

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property

County and State

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 100001006

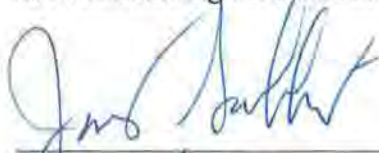
Date Listed: 6/5/2017

Property Name: Hot Springs National Guard Armory

County: Garland

State: AR

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.



Signature of the Keeper

6-5-2017

Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 8: Significant Dates

1982 is hereby deleted as a significant date. Significant dates cannot be outside of the period of significance.

The Arkansas State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

mp -1006

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: Hot Springs National Guard Armory

Other names/site number: Hot Springs Armory, GA0886

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

An Ambition to be Preferred: New Deal Recovery Efforts and Architecture in Arkansas, 1933-1943 (ID 64500959)

2. Location

Street & number: 210 Woodbine Street

City or town: Hot Springs State: Arkansas County: Garland

Not For Publication: Vicinity: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:

X A ___ B X C ___ D

		<u>4-7-17</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:		Date
<u>Arkansas Historic Preservation Program</u>		
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government		
In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.		
Signature of commenting official:		Date
Title :		State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

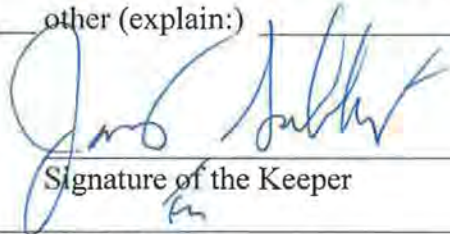
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4. National Park Service Certification

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

6-5-2017
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>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DEFENSE: Military Facility & Arms Storage/Armory

RECREATION AND CULTURE: auditorium

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL: civic

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MODERN MOVEMENT: Art Deco

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Foundation: Concrete, Walls: Other: Hollow
Clay Tile, Roof: Wood and Metal: Steel.

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

Summary Paragraph

The Hot Springs National Guard Armory is a Works Progress Administration (WPA) project constructed for the use of local National Guard units and the community as an auditorium space. Construction was initiated in 1937 at an estimated cost of \$30,000. The building size measures 109 feet wide and 134 feet long and replaced tennis courts previously located on the courthouse grounds. The armory building is located 210 Woodbine in Hot Springs, Arkansas, and is incorporated in the Garland County Court House complex with the rear of the building placed directly behind the Court House; sharing a parking lot in between. The armory is a one-story hollow tile masonry structure designed with Art Deco style ornamentation and form. The building features include an original wooden barrel vault roof supported with bowstring trusses that are visible from the interior, hollow tile masonry walls that include Art Deco detailing and massing on the front façade and a decorative parapet wall along the entire roof line of the structure. Also, large windows along the front and rear facades provide natural lighting for the large central interior space of the building.

Narrative Description

The Hot Springs National Guard Armory was constructed as one of seventeen armories constructed as part of a statewide armory building program that was authorized by state Act 271

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of 1925.¹ Also, the Hot Springs National Guard Armory was one of five armories built using funds and support from the Works Progress Administration (WPA) with Art Deco detailing. These include the Helena Armory completed in 1937 (NR 1.27.2007), the Batesville Armory completed in 1936 (NR 5.29.1998), the Paris Armory completed in 1940, and the Texarkana Armory completed in 1936.

The front of the Hot Springs National Guard Armory building is located at 210 Woodbine Street. The property faces southeast, overlooking a small curved driveway and a small section of grass. The entire structure sits on a cast-concrete foundation, which supports the original hollow clay tile walls. The structure is roofed with a large, barrel vaulted wooden roof supported by a series of bowstring trusses. The large interior space created by the barrel vaulted roof is flanked to the north, east and west by smaller spaces designed as administrative offices, meeting rooms and storage spaces. These smaller spaces are topped by flat roofs behind a raised parapet. The parapet that surrounds the entire structure includes integral drains that are fronted by downspouts on the side exterior walls. The entire structure is reinforced by shallow external buttresses. The front façade echoes the design of other contemporary armories in Arkansas and includes a large triangular formed parapet that masks the actual barrel vault of the roof structure.

Southeast (Front) Façade

The front façade is composed of three main sections; including a recessed central section flanked by an extended one-story block on either side. The central section is dominated by the central three door entryway, which is flanked by two sets of buttresses with Art-Deco vertical linear detailing. Five panels of windows, one on each side of the central entryway and three panels above the entryway, all set within the four equally-spaced buttresses. The lower window panels are composed of pairs of six-over-six single-hung windows. The upper window panels include two flanking sets of six-over-four windows with tops that are angled to mimic the angle of the angled parapet wall along the top of the façade. The central set of upper windows are composed of three ten-over-four windows, with their tops also mimicking the line of the angled parapet above. This central entry area is flanked by two tower forms, one to each side, created by an extended parapet section above and a slight extension of the façade wall as well as additional vertical lines that create a sense of height and tower like shape. Each of the “tower” sections includes an adjoining pair of four-over-four windows and each are topped by an inset concrete plaque shapes. The plaque shape does echo WPA plaques found on other structures, but there is no text or images visible on these decorative elements.

The two shorter, extended sections of the front façade include a six-over-six single-hung window along the southeastern wall. The eastern extended section includes a single entry door with a

¹ Mark Christ, “Helena National Guard Armory,” *Encyclopedia of Arkansas*, 12 December 2016, Accessed January 9, 2017. <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=8105>.

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transom above along its southwestern side. The southeastern side of the western extended section includes a single six-over-six, single-hung window.

Northeast (Side) Façade

The northeast façade includes eleven windows and two single metal doors near the rear of the structure. The six-over-six windows are evenly distributed along the façade and are separated by alternating buttresses and metal downspouts that drain the area behind the roof parapet from small drain slits to the ground.

Northwest (Rear) Façade

The tall, central section mimics the layout of the front façade, including three central entry doors and four, equally-spaced buttresses. The main mass of the building is topped by a parapet that mimics a wide gable with sections that step down on either side. There are also two extended bays that may have originally been used as storage spaces with rear entry bays; however, the entry bays were bricked in at some point early in the building's history once the rear of the building became inaccessible for vehicle entry to the rear after the addition of a raised drive on the adjacent courthouse. The two extended bays each include three rectangular insets with detailing that mimics the linear Art-Deco detailing seen on the rest of the building. The space between the two extended bays has been partially enclosed by a brick wall to create a protected exterior courtyard space.

Southwest (Side) Façade

The southwest facade includes twelve windows, including two six-over-six windows as seen on the rest of the façade and ten shorter three-over-three windows. This façade also includes a single metal door with inset window panels at the northern edge. The windows and door are all distributed evenly along the façade and are separated by alternating buttresses and metal downspouts that drain the area behind the roof parapet from small drain slits to the ground. The small open area next to this façade is partially covered by the air conditioning units that service the Hot Springs Armory building.

Interior

As the interior of the building was designed to provide ample space for National Guard drills to be practiced inside, the barrel vaulted roof system was an economic way to cover such a large room while still providing the maximum amount of internal space. This large open space provides a clear view of the bow string trusses and the interior face of the wooden barrel vault roof. Large windows along the front and rear facades provide natural lighting for the large central interior space of the building and additional lighting is provided by large lighting fixtures that are suspended from the trusses of the barrel vaulted ceiling. The large open space of the interior is flanked to the east and west by rooms along the perimeter that were designed to serve various administrative, gathering and storage needs.

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All of the floors in the structure have been covered with tile adhered to the original cast-concrete floor that also serves as the foundation for the building. With the exception of the later interior rooms that are framed in wood and sheet rock, all internal and external walls are constructed of hollow tile masonry block. The rear interior spaces include a large commercial kitchen and storage space.

Historical Integrity

In 1981, the Hot Springs National Guard Armory was renovated for use as the Garland County Center for Senior Citizens. During this renovation, an internal structure was designed and built to create new office and meeting spaces, a new kitchen space and provide an internal housing for a new self-contained air conditioning system. Although this new interior addition was large and partially divided the interior space, it also provided much needed administration space and its design still allowed the interior to retain the original open roof structure and feel of a single large central space. Also, two original exterior doors on the northeast façade were replaced with windows. Several windows have been replaced; however, the original window divisions and style were maintained in the new windows. In circa 2006, the exterior of the structure was painted and small fabric awnings were installed over the entryways. This building continues to be used as a senior citizens center for the Hot Springs community.

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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.)

MILITARY

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1937-1967

Significant Dates

1938

1982

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Works Progress Administration (WPA)

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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 Hot Springs National Guard Armory was constructed as one of seventeen armories completed as part of a statewide armory building program that was authorized by state Act 271 of 1925 and eventually funded and supported by the Works Progress Administration (WPA). The large building was started in 1937 and completed in 1938. The Hot Springs National Guard Armory is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A**, with **local significance**, for its association with the history of the Arkansas Army National Guard and the Works Progress Administration in Garland County. The Hot Springs National Guard Armory is being submitted to the National Register of Historic Places under the multiple-property listing "An Ambition to be Preferred: New Deal Recovery Efforts and Architecture in Arkansas, 1933-1943."² This building is also being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C**, with **local significance**, as an excellent example of an Art Deco Style armory in Garland County, Arkansas.

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

Elaboration

The City of Hot Springs

The city of Hot Springs sits at the base of the Ouachita Mountains southwest of the Arkansas state capitol of Little Rock. The water from the hot springs soon became known for having medicinal qualities and attracted visitors from all over the region. The area developed into a well-known resort nicknamed "The American Spa". In 1830, the first bathhouses were constructed in Hot Springs. The area thrived on the business created by containing and distributing the heated waters in therapeutic bathhouses. By the 1870s Hot Springs was advertised across the nation as "The Nation's Health Sanitarium".³ Bathhouse Row (NR 11.13.1974, NHL 5.28.1987) along Central Avenue became the centerpiece of bathing culture in Hot Springs during the late 19th century. Throughout the 20th century the baths faded as medical treatment with the advent of modern medical science, but people still came by the thousands for relaxation and recreation.⁴

After early European exploration, the land surrounding the springs was used mostly by travelers and early settlers as a source of healing thermal water. In 1804, a four-week expedition by

² New Deal Recovery Efforts in Arkansas MPS: National Register Information System ID 64500959.

³ Shugart Sharon, *Hot Springs National Park: A Brief History of the Park* (National Park Service, 2003).

⁴ *Ibid.*

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George Hunter and William Dunbar was undertaken to the thermal springs.⁵ These early explorers were unable to discover the source of springs, but they did note the few rudimentary shelters that had been built for visitors to the springs and the area's interesting geology. In 1807, local planter Emmanuel Prudhomme became the first settler of modern Hot Springs National Park.⁶ Over the next few decades, new homes and even a few early hotels started to draw new residents and travelers to the area.⁷

In 1820, the Arkansas Territorial Legislature requested that the springs and adjoining mountains be set aside as a federal reservation.⁸ In 1832, the 22nd United States Congress formed the national reservation at Hot Springs, granting federal protection to the local thermal springs.⁹ The Hot Springs Reservation was designated for public use as a park in 1880. The town of Hot Springs was incorporated in 1851 as a health spa and resort area, catering to invalids and leisure seekers who hoped to find relief in the area's thermal springs at the local bathhouses.¹⁰ The first bathhouses to utilize the thermal springs along Hot Springs Mountain were small cabins and frame buildings.¹¹ After the federal government began controlling the springs in the 1870s, major improvements were made to the area. This included covering the nearby Hot Springs Creek with stone arches and a wide park area, cleaning up rubbish, and starting a centralized plumbing system to provide water to the bathhouses.¹² As the popularity of thermal water treatments for various ills and afflictions grew during the end of the 19th century through the mid-20th century, the town of Hot Springs came to depend on the tourists and patients attracted by the springs. After 1877, when Benjamin F. Kelley was appointed by Congress as the first superintendent of the Hot Springs Reservation, new engineering projects and the construction of a rail connection from the Rock Island Railroad transformed the area into a major resort destination that would continue to grow for decades.¹³ In 1921, an act of Congress changed the name officially to Hot Springs National Park with its designation as the 18th National Park.¹⁴

During the 19th and 20th century, the town of Hot Springs had grown out of the small valley between Hot Springs Mountain to the east and West Mountain to the west. The bathhouses, now all situated along Bathhouse Row, running along the eastern side of Central Avenue were improved, remodeled and rebuilt through the 1930s. Their placement allowed them to easily cater to the tourist trade while taking advantage of the spring water that flowed through the National Park's water supply system. By the end of the 1930s all of the major bathhouses had been transformed into large palaces for healing and relaxation. As the city of Hot Springs National Park grew during the 20th century, new residential and commercial developments were

⁵ Isabel Burton Anthony, *Garland County, Arkansas: Our History and Heritage* (Hot Springs National Park: Garland County Historical Society, 2009), 13-14.

⁶ Guy Lancaster, "Hot Springs (Garland County)", *Encyclopedia of Arkansas*, 12 November 2014.

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ Sharon Shugart, *Hot Springs National Park: A Brief History of the Park* (National Park Service, 2003).

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ Lancaster, "Hot Springs (Garland County)".

¹¹ *Ibid.*

¹² *Ibid.*

¹³ Lancaster, "Hot Springs (Garland County)".

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

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built along Central Avenue, the main thoroughfare through the center of the city. New residential districts grew to the south and east. Even during the Depression years, continued new development along Central Avenue showed that the city was still enjoying a surprisingly robust economy. In a July 1937 newspaper article in the local *New Era* newspaper, over \$150,000 in recent construction investment was announced as a new peak in the Hot Springs business district.¹⁵

The construction of the Hot Springs National Guard Armory on the eve of World War II was during a period of steady growth for the community. Through the 1950s, several bathhouses and spas successfully enticed new and return visitors to sample the thermal waters of the springs. Although the Great Depression years of the 1930s did affect the profitability of the bathhouses and park, a cut in the general hours of operation for the bathhouses helped to divert too heavy a financial blow.¹⁶ The tourist trade, however, began to diminish in the 1960s and 1970s. The great bathhouses that had been constructed in the late 19th century and early 20th century closed one by one. By 1985, only the Buckstaff Bathhouse was still operating on Bathhouse Row.¹⁷ By the turn of the 21st century, new interest in heritage tourism and the listing of Bathhouse Row as a National Historic Landmark in 1987 led to a revival in Hot Springs National Park and the surrounding city of Hot Springs.

Hot Springs National Guard Armory

The Hot Springs National Guard Armory was constructed as one of seventeen armories completed as part of a statewide armory building program that was authorized by state Act 271 of 1925.¹⁸ This initial investment in the local military needs of National Guard units stationed in Arkansas resulted in the construction of only a few armories across the state by 1935; including projects in Jonesboro, Magnolia and Russellville. The creation of New Deal programs designed to use building projects to reinvigorate local economies and put unemployed laborers to work allowed many local communities across Arkansas to plan and construct new facilities including armories between 1933 and 1942. The Hot Springs National Guard Armory was one of five armories built using funds and support from the Works Progress Administration (WPA) that were designed and constructed with Art Deco detailing. These armory projects included the Helena Armory completed in 1937 (NR 1.27.2007), the Batesville Armory completed in 1936 (NR 5.29.1998), the Paris Armory completed in 1940, and the Texarkana Armory completed in 1936.

In the early 1900s, the Arkansas State Guard was reorganized and renamed the Arkansas National Guard. This reorganization was due in large part to the problems encountered during

¹⁵ "\$150,000 in Construction," *Hot Springs New Era*, July 24, 1937. p. 5.

¹⁶ "1933: ... Park concession business dropped off because of the Great Depression, but early closing to decrease operating costs stopped the decline." Sharon Shurgart, *The Hot Springs of Arkansas through the Years: A Chronology of Events* (Hot Springs National Park: Department of the Interior: National Park Service, 2004).

¹⁷ Sharon Shugart, *Hot Springs National Park: A Brief History of the Park* (National Park Service, 2003).

¹⁸ Mark Christ, "Helena National Guard Armory," *Encyclopedia of Arkansas*.

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the mobilization of the state militia during the Spanish-American War in 1898.¹⁹ Several new units were created and in 1909, a geographic reorganization brought a National Guard unit to Hot Springs, Arkansas.²⁰ This first unit was Company C of the 1st Regiment of the Arkansas National Guard and included a compliment of three officers and 41 enlisted men.²¹ In 1917, with the growth of the National Guard and the expansion of units on the eve of World War I, Hot Springs was home to Company C of the 3rd Regiment and the Ambulance Company of the Ammunition Train unit with a total of eight officers and 310 men. These units were called into Federal Service and would eventually train in Louisiana and then see service in France from 1918 to 1919.²² After these and other units returned to Arkansas after their service during WWI, many of the units were disbanded.²³ In 1921, the state of Arkansas was authorized to reconstitute its previous war time units and start rebuilding the National Guard across Arkansas.²⁴ In 1922, this post-WWI expansion included the creation of Hospital Company Number 216 which was stationed in Hot Springs.²⁵ The Arkansas National Guard was soon given the chance to promote the state with the National Guard Association of the United States' National Convention in 1928. This convention, held in Hot Springs, Arkansas, was heralded in other states as a triumph for the state's guard units and helped to promote the state's natural beauty to a new audience.²⁶

The War Department of the United States authorized the creation of the 2nd Battalion of the 142nd Artillery, with its Headquarters Unit stationed in Hot Springs, Arkansas, in April of 1936.²⁷ Also, a third unit for the city was created and in the process of formal recognition as early as 1937; the 206th Coast Artillery Regiment, Battery H. Local newspaper reports in 1937 note that the new Hot Springs Armory would be used to house the city's three units and provide space for community activities.²⁸ In 1939, the National Guard in Arkansas was again reorganized, with the units in Hot Springs re-designated as the 153rd Infantry Regiment, Medical Detachment and the 206th Coast Artillery Regiment, Battery H. These units would continue to be stationed at Hot Springs until the National Guard was federalized during World War II. During their federal service, the 153rd Infantry Regiment and the 206th Coast Artillery Regiment was sent to Alaska and the Aleutian Islands to help protect the areas along the coast from enemy attack.²⁹ After the locally stationed National Guard units left Arkansas during WWII, the state was allowed to

¹⁹ Harry Smith, "Arkansas Army and Air National Guard, a History and Record of Events, 1820- 1962," Little Rock, Arkansas: Arkansas Military Department, 1962.

²⁰ *Ibid.*

²¹ *Ibid.*

²² Steve Rucker, "Arkansas National Guard," *Encyclopedia of Arkansas*, 6 June 2016, Accessed 9 January 2017, <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=3192>.

²³ Smith, "Arkansas Army and Air National Guard, a History and Record of Events, 1820- 1962."

²⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁶ Lieut-Col. Fred M. Waterbury, ed., "The National Convention at Hot Springs," *The New York National Guardsman*, New York, NY, December 1928. pp. 3-5.

²⁷ Smith, "Arkansas Army and Air National Guard, a History and Record of Events, 1820- 1962."

²⁸ "Letters Sent to Citizens Asking Funds for Armory," *New Era*, Hot Springs, Arkansas, 1 May 1937.

²⁹ Rucker, "Arkansas National Guard," *Encyclopedia of Arkansas*.

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reconstitute the defunct Arkansas State Guard as a home guard effort.³⁰ This included stationing a small Medical Detachment of three officers and eight enlisted men at the armory in Hot Springs.³¹ In 1946, after the end of World War II, the Arkansas State Guard was deactivated and the Arkansas National Guard was again re-organized as the 39th Infantry Division with the 437th Field Artillery Battalion, Battery A stationed in Hot Springs. The last unit of the National Guard to use the Hot Springs Armory was Company A of the 212 Signal Battalion, which was organized in 1959.³²

In December of 1935, the *Camden Times* newspaper of Camden, Arkansas, announced that new armory buildings were proposed in towns across Arkansas; including in Camden, El Dorado, Walnut Ridge, Russellville, Prescott and Hot Springs.³³ Although not all of these projects would be completed, it is evident that the planning for a new armory in Hot Springs was in progress as early as 1935. In May of 1937, it was noted in the local Hot Springs newspaper that efforts were underway to secure funding for a National Guard armory for the city.³⁴ The units of the Arkansas National Guard then stationed in Hot Springs had been housed in rented quarters and the lease on these spaces were expiring soon. It was reported by the Adjutant General of Arkansas that a new armory building was necessary in the area, or the local units would be moved to other areas where space was available.³⁵ These three units included 102 enlisted men and seven officers in three units; including a medical detachment of the 153rd Infantry, the First Battalion of the 142nd Field Artillery and a new planned unit, Battery H of the 206th Coast Artillery Corps.

On June 24, 1937, local newspapers reported that Major Howell Brewer, commander of at least one Arkansas National Guard unit in Hot Springs, announced that arrangements had been completed to raise the city's required portion, \$6,000.00, of the cost of a new National Guard Armory.³⁶ The rest of the funds for the armory, which was estimated to cost a total of \$30,000.00, would come from the Works Progress Administration. Construction on the new armory building in Hot Springs was started on August 23, 1937.³⁷

The design of the Hot Springs National Guard Armory was copied from the previous armories undertaken as WPA projects around Arkansas. Pieter Blaauw was noted in documentation from the Batesville Armory, now the Old Independence Regional Museum, as the architect responsible for the design of the Batesville armory. Pieter Johann Blaauw was an immigrant to

³⁰ Smith, "Arkansas Army and Air National Guard, a History and Record of Events, 1820- 1962."

³¹ *Ibid.*

³² *Ibid.*

³³ "Armory Work to Start Here Soon," *The Camden Times*, Camden, Arkansas, 19 December 1935.

³⁴ "Letters Sent to Citizens Asking Funds for Armory," *New Era*, Hot Springs, Arkansas, 1 May 1937.

³⁵ *Ibid.*

³⁶ "National Guard Armory Assured for Hot Springs," *Arkansas Gazette*, Little Rock, Arkansas, 22 June 1937.

³⁷ "Rapid Progress on Other Projects Here is Reported," *New Era*, Hot Springs, Arkansas, 14 August 1937.

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the United States from Wittewierum, Holland, via Rotterdam, Holland, and New York City.³⁸ He arrived in the United States in May of 1915 at the age of 22 as a carpenter traveling to New Mexico to start a new life.³⁹ By 1920, Blaauw was living in Independence County, Arkansas, with his sister and working as a carpenter in the local community.⁴⁰ In 1936, Pieter Blaauw became a naturalized citizen of the United States.⁴¹ In the 1940 United States Census, Pieter Blaauw is noted as a supervisor with occupation codes that note he was employed by the federal government; this most likely reflects his work in one of the various supervisory positions during the New Deal programs.

The basic Art Deco design and layout of space was copied in the Hot Springs Armory, with the most notable difference in the use of hollow clay tile as the main structural material in the Hot Springs Armory, rather than the native stone seen in the Batesville Armory. The use of local materials and local craftsmen was a hallmark of the early WPA projects across the county. The use of local materials and local craftsmen helped to lower the costs that would have been incurred due to the importation of materials or the training of unskilled local labor in new construction techniques. Also, the design of the WPA armories tended to vary by region. Although more traditional castellated Medieval Revival and Classical Revival styles were more common in the Northeast part of the United States, the use of Art Deco detailing on armories can be found across the United States. The five similar Art Deco influenced armories in Arkansas were all completed or started before 1940 and all share similar vertical detailing along the main façade and overall similarities in massing.⁴²

The plan of the Hot Springs Armory is also common to other armories designed and built before World War II, with a large open drilling space at the center with service spaces arranged along the edges. Most armories were either this style or two story spaces with administrative and service spaces on a second floor above a large open drilling space at the first floor level.⁴³ Also, the large central space for guard drills was meant to be multi-purpose, serving as a community auditorium that could seat 3,000 people.⁴⁴ The community use of the Hot Springs Armory was common for designs in the 1930s and 1940s, when armories were often designed to be community halls or auditoriums with some including raised stages and dressing rooms. The Hot Springs National Guard Armory final total construction cost was roughly \$40,000, which

³⁸ Naturalization Record for Pieter Johann Blaauw, 5 May 1936, U. S. District Court, Eastern District of Arkansas, Batesville, Arkansas.

³⁹ *Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York, New York, 1820-1897, Ship: Potsdam, Port of Departure: Rotterdam, Year: 1915; Arrival: New York, New York.*

⁴⁰ United States Census, 1920.

⁴¹ Naturalization Record for Pieter Johann Blaauw, 5 May 1936, U. S. District Court, Eastern District of Arkansas, Batesville, Arkansas.

⁴² These armory projects included the Hot Springs Armory completed in 19389, the Helena Armory completed in 1937 (NR 1.27.2007), the Batesville Armory completed in 1936 (NR 5.29.1998), the Paris Armory completed in 1940, and the Texarkana Armory completed in 1936.

⁴³ Dianna Everett, *Historic National Guard Armories: A Brief, Illustrated Review of the Past Two Centuries*, Oklahoma Historical Society State Historic Preservation Office & Historical Services Division, Office of Public Affairs, National Guard Bureau, 1991. pp. 39-42.

⁴⁴ "Letters Sent to Citizens Asking Funds for Armory," *New Era*, Hot Springs, Arkansas, 1 May 1937.

Hot Springs National Guard Armory
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possibly included an additional amount, sponsored by the Arkansas State Military Department, totaling \$2,742.00, which was spent on constructing floors, paint and landscaping at the Armory after the initial construction was completed.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt created the Works Progress Administration (WPA), later called the Works Projects Administration, by executive order in May of 1935 and named Harry L. Hopkins as the administrator of the program.⁴⁵ During the just over seven year span of the WPA, more than \$11 billion dollars were expended, employing 8.5 million individuals on more than 1.4 million projects.⁴⁶ The projects ranged from school lunch programs, flood control, archeological investigations to small and large construction projects; including highways, bridges, schools, stadiums, auditoriums, museums and armories. The armory projects were especially important as they helped to shore-up the military programs and facilities across the United States that had been neglected since the end of World War I. The troubling climate in Europe during the 1930s also lead Roosevelt and his administration to begin planning to increase the size and efficiency of the United States military and the construction of new armories and the promotion of the National Guard was a part of this overall military increase.⁴⁷

According to the government report entitled *Final Report on the WPA Program: 1935-43*, which was compiled in 1947, the Works Progress Administration constructed armories on a nation-wide scale.⁴⁸ The armories were a particularly favored project due to the fact that they could not only serve the local civil defense networks as National Guard armories, but they could also serve as community meeting centers and recreational facilities. By mid-1937, 126 armories had been constructed through the United States by the WPA, most in the South and West.⁴⁹ By the time the program had ended in 1943, 400 armories had been constructed and nearly 500 armories had been renovated and repaired.⁵⁰ During the armory building campaign of the New Deal programs, the smallest armories were most often constructed by the WPA and were intended to be designed by local architects and built by unskilled laborers.⁵¹ From the beginning of the New Deal programs, communities competed for funds. Nearly every community with a National Guard unit could argue that they needed updated spaces that could also accommodate other community needs. A set of criteria were established for communities who wanted to apply for funding from the WPA: 1) projects must meet a well-defined community need; 2) each project needed local financial sponsorship equaling 10 to 25 percent of the overall cost of the

⁴⁵ Dianna Everett, *Historic National Guard Armories: A Brief, Illustrated Review of the Past Two Centuries*, p. 33.

⁴⁶ *Ibid.*

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*

⁴⁸ *Final Report on the WPA Program: 1935-4*, United States: Federal Works Agency, Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1947.

⁴⁹ Dianna Everett, *Historic National Guard Armories: A Brief, Illustrated Review of the Past Two Centuries*, p. 35.

⁵⁰ *Final Report on the WPA Program: 1935-4*, United States: Federal Works Agency, Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1947.

⁵¹ Dianna Everett, *Historic National Guard Armories: A Brief, Illustrated Review of the Past Two Centuries*, p. 33.

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project in either cash or materials; and 3) 90 percent of those hired had to be unemployed workers who were carried on the relief rolls.⁵²

When the project began in August of 1937, it was estimated the construction of the Hot Springs National Guard Armory building would take the 25 men assigned to the project five months to complete. However, the first National Guard drill was not held in the structure until July 1938.⁵³ During WWII, when all of the Arkansas National Guard units were called to active duty, the building was used by the local Boys Club to provide baseball, basketball, and boxing matches for the young men of the area. The armory also housed a small Medical Detachment of three officers and eight enlisted men as part of the reconstituted Arkansas State Guard during the war years.⁵⁴

Garland County Center for Senior Citizens

In 1981, the architectural firm of Burt Taggart & Associates was hired to transform the armory building into a senior citizens center for Garland County. In their renovation, the architects inserted an internal air conditioning system contained in four independent rounded tower units with side venting and a series of one-story frame walls that provided a separate entry space new administrative offices at the front of the structure. The towers and walls do not reach to the ceiling and were designed to allow a view of the expansive roof structure and to insure that the large interior hall still reads as one large vaulted space. The support rooms that flank the central hall space were renovated in order to support additional uses and the kitchen at the rear of the structure was updated. This renovation was completed in 1982. Later, the exterior of the structure was painted in order to address water infiltration issues.

Mercy Hospital, now Catholic Health Initiatives (CHI) St. Vincent Hospital, with their partners at the Area Agency on Aging of West Central Arkansas and others, has continued to provide community based services for seniors at this county owned location since 1991. Services include congregate lunches, socialization, transportation, evidenced based health education, and home delivered meal services to the senior citizen population of Garland County, Arkansas. This center was certified as an Arkansas Senior Wellness Center in 2015.

Statement of Significance

The Hot Springs National Guard Armory was constructed as one of seventeen armories completed as part of a statewide armory building program that was authorized by Arkansas state Act 271 of 1925 and eventually funded and supported by the New Deal Era's Works Progress Administration (WPA). The Hot Springs National Guard Armory is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A**, with **local significance**, for its association with the history of the Arkansas Army National Guard and the Works Progress

⁵² *Ibid.* pp. 34-35.

⁵³ "Guardsmen Move Into New \$40,000 Armory Today," *Hot Springs New Era*, Hot Springs, Arkansas, 28 July 1938.

⁵⁴ Smith, "Arkansas Army and Air National Guard, a History and Record of Events, 1820- 1962."

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Administration in Garland County. The Hot Springs National Guard Armory is being submitted to the National Register of Historic Places under the multiple-property listing “An Ambition to be Preferred: New Deal Recovery Efforts and Architecture in Arkansas, 1933-1943.”⁵⁵ This armory building was started in 1937 and completed in 1938 and falls within the period of significance for the completion of New Deal era structures in Arkansas. This building is also being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C**, with **local significance**, as an excellent example of an Art Deco Style armory in Garland County, Arkansas.

⁵⁵ New Deal Recovery Efforts in Arkansas MPS: National Register Information System ID 64500959

Hot Springs National Guard Armory
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9. Major Bibliographical References

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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): GA0886

Hot Springs National Guard Armory
Name of Property

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property < 1

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 15 | Easting: 494651 | Northing: 3818040 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

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

Hot Springs Reservation (HSR) Subdivision of the city of Hot Springs National Park, Block 94, Lot 2 in Section 5, Township 3 South, Range 19 West.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

This boundary includes all of the property historically associated the Hot Springs National Guard Armory.

Hot Springs National Guard Armory
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Sherial Bradley
organization: Area Agency on Aging of West Central Arkansas

name/title: Callie Williams, National Register Historian (Edited By)
organization: Department of Arkansas Heritage, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
street & number: 1100 North Street
city or town: Little Rock state: Arkansas zip code: 72201
e-mail callie.williams@arkansas.gov
telephone: 501.324.9789
date: January 8, 2017

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.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 pip (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.

Hot Springs National Guard Armory
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Photo Log

Name of Property: Hot Springs National Guard Armory

City or Vicinity: Hot Springs

County: Garland

State: Arkansas

Photographer: Callie Williams

Date Photographed: August 24, 2016

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

- 1 of 14: Front (southeast) elevation of the Hot Springs National Guard Armory, camera facing north.
- 2 of 14: Detail of the front (southeast) elevation of the Hot Springs National Guard Armory, camera facing northwest.
- 3 of 14: Side (northeast) elevation of the Hot Springs National Guard Armory, camera facing northwest
- 4 of 14: Detail of the rear (northwest) elevation of the Hot Springs National Guard Armory, camera facing southeast.
- 5 of 14: Detail of the rear (northwest) elevation of the Hot Springs National Guard Armory, camera facing southwest.
- 6 of 14: Detail of the rear (northwest) elevation of the Hot Springs National Guard Armory, camera facing south.
- 7 of 14: Rear (northwest) elevation of the Hot Springs National Guard Armory, camera facing northeast.
- 8 of 14: Side (southwest) elevation of the Hot Springs National Guard Armory, camera facing east.
- 9 of 14: Side (southwest) elevation of the Hot Springs National Guard Armory, camera facing north.
- 10 of 14: Interior of the Hot Springs National Guard Armory, detail of the large main hall and rear doors and windows, camera facing northwest.
- 11 of 14: Interior of the Hot Springs National Guard Armory, detail of the large main hall and rear doors and windows, camera facing north.
- 12 of 14: Interior of the Hot Springs National Guard Armory, detail of the interior addition and air unit towers, camera facing south.
- 13 of 14: Interior of the Hot Springs National Guard Armory, detail of the interior addition and front entry space, camera facing north.
- 14 of 14: Interior of the Hot Springs National Guard Armory, detail of the interior of the barrel vaulted roof and steel truss roof support system, camera facing south/up.

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County and State

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.

Hot Springs National Guard Armory, Hot Springs, Garland County, Arkansas



Google Earth

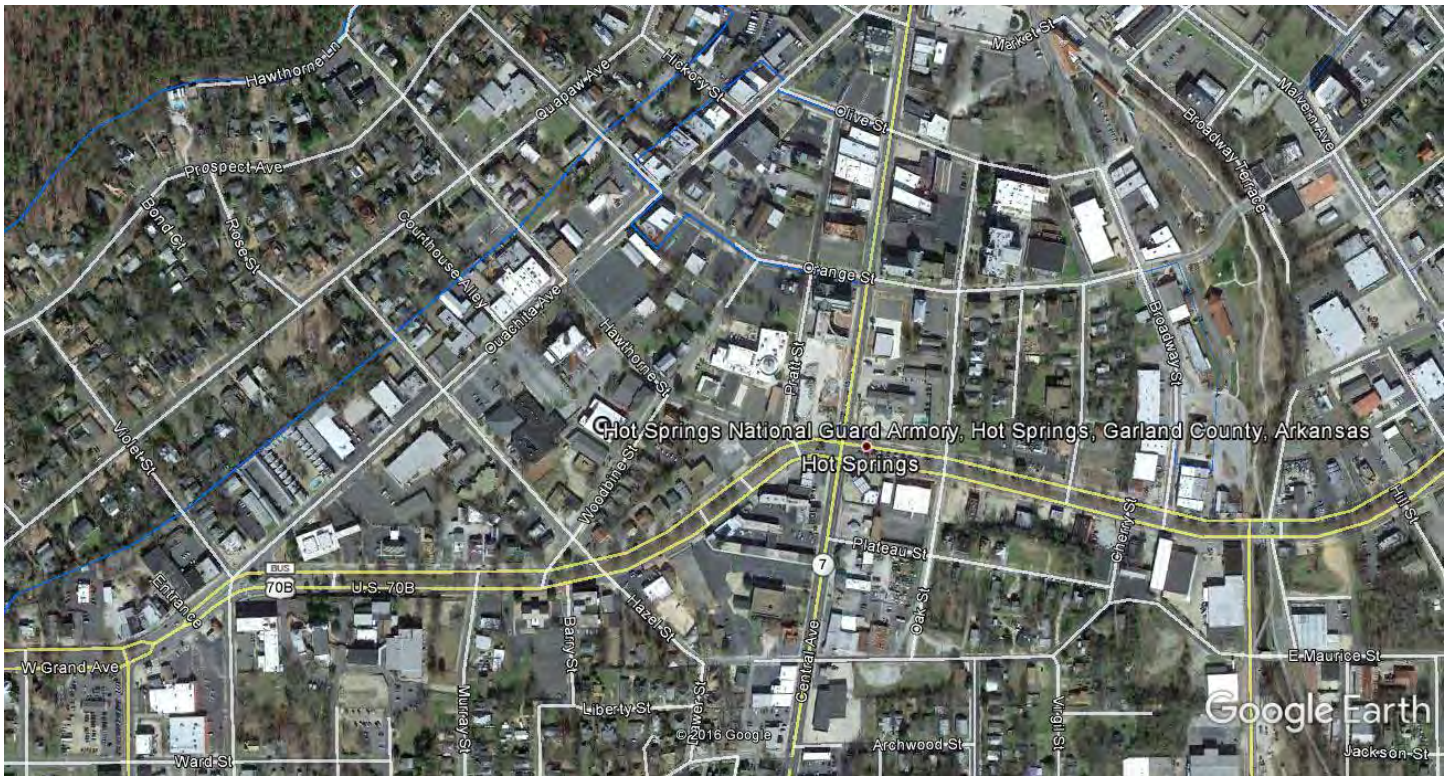


UTM

NAD 1983

Zone: 15 Easting: 494651 Northing: 3818040

Hot Springs National Guard Armory, Hot Springs, Garland County, Arkansas



Google Earth



UTM

NAD 1983

Zone: 15 Easting: 494651 Northing: 3818040



OHA Vincent
Lillian K. Smith
210 Woodbine



CHI St. Vincent
Senior Center
210 Woodbine

FINDERS
KEEPERS
OPEN 9:00 - 1:00

























UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Hot Springs National Guard Armory

Multiple Name: New Deal Recovery Efforts in Arkansas MPS

State & County: ARKANSAS, Garland

Date Received: 4/21/2017 Date of Pending List: Date of 16th Day: Date of 45th Day: 6/5/2017 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: MP100001006

Nominator: State

Reason For Review:

<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal	<input type="checkbox"/> PDIL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue
<input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Photo
<input type="checkbox"/> Waiver	<input type="checkbox"/> National	<input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary
<input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission	<input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource	<input type="checkbox"/> Period
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> TCP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years
	<input type="checkbox"/> CLG	

Accept Return Reject 6/5/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: The building has local significance under the MPS for New deal resources and for its use as a local military center, although its "significance" in that area is not really justified in the nomination.

Recommendation/ Criteria Accept / A *TC*

Reviewer Jim Gabbert Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2275 Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments ; No see attached SLR ; **Yes**

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



THE DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS
HERITAGE

Asa Hutchinson
Governor

Stacy Hurst
Director

February 2, 2017

Mr. Rick Stauder, Planning Coordinator
City of Hot Springs
P.O. Box 700
Hot Springs, AR 71902

Re: Hot Springs Armory – Hot Springs, Garland County

Dear Mr. Stauder:

We are pleased to inform you that the above referenced property will be considered by the State Review Board of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, an agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage, for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register of Historic Places is the federal government's official list of historic properties worthy of the preservation. Listing in the National Register of Historic Places provides recognition and assists in preserving our nation's heritage.

Listing of this property provides recognition of the community's historic importance and assures protective review of the federal projects that might adversely affect the character of the historic property.

Listing in the National Register does not mean that limitations will be placed on the property by the federal government. Public visitation rights are not required of property owners. The federal government will not attach covenants to the property or seek to acquire it.

We have enclosed a copy of the National Register nomination for your review. If you have any comments on the proposed nomination, please submit a letter with your comments, concerns, or concurrence to the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program at least 24 hours prior to the date of the State Review Board meeting.

You are invited to attend the State Review Board meeting at which the nomination will be considered. The board will begin meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 5, 2017 at the Department of Arkansas Heritage headquarters at 1100 North Street in Little Rock.

If you have any questions regarding the State Review Board meeting feel free to call Ralph Wilcox, Callie Williams or Travis Ratermann at (501) 324-9880.

Sincerely,

Ralph Wilcox
National Register & Survey Coordinator

Arkansas Arts Council

Arkansas Natural
Heritage Commission

Arkansas State Archives

Delta Cultural Center

Historic Arkansas Museum

Mosaic Templars
Cultural Center

Old State House Museum



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THE DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS
HERITAGE

Asa Hutchinson
Governor

Stacy Hurst
Director



April 5, 2017

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief
National Register and National Historic Landmark Programs
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye St. NW, 8th Fl.
Washington D.C. 20005

Arkansas Arts Council

Arkansas Natural
Heritage Commission

Arkansas State Archives

Delta Cultural Center

Historic Arkansas Museum

Mosaic Templars
Cultural Center

Old State House Museum

RE: Hot Springs National Guard Armory – Hot Springs, Garland
County, Arkansas

Dear Mr. Loether:

We are enclosing for your review the above-referenced nomination. The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the Hot Springs National Guard Armory to the National Register of Historic Places. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

If you need further information, please call Callie Williams of my staff at (501) 324-9789. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Stacy Hurst
State Historic Preservation Officer

SH:rsw

Enclosure



ARKANSAS HISTORIC
PRESERVATION PROGRAM



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