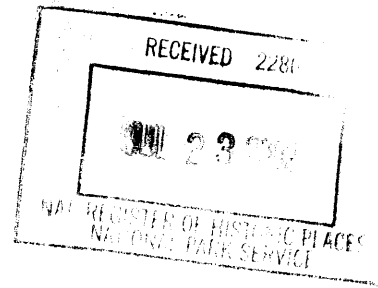


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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name **Somerset Armory**
other names/site number **Pu-S-80**

2. Location

street & number **109 Grand Ave.** not for publication **N/A**
city or town **Somerset** vicinity **N/A**
state **Kentucky** code **KY** county **Pulaski** code **077** zip code **42501**

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 forth 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.)

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David L. Morgan
Signature of certifying official **David L. Morgan, SHPO / Excutive Director** **6-18-02**
Date

State Historic Peservation Office/ Kentucky Heritage Council

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 commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register *Edson H. Ball* **9/6/02**
 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 Keeper Date
of Action

8. Statement of Significance

SOMERSET ARMORY
PU-S-80; Pulaski County, KY

Applicable National Register Criteria

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 a grave.

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.

Areas of Significance MILITARY

Period of Significance 1948-1949

Significant Dates 1948

Significant Person N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Frankel & Curtis, architects
Wehr Construction Co., builders

Narrative Statement of Significance (begins p. 8-1)

9. Major Bibliographical References

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 # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data
Acreage of Property 1.7 acres

SOMERSET ARMORY
PU-S-80; Pulaski County, KY

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
1	16	713	505	4107	770		Somerset Quad
2	_____	_____	_____	3	_____	_____	
	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____	

Verbal Boundary Description and Boundary Justification (see p. 10-2)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kate Carothers

organization Kentucky Archaeological Survey date 4-16-99

street & number 1020A Export St. telephone (606) 257-1944
city or town Lexington state KY zip code 40502

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Commonwealth of Kentucky

street & number Boone National Guard Center telephone (502) 564-0269

city or town Frankfort state KY zip code 40601

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****SOMERSET ARMORY**
PU-S-80; Pulaski County, KY

Kentucky's National Guard Facilities: 1931-1951 MPS

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Section number _____ Page _____

Narrative Description

The Somerset Armory (PU-S-80) is located at 109 Grande Avenue in a residential area of Somerset just outside of the courthouse square. The armory was completed in 1948 and is a large, two-story yellow brick building with one-story wings on either side. The five-bay facade (east elevation) features limestone detailing around the entry and windows, and a thin cornice line; otherwise the building is free of ornamentation. The two one-story wings have little ornamentation except for the limestone sills under the windows and the thin limestone cornice line. The two-story drill hall is located at the rear of the administrative section. The ten-pane metal casement windows on the east elevation are original, but the original three sets of wooden doors were replaced by glass doors and windows in the 1970s. Concrete steps lead up to the entrance, and the building sits on a concrete foundation.

On either side of the building (north and south elevations) are three hexagonal windows located on the second floor - these are original to the building. The windows of the drill hall on the north, south, and west elevations are original to the building. These are large, 32-paned metal-casement windows. On the north elevation, in the basement of the armory, are four garage bays which make up the OMS area. The OMS occupies the entire lower level of the armory.

On the interior of the armory are several original features of the building. The original wooden drill hall floor is intact, as are the wooden bleachers in the balcony overlooking the drill hall. The two sets of double wooden doors leading into the drill hall are original, as are most of the doors in the armory. The majority of these doors also retain their original hardware. Movable wooden bleachers were donated to the armory in 1949, so that they could be used during basketball games. The armory's dedication plaque, listing its date of construction (1948), architects and engineers Frankel & Curtis, and the builder: Wehr Construction Company out of Louisville. The plaque is located in the entrance hall. The Somerset and Elizabethtown armories are identical to each other in design and plan, as they were both designed by the firm of Frankel & Curtis.

Narrative Statement of Significance

The Somerset Armory (PU-S-80) meets criteria A (historic association) and C (type of construction) of the National Register and is a significant representation of the National Guard in Kentucky. The armory meets the registration requirements established for the armory property type because it possesses integrity of location and setting, materials and design, and association with the National Guard. The armory has not been moved, and it remains in its original residential setting. The armory has not been heavily altered, so it retains its integrity of materials and design, and has integrity of association, because it is still owned by the National Guard. The Somerset Armory is significant within the historic context of "Kentucky's National Guard Facilities : 1931-1951."

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

SOMERSET ARMORY
PU-S-80; Pulaski County, KY

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

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Kentucky's National Guard Facilities: 1931-1951 MPS

Section number _____ Page _____

The Somerset Armory was built during a decade when the National Guard was constructing a large number of armories, and the building served as both a military and community center for Somerset. The armory has retained its original appearance and maintains its integrity of location and setting. The building is recognizable as an armory on both the exterior and the interior.

A military unit has been in Somerset since the late nineteenth century. Men from Somerset are believed to have fought in the Spanish-American War in 1898. National Guardsmen participated in World War I, (France), World War II (South Pacific), and Korea. Infantry, Armor, and Engineer Battalions have all been located in Somerset, with Company C of the 149th Infantry stationed there now. Before the Pulaski County high schools had their own gymnasiums, they used the armory's drill hall/gym for their home basketball games. During tornadoes and snowstorms, people have stayed at the armory. The armory is still used for basketball games, as well as for wedding receptions, auctions, circuses, and trade shows. Since its inception, the armory has served as a home base for the National Guard and as a community gathering place.

Verbal Boundary Description - The parcel designated by the Pulaski County PVA as tax map/parcel #061-7-5-01.

Verbal Boundary Justification - The chosen boundary encompasses the Somerset Armory, related motor pool and parking lot, and front yard, for a total of 1.70 acres, the area historically associated with the Somerset Armory.

Bibliography

Files on the Somerset Armory, located at the Military Records and Research Branch, Frankfort.

Historical Annual of the National Guard of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Author unknown. Baton Rouge: Army and Navy Publishing Company, 1938.

Interview with retired Guardsman R.K. Padgett, March 19, 1998.

Interview with SGT Barry Caudill, March 19, 1998.