

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

For NPS use only

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

received AUG 22 1984
date entered SEP 20 1984

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name 5KC70

historic Burlington State Armory

and or common Burlington State Armory

2. Location

street & number 191 ~~Fourteenth Street~~ ^{14th St.} n/a not for publication

city, town Burlington n/a vicinity of

state Colorado code 08 county Kit Carson code 017

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	n/a in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	n/a being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Daniel Ochsner

street & number 191 Fourteenth Street

city, town Burlington n/a vicinity of state Colorado

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kit Carson County Courthouse

street & number Sixteenth Street

city, town Burlington state Colorado

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1984 federal state county local

depository for survey records Colorado Historical Society

city, town Denver state Colorado

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Kit Carson County is characterized by level prairies, farm land, and valleys along the tributaries of the South Fork of the Republican River. Burlington, located at the eastern edge of the county, is the largest town in the region. The Burlington State Armory is located at the south end of the commercial district, on the southwest corner of 14th and Donelan streets. A two-and-a-half-story brick structure, the State Armory is one of the largest buildings in a town of primarily one and two story commercial structures and residences. Typically, the size and fortified appearance of the Armory building evokes a sense of strength and stability within the community.

The Armory building is characteristic of many state armories, with a battlement roofline, a central pavilion with twin polygonal towers flanking the entrance, and a massive central doorway. Built in 1926, the Armory features brickwork laid in stretcher bond, with corbeling at the cornice, a stringcourse dividing the main floor and the basement level, and a decorative brickwork pattern below the cornice in the central pavilion. Windows are casements, with quoined surrounds and granite labels.

The entrance employs a segmental arch between the two towers, in cut granite stone with the state seal surrounded by the inscription "STATE ARMORY" engraved above the door, and corbeling above the inscription. A single panel wooden door flanked by sidelights and wood panels fill the area beneath the arch. A double brick and stone stairway leads to the main entrance. Above the doorway is a flagpole.

The two polygonal towers flanking the central pavilion extend above the roofline and are capped with embrasures. Thin vertical breaks in the brickwork imitate window openings in the two towers. A short distance from the main entrance, under the pine tree, stands a cast-iron fountain.

The interior of the Armory remains basically unchanged, with the original rooms intact. The entrance foyer is a small room with large double doors leading to the auditorium, a side door leading to a small cloak room. There is an interior window which opens from the cloak room to the foyer. Another door on the opposite wall leads to a side billiard room. Wood floors are evident throughout the main floor, and some were recently replaced.

The auditorium features an arched ceiling, covered in decorative tiles, a new wood floor, side walls of brick and concrete, and a small recessed stage at one end. The stage also has wood flooring, with gray brick molding and decorative tiles around the opening. Large casement windows on the side walls are hinged and open horizontally. They are original. On the wall opposite the stage, near the entrance, is a large painted mural, flanked by two arched doorways. One leads to the billiard room and the other leads to an upstairs apartment.

In the basement are several large rooms which have been remodeled for office space, although original window openings and doors have been retained. The remaining rooms are still unchanged and intact, including an equipment room with storage shelves, and a long hallway with a straw backboard at one end, originally used as a rifle range.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1926 **Builder/Architect** Architect: Captain Sidney Frazier

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Burlington Armory is significant as an excellent example of the Tudor style indicative of state armories and as the only armory building and one of the most impressive structures in east central Colorado.

Burlington, located on the outermost eastern edge of the state, was incorporated in 1888 and is the largest town (1980 population: 3300) in Kit Carson County. Primarily self-sufficient, the community's economy is based on farming and ranching. While not economically depressed, Burlington has never been extremely prosperous, as demonstrated by the lack of ornate, substantial buildings.

During the first part of the twentieth century, Burlington was considered the center of the east central Colorado agricultural region due to its size and location. With this in mind, the Burlington Chamber of Commerce contacted Governor William E. Sweet on September 29, 1924 and requested the establishment of a National Guard unit in Burlington.

On November 10, 1924, Company I of the 157 Infantry, Colorado National Guard was re-activated, and restationed in Burlington.¹ Under the command of Captain Irving K. Browning, the initial muster included three officers and fifty-six enlisted men from the surrounding communities, as well as Burlington.

Two years later, in 1926, plans for the construction of a new armory in Burlington began with the selection of a site for the building at a public meeting. Following the Military Board's decision to authorize the construction of the armory, the city of Burlington purchased lots 1-2-3 in Block 49 for \$1,200 and conveyed the land to the state for construction. Plans and specifications were prepared by Captain Sidney Frazier, an architect for the Colorado National Guard, and bids for construction were advertised. Work on the armory began shortly after, and was completed December 10, 1926 at a cost of \$42,202. Dedication ceremonies were held May 19, 1927 with Governor William Adams and Major A.P. Ardourel, State Quartermaster, in attendance.

For much of the time, Company I saw action only during the annual maneuvers with the National Guard's other units, departing from and returning to the armory where supplies and equipment were stored. However, Company I was called to active duty March 14 and again on August 21, 1930 to assist in the search for bank robbers from neighboring states. The unit was reactivated after World War II, and remained active for several more years.

In addition to serving as the headquarters for the Guard, the armory has also played host to Saturday evening dances, banquets, scout meetings and dance classes. It stood vacant for a number of years and suffered broken windows before its recent purchase.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Nankivell, Maj. John H. History of the Military Organizations of the State of Colorado, 1860-1935. Denver: W. H. Kistler Stationery. 1935.
Hoskins, H. Y. "Kit Carson County." The Historical Encyclopedia of Colorado. Denver: Colorado. Denver: Colorado Historical Association. 1960.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Burlington

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	3	7	3	5	5	7	0	4	3	5	3	6	6	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

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D

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Verbal boundary description and justification The boundary is drawn to include only the immediate surroundings of the Armory which have maintained integrity and are under single ownership. The boundary is defined as Lots 1,2,3 in Block 49, Burlington, Colorado.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	n/a	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sarah J. Pearce, Historian

organization Preservation Consultant date January 31, 1984

street & number 888 S. Dexter, #104 telephone (303) 691-0187

city or town Denver state Colorado

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Barbara Sudler

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 8-14-84

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for Melores Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the National Register date 9-20-84

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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

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Continuation sheet Burlington Armory

Item number 8

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During the Depression, the Armory and the National Guard provided a valuable service to Burlington and area residents. Unemployed young men and destitute farmers were able to earn a little extra income by serving with the National Guard. The small monthly wages paid to Guard members helped many local residents through the very difficult period.

The Burlington Armory remains the only armory building on the east central plains of Colorado. It is in very good condition and is basically unchanged since it was constructed fifty-eight years ago. The Armory is the most impressive structure in Burlington and occupies a prominent site on the main street.

1. In previous years, Company I was located in various other communities including Longmont, Sterling, Fort Morgan, and Hot Sulphur Springs.
2. NanKivell, Major John H. History of the Military Organizations of the State of Colorado: 1860-1935. (Denver: W H Kistler Stationery Co. 1935.) p. 248.