United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1) Name of Property
   Historic name: Oklahoma National Guard Armory
   Other names/site number: N/A
   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: 200 Northeast 23rd Street
   City or town: Oklahoma City State: Oklahoma County: Oklahoma
   Not For Publication: [ ] Vicinity: [ ]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     _X_ statewide     ___ local
   Applicable National Register Criteria:
   _X_A      ___B      _X_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
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:) _____________________

5) Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)
Private: [ ]
Public – Local [ ]
Public – State [X]
Public – Federal [ ]

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)
Building(s) [X]
District [ ]
Site [ ]
Structure [ ]
Object [ ]
### Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

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Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

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6) **Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- DEFENSE/arms storage

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**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- VACANT/NOT IN USE

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7) Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER/Works Progress Administration

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

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

Constructed in 1938, the Oklahoma National Guard Armory at 200 Northeast 23rd Street is
located near the heart of the State Capitol Complex in Oklahoma City. The building is notable
for its blonde brick construction and for being one of the largest National Guard armories ever
built in Oklahoma. Standing three stories in height, the Armory’s central block houses a concrete
drill floor approximately 135 feet wide and 185 feet long, or the equivalent of half the size of a
football field. A series of one- and two-story projections extend from each elevation of the
central block. The central block has a low-sloping barrel roof and each projection has a flat roof.
Other notable exterior features include cast stone parapet caps and steel-framed, multilight
industrial windows. The Armory retains a high degree of integrity. Its historic use by the
Oklahoma National Guard, architectural design and construction, and proximity to the Oklahoma
State Capitol (NRIS #76001572) place the Armory within the context of economic relief during
the Great Depression and military preparedness on the eve of World War II.
Narrative Description

Site and Setting

The Oklahoma National Guard Armory is located at 200 Northeast 23rd Street, approximately two miles north of downtown Oklahoma and one-third of a mile west of the Oklahoma State Capitol (NRIS #76001572). It is situated within the State Capitol Complex on Lots 1-3 and 10-12 in Block 7 of the State Capitol Addition to Oklahoma City. The Armory is set slightly above grade level and back from the south side of Northeast 23rd Street. There is a large grassy area situated between Northeast 23rd Street and the Armory’s north-facing façade. A “U”-shaped, concrete sidewalk extends from the Armory’s main entrance toward Northeast 23rd Street. There is a set of concrete steps at each end of the “U”. Each set of steps adjoin a concrete sidewalk that extends parallel to Northeast 23rd Street. There is flagpole in the center of the grassy area, directly in front of the main entrance to the Armory. North Walnut Avenue extends along the full length of the Armory’s east side elevation. A large, paved parking lot extends along the full length of the building’s west side elevation. An alley/driveway defines the south boundary of the site.

The Armory is associated with the everyday operations of Oklahoma’s state government. Several lesser buildings, driveways, and parking lots are located to the west, east and south of the Armory on state property. Several other state government buildings are located further to the southeast along North Lincoln Boulevard, including the Office of the Attorney General, the Jim Thorpe Office Building (known historically as the State Capitol Office Building), the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, and the Wiley Post Historical Building (formerly the Oklahoma Historical Society Building, NRIS #90000124). Interstate 235/US Highway 77 (Centennial Expressway) is located less than 0.25 miles west of the Armory. Various fast food restaurants and small businesses line the north side of Northeast 23rd Street.

General Building Description

The Oklahoma National Guard Armory is an immense three-story, rectangular-shaped building clad with blond brick. All the windows are painted, cold-rolled steel, multilight, industrial units. The Armory’s central block has a low-sloping barrel roof and parapets capped with cast stone. A series of one- and two-story projections extend from each elevation of the central block. Each projection has a flat roof and parapets capped with cast stone. A stair tower equivalent to the height of three stories is located at each corner of the central block. The roofline of each stair tower is differentiated by being slightly shorter than the roofline of the central block, which at its peak is equal to the height of four stories.
Façade (Photos #0001-0002, #00005)

The Armory has a symmetrical, north-facing façade. Eight individual, evenly spaced windows with pivoting sections are located on the third floor of the central block. Each window is six lights wide by six lights tall.

A stair tower is located at each end of the central block. The stair towers project forward (north) and to the east or west of the central block. A portion of each stair tower wraps around the face of the taller central block. Each stair tower contains two awning windows, which are vertically aligned; one between the third and second stories and one between the first and second stories. Each window is three lights wide, four lights tall, and has a cast stone subsill.

Two symmetrical projections extend from both the east and the west sides of the central block. The projections that are adjacent to the ends of the central block are equivalent to the height of three stories and the roofline is slightly higher than that of the stair towers. Further to the east and west of each projection is an additional side projection that is one story in height. The façades of both projections are stepped back (south) from the face of the central block by the depth of the adjacent stair towers. Six windows are located on the projections; two on each floor. Each window is three lights wide, four lights tall, and has a cast stone subsill. The windows are vertically aligned on all three stories. There is a metal garage door centrally located within the wall of each of the one-story projections.

There is a two-story projection to the front (north) of the central block. This projection extends the full width of the central block and is equally divided into three bays. The centermost bay projects slightly forward of the two side bays. The Armory’s main entrance is centered in the center bay and is comprised of a two-story-tall opening. This opening is inset and framed on the top and each side by three single courses of corbelled brick. A pair of contemporary, storefront aluminum doors with full lights are located on the first story. There is a narrow sidelight between the doors. Nine windows are located directly above the doors and fill the rest of the tall opening. Horizontal and vertical steel mullions separate the windows into three rows of three units. Each unit in the top row is three lights wide by four lights tall. Each unit in the middle and bottom row is three lights wide by three lights tall. A steel mullion separates the bottom row of windows from the doors. Two individual windows are located on each side of the tall opening; one on the first story and one on the second story. The windows on the first and second stories are vertically aligned. Each window is three lights wide, four lights tall, and has a cast stone subsill.

There are three individual windows of equal width and spacing located on both the second and first stories of the easternmost and the westernmost bays. The windows on the first and second stories are vertically aligned. Each window is three lights wide, four lights tall, and has a cast stone subsill. There is an inset, vertical panel of sailor course bricks in a stacked bond between each window. The panels are as wide as the window openings and extend the full height between the first and second story windows.

Several window openings on this elevation have been replaced with air conditioning units.
Two projections extend along much of the east side elevation of the Armory’s central block. The first projection, which is adjacent to and projects forward (east) from the central block, is equivalent to the height of three stories. Further to the east is a second projection that is one story in height.

There are sixteen, multi-light awning windows on both the third and the second stories of the taller projection. Each window is three lights wide, four lights tall, and has a cast stone subsill. The windows on the second and third stories are vertically aligned. There is an inset, vertical panel of sailor course bricks in a stacked bond between each of the four centermost windows. The panels are as wide as the window openings and extend the full height between the second- and third-story windows. Two identical panels of sailor course bricks are located near each end of the projection.

There are eight bays of equal width and spacing located in the one-story projection. Seven of the bays contain a metal overhead garage door. The eighth, southernmost, bay on the projection was infilled with brick at an unknown date. There are four multilight, awning windows of equal width and spacing located on the first story of this projection. Each window is three lights wide, four lights tall, has a cast stone subsill, and is set between two garage door openings.

One of the stair towers is located on each end of the taller projection. The roofline of each stair tower is noticeably shorter than the central block and is slightly shorter than the taller projection. There is one multilight awning window on the third and the second story. A metal slab door is located on the first story. The door is vertically aligned with the windows on the second and third stories and is located near the intersection of the stair tower and the projections. A small, four-light window is located at the southernmost end of the stair tower on the first story.

Two projections extend from the south end of the east side elevation. The first projection is adjacent to and projects to the left (south) of the central block. It is equivalent to the height of two stories. There are two windows of equal width and spacing centered on the second story of this projection. Each window is three lights wide, four lights tall, and has a cast stone subsill. The second projection, which projects to the south of the two-story projection, is one story in height and contains two metal overhead garage doors of equal width and spacing. A multilight, awning window is located to the right of the innermost garage door, near the intersection of the projection with the stair tower. The window is three lights wide, four lights tall, has a cast stone subsill.

Several air conditioning units have been installed in window openings on the third and second stories.
The fenestration pattern of the south (back) elevation of the Armory is nearly identical to that of the façade. Eight metal framed, multilight windows with pivoting sections are located on the third story of the central block. Each window is six lights wide by six lights tall.

A stair tower is located at each end of the central block. The roofline and fenestration pattern of both stair towers is identical to those on the façade.

Two projections extend from both the east and the west sides of the central block. The roofline and fenestration pattern of these projections on this elevation are identical to those on the façade.

There are two projections that extend forward (south) from the central block. Both projections extend nearly the full width of the central block. The projection that is adjacent to the central block is equivalent to the height of two stories. There are ten multilight windows with cast stone subsills arranged in no apparent pattern on the second story. Each window is three lights wide by four lights tall. This projection steps down to a second projection that is one story in height and contains five metal overhead garage doors of equal width and spacing. A multilight awning window with a cast stone subsill is located between each of the garage doors. Each window is three lights wide and four lights tall.

Air conditioning units have been installed in several window openings on the second story.

The west side elevation of the Armory is an exact mirror image of the east side elevation, with two deviations on the south end. First, there are two multilight windows and one metal overhead garage door on the one-story projection that extends furthest away from the central block. Each of the windows align vertically to windows located on the second story of the two-story projection that is adjacent to the south end of the central block. Each window is three lights wide, four lights tall, and has a cast stone subsill. Second, there is a small, painted concrete block lean-to with a metal shed roof located at the intersection of the one-story projection and the stair tower. The lean-to has a metal slab door and no window openings. It was built at an unknown date.

The primary interior space of the building is a concrete drill floor. It is open for the full height of the central block and is approximately 135 feet wide by 185 feet long. The barrel roof of the central block above the drill floor retains the original and visible wood roof deck and steel trusses. Halogen pendant lamps hang at regular intervals along the underside of the curved steel trusses. There are brick walls with engaged brick columns on each side of the drill floor. Six engaged columns of equal width and spacing are located along both the north and south ends of
the space. Nine engaged columns of equal width and spacing are located along both the east and west sides of the space.

On the second story, the brick walls are set back the full width of the eight-foot wide corridors that are located on each side of the interior space and the columns are visible on all four sides. On the east and west sides of the third story, the corridors and columns match those of the second story. Along the north and south sides of the central block at the second floor level, are corridors and columns that meet up with the east and west corridors, creating a continuous loop around the large, open volume of the drill floor. There are corridors along the north and south side of the central block at the third floor level. The unpainted exterior wall at the third floor level, with eight multilight industrial awning windows, is flush with the interior plane of the drill floor below. On both the second and third stories, the corridors have concrete floors and ceilings and are framed by metal tube pipe railing with non-original chain link fencing. An open concrete staircase with metal railing is located at each corner of the building, providing access to all three stories.

**Alterations**

The exterior brick retains its historic configuration, and most window and door openings remain extant. The southernmost bay on the east side elevation was infilled with brick at an unknown date. The lean-to located near the south end of west side elevation was constructed at an unknown date.

Most of the windows are in a damaged condition. In the multilight windows with pivoting sections, several lights have been replaced with translucent glass panes and the pivot mechanisms are no longer functional. On each elevation, window glass and frames were removed in order to install air-conditioning units. Photographs from the Oklahoma County Assessor’s website indicate that the contemporary metal storefront doors located on the building’s main entrance were installed prior to 2008.

The primary drill space in the Armory’s interior remains largely unaltered. The brick walls and engaged brick columns are painted on the first and second floors and are unpainted on the third floor. A contemporary, suspended acoustical tile ceiling system was installed at an unknown date in most of the secondary spaces throughout the first, second, and third stories (see Photo #0012, for example). Non-original chain link fencing is attached to the metal tube pipe railing that frames the corridors on the second and third stories.
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.

☐ B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

☒ 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

☐ B. Removed from its original location

☐ 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
Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)
  MILITARY
  ECONOMIC
  ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance
  1938

Significant Dates
  1938

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

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder
  BRYAN W. NOLEN, ARCHITECT
  CHARLES A. DUNNING CONSTRUCTION, BUILDER
Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Oklahoma National Guard Armory is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A at the state level of significance for Military and Economics and under Criterion C at the state level of significance for Architecture. Commonly understood as a federal New Deal project, the Armory is in fact a symbol of Governor Ernest Whitworth Marland’s “Little New Deal” and was financed solely by state funds. Adjutant General Charles Franklin Barrett and Major General William Shaffer Key, two leading figures in the Oklahoma National Guard, had long argued for the necessity of armories in Oklahoma. The crisis of the Great Depression transformed their arguments into action as state leaders recognized that the construction of armories could provide economic relief and opportunity for Oklahomans. Upon its completion in 1938, the Oklahoma National Guard Armory in Oklahoma City provided a valuable training site for members of the Forty-Fifth Infantry Division and served as a public meeting space for Oklahoma City residents and Oklahomans throughout the state.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

Historic Context

The City of Oklahoma City was formally incorporated on July 15, 1890. At that time, the city had approximately 4,000 residents. By the end of the decade, an agricultural boom in the surrounding countryside and the completion of five railroad lines to and from town limits transformed the city into a commercial hub. In June 1910, three years after Oklahoma achieved statehood, Oklahoma City became the political center of the state after voters approved the transfer of the capital from Guthrie, which had served as the territorial capital since 1890.¹

The relocation of the capital to Oklahoma City was accompanied by real estate speculation from several prominent citizens who sought to profit from the construction of a new state capitol building. Israel M. Putnam and John W. Shartel offered the state legislature over 1,500 acres and a sizeable sum of money for the construction of the new capitol building at what they called “Putnam City,” which was located directly west of Oklahoma City along an interurban railway line to the neighboring town of El Reno.² A competing offer came from William Fremont Harn and his partner John James Culbertson, both of whom owned land northeast of downtown

Oklahoma National Guard Armory

Oklahoma City. Both men proposed to donate forty acres from their respective landholdings (eighty acres in all) to provide for the construction of the new state capitol building. Although the state House of Representatives supported Putnam and Shartel’s pitch, the state Senate objected and appointed a commission to investigate both sites. This commission ultimately approved Harn and Culbertson’s proposal because their donated parcels were closer to Oklahoma City’s central commercial district.4

Under the guise of the State Capitol Building Company, Harn and Culbertson platted the State Capitol Addition to Oklahoma City in 1911. The addition is located between present-day Northeast 21st Street and Northeast 23rd Street. “Capitol Square,” located in the center of the addition, indicated the site of the new Oklahoma State Capitol (NRIS #76001572).5 Much of the eastern half of the addition, along with the Lincoln Terrace Addition to the south, would become one of the premier neighborhoods in Oklahoma City.6 Meanwhile, in 1915, the State Capitol Building Company conveyed much of the western half of the addition, specifically Blocks 6, 7, and 8, to the State of Oklahoma.7 This conveyance was challenged in court by H. W. Granzow, who also had an ownership interest in the area. After settling the matter in district court, the state formally assumed ownership of these blocks in 1917.8 Two years later, the state created a Capitol Improvement District, which authorized the State Board of Public Affairs to oversee the construction and maintenance of any structures on state-owned land located within one mile of the capitol building.9

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3 Harn arrived in Oklahoma in 1891 as an agent of the General Land Office. In 1897, he purchased a 160-acre farm approximately two miles northeast of downtown Oklahoma City, between present-day Northeast 13th Street and Northeast 23rd Street. Harn House (NRIS #73001566), a two-story, Queen Anne style building, was constructed on the farm in 1904. By the time the capital relocated to Oklahoma City in 1910, Harn was practicing law and speculating in real estate. For more information on Harn, see Don Green, “Harn, William Fremont (1859-1944),” The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture, https://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=HA027, accessed January 15, 2019, and National Register of Historic Places, “Harn House, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County, Oklahoma,” NRIS #73001566, available at http://nr2_shpo.okstate.edu/pdfs/73001566.pdf.

4 Blackburn, Heart of the Promised Land, 105 and Bates, “Putnam”.

5 Construction on the State Capitol building began in 1914 and was completed in 1917. According to the National Register nomination, Harn and Culbertson initially disagreed on the location of the state capitol building within their addition. The dispute was settled by a judge who ruled that the west half of Capitol Square would derive from land originally owned by Harn and that the east half would derive from land originally owned by Culbertson. Quit Claim Deed to State of Oklahoma, Oklahoma County Clerk, Book 173, Page 71, June 22, 1914, records J. J. Culbertson relinquishing his claim to the east half of Capitol Square. Also see National Register of Historic Places, “Oklahoma State Capitol, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County, Oklahoma,” NRIS #76001572, available at http://nr2_shpo.okstate.edu/pdfs/76001572.pdf and Cynthia Savage, “Oklahoma Capitol,” The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture, accessed January 15, 2019, https://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=OK080.

6 The Lincoln Terrace Addition was platted by John James Culbertson in 1926. Much of the addition is incorporated in the Capitol-Lincoln Terrace Historic District (NRIS #76001569).

7 Warranty Deed to State of Oklahoma, Oklahoma County Clerk, Book 182, Page 248, February 12, 1915.

8 Quit Claim Deed, Oklahoma County Clerk, Book 196, Pages 135-138, September 27, 1917.

While the Oklahoma state government acquired portions of the State Capitol Addition, the Oklahoma National Guard was deployed to the U.S.-Mexico border and soon mobilized to fight in Europe during World War I. In 1916, following an attack on Columbus, New Mexico, by Pancho Villa that killed 17 Americans, Oklahoma guardsmen took part in the “Punitive Expedition” into Mexico against Villa’s forces. In 1917, Guard members mobilized once again when President Woodrow Wilson announced that the United States was entering World War I on the side of the Allied Powers. Oklahoma guardsmen arrived in France in July 1918 as members of the Thirty-Sixth National Guard Division and saw heavy fighting in October, one month before the war ended. Oklahoma guardsmen fought with distinction during their brief time on the front, with two men receiving Medals of Honor and thirty-nine men receiving Distinguished Service Crosses.

The passage of the National Defense Act in 1920 formally created the Forty-Fifth Infantry Division. Referred to by writer Kenny Franks as “the bulwark of the nation’s National Guard organization for thirty years,” the act incorporated the National Guard into the U.S. Army and divided the United States into nine “army corps areas.” According to Franks, the act’s intent was “to create a small cadre of highly trained [Army] regulars that could swiftly be supplemented with reservists and guardsmen in time[s] of national emergency.” Each “army corps area” contained a division of regular U.S. Army personnel, two National Guard divisions, and three Reserve divisions. Oklahoma was placed in the Eighth Corps Area and Oklahoma guardsmen were reorganized into the 179th and 180th Infantry regiments. The state was allotted several medical, engineering, and artillery regiments and was also designated the headquarters of the Forty-Fifth Infantry Division. In addition to Oklahoma, the Division drew from regiments located in Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico. Division members would later be known as the “Thunderbirds” for the yellow thunderbird insignia featured on their uniforms.

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10 During the territorial period, when present-day Oklahoma was divided into Indian Territory and Oklahoma Territory, each territory had their own militia. In 1898, men from both militias were recruited to fight in Cuba with Theodore Roosevelt’s famed “Rough Riders” unit during the War of 1898 (commonly known as the Spanish-American War). After statehood in 1907, the territorial militias were consolidated into the Oklahoma National Guard. Subsequent documents and secondary sources commonly utilize the terms “Oklahoma National Guard” or “Oklahoma Army National Guard” when referring to the Guard.

11 Over 100 Mexicans were also killed during Villa’s attack. See George C. Herring, *From Colony to Superpower: U.S. Foreign Relations since 1776* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2008), 395.


14 The first insignia of the Forty-Fifth Infantry Division was a yellow swastika on a red square background. The division abandoned this insignia by the mid-1930s after the German Nazi Party adopted a similar symbol. In 1939, the Division adopted the insignia of a yellow thunderbird on a red diamond background. “From Swastika to Thunderbird,” 45th Infantry Division Museum, http://www.45thdivisionmuseum.com/History/SwastikaToThunderbird.html, accessed February 6, 2019.
Military Significance

Two state military figures played an integral role in both organizing the Forty-Fifth Infantry Division in Oklahoma and promoting the construction of the Oklahoma National Guard Armory in Oklahoma City. The first was Adjutant General Charles Franklin Barrett, popularly known as the “Father of the Forty-Fifth Division.”\(^\text{15}\) The second was Major General William Shaffer Key. Although Key is best known for his service in World War II, including as the commanding officer of the Forty-Fifth Infantry Division, he was also a notable figure behind Depression-era relief efforts in Oklahoma City. Both men used statewide military connections and political influence to build National Guard armories throughout Oklahoma.

Charles Barrett arrived in Oklahoma City in 1893. According to Clarence Douglas, who served with him, Barrett “was one of the first to volunteer” after the United States declared war on Spain in 1898.\(^\text{16}\) Unfortunately, Barrett injured himself during training at nearby Fort Reno and did not see action. Nevertheless, he went on to have a prominent military and political career in Oklahoma. He participated in Oklahoma’s constitutional convention in 1906–7 and served in the State House of Representatives and in the State Senate. By 1919, Barrett was appointed State Adjutant General and, following passage of the National Defense Act in 1920, he oversaw the creation of the Forty-Fifth Infantry Division. Over the course of almost twenty years, Barrett mobilized the Oklahoma National Guard on numerous occasions. These included enforcing martial law during the Tulsa Race Massacre in 1921, patrolling toll bridges along the Red River during the “Bridge War” of 1931, and overseeing the placement of oil well sites on State Capitol grounds in 1936.\(^\text{17}\)

William Key arrived in Wewoka, Oklahoma, in 1911. The next year, he enlisted in the Oklahoma National Guard and was soon promoted to company captain. He served in the “Punitive Expedition” of 1916-17 and fought in World War I, earning a promotion to major. After the war, Key enjoyed a prosperous career in oil and real estate while still serving in the National Guard. In 1927, he moved into a large, Italian Renaissance Revival-style house at 600 Culbertson Drive, in present-day Capitol-Lincoln Terrace Historic District (NRIS #76001569). By the eve of the Great Depression, Key was working as director of Security National Bank and of First National Bank and Trust Company (NRIS #SG100002220).\(^\text{18}\)

Throughout its early history, the Oklahoma National Guard lacked adequate, state-owned space to train or to store equipment and munitions. Mobilization for the “Punitive Expedition” and

World War I exposed these shortcomings. In preparation of the “Punitive Expedition,” for example, Guardsmen in Oklahoma City had to meet at the State Fairgrounds. Writer Kenny Franks writes that Oklahoma’s entire mobilization effort for the “Punitive Expedition “was confused somewhat by the inability of federal officials to decide on a permanent mobilization camp.” Unfortunately, facilities at the local level failed to improve after these military campaigns. According to Dianna Everett, Oklahoma National Guard units continued to meet in schoolhouses or other community buildings throughout the 1920s. In addition, they used town parks or “open fields outside town” for drills. The overall lack of proper facilities had a negative effect on the Guard’s military readiness. Furthermore, Everett notes that several “makeshift armories” during this period were “easy prey for criminals” because Guardsmen lacked secure buildings in which to store arms and ammunition.

The fact that Guardsmen who lived in Oklahoma City continued to lack an adequate drill area or a secure storage space further highlighted the state’s need for a military preparedness program. In August 1931, an article by Alvin Rucker in the Daily Oklahoman noted that Guard members used only two facilities within Oklahoma City: one at North Broadway Avenue and another on West Main Street. According to the article, neither building was “suitable for drilling purposes.” For this reason, Rucker noted that many Guardsmen supported the construction of a “state owned armory” near the State Capitol. According to Clarence Douglas, Adjutant General Barrett’s “fondest dream” was to construct “a permanent armory home for every military unit” of the Oklahoma National Guard. Although each armory building would be rooted in a local community, Barrett envisioned that they would collectively support a statewide military network overseen by officials in Oklahoma City.

**Economic Significance**

It took the worst economic depression in American history before Barrett’s dream was realized. Within a month after the Great Crash in October 1929, the stock market lost over half of its value. This dramatic decline exposed other weaknesses in the economy, specifically in the banking sector as many Americans withdrew their money for fear of losing their savings. These

22 Douglas, “Barrett Weighs In”.

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“bank runs” put many of the nation’s financial institutions on the brink of insolvency and contributed to an environment in which industries were unable to invest and business owners were incapable of retaining employees or hiring new workers.\textsuperscript{23}

Meanwhile, economic trends in Oklahoma have led historian Robert Dorman to comment that the state “was ahead of its time when it came to hard times.”\textsuperscript{24} The value of oil had experienced a precipitous decline since the late 1920s due to overproduction, with prices dropping to as low as ten cents a barrel. The state’s agricultural sector struggled for a similar reason. The overproduction of wheat and cotton, two of Oklahoma’s primary farm products, contributed to a steep decline in the overall value of crops produced within the state from $289 million in 1928 to $76 million in 1932. The onset of a natural drought cycle throughout much of the Great Plains compounded Oklahoma’s deteriorating economic situation even further. As crops failed due to a lack of precipitation and little plant life remained to hold down the soil, clouds of dust filtered into farms, homes, towns, and cities throughout the region. Destitute farmers, sharecroppers, oil workers, and miners migrated to the state’s urban areas looking for work. Approximately 60,000 people moved out of the state entirely between 1930 and 1940.\textsuperscript{25}

The construction of National Guard armories in Oklahoma City and throughout Oklahoma during this period was part of a much broader economic effort to put underemployed or unemployed individuals back to work and to modernize the nation’s infrastructure. In 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt expanded the New Deal’s unemployment relief program by creating the Works Progress Administration (WPA). Before the program’s termination in 1943, the WPA provided jobs for over eight million Americans. Many of these jobs involved the construction of public buildings such as court houses or schools and infrastructure such as airports and roads.\textsuperscript{26}

This expansion of work relief projects at the federal level was accompanied in Oklahoma by Governor Ernest Whitworth Marland’s “Little New Deal.” Marland entered Oklahoma’s oil industry near Ponca City and, by 1922, his company controlled one-tenth of the world’s oil supply. In 1928, however, a hostile takeover of the company by J. P. Morgan and Continental Oil (Conoco) left Marland without a job. Shortly thereafter, Marland entered politics and was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1932. In 1934, Marland campaigned for governor and won under the slogan “Bring the New Deal to Oklahoma.” Once in office, he pushed for a


\textsuperscript{26} In 1939, the program’s name changed to the Works Projects Administration. In all, the WPA assisted in the construction of over 2,500 hospitals, 5,900 schools, and 570,000 miles of road throughout the United States. In addition, its Federal One program employed approximately 40,000 artists, writers, and researchers to complete many public art and humanities initiatives, including public art displays, theater productions, and research efforts such as the \textit{Born in Slavery} project, which collected the first-person accounts of over 2,000 former slaves. For an overview of the WPA at the national level, see Kennedy, \textit{Freedom from Fear}, 252-257.
statewide public works program and other reforms, including unemployment insurance and pensions for elderly Oklahomans.27

Adjutant General Charles Barrett’s dream of constructing new, state-of-the-art armory buildings throughout Oklahoma went into action in the summer of 1935, when Oklahoma began receiving direct federal aid and expertise for WPA projects. This aid included $2.5 million for the construction of as many as 57 National Guard armories in Oklahoma, including at least one building in Oklahoma City. Coordination of the entire project fell to William Key, who had been appointed Oklahoma’s WPA director. A groundbreaking ceremony at Key’s hometown of Wewoka on October 8, 1935, formally got the project underway. During the ceremony, Barrett was quoted by the Daily Oklahoman as saying, “This is the beginning of the fulfillment of my life’s ambition.”28

However, the possibility that the WPA would build a large, state-owned armory near the State Capitol in Oklahoma City soon faded. In November 1935, the WPA announced that it was suspending armory construction throughout Oklahoma. At the time of the WPA’s announcement, less than half of the armory buildings proposed were already under construction. Officials throughout the state protested the decision because many municipalities had already donated the land necessary to build an armory or had approved a bond to help finance construction.29 Thanks to director Key’s efforts, the WPA reinstated the armory construction program by the end of 1935. Nevertheless, even Key expressed pessimism toward the idea that the WPA would sponsor the construction of an armory in Oklahoma City.30

Contrary to the findings of prior historic preservation surveys in Oklahoma, specifically W. David Baird’s WPA Structures Thematic Survey (1987) and Mary Jane Warde and Dianna Everett’s Oklahoma’s Legacy of Defense (1993), the Oklahoma National Guard Armory at 200 Northeast 23rd Street in Oklahoma City was not a WPA-sponsored project.31 There are two major reasons why the WPA did not underwrite the construction of this Armory. First, director Key came under scrutiny for the amount of federal money spent to build armories throughout Oklahoma. For example, by the spring of 1936, Key had spent over $1.5 million for armory

28 “State Armory Work Is Begun At Ceremony,” Daily Oklahoman, October 9, 1935, 4. Also see “Oklahoma City Briefs: Engineer to Arrive Monday,” Daily Oklahoman, July 14, 1935, and “Three Major State Works Plans Passed,” Daily Oklahoman, September 7, 1935, 2. Prior to his appointment as state WPA director, Key led Oklahoma City’s Executive Relief Committee, which coordinated relief efforts conducted by private charities, church groups, and organizations such as the American Red Cross. See Wilson, “Key, William Shaffer”.
construction. This amounted to almost one-third of the approximately $5 million that the WPA had allotted to the state for all of its projects. Furthermore, by this time, armory construction in Oklahoma employed only 1,500 people, or two percent of the nearly 70,000 Oklahomans who were on the WPA’s work rolls. Given these statistics, some Oklahomans expressed concerns that Key was devoting an inordinate amount of federal money to a scheme that employed relatively few people. At one point, the *Daily Oklahoman*, which was often critical of New Deal economic relief efforts, disparagingly referred to the WPA’s armory construction project as “one of Key’s pets since he took office.”

The second reason why the WPA did not sponsor the construction of the Oklahoma National Guard Armory pertains to manpower, specifically the skilled labor necessary to construct such a large building. According to federal law, WPA-sponsored projects were supposed to be limited in duration and pay prevailing wages. In other words, a WPA project could not pay wages higher than what one could receive in the private sector. The WPA implemented this pay schedule so that the federal government did not appear as if it was competing with private businesses for employees. Although this strategy benefitted unskilled workers who received low wages as well as many professionals in the arts and humanities who were unemployed, it was a disincentive for many skilled workers such as masons or carpenters who could find higher wages in the private sector. It was precisely those skilled workers that were necessary to build the Oklahoma National Guard Armory.

Adjutant General Barrett was among those convinced that WPA workers were unable to take on the construction of the Oklahoma National Guard Armory because of its size and need for skilled laborers. That construction on many WPA-sponsored armory projects was behind schedule reinforced this skepticism. Despite expectations that construction of all 51 armories in Oklahoma sponsored by the WPA would be complete by June 30, 1936, the *Daily Oklahoman* reported in late July that most projects were “two months behind schedule” due to poor weather or delays in procuring materials. Given these setbacks, the newspaper went so far as to refer to the entire armory construction venture as a “beleaguered project.”

Therefore, unlike the WPA-sponsored armories built throughout Oklahoma during the Great Depression, the Oklahoma National Guard Armory in Oklahoma City was a state economic initiative that took place with assistance from the municipal government. In July 1936, Oklahoma City formally recommended the location of the Armory within the State Capitol Addition and called upon the WPA to commit $300,000 to the project if the city provided $100,000 to pay for the skilled laborers necessary for its construction. From the city’s perspective, it was essential to build a large armory near the State Capitol. As the *Daily

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32 “Armory Construction Program Cut”.
33 According to historian David Kennedy, the average WPA wage by 1936 was $52 a month nationally, but this average wage was as low as $23 a month in southern states. Kennedy, *Freedom from Fear*, 254. Also see Kenneth Franklin Kurz, “Works Progress Administration,” in *The Oxford Companion to United States History*, ed. Paul S. Boyer (New York: Oxford University Press, 2001), 840.
35 “Armory Work Is Going Again,” *Daily Oklahoman*, July 28, 1936, 3. Also see Bell, “Barrett Gets Congress Aid On Armories”.
Oklahoma National Guard Armory  Oklahoma County, Oklahoma

Name of Property  County and State

Oklahoman commented, “The [armory] building would not only serve all local units of the [N]ational [G]uard but would [also] be headquarters for Gen. Charles F. Barrett…and his staff.”36

This proposal by Oklahoma City was followed by a flurry of activity by the state legislature. Frustrated by inaction and gridlock during the 1935 legislative session, Governor Marland called the legislature into a special session during the winter of 1936-37. During this special session, Marland achieved some of the most notable achievements of his “Little New Deal,” including passage of the Oklahoma Social Security Act and the Oklahoma Unemployment Compensation Act. Furthermore, on January 6, 1937, Marland approved Senate Bill No. 14. This law authorized the construction of the Oklahoma National Guard Armory at its present location by appropriating up to $1 million for a “State Capitol Ground Building Fund.” The bulk of this fund provided for the construction of the Jim Thorpe Office Building (known historically as the State Capitol Office Building). Any leftover funds were reserved for building the Armory. Money for the project came from the sale of leases to state-owned oil and natural gas wells near the Capitol building.37

In the event that the state had insufficient funds to build the Armory, the law permitted Oklahoma to apply to any “agency of the Federal government as is proper” for financial aid.38 In March 1937, the Board of Public Affairs requested the Public Works Administration (PWA) for aid because state oil revenues were not immediately available to pay for the project.39 In late May, however, the PWA rejected the request because the state had not yet allocated two-thirds of the funding necessary for the project to become eligible for PWA assistance.40 The state appealed the decision, but, contrary to claims otherwise, there is no evidence that the PWA assisted in the construction of either the Jim Thorpe Office Building or the Oklahoma National Guard Armory.41 This absence of federal financial assistance for construction reinforces the

36 “Armory Plan to Be Offered,” Daily Oklahoman, July 15, 1936, 1. By this point, director Key and Adjutant General Barrett had also pushed for the WPA to contract with a local construction company to build the Oklahoma City National Guard Armory. See “City Armory Hopes Raised,” Daily Oklahoman, January 2, 1936, and Bell, “Barrett Gets Congress Aid On Armories”.
38 Ibid., Section 5.
39 The PWA contributed $1.5 million toward the construction of downtown Oklahoma City’s Municipal and County Complex, which includes the Oklahoma County Courthouse (NRIS #92000126), the Oklahoma City Municipal Building (NRIS #7000521), the Oklahoma City Municipal Auditorium (NRIS #16000850), and the Oklahoma City Police Headquarters and City Jail. See “Summer Fails to Halt Trade,” Daily Oklahoman, August 1, 1935, 2.
40 Extracts from the Minutes of a Meeting of the State Board of Public Affairs of the State of Oklahoma, June 24, 1937, Oklahoma Military Department Records. According to the meeting minutes, the state had allocated $651,000 for the project by late June and anticipated receiving an additional $40,000 per month from the revenue provided by state-owned oil and gas wells.
41 The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture credits the PWA for aiding in the construction of both the Jim Thorpe Office Building and the Oklahoma City Armory. Dianna Everett, “Public Works Administration,” The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture, accessed November 30, 2018, https://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=PU003. However, there is no mention of the Jim Thorpe Office Building or the Oklahoma City National Guard Armory in the indexes of C. W. Short and R. Stanley-Brown, Public Buildings: A Survey of Architecture of Projects Constructed by Federal and Other Governmental Bodies Between the Years 1933 and 1939 with the Assistance of the Public Works Administration (Washington, DC:
importance of the Oklahoma National Guard Armory as a state-sponsored economic development project.

Architectural Significance

On October 22, 1937, the *Daily Oklahoman* reported that more than $200,000 in “state funds” was available to build the Armory after the bid to construct the Jim Thorpe Office Building was less than originally anticipated.\(^4\)\(^2\) Construction on the Armory officially began on March 15, 1938, after a ceremony presided over by Governor Marland. Bryan F. Nolen, a major in the Oklahoma National Guard and supervising architect of the statewide armory construction project, designed the Armory. Charles A. Dunning Construction Company is listed as the builder.\(^4\)\(^3\) Construction on the Armory was completed by early October, when the *Daily Oklahoman* announced the transfer of fifteen Oklahoma National Guard units to its location.\(^4\)\(^4\)

The dedication ceremony for the Oklahoma National Guard Armory occurred on November 11, 1938.\(^4\)\(^5\) During the ceremony, Governor Marland awarded a distinguished service medal to Adjutant General Barrett and assisted in the laying of the official cornerstone. The *Daily Oklahoman* reported that the Armory was “decorated lavishly” for the ceremony, which was “attended principally by state officials, commanders of many state national guard units, personnel of several of the units, and members of official and military families.” Barrett spoke during the ceremony. So did former WPA director Key, who had lost in the Democratic gubernatorial primary earlier in 1938 to incoming governor Leon C. Phillips.\(^4\)\(^6\) In his official remarks, Barrett credited the state legislature for providing the funding necessary to construct the building. The Armory was open to the public throughout the afternoon. Guardsmen had much of their equipment on display, “including machine guns, gas masks, trench mortars, ambulances, first aid, light artillery and communication facilities.”\(^4\)\(^7\) A parade and military concert concluded the event and, that night, state officials, Guardsmen, and their families danced on the open drill floor.\(^4\)\(^8\)
Supervising architect Bryan Nolen created standardized plans to guide the construction of all armory buildings in Oklahoma, including the Oklahoma National Guard Armory. Most armories were a maximum of two stories in height and accommodated up to four National Guard units (each unit comprised of fifty men). For example, Nolen’s design for a one-unit armory at Eufaula was duplicated at ten other locations across the state. Furthermore, most armories had a similar if not identical floorplan. Regardless of whether it housed fifty, one hundred, or even two hundred Guardsmen, an armory’s interior typically centered on a large, concrete drill floor. Administrative offices and other spaces such as classrooms or storage areas were located towards the front of the building. Overhead garage doors were located towards the back or the side of a building. Oklahoma’s armories differed most in their building materials, decorative details, and craftsmanship. According to Dianna Everett, these characteristics could range widely due to a “supervisors’ skill level and the laborers’ experience level and adaptability.”

Although its floorplan is like that of its contemporaries, the Oklahoma National Guard Armory was ultimately unlike any other armory built in the state during this period. Contemporary observers marveled at the building’s size. Standing three stories in height, the Oklahoma National Guard Armory was the largest armory in Oklahoma at the time of its construction. Approximately 700 officers and men were scheduled to use the facility upon its opening. In addition to the massive drill hall (185 feet long by 135 feet wide) at its center, the building had at least five garages, a firing range, and ample storage for munitions located on the first story. The second and third stories provided space for record keeping and included at least five classrooms for instruction.

The Oklahoma National Guard also cost $200,000 to build, making it the most expensive armory constructed in the state during this period. In contrast, armories constructed with assistance from the WPA cost between $30,000 and $60,000 and ranged from one to two stories in height. Unlike less expensive materials such as sandstone and limestone, which were utilized at over thirty WPA-sponsored armories in Oklahoma, the Oklahoma National Guard Armory is clad in blond brick. In addition, similar to other public buildings constructed in Oklahoma City during the Great Depression, the Armory is “straightforwardly functional and utilitarian.” While many WPA-sponsored armories incorporated battlements or other decorative characteristics to convey the appearance of a fortress, the Oklahoma National Guard Armory utilizes only a handful of vertical elements to distinguish from what is otherwise a horizontal orientation. The most notable of these are inset panels of sailor bricks in a stacked bond that extend vertically between the lintel of a window on the second story and the subsill of a window on the third story.

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50 Everett, “National Guard Armories”.
51 Those officers and men scheduled to use the Oklahoma City Armory were affiliated with the 179th Infantry, 70th Field Artillery, 189th Field Artillery, 120th Medical Regiment, 120th Quartermasters Regiment, and 10th Engineers. “New State Armory Will Be Dedicated”.
Conclusion

The Oklahoma National Guard Armory served as a versatile space in the heart of Oklahoma City that sustained a variety of civic activities. In April 1939, less than six months after the dedication ceremony that opened it, the Armory hosted a state indoor tennis tournament.\(^{54}\) In addition to athletics, several organizations in Oklahoma City took advantage of the ample space offered by the Armory. For example, in the fall of 1939, the Oklahoma City Kennel Club held its annual dog show within the walls of the Armory, and the newspaper reported that a crowd filled the building to “see (and hear) the prize animals.”\(^{55}\) Such uses fulfilled the primary purpose of any public works project, which was to provide for the needs of an entire community.\(^{56}\)

The Armory also served the Oklahoma National Guard well on the eve of World War II. In February 1939, only a few months before the war erupted in Europe, a full-page spread in the Sunday edition of the \textit{Daily Oklahoman} portrayed the Armory as fully capable of meeting the National Guard’s needs. In addition to providing ample storage space for uniforms and munitions, the Armory featured “officers’ quarters, locker rooms, shower rooms, supply dumps, class rooms, orderly rooms and garages for the care of all motor equipment.” The first floor included a firing range that could accommodate up to six individuals at a time. The enormous drill floor in the center of the building enabled up to four National Guard units “to drill in full equipment each week night.”\(^{57}\) Oklahoma received an immediate return for its investment when National Guard units passed routine inspections by U.S. Army personnel with flying colors.\(^{58}\) On May 14, 1939, the \textit{Daily Oklahoman} celebrated the 120th Medical Regiment of the Oklahoma National Guard, commanded by Colonel Rex Bolen, as the first unit “to stand armory inspection and come through without a single deficiency marked against it.”\(^{59}\) Bolen credited the Armory for his regiment’s high marks, stating, “Now we are able to take better care of the government property, since we have better facilities.”\(^{60}\)

Colonel Bolen’s remarks underlined the overall significance of the Oklahoma National Guard Armory as a Great Depression-era public works project. As Oklahoma architectural historian George Bumiller noted, these projects were “designed to serve the community as a whole rather than individuals.” In addition, they represented “examples of cooperation between community

\(^{54}\) “Patterson Is Easy Winner in Net Meet,” \textit{Daily Oklahoman}, April 1, 1939, 12.


\(^{58}\) During this period, the inspection of an Oklahoma National Guard unit by the U.S. Army typically occurred twice a year: once at the unit’s respective armory and once during summer exercises at Fort Sill.

\(^{59}\) A deficiency being something that the enlisted men or officers forgot to do something required of them or did not adhere to a specific Army regulation very well. Such regulations involved any range of things, including keeping uniforms clean and in proper condition, first aid procedures, and keeping mobilization plans up to date.

\(^{60}\) “Medical Regiment First To Get Flawless Rating,” \textit{Daily Oklahoman}, May 14, 1939, 10-A. According to the report, a “deficiency” entailed an enlisted man or officer failing to adhere to an Army regulation. Army regulations involved a wide range of requirements, including cleanliness of uniforms and keeping mobilization plans up-to-date.
participation and national policy.”61 Above all, they provided security. As historian David Kennedy notes, federal and state relief and public works programs offered “security for vulnerable individuals…for capitalists and consumers, for workers and employers, for corporations and farms and homeowners and bankers and builders as well.”62 The construction of the Oklahoma National Guard Armory provided economic security to those who designed and built the building. Likewise, the Oklahoma National Guardsmen who trained on the Armory’s drill floor protected the security of all Oklahomans by fighting in the Forty-Fifth Infantry Division. For these reasons, the Oklahoma National Guard Armory is a symbol of the commitment of the Oklahoma National Guard to meet military readiness and is a monument to the importance of public investment and community participation in the face of economic challenges and hardship.

9) Major Bibliographical References

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

Books


Government Records and Publications


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Oklahoma Military Department. Oklahoma City.


Warde, Mary Jane and Dianna Everett. *Oklahoma’s Legacy of Defense: National Guard Armories, Davis Air Field (Muskogee), Whitaker Education and Training Center (Pryor), and Camp Gruber, Oklahoma.* Oklahoma City: State Historic Preservation Office, 1993.

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*Daily Oklahoman.* Oklahoma City. 1931-1939.

**Reference Collections and Databases**


State Historic Preservation Office. *Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory.*


**Websites**

“From Swastika to Thunderbird.” 45th Infantry Division Museum.

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
__X_ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
__X_ Local government
___ University
__X_ Other

Name of repository: Metropolitan Library System, Oklahoma City, OK

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): ____________

10) Geographical Data

Acreage of Property __2.35 MOL

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: 35.492588    Longitude: -97.509243

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary includes approximately two acres within the State Capitol Complex, beginning at the southwest corner of the intersection of Northeast 23rd Street and North Walnut Avenue, extending south for 370 feet along North Walnut Avenue, then west for 280 feet along an alley/driveway to the southwest corner of the Armory, then north for 370 feet to Northeast 23rd Street, then east for 280 feet along a sidewalk located to the south of Northeast 23rd Street to the point of beginning.
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The Armory is situated on Lots 1-3 and 10-12 in Block 7 of the State Capitol Addition. The State Board of Public Affairs did not confine development to the platted lots after this block was conveyed to the state. Therefore, the boundaries are limited to the area directly related to the Armory during the period of significance.

11) Form Prepared By

name/title:  Catherine Montgomery AIA, President; Matthew A. Pearce, Ph.D., Historian
organization:  Preservation and Design Studio, PLLC
street & number:  616 Northwest 21st Street, Suite 114

city or town:  Oklahoma City  state:  Oklahoma  zip code:  73103-1861

e-mail:  cm@PandDStudio.com

telephone:  405-601-6814
date:  May 7, 2019

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: Oklahoma City National Guard Armory

City or Vicinity: Oklahoma City

County: Oklahoma  State: Oklahoma

Photographer: M. Pearce, Preservation and Design Studio, PLLC

Date Photographed: January 2019

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>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0001</td>
<td>North-facing façade.</td>
<td>South</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0002</td>
<td>North-facing façade (left) and west side elevation (right).</td>
<td>Southeast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0003</td>
<td>West side elevation (left) and south elevation (right).</td>
<td>Northeast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0004</td>
<td>South elevation (left) and east side elevation (right).</td>
<td>Northwest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0005</td>
<td>Exterior of main entrance.</td>
<td>South</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0006</td>
<td>Drill floor.</td>
<td>North</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0007</td>
<td>Drill floor.</td>
<td>Southeast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0008</td>
<td>Corridor, second floor.</td>
<td>South</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0009</td>
<td>Staircase to third floor.</td>
<td>Northeast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0010</td>
<td>Corridor, third floor.</td>
<td>South</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0011</td>
<td>Close-up of steel trusses and south-facing windows.</td>
<td>East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0012</td>
<td>Classroom, second floor.</td>
<td>Northeast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0013</td>
<td>Typical room, third floor.</td>
<td>North</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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.

Sections 9-end page 29
Location Map

35.492588, -97.509243
Oklahoma National Guard Armory

Name of Property: Oklahoma National Guard Armory
County and State: Oklahoma County, Oklahoma

Photo Key
The Big Picture: Aerial

The Oklahoma National Guard Armory building is located at 200 Northeast 23rd Street, approximately two miles north of downtown Oklahoma City. It is closely associated with the everyday operations of Oklahoma’s state government. The Oklahoma State Capitol (NRIS #76001572) is located approximately one mile east of the Armory. Several state government buildings are located along North Lincoln Boulevard to the northeast and southeast, including the Office of the Attorney General and the Jim Thorpe Office Building (known historically as the State Capitol Office Building). Various businesses, including several fast food restaurants, are located along the north side of Northeast 23rd Street. The Centennial Expressway (Interstate 235/US Hwy 77) is less than one-quarter mile west of the Armory.
The Oklahoma National Guard Armory is a three-story brick building that spans Lots 1-3 and Lots 10-12 in Block 7 of the State Capitol Addition to Oklahoma City. It was built in 1938. The building’s north-facing façade is set back and slightly above grade from Northeast 23rd Street. North Walnut Avenue extends the full length of the building’s east side elevation. A large, paved parking lot is located along the full length of the west side elevation. An alley/driveway extends the full width of the south (back) elevation.
The Big Picture: 1911, The State Capitol Addition to Oklahoma City
(Oklahoma County Clerk)

The State Capitol Addition to Oklahoma City was platted by the State Capitol Building Company in 1911. In 1915, the company conveyed all of Blocks 6, 7, and 8 to the state. Although the state did not confine development to the platted lots, Lots 1-3 and 10-12 in Block 7 would become the site of the Armory.
The Big Picture: 1949, Volume 2, Map #209
(Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps)

The Oklahoma National Guard Armory was constructed in 1938 at 200 Northeast 23rd Street. The property first appears in the updated edition of the 1922 Sanborn maps published in 1949.
A closer view of the 1949 edition of the Sanborn map provides more details about the Armory. The interior of the central block is three stories in height and features brick piers/columns around the perimeter and a concrete floor in the center. An elevator is located near the northwest corner of the central block. Rectangular-shaped projections that range from one to three stories in height are located on each side of the central block. All of the projections have a concrete roof with a 24-inch parapet. The entire building is of brick construction.
Big Picture: 1950, Vol. 2, Map #209
(Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps)

The 1950 edition of the Sanborn map does not indicate any major changes in the immediate vicinity of the Oklahoma National Guard Armory building.
A closer view of the 1950 edition of the Sanborn map indicates no changes to the Armory.
According to the 1955 edition of the Sanborn map, there are many state-owned buildings located in the vicinity of the Oklahoma National Guard Armory.
(Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps)

The 1955 edition is the last available public access edition of the Sanborn maps. The northern portion of the central block is designated as office space.
1935
State WPA director William Shaffer Key (left) and State Adjutant General Charles Franklin Barrett (right) promoted the building of National Guard armories in Oklahoma during the Great Depression. This photograph appeared in the *Daily Oklahoman* on October 9, 1935, and was accompanied with the caption, “Oklahoma’s highest officials turned out Tuesday for [a] ground-breaking ceremony at Wewoka to start the state’s $2,167,922 armory construction program.” (Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma Publishing Company Photography Collection)

1939
Lieutenant Colonel Turner Roark conducts a class in the Oklahoma National Guard Armory. This photograph was part of a full-page spread in the *Daily Oklahoman* titled “The Guard at Home,” which described how National Guard officers and men were utilizing the ample space provided by the new Armory building. Photograph by A. Y. Owen. (Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma Publishing Company Photography Collection)
This aerial photograph shows the location of the Oklahoma National Guard Armory directly west of the Oklahoma State Capitol. (Map Room, Oklahoma State University Library)

While the Forty-Fifth Infantry Division fought in Europe during World War II, the Oklahoma Highway Patrol occupied the Oklahoma National Guard Armory. Both entities jointly occupied the space for several years after the war. (Daily Oklahoman, January 28, 1948, 4)
1938 Cornerstone (Photograph circa 2010)
The cornerstone confirms that the Oklahoma National Guard Armory was constructed in 1938. It lists Bryan W. Nolen as the architect and Dunning Construction Company as the builder. (Oklahoma Military Department)

200 NE 23rd Street: 2008
(Oklahoma County Assessor)
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number  11   Page  14

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

200 NE 23rd Street: 2012
(Oklahoma County Assessor)

200 NE 23rd Street: 2012
(Oklahoma County Assessor)
Oklahoma National Guard Armory
Name of Property
Oklahoma County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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

Name of Property
Oklahoma County, Oklahoma

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

OK_OklahomaCounty_OklahomaNationalGuardArmory_0002
Oklahoma National Guard Armory

Name of Property
Oklahoma County, Oklahoma

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Oklahoma National Guard Armory

Name of Property
Oklahoma County, Oklahoma

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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OK_OklahomaCounty_OklahomaNationalGuardArmory_0003
Oklahoma National Guard Armory
Name of Property
Oklahoma County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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

Name of Property
Oklahoma County, Oklahoma

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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OK_OklahomaCounty_OklahomaNationalGuardArmory_0005
Oklahoma National Guard Armory

Name of Property: Oklahoma National Guard Armory
County and State: Oklahoma County, Oklahoma
Name of multiple listing (if applicable): OK_OklahomaCounty_OklahomaNationalGuardArmory_0006
Oklahoma National Guard Armory
Name of Property
Oklahoma County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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OK_OklahomaCounty_OklahomaNationalGuardArmory_0007
Oklahoma National Guard Armory
Name of Property
Oklahoma County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

OK_OklahomaCounty_OklahomaNationalGuardArmory_0008
Oklahoma National Guard Armory

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

OK_OklahomaCounty_OklahomaNationalGuardArmory_0009
Oklahoma National Guard Armory
Name of Property
Oklahoma County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)
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<tr>
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**United States Department of the Interior**

**National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places**

**Continuation Sheet**

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**OK_OklahomaCounty_OklahomaNationalGuardArmory_0011**
Oklahoma National Guard Armory
Name of Property
Oklahoma County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)
Oklahoma National Guard Armory

Name of Property
Oklahoma County, Oklahoma

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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