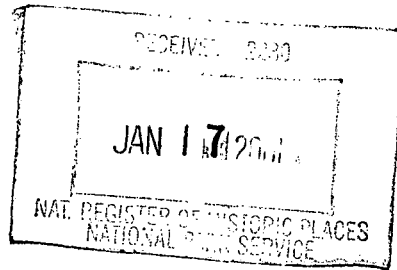


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



112

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name National Guard Armory

other names/site number Jefferson Area Vocational Center

2. Location

street & number 623 W. 2nd Ave.

☐ not for publication

city or town Pine Bluff

☐ vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Jefferson code 069 zip code 71601

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ 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 for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐
does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant
☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Edna M. Matthews
Signature of certifying official/Title

1/02/01
Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See Continuation sheet for additional
comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

☒ entered in the National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet

☐ determined eligible for the
National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet

☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.

☐ removed from the National
Register.

☐ other, (explain:) _____

Edson H. Ball
Signature of the Keeper

2/12/01
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

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

Contributing

Noncontributing

1

buildings

sites

structures

objects

1

0

Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DEFENSE: arms storage

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: school

7. Description**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

MODERN MOVEMENT: Art Deco

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation CONCRETE

Walls BRICK

CONCRETE

Roof ASPHALT

Other METAL

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

SEE CONT. SHEETS

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

SUMMARY

The National Guard Armory in Pine Bluff, Jefferson County, is a buff brick and concrete structure built in 1931. The Art Deco style building is located at 623 West Second Avenue and consists of a two-story head house with a large single story drill hall attached to the rear of the building. The T-shaped building sits atop a continuous concrete foundation and is crowned with a castellated parapet. Symmetrically placed windows along with the centrally located pilaster and central entryway give the building a balanced appearance.

ELABORATION

The National Guard Armory in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, is a buff brick and concrete structure built in 1931. The Art Deco style armory is located at 623 West Second Avenue and consists of a two-story head house with a large single story drill hall that projects from the rear of the head house. The T-shape building sits atop a continuous concrete foundation with distinct vertical lines that rise up from the foundation in the form of pilasters. A castellated parapet located above the centrally located front entryway crowns the building. The head house forms the cross arm of the T. One brick chimney, abutting the rear of the building to the north, rises from the eastern slope of the drill hall's gambrel roof. Composition shingles cover the gable roof of the drill hall, while a built-up tar roof covers the flat roof of the head house that is hidden behind a brick and concrete parapet.

South Elevation

The façade of the armory fronts south toward Second Avenue. The first floor façade is fenestrated by eight six-over-six windows that are placed symmetrically in four groups of two on the façade. A projecting entryway is located centrally on the façade and it allows access to the building through a glass doorway that replaced the original door at an unknown date. The entryway dominates the face of the building. It is composed of two large pilasters that project out from the building with the entryway receding back four rows of brick from the building's face to the door. The second story is identical to the first story to both the east and west sides of the entryway. Directly above the first floor entryway is a pair of four-over-four windows. Near the top of the building above the entryway a concrete inset reads "National Gvard Armory" [sic.]. The top of the building has a small parapet that spans the length of the facade with a castellated parapet that crowns the building's central projection.

East Elevation

The east elevation consists of ten bays. The four southern bays are part of the head house. Each bay is fenestrated with both a first and second story six-over-six window. The six bays to the north side of the elevation make up the east wall of the single story drill hall and are each separated by a pilaster. The first bay is comprised of a triple-hung six-over-nine-over-nine window and a doorway that was created by removing a

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

window. The next four bays are each fenestrated with a pair of triple- hung six-over-nine-over-nine windows. The northernmost bay originally had matching windows also, but has had one removed to create a doorway.

North Elevation

The rear elevation faces north with no ornamentation. It is sheathed in red brick and is fenestrated with four evenly spaced six-over-nine-over-nine, triple-hung windows.

West Elevation

The west elevation is identical to the east in form. The only difference between the two elevations is that the four southernmost bays of the drill hall on the west elevation of the building still have all original windows. The north bay contains a large, overhead, rolling, garage door. Although the entry is original the door is not.

Interior

The interior of the armory is of the simplicity and functionality typical of such structures. The auditorium is floored with wood strip flooring and the ceiling is covered with an open, metal truss. The head house and a small room in the northeast corner of the building have been converted to classrooms for the Jefferson Area Vocational Center that currently holds classes in the building. The drill hall remains unchanged for the most part, but now serves as a welding and metal shop class for the school.

Integrity

There have been some small alterations to the National Guard Armory. The front door has been replaced as well as two windows that were removed to create door on the east elevation. There are also two windows on the east elevation that have had the top section of their triple hung window replaced with sheets of metal. These alterations were needed to increase the building's functionality as a learning center. The alterations that have occurred do not detract from the splendor of this building. The building holds integrity of feeling, association, setting, location, materials, design, and workmanship.

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.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** moved from its original location.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

Local

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1931

Significant Dates

1931

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

Architect/Builder

Kyle, Durward F.- architect
Quinn & Quinn- contractors

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

SEE CONT. SHEETS

9. Major Bibliographical References**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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
- # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State Agency
- ☐ Federal Agency
- ☒ Local Government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

SUMMARY

The National Guard Armory, a 1931 military building at 623 West 2nd Street in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion C** for its Art Deco architecture and because it is the largest extant example of Art Deco architecture in downtown Pine Bluff. The building is the first State-owned building to be constructed in Jefferson County, Arkansas, for the sole use and benefit of the Militia.

ELABORATION

Pine Bluff was established on a high bluff above the Arkansas River. The bluff chosen was the first location of any pine trees above the mouth of the river. The bluff furnished a safe haven for the settlers who encountered annual flooding along the river. Joseph Bonne, a half French and half Quapaw (Arkansas) Indian, is said to have settled on the "pine bluff" in 1819. After the Quapaw signed a treaty in 1824, relinquishing their title to all of the lands they claimed in Arkansas, other settlers began to join Bonne on the bluff. At an August 13, 1832, election, Pine Bluff was chosen as the County seat and John Pullen donated two acres of land for county purposes. The Quorum Court accepted the donation on October 16, 1832, and voted to name the village "Pine Bluff Town".

As was the case with a relatively small number of Arkansas counties in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, Jefferson County could boast of several State recognized militia units subject to call for service in an emergency. Such organizations drilled regularly and were occasionally called into state, federal, or Confederate service. On July 31, 1920, Jefferson County's remaining unit was reorganized and federally recognized as a company of infantry at Pine Bluff. Today Jefferson County's National Guard Unit is classified as Company C, 212th Signal Battalion.

It was not until 1931 that the unit obtained a facility of its own. In 1931 the Arkansas General Assembly provided appropriations from the Military Fund for the building's construction. John J. and Mary Holland Craig donated land for the new armory building. Durward F. Kyle served as architect and Quinn & Quinn as contractor. The Art Deco style armory was completed that same year and totaled 9,262 square feet. It is not surprising that the armory was designed in the Art Deco style since that style was very popular in the United States from 1918 throughout the mid-30s; however, the movement was largely abandoned due to economic hardships caused by the Great Depression. The National Guard Armory in Pine Bluff, was built the same year as more notable Art Deco buildings such as the Empire State Building and the McGraw-Hill Building, both in New York City. The signature vertical lines that rise from a building's foundation to roofline largely defines Art Deco architecture. The projecting entryway, buttresses, and tall narrow symmetrically placed groups of windows all add to the armory's vertically designed appearance. Although the armory is not as

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

grand as the Empire State Building, it is a unique building in its area and is the largest extant, Art Deco building in downtown Pine Bluff.

In the early stages of WWII the building served as temporary administrative office for the United States Army Arsenal that was being built on the outskirts of Pine Bluff. The armory was home to units that saw action in both WWII and Korea. In 1957 the unit was mobilized for the integration crisis at Little Rock Central High School. The unit as a whole spent 32 days at Central High. One officer and nineteen enlisted remained on active duty for the remainder of the school year.

The building served as an armory for Jefferson County's National Guard units until January 14, 1974, when the building was sold for \$25,101 to Ten-Ark Inc. Today the Arkansas River Education Services Cooperative owns the building. The armory now serves as welding and metal shop classrooms for the Jefferson Area Vocational Center allowing the building to still serve the community.

Significance

The National Guard Armory in Pine Bluff, Arkansas is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion C** for its Art Deco architecture as the largest extant, Art Deco building in downtown Pine Bluff.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

Bibliography:

153d Infantry (First Arkansas), Lineage and Honors, Department of the Army, Washington, D.C.

212th Signal Battalion, Lineage and Honors, Department of the Army, Washington, D.C.

Commercial Real Estate Record card, 1985-1999, Jefferson County, Arkansas.

Company B (Jefferson Guards), 15th Arkansas Infantry; 26 April 1861-May 1865 (National Archives Microfilm Publication T-817, Roll 91, List 71); Lists of the Adjutant General's Office for Carded Records of Military Organizations: Civil War (Confederate Records); National Archives Building, Washington, D.C.

Pine Bluff Artillery Company; 26 April 1861- (National Archives Microfilm Publication M-861, Roll 6); Compiled Records Showing Service of Military Units in Confederate Organizations; National Archives Building, Washington, D.C.

Report of the Adjutant General's Department; State of Arkansas;
1 January 1925- 31 December 1926; U.S. Army Center of Military History;
Fort McNair, D.C.

Report of the Adjutant General; State of Arkansas;
11 January 1929- 31 December 1930; U.S. Army Center of Military History;
Fort McNair, D.C.

Speedex Unit Property Assessment Record, 1959-1983, Jefferson County, Arkansas.

National Guard Armory
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Arkansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre.

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 591280 3787770
Zone Easting Northing
2 _____

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing
4 _____
☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Block 37, Lots 5,6,7, & 8.

Boundary Justification

This boundary includes the entire parcel of land historically associated with the armory.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Captain T.A. Johnson (edited by Zac Cothren)
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date December 12, 2000
street & number 1500 Tower Building 323 Center Street telephone (501)324-9789
city or town Little Rock state AR zip code 72201

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

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 listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY National Guard Armory--Pine Bluff
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Jefferson

DATE RECEIVED: 1/17/01 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/31/01
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/16/01 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/04/01
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 01000112

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 2/12/01 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N



1. National Guard Armory
2. Pine Bluff, Jefferson Co., AR.
3. Zac Cothren
4. Oct. 2000
5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
6. South Facade, looking north.
7. #1



1. National Guard Armory
2. Jefferson Co., AR.
3. Zac Cothren
4. Oct. 2000
5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
6. South facade, looking north.
7. #2



1. National Guard Armory
2. Jefferson Co., AR
3. Zac Cethren
4. Oct. 2000
5. AHPP
6. East elevation, looking west,
7. #3



1. National Guard Armory

2. Jefferson Co., AR

3. Zac Cothren

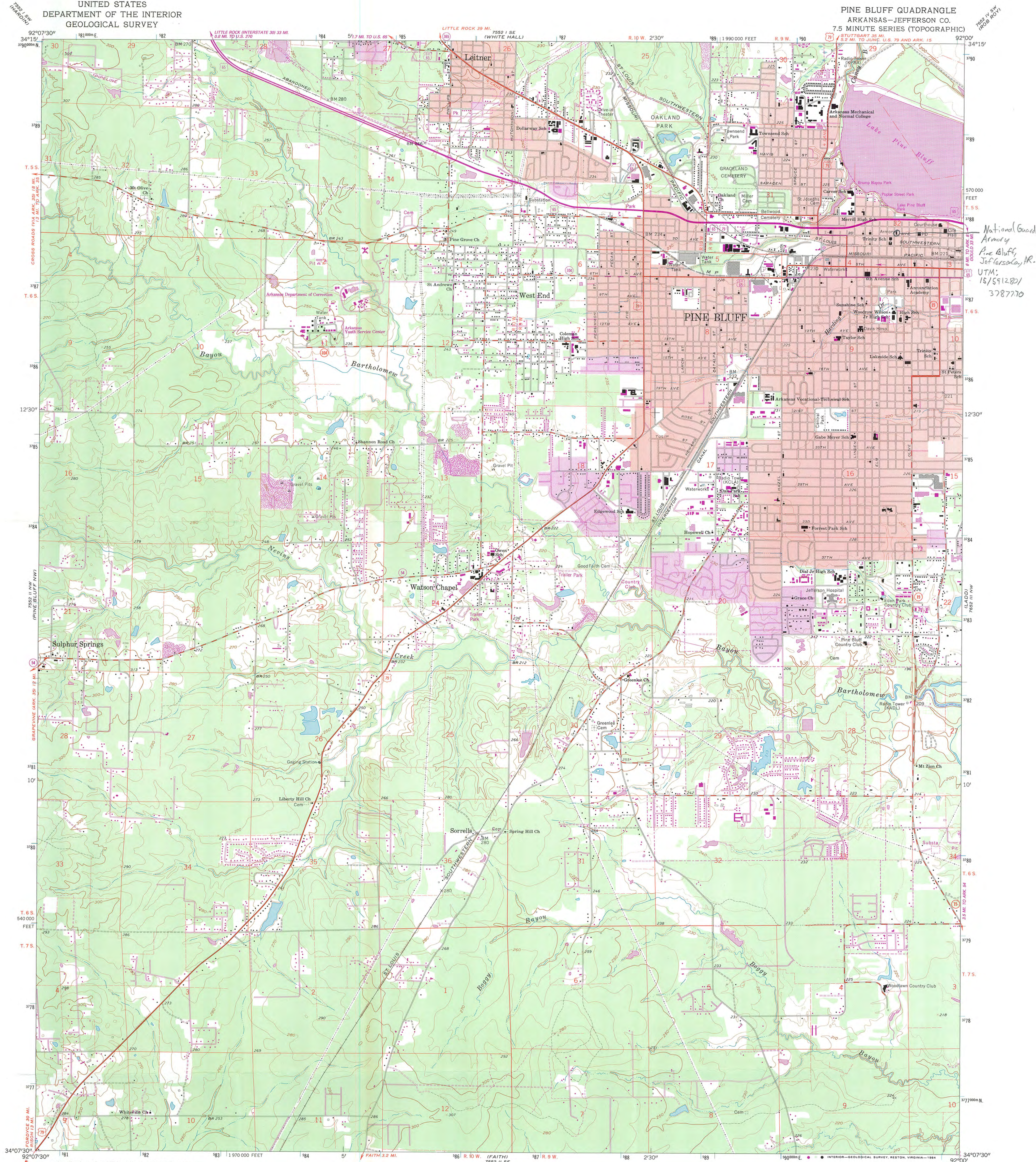
4. Oct. 2000

5. AHPP

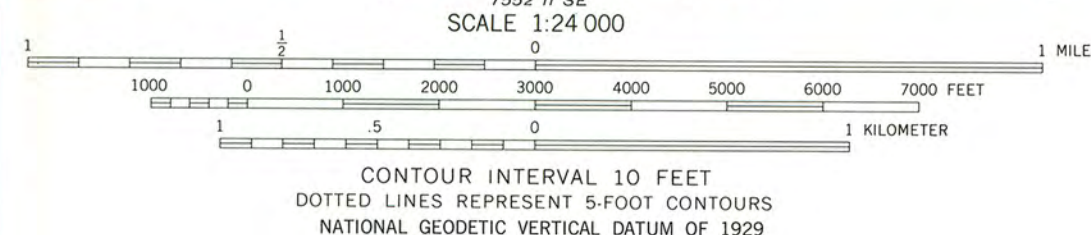
6. West elevation, looking northeast.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

PINE BLUFF QUADRANGLE
ARKANSAS—JEFFERSON CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1961. Topography by planimetric surveys 1961-62
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Arkansas coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983,
move the projection lines 9 meters south and
13 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72204
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
U. S. Route	State Route

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled from
aerial photographs taken 1982 and other sources
This information not field checked. Map edited 1984
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

PINE BLUFF, ARK.
34092-B1-TF-024
1962
PHOTOREVISED 1984
DMA 7552 II NE—SERIES V884



The Department of
**Arkansas
Heritage**

**WE LOVE TO TELL
THE STORY.**

Mike Huckabee, Governor
Cathie Matthews, Director

Arkansas Arts Council

■

Arkansas Natural Heritage
Commission

■

Arkansas Territorial Restoration

■

Delta Cultural Center

■

Old State House Museum



**Arkansas Historic
Preservation Program**

1500 Tower Building

323 Center Street

Little Rock, AR 72201

(501)324-9880

fax: (501)324-9184

tdd: (501)324-9811

e-mail:

info@arkansaspreservation.org

website:

www.arkansaspreservation.org

December 29, 2000

Carol D. Shull
Chief of Registration
United States Department of the Interior
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1849 C St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

RE: National Guard Armory, Pine Bluff, Jefferson County.

Dear Carol:

We are enclosing for your review the nomination of the above-referenced property. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathie Matthews,
State Historic Preservation Officer

CM:zc

Enclosures

An Equal Opportunity Employer

