Alva. The property begins at the northwest corner of Flynn Street and 14th Street (POINT OF BEGINNING), thence west along the north edge of Flynn Street for approximately 270 feet; thence north for approximately 450 feet; thence east approximately 270 feet; thence south approximately 450 feet to the (POINT OF BEGINNING). The boundary for this nomination encompasses Alva Municipal Swimming Pool and Bathhouse and all associated resources.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The current boundary marks the extent of resources historically associated with the Alva Municipal Swimming Pool and Bathhouse that maintain sufficient historic integrity.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: _Jeff Ray, Ph.D./Principal Historian; Ken Aunchman, AIA/Historical Architect
organization: Preservation and Design Studio, PLLC
street & number: 616 NW 21st Street
city or town: Oklahoma City state: Oklahoma zip code: 73103
e-mail _jr@PandDStudio.com; cm@PandDStudio.com
telephone: 405.601.6814
date: March 11, 2022
Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

**Photographs**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn’t need to be labeled on every photograph.

**Photo Log**

Name of Property: Alva Municipal Swimming Pool and Bathhouse

City or Vicinity: Alva

County: Woods  State: Oklahoma

Photographer: Preservation and Design Studio, PLLC

Date Photographed: March 4, 2022

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Direction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0001</td>
<td>Bathhouse. Southeast-facing façade and grounds. Bathhouse (center) site (foreground)</td>
<td>Northwest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0002</td>
<td>Bathhouse. Southwest-facing elevation (center-right)</td>
<td>Northeast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name of Property</td>
<td>County and State</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gazebo (center) Swimming Pool (center-left)</td>
<td>Woods County,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oklahoma</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment/Pump Room (center).</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alva Swimming Pool and Bathhouse complex.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeast-facing elevation of the Bathhouse (left)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slide (center) Equipment/ Pump Room (right).</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeast-facing elevation of Bathouse. Gazebo (right).</td>
<td>Southwest</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributing original Entry Sidewalk fronting southeast-facing façade of the Bathhouse</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gazebo (left). Southwest-facing elevation of Bathhouse.</td>
<td>East</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entry ramp of the Swimming Pool (foreground).</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeast-facing elevation of the Bathhouse. Gazebo (right).</td>
<td>Southwest</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southeast-facing façade of the Bathhouse.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concrete walkway (foreground).</td>
<td>North</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commemorative plaque on southeast-facing façade of the Bathhouse.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bathhouse. Interior. Front entrance.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bathhouse. Interior. Shower/Dressing Room</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bathhouse. Interior. Changing stalls. Shower/Dressing Room</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bathhouse. Interior.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming Pool. Entry ramp (foreground).</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gazebo (left foreground). Wading Pool (right foreground).</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wading Pool (left foreground). Entry ramp (center foreground). Gazebo (right foreground). Northwest-facing elevation of the Bathhouse.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deep end of the Swimming Pool showing roof of the Equipment/Pump Room.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northwest elevation of the Equipment/Pump Room.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Door of the Equipment/Pump Room. Commemorative Engraving.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment/Pump Room. Interior.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Alva Municipal Swimming Pool and Bathhouse

Woods County, Oklahoma

County and State

Name of Property

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.
The pool’s property was unplatted and outside of Alva’s town limits, in Woods County at the time of construction in 1940.
Alva Municipal Swimming Pool and Bathhouse
Name of Property
Woods County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Resource Key

1. Swimming Pool
2. Wading Pool
3. Bathhouse
4. Equipment/Pump Room
5. Gazebo
The Alva Municipal Swimming Pool and Bathhouse is located in western Alva. The pool and bathhouse were constructed at the southeast corner of Hatfield Park on land donated by W. Frank Hatfield. Hatfield Park had been built and maintained by Hatfield since 1906 and was west of the west city limits at 14th Street.
Construction on the Alva Municipal Swimming Pool and Bathhouse began in 1939. The pool was opened in 1940. It is located at the intersection of Flynn Street and 14th Street.
The Big Picture: 1920, Key Map
(Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps)

Hatfield Park was three blocks west of the west town border (11th Street) in 1920. The red box indicates the approximate future site of the Alva Swimming Pool and Bathhouse.
The Big Picture: 1930, Key Map
(Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps)

The next available Sanborn map shows that Alva has expanded, and the west border of the city has been relocated to 14th Street. The red box indicates the approximate future site of the Alva Swimming Pool and Bathhouse. The annotation for the park has been omitted from this map.
The Big Picture: Aerial Photograph, 1942
(U.S. Geological Survey, Oklahoma Department of Libraries)

The 1942 USGS aerial photograph shows the swimming pool and bathhouse.
A close-up of the 1942 aerial photograph shows the vicinity of the pool. The pool, surrounding concrete deck, pumphouse roof, gazebo, bathhouse, and concrete entry walks are shown.
The Big Picture: 1949, Volume 1, Key Map
(Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps)

The 1949 edition of the Sanborn maps shows no change in the vicinity of the pool.
Historic Image #1: 1940
The bathhouse façade before opening in 1940. The new pool complex cost $55,000 and was built to serve the “sweltering swimmers of northwest Oklahoma and southern Kansas.” The bathhouse housed men’s and women’s shower rooms and the pool keeper’s apartment. (Alva Daily Record)

Historic Image #2: 1940
Alva Municipal Swimming Pool and gazebo (described as a shade pavilion, right) with formwork for concrete benches. The caption and associated news article describe diving towers that had not been built at the time of the article. The article also describes the “porthole” underwater lights seen in the pool basin walls. The pool was built with the capacity for 1,000 swimmers.” (Alva Daily Record)
Historic Image #3: 1975
The concrete pool deck was removed, and the pool's plumbing was overhauled in 1975. This photograph shows the concrete pool basin, as well as the concrete fence post and concrete bench atop the pump house's concrete roof (background). (Alva Review-Courier)

Historic Image #4: 1976
Work on the pool continued into 1976. Photo shows workers constructing concrete forms to install a new concrete pool deck. (Alva Review-Courier)
Historic Image #5: Circa 1985
This photo from the mid-1980s shows few alterations to the bathhouse. (Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory Database)

Historic Image #6: Circa 1985
The back elevation of the bathhouse. (Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory Database)
Historic Image #7: Circa 1985
This photo from the mid-1980s shows few alterations from the 1976 photos. (Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory Database)

Historic Image #8: Circa 2002
This early 2000s photo shows the same features as the mid-1980s photos. (Bruce Drake)
Alva Municipal Swimming Pool and Bathhouse

Name of Property
Alva Municipal Swimming Pool and Bathhouse

County and State
Woods County, Oklahoma

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Number Subject Direction
0001 Bathhouse. Southeast-facing façade and grounds. Northwest
Bathhouse (center) site (foreground).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Direction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0002</td>
<td>Bathhouse. Southwest-facing elevation (center-right). Gazebo (center) Swimming Pool (center-left)</td>
<td>Northeast</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Alva Municipal Swimming Pool and Bathhouse
Name of Property: Woods County, Oklahoma
County and State: N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable):
Alva Municipal Swimming Pool and Bathhouse
Name of Property: Alva Municipal Swimming Pool and Bathhouse
Name of multiple listing (if applicable): N/A
County and State: N/A

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Direction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0003</td>
<td>Equipment/Pump Room (center)</td>
<td>Southeast</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Name of Property: Alva Municipal Swimming Pool and Bathhouse
County and State: Woods County, Oklahoma
Name of multiple listing (if applicable): N/A

Number 0004
Subject: Alva Swimming Pool and Bathhouse complex. Northeast-facing elevation of the Bathhouse (left) Slide (center) Equipment/ Pump Room (right).
Direction: Southwest
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 11  Page 17 of 36

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Direction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0005</td>
<td>Northeast-facing elevation of Bathhouse. Gazebo (right).</td>
<td>Southwest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Subject</td>
<td>Direction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0006</td>
<td>Original Entry Sidewalk fronting southeast-facing facade of the Bathhouse</td>
<td>Northwest</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 11  Page 19 of 36

Number  Subject  Direction
0007  Gazebo (left). Southwest-facing elevation of Bathhouse.  East

Alva Municipal Swimming Pool and Bathhouse
Name of Property
Woods County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)
Alva Municipal Swimming Pool and Bathhouse
Name of Property: Alva Municipal Swimming Pool and Bathhouse
County and State: Woods County, Oklahoma
Name of multiple listing (if applicable): N/A

Number | Subject                                                                 | Direction |
--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
Alva Municipal Swimming Pool and Bathhouse

Name of Property: Alva Municipal Swimming Pool and Bathhouse
Name of multiple listing (if applicable): N/A

Number Subject: 0009

Direction: Northeast-facing elevation of the Bathhouse, Gazebo (right), Southwest
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number  11  Page  22 of 36

Name of Property
Woods County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Number  Subject  Direction
0010  Southeast-facing façade of the Bathhouse.  Concrete walkway (foreground).  Northwest
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Direction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0011</td>
<td>Commemorative plaque on southeast-facing façade of the Bathhouse.</td>
<td>Northwest</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Number  Subject  
0012  Bathhouse. Interior. Front entrance.  

Direction  
North  

Alva Municipal Swimming Pool and Bathhouse  
Name of Property  
Woods County, Oklahoma  
County and State  
N/A  
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)
Alva Municipal Swimming Pool and Bathhouse

Name of Property: Alva Municipal Swimming Pool and Bathhouse

Name of multiple listing (if applicable):

Number | Subject                        | Direction
-------|-------------------------------|------------
0013   | Bathhouse. Interior. Shower/Dressing Room. | Northwest
Alva Municipal Swimming Pool and Bathhouse

Name of Property: Woods County, Oklahoma

County and State: N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Direction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _11_  Page _27 of 36_

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Direction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0015</td>
<td>Bathhouse. Interior.</td>
<td>Southwest</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 11   Page 28 of 36

Alva Municipal Swimming Pool and Bathhouse
Name of Property
Woods County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Number   Subject                                                   Direction
0016      Swimming Pool. Entry ramp (foreground).                     Northwest
          Gazebo (left foreground).
          Wading Pool (right foreground).
Alva Municipal Swimming Pool and Bathhouse
Name of Property: Woods County, Oklahoma
County and State: N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 11  Page 29 of 36

Number  Subject  Direction
0017  Wading Pool (foreground). Northwest-facing elevation of the Bathhouse. Gazebo (right).  South
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Direction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0018</td>
<td>Wading Pool (foreground). Gazebo. Northwest-facing elevation of the Bathhouse (left).</td>
<td>West</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Number 0019  Subject  Wading Pool (left foreground). Entry ramp (center foreground). Gazebo (right foreground). Northwest-facing elevation of the Bathhouse.  Direction Southeast
Number 0020  Subject Swimming Pool (foreground). Northwest-facing elevation of the Bathhouse. Gazebo (center-right).

Direction Southeast
Alva Municipal Swimming Pool and Bathhouse

Name of Property
Woods County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Number  Subject
0021  Deep end of the Swimming Pool showing roof of the Equipment/Pump Room.

Direction  Northeast
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _11_ Page _34 of 36_

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Direction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0022</td>
<td>Northwest elevation of the Equipment/Pump Room.</td>
<td>Southwest</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Alva Municipal Swimming Pool and Bathhouse

Name of Property: Alva Municipal Swimming Pool and Bathhouse

County and State: Woods County, Oklahoma

Name of multiple listing (if applicable): N/A
Alva Municipal Swimming Pool and Bathhouse

Name of Property: Alva Municipal Swimming Pool and Bathhouse

County and State: Woods County, Oklahoma

Name of multiple listing (if applicable): N/A

Number  Subject  Direction
0023  Door of the Equipment/Pump Room. Commemorative Engraving.  Southwest
Alva Municipal Swimming Pool and Bathhouse

Name of Property: Woods County, Oklahoma

County and State: N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

---

Number | Subject | Direction
0024   | Equipment/Pump Room. Interior. | Southwest