

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

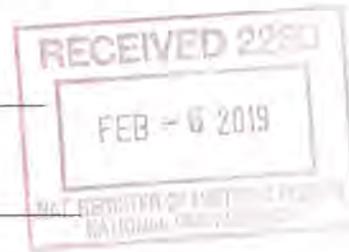
Historic name: White Bear Lake Armory

Other names/site number: _____

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: 2228 Fourth Street

City or town: White Bear Lake State: Minnesota - MN County: Ramsey - 123

Not For Publication:

Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

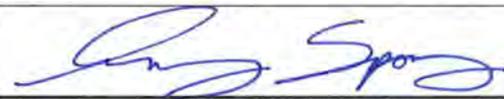
I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

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 statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

 A B X C D

	<u>12/19/18</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title: Amy Spong, Deputy SHPO, MN Dept. of Admin Date	
_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property <u> </u> meets <u> </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
_____ Signature of commenting official:	_____ Date
_____ Title :	_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

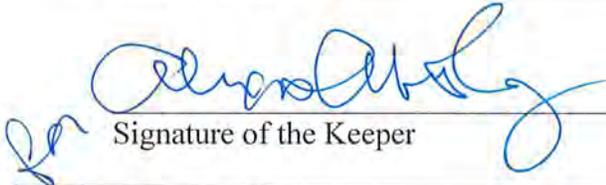
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4. National Park Service Certification

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

3/25/19
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	_____	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DEFENSE/armory

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/hall
EDUCATION/library

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: MN Middle-Period Armory

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Foundation: CONCRETE; Walls: BRICK; Roof:
SYNTHETIC

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

The White Bear Lake Armory is a deactivated Minnesota National Guard armory building located at the east edge of downtown White Bear Lake, where Fourth Street transitions from commercial to residential development. The armory comprises two sections: a two-story, flat-roofed administration block, rectangular in plan, and a one-story, bowstring-roofed drill hall. The drill hall section, also rectangular in plan, is oriented perpendicular to the rear of the administration block. The administration block is faced in brick and features crenellations on portions of the roofline, as well as muted, brick details, such as quoining; pilasters; and a cornice, frieze, and architrave combination. These are part of an aesthetic expression that held stylistic allusions to the medieval revival armories of the pre-1919 era but was primarily stylistically restrained and uncomplicated, foretelling the clean simplicity that would come to characterize the Art Moderne armories built after 1929. This expression was typical of Minnesota's Middle Period (1919-1929) National Guard armories, which occupy the transition between the castellated and federal-relief eras of armory construction. Also typical of this period is the drill hall, which employs structural tile walls with engaged pilasters in an expression of functionality rather than style. The property exhibits good integrity, having undergone limited exterior alterations since the Middle Period.

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Narrative Description

The White Bear Lake Armory is located at the southwest corner of 4th Street and Cook Avenue at the east edge of White Bear Lake's downtown commercial district; the east side of Cook Avenue is entirely single-family homes, and the west side is entirely commercial buildings. The armory adjoins a neighboring commercial complex to its west (Photographs 1 and 2).

The armory comprises a two-story administration block, attached one-story drill hall, and a basement that extends beneath both components and rises partially above street grade. The building was constructed in 1922-1923, with alterations made to the uppermost portion of the administration block in 1929, after a December 1928 fire damaged that portion of the building, and to the uppermost portion of the rear wall of the drill hall in 1941, after a tornado hit White Bear Lake in September of that year. The armory is of an era designated as the Middle Period by the historic context *Minnesota National Guard Armory Expansion between World War I and the Great Depression (1919-1929)* (Burns and Martens 1994).

Exterior

The foundation of the building is poured concrete. The walls of the administration block, which fronts 4th Street, are faced in brown brick laid in a stretcher-bond pattern. The basement level is divided from the portion above by a water table formed of a course of projecting rowlock brick over a course of projecting soldier brick. Above, the façade is divided by brick pilasters into three bays, a wide central bay flanked on each side by a narrow bay. The pilasters, having one course of inset brick for every four courses of projecting brick, mimic the brick quoining on the three corners of the administration block visible from 4th Street and Cook Avenue (Photograph 3). The pilasters and quoining extend up to a corbelled brick architrave, above which is a brick frieze. The architrave is not present on the west wall, leaving the frieze undefined. On the façade only, the frieze contains minimal decorative brickwork, consisting of regularly spaced, rectangular insets consisting of two header bricks with three stacked stretcher bricks above and below (Photograph 4). Above the frieze on the east wall and the façade is a corbelled brick cornice, which extends to the west wall of the administration block. Above the cornice on the east and west bays of the façade and wrapping around to the east and west walls of the administration block are crenellated brick parapets that combine with the quoining and pilasters to create the impression of corner towers. Both merlons and crenels are capped with metal coping, which is also present along the roofline of the center bay. The roof is flat, and an interior brick chimney extends above it at the southeast corner of the administration block.

Wide concrete stairs with metal railings on each side and brick-faced sidewalls extend from the sidewalk on 4th Street up to the main entrance, which features wide, metal double doors, installed in the 1960s (Photograph 5). A metal panel is present above these, to make up for the loss of additional door height and transom window present in the 1920s. A skim coat has been applied to the door surround and drip molding, and the surround has been painted dark brown. The upper, horizontal portion of the surround is engraved with the word "ARMORY." Above it, a decorative stone inset has been replaced with concrete or parge coated. Globe light fixtures attached on both sides of the surround are not original but are similar

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to those present during the 1920s. The only other entrance to the building via the administration block consists of metal-framed glass double doors located at street level to the east of the concrete stairs. These doors were added during the 1990s for accessibility, in a location that previously contained two 1/1, double-hung sash windows separated by a brick mullion, as occurs in the same location on the other side of the stairs. A pre-fire postcard shows paired, 1/1, double-hung sash windows with mullions of another material in these two locations (Figure 1). The brick was added in 1929.

The replacement windows in the first and second stories of the administration block are within the original openings, which have rowlock brick sills, and they maintain the configuration present in the 1920s. On the façade, both stories feature paired, 1/1, double-hung sash windows centered in the east and west bays, and symmetrically placed, alternating paired and single, 1/1, double-hung sash windows in the center bay. The east wall has paired, 1/1, double-hung sash windows on the north and a single, 1/1, double-hung sash window on the south in both the first and second stories. The second story of the west side, which is the only portion visible above the adjacent building, contains one set of paired, 1/1, double-hung sash windows.

The drill hall is on the south side of and oriented perpendicular to the administration building. Only the east and south walls of the drill hall are visible, and these are primarily of structural clay tile. The east wall, which is brown structural clay tile, is divided into five bays by brick-faced engaged pilasters, and one more pilaster is located at the south end of the wall (Photograph 6). Each bay contains a centered, original window opening with a concrete sill, the sill added sometime between 1941 and circa 1960. Formerly occupied by paired, multi-light windows, each consisting of a centered awning window bordered on all sides by fixed panes, the openings currently contain tripled, 1/1, double-hung sash replacement windows. Two small window openings in the basement level, one each in the second and fourth bays, are infilled with concrete block. The east slope of the bowstring roof, which is covered in built-up roofing, extends beyond the wall, forming narrow eaves.

The upper portion of the south wall of the drill hall exhibits variations in building material resulting from the tornado of 1941 (Photograph 7). At approximately the base of the arched portion, the color of the structural tile shifts from red and gray to the tan and brown above it. Above the tan and brown tile is a stepped brick parapet with vitrified tile coping. On this side of the drill hall are circa-1995 wooden stairs with a central metal railing and flanking wooden railings, which lead up to centered, steel double doors. The doors are replacements but within an original opening. Symmetrically located on either side of but slightly higher than the doors are window openings with rowlock brick sills. These hold windows similar to those in the east wall, except that the outer two upper lights of each contain louvered vents. Symmetrically placed above these openings near the roof line are two more louvered vents, while centered below these openings at the basement level are small window openings, infilled with concrete block as on the east elevation.

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Interior

The first floor of the drill hall remains a single open space (Photograph 8). It features original hardwood flooring, which is marked with black paint for basketball. A trap door, which was cut into the floor in 1925, is present in the southwest portion of the floor. The walls of the drill hall are faced in painted stretcher-bond brick, following the color scheme present historically. The engaged pilasters in the east wall are mirrored on the west. The ceiling is covered in acoustic tiles, which are carried around the tie members of the steel ceiling trusses, masking them. As indicated by a 1923 newspaper article referencing the funding to complete the ceiling, a 1928 newspaper article referencing the ceiling as composition board, and a 1973 photograph of the drill hall interior (Figure 2), the structural framework of the drill hall roof has not been exposed except for a few months pending the covering of the ceiling in the summer of 1923. Centered between the tie members are fluorescent lights, and basketball hoops are installed on the tie members of the outermost trusses. A staircase with metal railings leading to the second floor of the administration block has been added in the northwest corner of the hall. Underneath the staircase in the north wall is a door to the first floor of the administration block. In the center of the north wall are steel double doors surrounded by brick infill under a rowlock lintel indicative of a once larger opening. Additional brick infill is evident in two openings at the east end of the north wall (Photograph 9). Plans showing existing conditions in 1995 indicate that these were previously a doorway, probably with a transom window above given the height of the infill, and a small vent opening a few feet to its west.

In the basement of the drill hall, the former shooting range extends along its west side. It is now used for the storage of a variety of items by the White Bear Lake Lions Club, whose offices are located in the basement of the administration block (see below). An added wall with a doorway bisects the range, the northern half of which has been carpeted and the southern half of which has had its floor covered in plywood, and the entirety of which has had the walls and ceiling covered in sheet rock. Its length and linearity, however, remain evident (Photograph 10). A sliding door at the south end of the east wall of the range leads to the storage area accessed from above by the trap door. The storage area, which extends under the remainder of the drill hall, features concrete posts, substantial wood beams, an open ceiling, and a dirt floor (Photograph 11).

At the north end of the shooting range is a door leading to an office situated in the southwest corner of the basement level of the administration block. On the other side of this office on the north is the former munitions room, which has concrete block walls and a concrete floor (Photograph 12). Located in the northwest corner of the administration block, it is now used for records storage. Off the east side of the office and munitions room is the office of the Lions Club. East of the south end of the Lions Club Office is a storage room, and east from the storage room, in the east end of the basement of the administration block, is the furnace room. East from the north end of the Lions Club office is the elevator shaft added in 1995, and on its north, a stairway that leads up to the east. At the top of the stairs is a landing, also added

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in 1995, which is accessed through the street level door of the administration block. The landing provides access to the elevator and a set of stairs to the first floor¹.

When entering the first floor of the administration block through the main entrance, one faces a short, wide hallway, at the end of which are the doors to the drill hall (Photograph 13). Immediately on the east are a stairwell and the elevator shaft. The width of the hallway has been very slightly reduced by the wall of the elevator shaft, but is original beyond that. The rooms behind the east and west walls of the hallway have been reconfigured. South of the elevator shaft is another stairwell down to the landing, and south of that stairwell is a hallway that leads to restrooms. Starting again at the main entrance, immediately on the west is a recess containing a door that leads to a storage room, beyond which is a catering kitchen, located along the west side of the administration block. The kitchen connects to the drill hall via the previously mentioned door on the west end of its north wall. To the south of the recess along the west wall of the short, wide entrance hall is a door leading to a supply closet, beyond which is another door leading to a small office. In other words, the west walls of the closet and the office correspond to the east wall of the storage room. This arrangement represents a change in the circulation pattern since the 1960s, which based on the description of work done at that time, would not have been different from the 1920s on the first floor ("Rehabilitation of the National Guard Armory at White Bear Lake, Minnesota" dated December 30, 1958, Minnesota Office of the Adjutant General, Armory Records, held at the Minnesota Historical Society [Armory Records]). With regard to the change in circulation, the hallway to the restrooms, for example, was formerly occupied by part of the stairway system, and a stairway on the east was not present immediately upon entering the building; instead, a room was located there (Figure 3). The recess was not present on the west; instead, a room extended all the way to the hallway, which could be entered by a door immediately to the west upon entry. Materials in these renovated spaces are from 1995 and include rubber flooring and sheetrock walls with beadboard wainscoting in the public access spaces, sheetrock walls and a tile floor in the kitchen, sheetrock walls and a linoleum floor in the storage room, and the concrete block with exposed aggregate that surrounds the elevator shaft.

The second floor of the administration block contains two offices, one along the west side and one along the east side, both of which are currently used by the White Bear Lake Area Historical Society. These two rooms appear generally as they were after the 1963 renovations to the second floor (see Figure 3). Outside of and between the offices is a single open space, in approximately the center of which is the elevator shaft and adjacent stairwell, located along the south side of the shaft. As on the first floor, the stairwell replaces the original, which historically was along the south wall, south of where it is today. A walkway runs around all four sides of the elevator shaft and stairwell. On the sides of the walkway adjacent to the stairwell is a metal railing for the prevention of falls. The second floor appears more dated than the first, with 1960s-era pressed-wood paneling remaining behind forced heating units along the lower portion of the north wall of the center section and linoleum flooring in the west office (Photographs 14 and 15).

¹ It is noted that since the renovation of the armory in 1995, the basement level is referred to as the first floor, the landing as the second floor, the original first floor of the armory as the third floor, and the original second floor of the armory as the fourth floor. This description refers to the floors as they were originally designed.

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Discussion of Integrity

The White Bear Lake Armory is in the place where it was constructed, at the edge of downtown White Bear Lake. Historically, primarily commercial buildings were to the west, and single-family homes to the east, a condition which remains today. Although a few of the commercial buildings in the vicinity are modern, they are not out of scale with earlier commercial buildings, and therefore do not greatly alter the character of the armory's surroundings. Alterations to the lot upon which the armory is located include the addition of parking spaces at the south edge of the lot and plantings in the front portion of the lot, most notably of trees that were placed directly in front of the building during the modern era. Because they obstruct portions of the façade, these trees, along with those added curbside in front of the armory, somewhat diminish the integrity of setting and association, but the condition could easily be reversed. The White Bear Lake Armory therefore has excellent integrity of location and good integrity of setting and association.

The key elements of National Guard armory design from the late 1870s through the 1940s were masonry construction; a visually dominant, aesthetically expressive administration block; and a spatially dominant, functionally essential attached drill hall. From an exterior perspective, all three of these design elements are readily evident, and the materials and workmanship are largely unaltered from the 1920s. With regard specifically to the Middle Period (1919-1929), which aesthetically bridged the gap between the strongly castellated, medieval revival armories of the pre-1919 era and the clean simplicity of the Art Moderne armories built after 1929 (see Statement of Significance), Burns and Martens (1994:14-15) outlined specific design elements of significance in Minnesota National Guard armories. Many of these elements were incorporated into the White Bear Lake Armory and remain readily evident on its exterior:

- The two-part distinction in massing as noted for the broader period of armory design, and the omission of a one-story vehicle service bay that would compromise the two-part form;
- The restrained or residual use of medieval motifs through the three-bay façade with corner "tower" elements expressed in masonry relief, the crenellations, and the brick quoining;
- The use of face brick on the exterior of the administration block and a common brick-and-tile treatment on the drill hall;
- Engaged pilasters on the drill hall;
- Aesthetic coherence in proportion and fenestration; and
- Evidence of the transition from the emphasis on stylistic expression toward an engineered efficiency or utilitarian handling of material and form, through its combination of medieval motifs with simple lines, symmetry in its fenestration, and subdued decoration, the latter limited to the door surround and the architrave and frieze.

The portion of the east wall damaged by the 1941 tornado was replaced with in-kind materials. Although courses of brick were added to the south wall at that time, this small addition created only a minor visual change and slight increase in height and only on the rear, infrequently viewed wall of the building. The

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change to this wall of the drill hall does not affect the aesthetics of the administration block or alter the armory's reflection of its function.

Other exterior alterations to materials and design have occurred in the windows and front entry of the building. In the administration block, nearly all of the windows have been replaced, but with windows of the same type and in the same configuration within the original openings. The exception is where one set of windows on the ground floor was replaced with the accessible entrance, but because the double doors mimic the location of the paired sash, the symmetrical arrangement of the windows on the façade essentially is maintained. Although the replacement windows in the main level of the drill hall, of a different type and operation and with added concrete sills, and the infill of the basement windows constitute a diminishment in the integrity of materials and design, the basement level windows are so few and small that they do not strongly register visually, and the changes effected by the main-level windows are somewhat mitigated by the retention of the original openings. With regard to the front entry, the doors were replaced by the National Guard in 1963. The surround was skim-coated and painted, and the sidewalls of the staircase were lowered to accommodate the installation of hand railings at an unknown date. Still, the entry generally retains its original form and appearance. Overall, the alterations to the windows and entry do not strongly detract from the overall aesthetics of or have a modernizing effect on the appearance of the building.

Only three design elements of significance are identified by Burns and Martens (1994:14-5) for the interior of Middle-Period armories, two of which do not affect the integrity of the armory, as it never incorporated the elements described (see Statement of Significance). The third is the presence of historic premanufactured or custom-designed fixtures such as lights, millwork, or mechanical devices.

The integrity of design, materials, and workmanship within the interior of the administration block has been compromised by renovations carried out in the 1960s and 1990s, as described above, including the apparent elimination of any fixtures dating to the Middle Period, most materials from that time, and the original circulation pattern. Still, the axial symmetry of the plan of the main level remains intact, and because the administration block overall is still primarily occupied by office spaces, its original functional intent has not been completely erased. More importantly, because the primary design consideration of the armory administration block was the exterior (see Statement of Significance), the condition of its interior alone would not be enough to negate the overall ability of the White Bear Lake Armory to convey its significance.

On the interior, despite the presence of replacement light fixtures, the integrity of design, materials, and workmanship in the drill hall is good, bolstered by the fact that the main level of the drill hall remains a singular open space with original wood floors and brick-faced walls, and a ceiling that is closed as it was historically, except by acoustic tiles instead of composite board. While an open staircase has been installed in one corner and a few infill locations are within the north wall, this level is largely intact and conveys its former functions as a drill hall and sometimes community gathering space.

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Integrity of feeling is by and large an outgrowth of the other six aspects of integrity, as it is only logical that the greater the retention of a property's composition, surroundings, and associations from a given historical period, the more the property will evoke the feeling of that period. As can be surmised, therefore, from the discussion of the other six aspects, the White Bear Lake Armory retains good integrity of feeling.

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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

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1923-1929

Significant Dates

1923

1929

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Philip Charles (P.C.) Bettenburg - Architect

T. L. Bourquin - Builder

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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 White Bear Lake Armory is one of 26 Minnesota National Guard armories that were constructed during the 1920s as part of a general effort by the Guard to accommodate increased membership after the National Defense Act of 1920. Architecturally, National Guard armory design during this decade marked a transition between the heavy, castellated buildings built prior to World War I and the lighter Art Deco and Art Moderne designs of the federal-relief era. The White Bear Lake Armory strongly reflects the transitional-period convention of retaining mild stylistic references to the preceding castellated era, but as elements of substantially more restrained designs, and it is one of but a few that achieves this effect in Minnesota. The White Bear Lake Armory is significant as an excellent local example of the state's Middle-Period or "transitional" armory architecture. The period of significance is from 1923 to 1929. This period encompasses the completion of the armory in 1923, interior improvements made in 1925, and the completion of alterations to the exterior of the uppermost portion of the administration block in 1929.

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

The White Bear Lake Armory is associated with the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) thematic context *State Owned Buildings: Armories*, which follows the historic context "Armories and Camp Ripley Military Reservation" (Murphy 1986), and with the historic context "Minnesota National Guard Armory Expansion between World War I and the Great Depression (1919-1929)" (Burns and Martens 1994).

National Guard Armory Construction in the U.S., 1877-1960s

The first National Guard armory to embody the concept of the building type as it is known today, a two-part, multipurpose building intended to not only store arms and equipment, but also to provide training space, administrative space, a clubhouse, and a point of assembly for mobilization, was constructed by New York's Seventh Regiment between 1877 and 1881 (Todd 2006:2). In prior years, munitions storage was often accommodated by armories that followed the traditional, more rigid definition of a building dedicated to the manufacture, repair, and storage of arms, also known as arsenals, or by armories that, while serving multiple functions, were not uniform with regard to the functions included. In fact, numerous pre-1877 armories incorporated commercial or other public, non-military spaces, with the latter located at street level. On the whole, therefore, armories constructed prior to 1877 were characterized by inconsistency in form, layout, construction, and stylistic conventions (Everett 1994:5-7; Todd 2006:1-2). When the Seventh Regiment's armory was constructed, it set the standard for state militia armories as self-contained, military buildings. Further, it solidified the basic elements of armory architecture into the 1940s: masonry construction; a visually dominant, aesthetically expressive multi-story administration block, or head house; and a spatially dominant, functionally essential attached drill hall, or drill shed (Everett 1994:14; Todd

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2006:2-3). Beyond these elements, armory architecture would experience distinct stylistic shifts over time based on prevalent societal perceptions and architectural trends.

In the years after the Civil War, the Second Industrial Revolution created unprecedented inequality in the distribution of wealth and uneven class relations on the basis of power over labor. Growing, increasingly vocal discontent in the working class fueled fears among the well-to-do of all-out class warfare and the resultant destruction of the sociopolitical status quo. These fears were exacerbated by the Great Railroad Strike of 1877, which suggested to many Americans that the United States was as vulnerable as any other countries to class-based uprisings (Fogelson 1989:21, 24-25). Although the national consensus was that the state militias had made an incredibly poor showing with regard to their organization, conduct, and effectiveness in breaking the strike, the larger response was a call for reform rather than replacement by professional military forces (Fogelson 1989:38-40). In the name of reform, armory buildings fully appointed with a drill hall; weapons, ammunition, equipment, and uniform storage; and social/recreational spaces were promoted as necessary to attract, retain, train, and prepare guardsmen. This notion was quickly accepted, at least by those many Americans with an interest in having strikes broken (Fogelson 1989:44-47). New York's Seventh Regiment, a unit that performed well during the railroad strike, took advantage of the newly found sentiment regarding armories to complete what had been, until that point, an only moderately successful fundraising effort for its new armory. Other state-militia units throughout the country would follow suit, with both the private sector and state legislatures making available money they previously had not seen reason to allocate (Fogelson 1989:55-59, 66-68).

In this atmosphere, National Guard armories, no longer randomly integrated with commercial operations or fraternal halls, were designed to not only function as dedicated military buildings but to look like dedicated military buildings. In the later part of the nineteenth century, as labor strikes requiring peacekeeping forces were on the rise, "the armory was supposed to help prevent troublemakers from joining in riots and other uprisings. It had to look formidable. It had to evoke a sense of fear and awe, to symbolize the might of the state, and to convey its willingness to use force to maintain order" (Fogelson 1989:211; Everett 1994:13). To this end, armories built between 1880 and 1900 were almost entirely in what is termed the castellated style, inspired by the medieval military castles and fortresses of twelfth- through fifteenth-century Europe. Translation to late nineteenth-century National Guard armories resulted in buildings that appeared as architectural anachronisms, located as they were within developed city neighborhoods, with features such as battered foundations, battlements, turrets, towers, machicolations, and sally ports (Fogelson 1989; Everett 1994:15-17; Todd 2006:4). While the use of drill halls for nonmilitary public gatherings occurred within these buildings prior to 1900, approval for such use was rare (Fogelson 1989:208).

After 1900, changes in the perception of threats to the nation's well-being and in the functioning of the National Guard brought about functional and stylistic revisions in armories. Specifically, violent class warfare was no longer a fear in the minds of most U.S. citizens, as by the early twentieth century, participants in labor conflicts on the sides of both capital and labor were generally willing to engage in and make

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concessions to facilitate peaceful mediation. It was replaced by the fear of foreign warfare, catalyzed by increased U.S. involvement in foreign affairs, the Spanish-American War, and the European tensions that precipitated World War I. As the need for reserves to bolster the strength of the regular Army became evident around the turn of the twentieth century, National Guard leaders argued for the Guard to fill this role, leading to the Dick Act of 1903. By this act, the Guard became the backup for the regular Army and therefore subject to federal as well as state control. As it embraced this new role, the Guard was slowly but surely phased out of policing industrial disputes, and its domestic peacekeeping focus was replaced by those of military preparedness and emergency aid (Fogelson 1989:213-217). With the change in the functioning of the Guard came a reconceptualization of armories as combined military and community buildings. Allowing the rental of armory space provided the Guard with a way to generate goodwill and support in local communities as well as revenue, and in fact the potential for public use was a common platform upon which the Guard promoted the building of new armories during the twentieth century (Fogelson 1989:209; Todd 2006:248).

Accordingly, the castellated style gradually fell out of use in armory architecture, as it was not desirable for a force engaged in protecting, assisting, and accommodating citizens to intimidate them. Nationally, few castellated armories were built after 1910, around which year one newspaper made reference to the "light and decorative purpose for which an armory is intended" (*San Francisco Call* 1912), reflecting the extent to which the identity of armories had changed. While many armories of the 1910s and 1920s were designed to allude to medieval military architecture, with the retention of features such as crenellated parapets, such features were ornamental instead of practical, and they were integrated into designs that were considerably less heavy and imposing than those of their predecessors. In other armories, the castellated style was abandoned altogether in favor of Classical Revival, early Art Deco, or other designs responding to popular architectural trends of the 1910s and 1920s (Fogelson 1989:189-196; Everett 1994:23-26, 29-30).

In the latter decade, whether referencing the castellated style or expressing an architectural trend, new armory buildings were, in general, much more visually restrained. The country was weary of military affairs after World War I and therefore less inclined to provide, time, money, or other resources to the building of elaborate armories. In New York, armory building was on a near-total hiatus between 1920 and 1930 for this reason (Everett 1994:33; Todd 2006:243). Yet, with the full federalization of the National Guard and its reorganization as one of three formal components of the U.S. Army under the National Defense Acts of 1916 and 1920, the Guard pushed for new armory construction throughout the country and was successful in many other states (Fogelson 1989:189; Everett 1994:30). As more armories were built with less financial backing and public interest, designs were simplified and sometimes replicated in multiple locations. Administration blocks, no longer requiring an imposing façade, "became less prominent, often being overshadowed by a very high, arched drill hall roof, which gave [armory buildings] a more modern, less military appearance" (Everett 1994:30-31).

The combination of New Deal funding, a need for associated projects, and the emergence of Adolf Hitler into the German political arena reinvigorated support for armory building and created a swell of armory

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construction and reconstruction nationally in the 1930s and early 1940s. While the Public Works Administration (PWA) and the Works Progress Administration (WPA) both ordered continued architectural simplicity, in part the implication was continued avoidance of the castellated style. Many armories built under federal-relief programs, although they did not approach the excesses of their late nineteenth-century predecessors, certainly outshined the armories of the 1920s with regard to aesthetics and architectural expression, chiefly occurring in the Art Deco and Art Moderne veins. Others, however, retained the austerity of the prior period. These were typically smaller, single-unit armories, the austerity of which in some cases resulted from the extension of the practice of using a limited number of basic designs in multiple locations (Everett 1994:34-41).

This practice reached new heights in the post-World War II era, with the passage of Public Law 783, also known as the National Defense Facilities Act of 1950, by which the Department of Defense would shoulder 75 percent of the cost for constructing new armories, still more of which were needed for the projected expansion of the country's reserve forces. With federal funding came a standardized plan for a Modern, flat-roofed, clean-lined, one-story building, institutional in appearance and efficiently constructed, which was repeated in numerous locations throughout the U.S. with slight, where any, variations over the next two decades (Everett 1994:43; Wieger 2012:105, 108-112).

National Guard Armory Construction in Minnesota, 1920-1929

According to a 1930 inventory of Minnesota's armories conducted for the National Guard as summarized in the historic context study "Minnesota National Guard Armory Expansion between World War I and the Great Depression (1919-1929)" (Burns and Martens 1994:Table 5²), combined with data contained in construction journals and various state legislative reports from the 1920s and confirmed through Sanborn Map Company fire insurance maps, 26 armories were newly constructed in the state during the 1920s, all between 1920 and 1924. These are referred to today as Middle-Period armories, the Early Period armories pre-dating World War I, and the Late Period post-dating 1929 (Burns and Martens 1994:8-9). The need for these armories was created by the National Defense Act of 1920, which "necessitated a complete new allotment of troops and allocation of units to the National Guard" (Rhinow 1922:6). In Minnesota, the reorganization resulted in an increase from 3,267 National Guard members in June of 1920, the month that the act was passed, to 5,024 members in June of 1921 (United States, National Guard Bureau 1921:92). In response, the Minnesota State Legislature approved a total of \$650,000 in 1921 and 1922 for the construction of 23 new armories, which were largely completed by the middle of January 1923 (Murphy 1986:69). Approval of funding for the other three armories likely came shortly after the original appropriations were approved.

Most of these new armories were destined for smaller communities, many of which lacked community space and wanted the buildings for that purpose, as well as a point of civic pride. To be considered for an armory,

² It is noted that the Red Wing Armory is listed as newly built in 1925 in the Burns and Martens report of 1994. Although the third story had to be removed and the interior of the lower two stories rebuilt after the armory was gutted by fire in 1925, it does not represent an entirely new build.

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a community had to raise a company; provide \$1,000 of funding to go along with the \$25,000 that was allotted to each armory by the State; and donate land for the building site. Competition arose between some cities and towns as they raced to meet the conditions and secure an armory before their rivals. After doing so, however, many discovered that the State allocation was not enough to incorporate all the features hoped for with regard to civic functions, and plans had to be scaled back until such time as the community could raise additional money. In other locations, disappointment was staved off by city contributions well above the required \$1,000; both Dawson and Jackson, for example, put up around \$20,000 to get the buildings they wanted (*White Bear Press* 1922a, 1922b; Burns and Martens 1994:19-21). However they were initially constructed, armories often presented enough of an improvement over previously available facilities that they were regularly used for public events, resulting in "the armories becoming real community centers and close co-operation between the National Guard units and the communities" (Minnesota Legislative Manual, 1925, quoted in Murphy 1986:69).

Ten architectural firms engaged in the design of 24 newly built Minnesota armories completed between 1920 and 1923, with multiple commissions going to Lang, Raugland and Lewis (7), Brown and Frazer (6), and Dennis and Knowles (4). By and large, the armories designed by these architects, as built, avoided reference to the medieval, most appearing as clean-lined buildings with strong stylistic restraint (Figures 4 through 6). Lang, Raugland and Lewis' armories were absent of medieval revival features, the firm choosing Romanesque Revival when adopting a historical reference, as it did in limited fashion in its armories at Dawson and Worthington. Of Dennis and Knowles' armories, only the one at Long Prairie alluded to the castellated era, which it did mildly through a sally port and projecting square corners that evoke towers. Brown and Frazer's armory at Montevideo, with its sally port, castellated parapet, and buttresses, is the 1920s' strongest allusion to the castellated style, while the firm's armory at Aitkin features a corbelled parapet with minor machicolations on projecting exterior bays reminiscent of towers. Other than these instances, the armories assigned to the three firms appear as what Burns and Martens (1994:25) term "stylistically 'unsophisticated'."

Burns and Martens' (1994:24-25) context study argues that the vernacular nature of the buildings in the latter category was due not to the intention of the architects to wade into Modernism, but rather, it was a result of budgetary constraints. Because many of the architects' drawings indicated more medieval elements than were actually incorporated into the physical construct, the "transitional" period, they suggest, was not as much about moving from medieval to Moderne as it was about the transition of power from the architect to military planners, with design intentions [to continue familiar medieval or Romanesque Revival features] countermanded by increased emphasis on standardization and economy" (Burns and Martens 1994:24). Citing an evident inattention to beauty and proportion in the more vernacular of the Middle-Period armories which would not occur during the 1930s, Burns and Martens (1994:25) note, "In short, most Minnesota armory buildings from the 1920s do not intentionally reject stylistic precedents in favor of some new manifesto. Rather, they aspire to an academic style but fall short of it in their execution."

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The built expression, however, of these armories was in all likelihood the result of both. Although medieval details may have been included in the architects' drawings, none of the proposed buildings approached the heaviness, ostentation, or clear imitation of castles exhibited by their overtly medieval counterparts that preceded them during the 1910s, such as the New Ulm and Rochester armories, or prior, such as the Kenwood Parkway armory in Minneapolis (Figure 7). Whatever the reasons, as a group, the armories completed in Minnesota between 1920 and 1923 were relatively simple and quiet in their countenance, which continued to be the case for the two armories completed in 1924, the final two of the decade.

Of the two armories completed in 1924, one, the Hutchinson Armory, was designed by Kenyon, Maine and Brown (Clarence J. Brown, formerly of Brown and Frazer), and the other, at Ortonville, by Philip Charles (P. C.) Bettenburg, who also designed the White Bear Lake Armory. The White Bear Lake and Ortonville armories were strongly similar, simply detailed with low, stepped parapets; quoins on the administration block; non-recessed entries with contrasting door surrounds; brick pilasters dividing the bays of the drill hall walls; and the drill hall oriented perpendicular to the administration block (Figure 8; see Figure 1). The Hutchinson armory, in the same vein, had a low, stepped parapet and incorporated brick pilasters on the drill hall, but it also incorporated contrasting stringcourses and had the drill hall oriented parallel to the administration block, which gave an impression of horizontality that did not occur with the Bettenburg armories (Figure 9). The Hutchinson Armory has the distinction of being the last Minnesota National Guard armory designed by a firm not associated with P. C. Bettenburg until at least 1964, if not 1968, when he passed away (Letter from P. C. Bettenburg & Co. to Colonel Lewis W. Prentiss, dated September 21, 1948; P. C. Bettenburg and Co. contracts; both located in the Adjutant General's Office Records, Correspondence Files, held at the Minnesota Military Museum Archives).

Bettenburg, whose "Army service began in 1918 when he joined a special unit" (*Minneapolis Star* 1968), was a career officer in the National Guard, eventually becoming commander of the 47th Infantry in 1954, a position he held until he retired in January of 1958 (Johnson n.d.:4). His status as a Guard member allowed him to obtain armory commissions first through his firm, P. C. Bettenburg & Co., and then through its successor, Bettenburg Townsend, and Stolte, formed in 1943, which became Bettenburg, Townsend, Stolte and Comb in 1951 (James T. White & Company 1964:345). After the Ortonville Armory was completed, Bettenburg's armory work through the remainder of the 1920s consisted of additions to the armories in Milaca, Aitkin, and Montevideo, and the designs for the reconstruction of the armories in Red Wing and White Bear Lake, which suffered fires in 1925 and 1928, respectively (Burns and Martens 1994:Table 5). When the next wave of armory building in Minnesota occurred during the federal-relief era, Bettenburg produced among the most laudable architectural designs for armories in the Midwest. These were in the PWA Moderne style, and are best exemplified by the Minneapolis Armory, which has been referred to as the "queen of New Deal-era armories" (Everett 1994:41) and "the purest expression of PWA Moderne design on a large scale" ("The Minneapolis Armory Reuse Study, 1990, quoted in Everett 1994:39).

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The White Bear Lake Armory

In July of 1921, the *White Bear Press (Press)* reported that the city of White Bear Lake was in line to receive a National Guard armory if it could raise a company, but at that time it was largely a matter of hearsay, and therefore few details were available. It was not until the following year that the wheels were set in motion for the organization of a headquarters company, which articles in the *Press* suggest was driven by the desire of the Guard more so than of the city. The paper noted on February 9, 1922, that "Sergeant H. W. Clark, headquarters company, Minnesota National Guard, has been doing some work in the city all week interesting the citizens in the organization of this unit," but acknowledged one week later, "We are so shortly rid of war that the thought of anything military is disagreeable to many" (*Press* 1922a, 1922c). Like the rest of the country, White Bear Lake was weary of military affairs in the aftermath of World War I. Still, the city was not totally averse to having a Guard company, as the plan was backed by approval of the city council and pledges of support from the local elite. By February 25, the enlistment threshold of 41 recruits had been reached, and the city was on its way to having an armory (*Press* 1922a, 1922d).

In late April, P. C. Bettenburg, on behalf of the National Guard, attended a meeting of the city council to address the city's provision of \$1,000 and a building site for the new armory. The council proposed connecting the armory to a new fire station or auditorium but learned that neither one of these could be achieved within the standard cost parameters. Between this meeting and one the following week, again attended by Bettenburg, the \$1,000 had been raised in pledges by community members, but a site was still under debate. The issue was resolved at the council meeting of May 9, when a petition was presented by the owners of properties near Fourth Street and Cook Avenue for locating the armory at that intersection adjacent to the existing auditorium, on a residential property for which the cost of purchase had already been obtained and on which an option had already been taken. Further, it would provide the benefit of eliminating the view of what was considered an unattractive exterior wall of the auditorium. Recommendations for the use of this property and Bettenburg as architect were submitted to the Minnesota National Guard Armory Board and approved by the same the following week. While Bettenburg was working on plans for the new building, the house then located on its site was moved to a new lot (*Press* 1922e, 1922f, 1922g, 1922h, 1922i).

With the plans completed near the end of June, the armory lot was cleared, and construction began in July with T. L. Bourquin as the contractor (*Press* 1922j, 1922k, 1922l). In September, the cornerstone was laid with great circumstance, on the same day as that for White Bear Lake's new Masonic Temple, so that "members of the city council, visiting officers, Masons, Oddfellows, representatives of the White Bear post of the American Legion, and members of the National Guard" (*Press* 1922m) were in attendance at both ceremonies. Although the interior was not yet fully furnished, construction of the armory was completed in late January/early February of 1923. Upon its completion, the National Guard, in cooperation with the American Legion Post, hosted the building's first community event, a three-night indoor carnival that would raise money for furnishing the armory's club room, to be used by both groups (*Press* 1923a). The formal opening of the armory, already considered "one of the points of city pride" (*Press* 1923b) took place on

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February 27, with Governor J. A. O. Preus; National Guard officers, including P.C. Bettenburg; and White Bear Lake Mayor Earl Jackson all presenting speeches (*Press* 1923c).

Completion of the interior got underway in the summer of 1923 after a bill was passed by the state legislature in April providing an additional \$4,500 for that purpose, with the most important components being a rifle range in the basement and a ceiling in the drill hall, the latter of which would be of composition board (*Press* 1923d, 1923e; 1928a). For reasons unknown, however, the appropriation was held back, leaving these elements and others either unfinished or not finished well. An inspection by the Armory Board found several deficiencies in the conditions of and facilities present in the building, which began to be addressed after the appropriation was finally released in 1925. Reversal of these deficiencies included:

... partitioning off a property room in the basement for the security of clothing, and the building in of cupboards. The range was also finished in good style. The ceiling of the drill hall which was in bad condition was repaired. The club room walls and ceiling as well as those of the foyer, have been tinted and the Auxiliary ladies are making curtains for the windows. A loading platform has been erected at the rear door and a trap door cut in the floor and a runway into the basement has been constructed for the storing of the carts and various impediments. The showers have been repaired, windows have been repaired, toilets placed in good condition.

There still is some work to be done on the plumbing and on the boiler. A gas stove and sink are to be placed in the club room.

There are some repairs to be made on the roof, but that work comes under a state contract [*Press* 1925a].

As with many armories of the 1920s, the public made frequent use of the White Bear Lake Armory either by renting it for special events or attendance at Guard-sponsored fundraisers aimed at maintenance of the building and the unit. Both types of events most commonly occurred as dances, but other activities included concerts, roller skating, appearances by Santa Claus, carnivals, and sporting events (*Press* 1923f, 1923g, 1924, 1925b, 1926a, 1926b, 1927a). The White Bear Lake citizenry's enthusiasm for occupying the armory, however, apparently did not extend from the civilian to the military aspect. In late 1923, the Guard had replaced the headquarters company at White Bear Lake with a Howitzer company, a specialized artillery unit that required 60 members. Unable to keep up with the necessary number of enlistments, the city found itself faced with the potential closure of the armory a mere four years after its opening (*Press* 1927b, 1927c). Ultimately, in January of 1928, the decision was made to bring back a headquarters company and keep the armory open, even though it was already once again considered "run down and in bad shape" (*Press* 1928b).

However poor its condition at that time, it would not approximate that resulting after fire was set to the building on the morning of December 7, 1928, ravaging the administration block. The drill hall, minus some

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minor smoke and water damage, was spared thanks to the brick wall which separated the two sections of the armory (*Press* 1928c, 1929a). A bill for an emergency appropriation to repair the armory was submitted by White Bear Lake's state representatives in January and approved, but some delay was encountered when Bettenburg's design for the administration block resulted in construction bids greater than the allotted amount of \$12,850 and therefore required revisions, including the removal of a proposed balcony (*Press* 1929b, 1929c). Work commenced in July or August of 1929, the *Press* (1929d) noting soon after, "The exterior of the building has been greatly improved by the building up of the front several feet with battlements on the corners, giving a castle or parapet effect." Other noteworthy features of the restoration were new doors with a stone surround on the front of the administration block, new steel doors on the back of the drill hall, green paint on the exterior window casings, and overall improvements in the layout and furnishing of interior spaces, including a spacious, second-floor club room with kitchen and radio room (*Press* 1929e) (Figure 10).

The armory had its formal reopening, promoted as "a big series of whoopee for three nights" (*Press* 1929f), from October 31st through November 2nd. Attendance at the event was low enough for the *Press* (1929g) to deem it unsuccessful, noting the absence of the older residents of the town and stating, "The Headquarters company members will now entertain themselves digging out of their hole—and undoubtedly wonder if the people care whether we have an Armory or not." In December, the *Press* announced the opening of roller skating three nights a week in the building and the IOOF's New Year's Eve ball, the latter faring somewhat better than the formal reopening, as a "good crowd" turned out and the lodge "just about broke even financially, which was good, considering there were many other parties that evening" (*Press* 1930). The mention of attendance at "many other parties" is indicative that the White Bear Lake Armory did not function as strongly as a community center as did those in other communities.

A review of the *Press* for the years 1930 through 1945 showed that while for some years during the Great Depression, the Corn and Potato Show, which was a large, annual fair, was held there, it was moved to St. John's parish hall at least once, in 1933; and while occasionally groups would host special events such as dances, lectures, Christmas parties, rallies, or meetings there during the Great Depression, the armory appears to have been less frequently used than other locations in the city, such as the aforementioned parish hall, the high school, and City Hall, for these types of events. The American Legion and its Ladies Auxiliary, of course, had club rooms there and would hold open houses, card parties, or rummage sales, but the armory did not stand out in terms of providing for the social or recreational needs of the city. Speaking to this notion was the fact that in 1935, though the project would not be realized, the WPA offered the city partial funding towards the building of a community center. And if the Armory lacked identity as the city's community center during the Depression, it was all but absent after the Headquarters Company was placed on active duty in December of 1940, through World War II, which required that the building be used primarily for military purposes. In February of 1945, the *Press* stated:

It is being talked about in all quarters of this city that what we need more than anything else is a Civic Center, a place where we can have dinners, entertainments, social or business

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occasions, something which it does not have now. It should be central and have a capacity of accommodating at least 300 . . . where public meetings can be held, where the various organizations can meet, where good, wholesome entertainment, carnivals and such may be held, a real Civic Center for everybody to enjoy.

The building was more successful in its military purpose, as membership in the Guard unit remained at an operational level from 1929 forward.

On September 4, 1941, eight months after the company had been ordered into federal service (*Press* 1941), the Armory suffered a second damaging event when a tornado went through White Bear Lake, primarily impacting the roof of the drill hall (Figure 11). A letter from then-Acting Adjutant General J. E. Nelson to the Minnesota Department of Administration (September 9, 1941) and a memorandum prepared by N. C. Bettenburg of P. C. Bettenburg & Company (September 17, 1941) indicate that, specifically, the roof had lifted along the south and east walls of the drill hall, and both the parapet on the south wall and a 70-by-10-foot section of the east slope of the roof had fully come off, the latter carrying with it two 20-foot sections of wall plates, the anchor bolts of which ripped tile and brick from the top of the east wall. In addition, five stone caps located along approximately one foot of the parapet and some built-up roofing were taken off of the administration block. Recommended repairs beyond in-kind replacements included improved bonding measures for the east wall, the addition of a metal gravel stop to the east edge of the roof to protect it from future lifting by the wind, adding additional courses of brick to the top of the south wall to create a parapet, which would allow for "proper metal flashing" to be installed, and capping the parapet with vitrified tile coping (Armory Records).

In 1960, the interior of the second floor of the administration block was remodeled by the addition of walls to provide for three classrooms, which also included the replacement of the kitchen sink in a different location, lighting and electrical improvements, heating improvements, and "complete decoration of remodeled areas" ("Rehabilitation of the National Guard Armory at White Bear Lake, Minnesota" dated December 30, 1958, Armory Records). In 1963, new front entrance doors were installed (memorandum from Lieutenant Colonel John W. Hohncke to Colonel Leon H. Hagen, August 1, 1963, Armory Records). Despite this later work, the armory was still an older building with condition issues, and in the early 1970s it was announced that White Bear Lake was in the queue for a new armory building to be built later in the decade. The announcement, however was met with a lukewarm response due to a combination of the cost to the city and the opinion that due to other options, an armory was not necessary as a community facility (*Press* 1973). A new armory was never built. Circa 1990, all windows in the building were replaced and a new heating system was installed (*Press* 1992).

In 1992, after the Pentagon ordered the National Guard to reduce its forces and the state of Minnesota ordered the National Guard to assess whether cost savings could be realized by closing any of its armories, the White Bear Lake Armory was selected for closure. Its selection was based on insufficient space for monthly training with no room to expand, the cost of projected repairs, and its lack of accessibility

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accommodations (*Press* 1992). The building was turned over to the City of White Bear Lake in the fall of that year. In 1995, a major renovation replaced the front stairway; constructed an elevator, new restrooms, and a small kitchen in the administration block; and made accessibility, electrical, and ventilation upgrades (*Press* 1995). Today, the city continues to use the drill hall for community events and rent it out for numerous functions, while the administration block is home to the offices and research library of the White Bear Lake Area Historical Society, and the offices for the local Lions Club.

In 1993, in commenting on the draft of Burns and Martens' historic context study, the SHPO indicated that because the 1920s armories form a cohesive group based on their transitional nature, and the period in which they were built marked "the most intensive expansion of state-owned armory buildings throughout the state . . . some examples from this period should be evaluated as significant, regardless of how restrained the overall styles of the period were" (Letter dated October 20, 1993, Britta L. Blomberg, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer to Lieutenant Colonel Wayne A. Johnson, Minnesota Army National Guard, on file at the SHPO), citing the White Bear Lake Armory as "among the best representatives of the period."

As noted in the Narrative Description, the historic context study identified several attributes to be evaluated in determining the significance of Minnesota's Middle-Period armories under Criterion C. These are as follows (Burns and Martens 1994:14-15, 66):

- 1) Restrained or "residual" use of medieval revival motifs:
 - a. Three-bay façade with corner "tower" elements expressed in masonry relief
 - b. Use of semi-circular or pointed arches at the principal entrance for emphasis.
 - c. A degree of "stylistic mixing" is to be expected in vernacular examples that draw upon high-style precedents
 - d. Restrained or suppressed use of detail features like crenellations or quoining in stone, cast concrete, or brick
- 2) Organization of spaces with clear distinction in massing
 - a. Differentiation between "front of the house functions (in a two-story, rectilinear element) and drill hall functions (in a barrel-vaulted two-story rear element that dominates the overall scale of the building)
 - b. Absence of a one-story vehicle service bay that compromises the overall two-part form
 - c. Interior organization of typical floors of administrative functions with two rooms of similar dimension on opposing sides of a central, open access stair stacked three stories high
- 3) Face brick exterior on the front element; common brick or brick-and-tile treatment at the rear
- 4) Use of long-span, arched steel trusses for the drill hall portion
 - a. Ideally this element should remain exposed to view, due to the designers' intent to seek modernist expression of actual materials and systems used in the construction
 - b. Engaged pilasters on the exterior of the drill hall element

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- 5) Interior features of distinction or significance within the typological set
 - a. Historic premanufactured or custom-designed fixtures such as lights, millwork, or mechanical devices
 - b. Balconies, stages, bowling lanes or similar interior features that extended the building's historic usefulness for civic activities beyond the role of the National Guard unit.
- 6) Distinctive or unusual handling of exterior features or materials that set the individual armory building apart, in some important way, from other examples of the type.
- 7) Particular aesthetic distinction in proportion and fenestration that indicates design sophistication on the part of the principal architect
 - a. This attribute is not meant to be evaluated on the basis of subjective "taste," but rather may be used to recognize the building's aesthetic "coherence" or the designer's conformance to clearly intentional design principles
 - b. Evidence of transition in design preference [presumably by military planners] from an emphasis on stylistic expression toward an engineered efficiency or utilitarian handling of material and form

Burns and Martens found that the White Bear Lake Armory strongly met more of these attributes than six other armories of the era addressed as part of the context study. None of those strongly met at that time would be affected by the 1995 renovations. Further, it strongly met far more attributes than either the Dawson or Worthington armories, both of which are listed in the National Register. Burns and Martens (1994:85) concluded that among those studied, the White Bear Lake Armory was one of the "best examples of middle-period armories as transitional structures."

Whether the transition is considered from a stylistic or construction process perspective, the White Bear Lake Armory well embodies the Middle Period. Like the Dawson Armory, the White Bear Lake Armory strongly reflects the transitional-period convention of retaining mild stylistic historicist references, in this case to the castellated era, but as elements of substantially more restrained designs, and it is one of but a few that successfully achieves this effect in Minnesota. The crenellations are clearly decorative and minor in scale, and the cornice is unobtrusive, consisting as it does only of five courses of corbelled brick in a stretcher-bond pattern. Quoining is muted by the use of brick matching that on the rest of the administration block. Beyond these medieval revival elements, the administration block is staid in its composition, with simple lines, symmetry in its fenestration, and subdued decoration, the latter limited to the door surround and the architrave and frieze, the architrave similar to the cornice but with only three courses, and the frieze muted similarly to the quoining by the use of matching brick in a fairly basic pattern. The White Bear Lake Armory therefore forms a stylistic bridge between Early Period medieval revival armories which used exterior details to convey a message of strength and defense and Late Period Moderne armories which eliminated them to focus on form as an expression of function (Attributes 1, 1a, 1c, 1d, 7b).

While the drill hall may not be two stories, the distinction in massing and function between the two-story rectilinear administration block and the bowstring-roofed drill hall is clear, and a one-story vehicle service

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bay is absent (Attributes 2a and 2b). The White Bear Lake Armory never had a central stair, and more than two rooms were located to either side of the hallway. This attribute (2c), however, implies a symmetrical, axial plan in the administration block, which is present.

The White Bear Lake Armory incorporates a brick-faced exterior on the administration block and a drill hall of structural tile with bays divided by brick-faced pilasters (Attributes 3 and 4b). Long-span, arched steel trusses are present in the drill hall (Attribute 4a). Although they are not exposed to view, none of the armories studied by Burns and Martens had the trusses exposed, suggesting that perhaps this condition was not typical in Minnesota.

"Aesthetic distinction in proportion and fenestration" (Attribute 7) is not well defined by Burns and Martens and does not seem a particularly obvious condition when applied to the reserved armories of the 1920s. It can be said, though, that the White Bear Lake Armory exhibits coherency, grounded in its use of symmetry around a central axis, in its massing, fenestration, and architectural details, and because it avoids a strong discrepancy between the height of the administration block and the drill hall. These elements give it a sense of order not as apparent in some other examples. Burns and Martens (1994:69) additionally imply that this attribute (Attribute 7a) is tied to the armory's ability to evidence the architect's understanding of the medieval revival style. Overall, they conclude that the White Bear Lake Armory's "proportions and detailing are . . . the most successful of the seven properties surveyed."

The White Bear Lake armory was the first designed by P. C. Bettenburg, who is recognized in Minnesota for his eventual achievements in armory design. Although modifications were made to the parapet of the administration block, the remainder of the exterior was not changed in 1929. Even considering the modifications, because they were made during the Middle Period, and the next definable stage of his career in armory design occurred during the federal relief era, the White Bear Lake Armory expresses the earliest phase in the development of his career.

It is acknowledged that Bettenburg's addition of the crenellations after the 1928 fire does not follow the direction of the stylistic transition toward the Moderne. Given Burns and Martens' findings that some of the architects' drawings for Middle Period armories indicate an intention for more medieval detail than was actually constructed, the possibility exists that the crenellations may have been in the original plans for the building, and their omission rectified when additional monies were provided to repair it; unfortunately, these plans have been lost, so that possibility remains speculative, and no correspondence or other documentation could be located to shed light on any other potential rationale by Bettenburg for making this change. As discussed above, however, the remaining vast majority of the exterior is a clear move in this direction, and neither the minor crenellations, quoining, nor the linear, subdued cornice is out of keeping with the Middle Period, during which they were constructed. The White Bear Lake Armory therefore meets Criterion C as an embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of a type and period of construction.

White Bear Lake Armory
Name of Property

Ramsey County, MN
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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1994 *Minnesota National Guard Armory Expansion between World War I and the Great Depression (1919-1929)*. Michael J. Burns, Architects. Submitted to State of Minnesota, Department of Military Affairs.

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1989 *America's Armories: Architecture, Society, and Public Order*. Harvard University Press, Cambridge, MA.

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1964 *The National Cyclopaedia of American Biography, Volume XLVII*. James T. White & Company, New York.

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n.d. The 47th "Viking" Infantry Division. Military Historical Society of Minnesota. Available online at <http://www.minnesotanationalguard.org/history/assets/47ID.doc>.

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1968 Philip Bettenburg of Architect Firm Dies. 21 March.

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1986 Armories and Camp Ripley Military Reservation. In *The Public Buildings of the State of Minnesota: An Architectural Heritage*, pp. 64-73.

Rhinow, Walter F.

1922 Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Minnesota Covering the Thirty-Second Biennial Period Ending December 31, 1922. Syndicate Printing Co., Minneapolis, MN.

San Francisco Call

1912 'Barnlike' Design is Metamorphosed. 22 August.

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2006 *New York's Historic Armories: An Illustrated History*. State University of New York Press, Albany, NY.

United States National Guard Bureau

1921 *Annual Report of the Chief of the Militia Bureau*. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC.

White Bear Lake Armory
Name of Property

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White Bear Press

- 1921 White Bear May Have an Armory. 21 July.
- 1922a White Bear May Soon Have \$26,000 Armory and Militia. 9 February.
- 1922b Recruiting Continues for National Guard. 23 February.
- 1922c Mass Meeting Last Tuesday for Armory. 16 February.
- 1922d National Guard Company is Raised in Final Spurt—Twenty in One Day. 2 March.
- 1922e To Raise Funds for White Bear Armory. 27 April.
- 1922f Armory is Rapidly Becoming Reality. 4 May.
- 1922g Armory to Stand with Auditorium. 11 May.
- 1922h Armory Assured—Board Approves. 18 May.
- 1922i Lot is Ready for Armory Building. 15 June.
- 1922j Notice to Contractors. 27 June.
- 1922k Trees Cleared from Armory Location. 13 July.
- 1922l Work Well Under Way on Armory. 3 August.
- 1922m Cornerstone Laying Biggest Event Held in White Bear. 28 September.
- 1923a Big Carnival Opens Tonight. 8 February.
- 1923b Gov. Preus to Open Armory. 22 February.
- 1923c New Armory is Dedicated. 1 March.
- 1923d Bill for Armory Completion Passes. 19 April.
- 1923e Armory Improvements. 21 June.
- 1923f Easter Ball at Armory Monday, April 2, 9:30 P.M. 22 March.
- 1923g Advertisement: "White Bear Shrine Club presents The Minstrels of Osman Temple." 19 April.
- 1924 Armory Board Gets Back of Howitzer Co. Dances. 3 January.

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- 1925a Inspection of Armory Made by Board Friday. 15 October.
- 1925b Citizens Dance to Buy Armory Piano. 15 October.
- 1926a Roller Rink Open. 4 February.
- 1926b Santa Claus Visits With White Bear Children Tuesday. 16 December.
- 1927a Howitzer Athletics. 22 September.
- 1927b Howitzer Committee to Meet Monday Night. 25 August.
- 1927c Shall White Bear Lose These Which Should be Its Pride? It May. 15 September.
- 1928a Trouble is Brewing in Armory Matters. 9 February.
- 1928b White Bear Loses Howitzer Company. 5 January.
- 1928c Early Morning Fire Seriously Damages White Bear Armory. 13 December.
- 1929a White Bear Fires Set, Says Deputy. 3 January.
- 1929b Armory Repair Bill \$12,850 Introduced. 31 January.
- 1929c Armory Repairs. 4 July.
- 1929d Armory Work Progressing. 15 August.
- 1929e Armory Restored Nicer Than Ever. 3 October.
- 1929f Will Celebrate Armory Oct. 31. 5 September.
- 1929g Armory Opening Was Not Success. 7 November.
- 1930 I. O. O. F. Annual Dance. 9 January.
- 1935 White Bear Offered a Community Center. 25 October.
- 1941 Soldiers To Be Inducted Into U. S. Service Next Monday, Jan. 6. 3 January.
- 1973 Preparation needed for chance at Armory. 15 November.
- 1992 National Guard Armory to Close. 11 March.
- 1995 Armory Times. 15 September.

White Bear Lake Armory
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Wieggers, Robert P.

2012 *Missouri Armories: The Guard's Home in Architecture and History*. Truman State University
Press, Kirksville, MO.

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:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): RA-WBC-144

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 0.28

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

1. Zone: 15

Easting: 499490

Northing: 4992402

White Bear Lake Armory
Name of Property

Ramsey County, MN
County and State

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

The boundary of the property is a rectangle that extends from 0 to 75 feet west of Cook Avenue and 0 to 165 feet south of Fourth Street in White Bear Lake.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The property boundary coincides with the boundary of the city lot on which the armory is located. This boundary was the same historically as it is presently.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Andrea C. Pizza, Principal
organization: Deco Cultural Services LLC
street & number: 207 4th Avenue North
city or town: South St. Paul state: MN zip code: 55075
e-mail: andrea@decocultural.com
telephone: 651-276-9446
date: July 18, 2018

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.)

White Bear Lake Armory
Name of Property

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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: White Bear Lake Armory

City or Vicinity: White Bear Lake

County: Ramsey

State: Minnesota

Photographer: Andrea C. Pizza

Date Photographed: January 19, 2018, May 23, 2018, and November 27, 2019.

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

All digital images labeled as follows: MN_Ramsey County_White Bear Lake Armory_0001

- 1 of 16. Armory, looking southwest
- 2 of 16. Armory, looking east-southeast
- 3 of 16. View showing quoining on east corners of administration block, looking northwest
- 4 of 16. Detail of frieze, looking south
- 5 of 16. Front entrance, looking south
- 6 of 16. Armory, looking northwest
- 7 of 16. Rear elevation of armory, looking north
- 8 of 16. Main level of drill hall, looking south
- 9 of 16. Main level of drill hall, looking north
- 10 of 16. Former firing range from midpoint, looking south
- 11 of 16. Storage area underneath drill hall, looking north
- 12 of 16. Former munitions room, looking west-southwest
- 13 of 16. View into first floor from main entrance, looking south
- 14 of 16. Second floor walkway, looking north
- 15 of 16. Second floor, west office, looking west-southwest
- 16 of 16. Drill hall long-span truss looking W-SW

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.

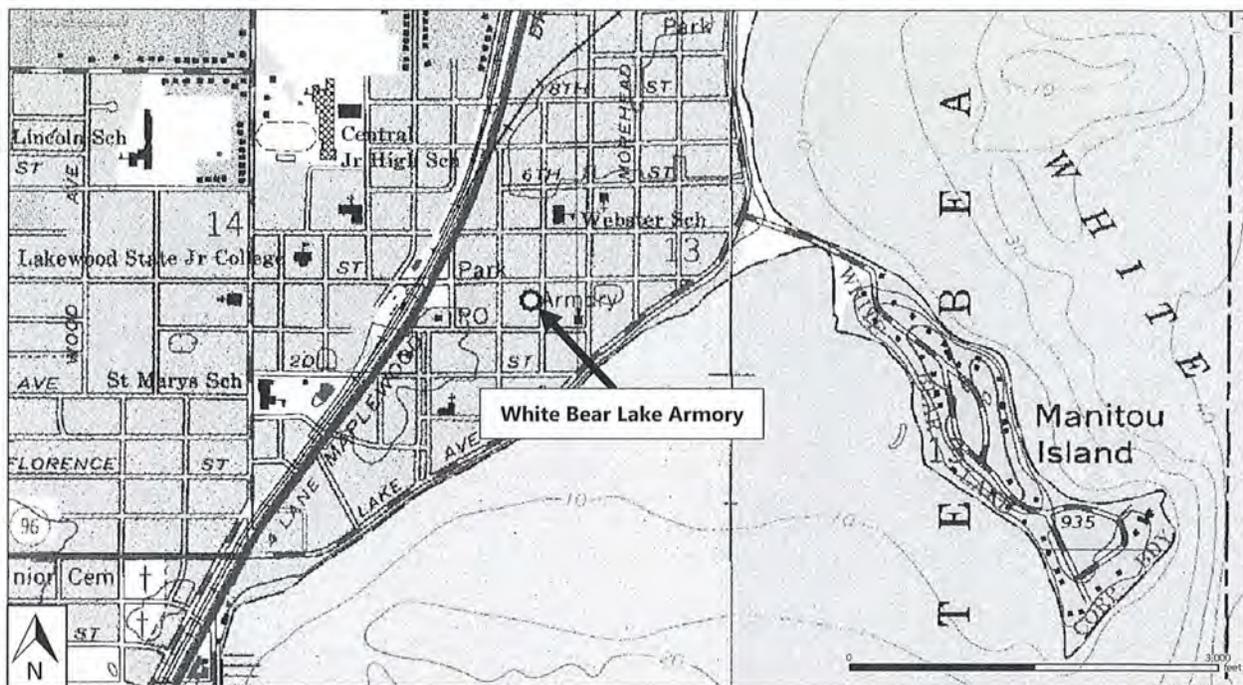
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White Bear Lake West and White Bear Lake East, 7.5' Quadrangle

UTM Coordinates (NAD 1983, Zone 15) = 499490E 4992402N

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Image provided by the White Bear Lake Area Historical Society

Figure 1. Postcard showing armory, pre-1929

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National Park Service

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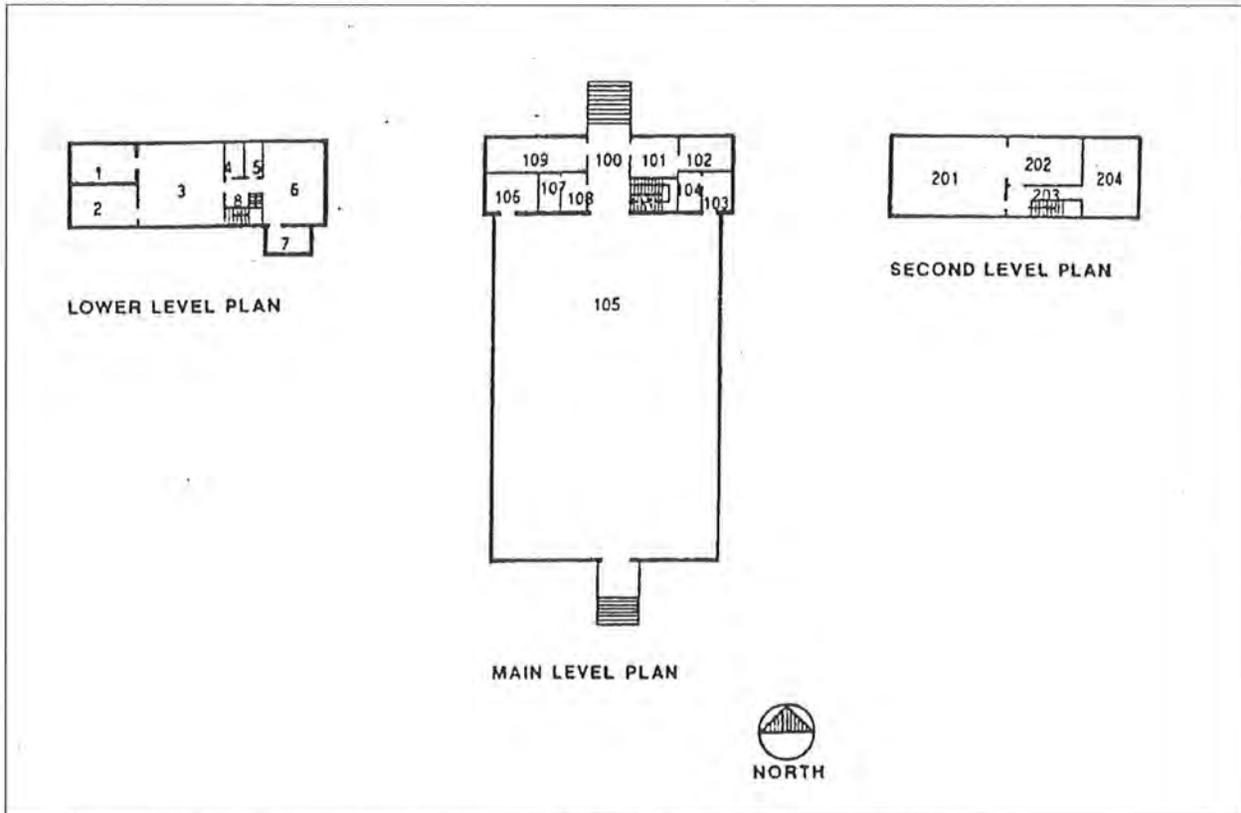


Figure 3. Plan of White Bear Lake Armory in 1993, prior to 1995 renovations

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National Park Service

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Provided by the Minnesota Military Museum

Figure 8. Ortonville Armory (1924), 1940s



Provided by the Minnesota Military Museum

Figure 9. Hutchinson Armory (1924), 1940s

United States Department of the Interior
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Provided by the Minnesota Military Museum

Figure 10. White Bear Lake Armory, post-1928 (photo from the 1940s)



ARMOR

WELCOME TO DOWNTOWN
White Bear Lake

WHITE BEAR LAKE
LIONS CLUB

2272



WELCOME TO
DOWNTOWN
White
Bear
Lake

THE ALCHEMIST

THE ALCHEMIST

WHITE BEAR LAKE
LAND CLUB





ALCON

ARMORY

2228













WHITE BEAR EMERGENCY
FOOD SHELF
&
WHITE BEAR LIONS
•
HOLIDAY
FOOD & TOY
DRIVE
ALL FOOD & TOYS
STAY IN THE
WHITE BEAR AREA







3

EXIT







UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 2/6/2019 Date of Pending List: 2/28/2019 Date of 16th Day: 3/15/2019 Date of 45th Day: 3/25/2019 Date of Weekly List: 3/29/2019

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject 3/25/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary
Comments:

Recommendation/
Criteria

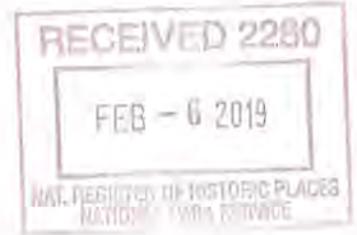
Reviewer Control Unit Discipline _____

Telephone _____ Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

Department of Administration
State Historic Preservation Office
50 Sherburne Ave., Suite 203, St. Paul, MN 55155
651-201-3293



TO: Joy Beasley, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places

FROM: Ginny Way

DATE: December 19, 2018

NAME OF PROPERTY: White Bear Lake Armory

COUNTY AND STATE: Ramsey County, Minnesota

SUBJECT: National Register:
 Nomination
 Multiple Property Documentation Form
 Request for determination of eligibility
 Request for removal (Reference No.)
 Nomination resubmission
 Boundary increase/decrease (Reference No.)
 Additional documentation (Reference No.)

DOCUMENTATION:

- Original National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
- Multiple Property Documentation Form
- Continuation Sheets
- Removal Documentation
- Photographs
- CD w/ image files
- Digital Map
- Sketch map(s)
- Correspondence
 - Owner Objection
 - The enclosed owner objections
 - Do Do not constitute a majority of property owners

STAFF COMMENTS: