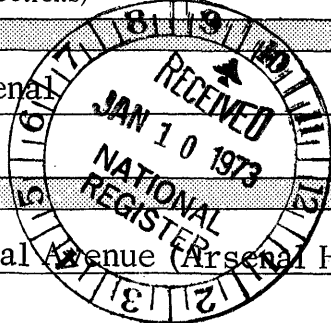


PH 0004081

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: KENTUCKY	
COUNTY: FRANKLIN	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 11 1973



1. NAME
COMMON: Kentucky State Arsenal
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER: Main Street at Capital Avenue (Arsenal Hill)
CITY OR TOWN: Frankfort
STATE: Kentucky CODE: 21 COUNTY: Franklin CODE: 073

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
OWNER'S NAME: Commonwealth of Kentucky, Department of Military Affairs
STREET AND NUMBER: State Capitol Building
CITY OR TOWN: Frankfort STATE: Kentucky CODE: 21

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Franklin County Courthouse
STREET AND NUMBER: St. Clair Street
CITY OR TOWN: Frankfort STATE: Kentucky CODE: 21

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE OF SURVEY: Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky
DATE OF SURVEY: 1971 Federal State County Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Kentucky Heritage Commission
STREET AND NUMBER: 401 Wapping Street
CITY OR TOWN: Frankfort STATE: Kentucky CODE: 21

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER: 111973
DATE: APR 11 1973

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The State Arsenal stands on a hill at the head of Main Street overlooking the main business area of Frankfort and the State Capitol.

The building is a tall, high-ceilinged, two-storied, rectangular structure with very narrow elongated windows. The windows which appear at the front of the building within the twin towers are only a few inches wide. All windows that are large enough for a person to enter are protected by heavy horizontal iron bars secured into the masonry on either side of the window. Heavy iron grillwork also protects the front and side doors.

The walls are constructed of solid brick laid in a bonding pattern which was seldom used in early 19th century brick work in this area. Each course of brick is made of a header followed by two stretchers then another header. This bonding pattern affords a good stability to the wall and was most likely somewhat less costly than Flemish bond. The bonding makes a very interesting oblique pattern of headers on the surface of the building.

Perhaps the most distinctive architectural feature of the building is the battlemented parapet which protects the flattened roof and provides a good place for small-arms defense. Another unusual feature is the continuous stone cap that covers both the merlons and the crenels. The outline of the Arsenal gives the feeling of an old castle perched high above the palisades of the river protecting the city against all invaders.

A railroad tunnel has been cut directly under the building through the solid limestone rock but no cracks or visible damage has resulted from the years of passing freight trains.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SIGNIFICANCE

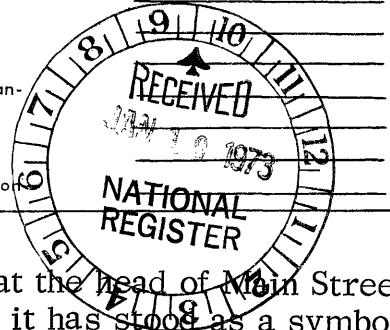
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1850**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The State Arsenal stands like a feudal castle at the head of Main Street, guarding the town. For over a hundred years it has stood as a symbol of protection for the town of Frankfort.

It was preceded by two arsenals, built in the 1820's and 1834's respectively. The first was razed to provide building materials for the second which was destroyed by fire in 1836.

Pursuant to a legislative act in 1850, Commissioners were appointed to select a site "not less than one-half mile from the Capitol" and build on it an arsenal for the preservation of the public arms of the state. The site selected by the Commissioners was in the middle of the public road from Frankfort to Lexington, which necessitated moving the road over to the north side of the hill.

In the early years of the War Between the States, a large force was employed there preparing fixed ammunition for the muzzle-loading arms. Weapons for arming the regiments when they were first organized and mustered into the service of the United States were stored in the Arsenal.

Although the state government of Kentucky remained in the Union, the Confederates, entering from an unexpected direction, easily captured and held the capital for a month in 1862. In 1861 the Confederates had selected their first Governor, George W. Johnson, and established their capital at Russellville. Having lost their first Governor at the Battle of Shiloh, they were in the process of inaugurating their second, Richard E. Hawes, when they received word that Union forces were advancing on Frankfort. They hastily departed, leaving the capital to the Union.

Again in 1864, there was a threatened capture of the city by the South, but they were repulsed by the cannon at the Arsenal. Sharpshooters were posted on the roof, and the cannon, mounted near the door, threw an occasional shot at the Confederate soldiers across the river to the south and west. A Confederate sharpshooter, however, got the range of the cannon and after several trials, put a bullet among the men who were manning the gun thereby causing a considerable scatter of soldiers.

(see continuation sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Woodyard, Thomas W., Sr., (Colonel, Kentucky National Guard) "History Of The State Arsenal, Frankfort, Kentucky."

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

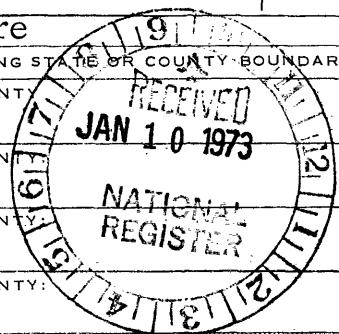
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		38° 11' 51"	84° 52' 21"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

U: M
16/686280/
4229670
CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **one acre**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Robert Simpson Walker, III**

ORGANIZATION: **Kentucky National Guard** DATE: **Oct. 15, 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER: **181 Elm Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Versailles** STATE: **Kentucky** CODE: **21**

12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

National State Local

Name: Mr. Simpson Walker

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: January 4, 1973

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

Robert M. Utley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 4/11/73

ATTEST: [Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 4-3-73

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet) #1

STATE KENTUCKY	
COUNTY FRANKLIN	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 11 1973

(Number all entries)

8 Statement of Significance

After the War the Arsenal was used continuously for the storage and distribution of arms and equipment for the Kentucky State Guard which became the Kentucky National Guard in 1903; and the State Active Militia. It was a busy place during the Night Rider troubles of 1907-1909, when nearly all the the guard was on active service in the tobacco districts for various lengths of time. The mobilization of the National Guard in each of the World Wars made the Arsenal a bee-hive of activity.

The State Arsenal is now in use housing various facilities of the Kentucky Department of Military Affairs. Current tentative plans call for a military museum to be established there.

