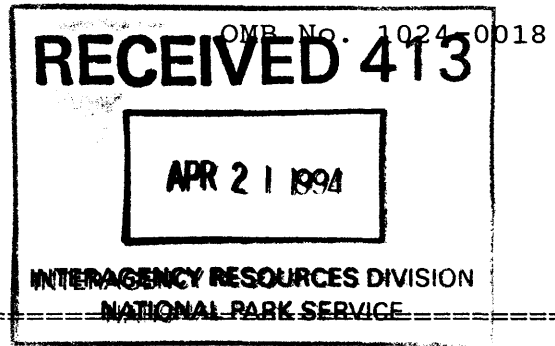


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



1. Name of Property

historic name Anadarko Armory

other names/site number Anadarko National Guard Armory

2. Location

street & number 700 West Oklahoma Street not for publication N/A
city or town Anadarko vicinity N/A
state Oklahoma code OK county Caddo code 015
zip code 73005

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 nationally statewide X locally. (N/A See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Blake Wade February 22, 1994
Signature of certifying official Date

Oklahoma Historical Society, SHPO
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 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. Beall 5.20.94
for Signature of Keeper 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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DEFENSE Sub: arms storage

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DEFENSE Sub: arms storage

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER/Works Progress Administration

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

roof ASPHALT

walls BRICK

CONCRETE

other N/A

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

=====
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 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 (Enter categories from instructions)

ECONOMIC
MILITARY
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance 1935-1937

Significant Dates 1937

=====
8. Statement of Significance (Continued)
=====

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Nolen, Bryan W., Supervising Architect
Works Progress Administration, Builder

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

=====
9. Major Bibliographical References
=====

(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 # _____

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: N/A

=====
10. Geographical Data
=====

Acreeage of Property Less than one (1) acre

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>14</u>	<u>568015</u>	<u>3881220</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

N/A See continuation sheet.

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

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Dianna Everett, Research Associate

organization State Historic Preservation Office date March, 1993

street & number 621 N. Robinson Ave., Suite 375 telephone 405-521-6249

city or town Oklahoma City state OK zip code 73102

=====
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)

=====
Property Owner
=====

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

name State of Oklahoma/Oklahoma Military Department
street & number 3501 Military Circle, Northeast telephone 405-425-8000
city or town Oklahoma City state OK zip code 73111
=====

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Anadarko Armory
name of property
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county and State

SUMMARY:

The Anadarko Armory (Anadarko National Guard Armory) is a self-contained, horizontal, single-story building measuring 230 feet north-south by 145 feet east-west. A local project of the Works Progress Administration in Oklahoma, it was constructed in 1935-1937 of red Oklahoma brick. The armory is located at 700 West Oklahoma, adjacent to a city park. The armory's main entrance faces east. The floor plan of the Anadarko Armory is somewhat atypical of WPA-built armories, in that the building comprises three, rather than two, distinct sections: A central section, with barrel roof, contains the drill area, while flat-roofed wings on the north, south, and west comprise offices, supply and arms rooms, and a garage area. The red brick load-bearing walls are an excellent example of WPA architecture and construction philosophy in Oklahoma. Though the massing is strongly horizontal, several architectural details give the building a vertical emphasis and suggest a vernacular Art Deco influence: stepped parapets over the two main entries; projecting pilasters that rise into square-topped towers; vertical panels of vertically laid brick above windows in the north, south, and east facades; and tall, vertical metal-frame windows. All windows and overhead vehicle doors are all original. Alterations have been minimal: Four original wood-panel doors have been replaced with steel and steel/glass doors, and one steel overhead vehicle door has been enlarged by adding a panel identical to the original panels. Despite these minimal changes, the Anadarko Armory retains integrity of location, setting, design, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association sufficient to enable it to convey its past identity. It definitely embodies the distinctive characteristics of the WPA period and of WPA construction methodology.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION:

The Anadarko Armory is a horizontal, self-contained, single-story brick building measuring approximately 145 feet east-to-west and 230 feet north-to-south. It lies adjacent to Randlett Park. The Anadarko facility was a three-unit armory, and is one of the state's largest armories built under the WPA program. It therefore has three wings attached to a central drill hall. The building's overall appearance is that of a fortress: As with most armories, the building is strongly horizontal in massing, the roofline indicating that the building is divided into four sections having different functions. The roofs of the north and south sections are flat, the line interrupted by three-part frontispieces consisting of a stepped "false front" or parapet that towers over each main entry and is supported by two pedimented pilasters that flank the entry. The roof of the central section, or drill hall, is barrel-shaped, with the vault ends concealed by a low pediment or low false-gable that rises above the north and south flat roofs. On the east side of the building the side of the vault is partially concealed by a stepped parapet that rises over a central overhead vehicle door. The roofline of the west, or garage, section, is strictly horizontal, with no upward projections.

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As with many WPA armories in Oklahoma, the building is designed to have at least two principal facades that each give pedestrian and/or vehicular access to a street. The Anadarko Armory has three principal facades, one accessing Oklahoma Street, on the north; one accessing Southwest Seventh Street, on the east; and one accessing West Central Street, a boulevard, on the south. Each of these three walls is characterized by a centrally located, upwardly projecting stepped parapet and outwardly projecting piers that enframe window/door bays. The south facade's main focus is an elaborate door surround consisting of stepped parapet and tall, square-topped piers that enframe the portal. The east facade is divided by heavy piers into three parts, the first being the south administrative/garage section, characterized by vehicle doors; the second being the drill hall, characterized by its barrel roof and pedestrian doors set in each of two heavy piers that flank a central vehicle door; and the third being the north administrative section, characterized by windows.

Cast-concrete detailing is an important visual aspect of the primary facades. A cast-concrete coping tops the brick wall on all facades, and a concrete drip mold lies at the base of the wall on all facades. Concrete stepped decorations, set in blocks, form the square tops of all pilasters and piers. In the north, south, and east facades, stepped concrete panels decorate the stepped parapet rising above the pilasters that flank the entry. The secondary facade, on the west, has no cast-concrete decoration.

Red Oklahoma clay bricks set in regular courses comprise the building's load-bearing masonry walls. These are an excellent example of WPA architecture and construction philosophy in Oklahoma. The walls are simply decorated, the only elaboration being vertical panels of brick laid up vertically in running bond above each window in the north, south, and east facades. Although the masonry technique is generally good throughout the rest of the building, in the window panels the brick is not carefully laid; the courses are not plumb and they slightly wander left and right in their upward ascent to the coping. This attests to the "amateur" or "trainee" status of the bricklayers on this particular project. By program mandate, WPA laborers were required to be unskilled in the work that they were called upon to perform.

Viewed from the south, the building appears to have a "wing" that projects outward from the west walls, because the west wing is set back from the north and south facades and is narrower in width than the drill hall. This gives the floor plan a T-shape, with the stem of the T being the west wing and the cross of the T being the north section, drill hall, and south section. The north section comprises offices, and thus has only windows, while the south section comprises offices and garage area. The west wing was used for training and vehicle maintenance and has both vehicle doors and windows.

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Each facade exhibits regular openings that indicate the multiple purposes of the building and the functions of interior spaces. Glazing patterns include combinations of two or three lights set in four, five, or six rows (4/4/2, 3/6/3, 3/6/3/3, 6/3/6/3, usually with one or two sets of vertical center-pivot windows and a bottom row that opens in hopper fashion). The SOUTH facade consists in three bays: Central between heavy piers is the entry bay, with its new steel-framed glass door and symmetrical side lights. Flanking the entry bay are two bays enframed by corner pilasters and the central piers; each bay contains a pair of 3/6/3/3 windows flanked by 4/4/2 windows. The south facade of the west wing, which extends out from the main building, contains four original wood-panel overhead vehicle doors; one of these openings was enlarged in the 1970s, and the door itself was enlarged also.¹ Openings in the EAST facade provide access and illumination for the south wing garage, central drill hall, and north wing offices. In the south administrative/garage section, the wall is penetrated by a 4/4/2 window, two original wood-panel overhead vehicle doors, and two 4/4/2 windows. The facade of the drill hall is penetrated by two original pedestrian doors (topped by 4/4/2 windows) in a massive pier, two pairs of 6/3/6/3 windows, a centrally placed original overhead panel door, two pairs of 6/3/6/3 windows, and two pedestrian doors (topped by 4/4/2 windows) in a second pier. The north administrative section exhibits an original wood-panel overhead door, a 3/6/3/3 window, and a 4/4/2 window. Openings in the NORTH facade lie in three bays flanked and divided by corner pilasters and central piers. The fenestration is similar to that of the south facade, with two 4/4/2 windows and a pair of 3/6/3/3 windows to the left of a centrally placed entry with new steel and glass door and large side light; to the right of the entry are a pair of 3/6/3/3 windows and a pair of 4/4/2 windows. The north side of the west wing exhibits a triplet of 3/6/3 windows and two pairs of 3/6/3 windows. In the WEST facade, with the exception of one central (new, wood) pedestrian door, all openings are windows, arranged thusly: in the west wall of the north wing, 4/4/2, 3/6/3/3, 3/6/3/3, 3/6/3/3; in the west wall of the west wing, 3/6/3/3, 4/4/2, 3/6/3/3, 3/6/3/3, door, 3/6/3/3, 3/6/3/3/, 4/4/2, 3/6/3/3, 3/6/3/3, 3/6/3/3; in the west wall of the south wing, 3/6/3/3, 3/6/3/3, 3/6/3/3. Some lights are painted to block sunlight. All windows are original. With the exception of the north, south, and west main entry doors, and one east side door that is blocked, all pedestrian doors and all vehicle doors are original.

Architectural detailing gives the Anadarko Armory a vertical emphasis and suggests an Art Deco influence. Indicative are the stepped parapets in the north, south, and east entry bays and the cast-concrete decorations in the parapets. On the north, south, and east elevations, above each window, is a vertical panel of vertically laid brick. Each pedestrian door surround on the east, west, and south facades are marked by piers (full-height or full-height buttressed with half-height) topped with square-shaped cast-concrete caps having a stepped interior conformation. The tall, steel-framed windows are also typical of Art Deco or "modernistic" style, popular from the 1920s through

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the early 1940s. Original metal downspouts still exist on the east and west sides of the flat-roofed north and south sections.

Visible on the roof above the east entry bay is an original steel flagpole. A new steel flagpole sits at ground level outside the south entry, near the sidewalk. A chain-link fence encloses parking areas to the north and south of the west wing. A gasoline pump sits outside the southeast corner of the building. The entry bay in the east facade bears the cornerstone with the inscription "State Armory/Built by Works Progress Administration/1936/W. S. Key/State Administrator." In the parapet above this entrance is a decorative concrete panel bearing the inscription "Oklahoma/National/Guard/1936." Above the south entrance is a new diamond-shaped metal sign bearing the Thunderbird insignia of the 45th Division.

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION/ALTERATIONS:

The Anadarko Armory exhibits a T-shaped plan that was somewhat unusual for WPA armories. The building is divided into three functional sections or wings. This gives the building a T-shaped plan. The south wing housed a Quartermaster company, the west wing housed a field artillery company, and the north unit housed regimental headquarters and instructors. All three units used the centrally located drill hall. All interior walls are load-bearing and are constructed of brick. All interior doors are original wood-panel type. Some interior remodeling--drop ceilings and "furred-out" and panelled walls--was accomplished in the 1960s.²

The 86' by 125' drill hall section was and is characterized by a very high vaulted ceiling with exposed steel roofing panels and exposed steel truss system. The drill hall retains its original wood-block floor, now concealed under a basketball floor that was added in the 1950s.³ In the north end of the room the original elevated stage has been blocked with a half-height wood-framed wall having four doors. The stage is now used for storage. The stage is flanked by pilasters like those found on the exterior. Other walls are also pilastered. Original dressing rooms are still accessible on each side of the stage. Under the stage, an underground rifle range has been permanently closed off (condemned), although the steps and original panel door still exist. Panel doors to backstage dressing rooms are also original. The drill hall's east wall has three exterior exits, one of which is an overhead vehicle door. The other two exits lie in the east wall near the corners of the room, inside the doors to two anterooms that are actually small rooms inside the exterior piers; each anteroom has two pedestrian exits (three are still in use). In the rear wall of the stage, original wood-panel double doors open into the hallway of the north wing. In the drill hall's south wall, original wood-panel double doors open into the central hallway of the south wing, and in the west wall identical double doors as well as an original wood-panel overhead vehicle door

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access the west wing.

The north wing, which served as regimental headquarters, was and is primarily office space (now occupied by Oklahoma Department of Transportation). Rooms lie on either side of a central north-south hallway. At the south end of this hallway are steps and original doors connecting the north wing with the drill hall stage. On the west side of the hallway are three offices, two of which have closets and private latrines. On the east side are three smaller offices and a single-vehicle garage. Walls are plastered and painted, and drop ceilings were added in all offices in 1966.⁴ No alterations have been made to the original floor plan.

The south wing, which housed a quartermaster unit, was constructed from the architect's standard armory plan for administrative/garage sections. All rooms lie on either side of a plastered and painted central north-south hallway. On the west side are a supply room, with arms vault (now a locker room); an original locker room which now has half-height wooden partitions for three offices; and a shower/latrine room now converted into a unit history room/archive. All rooms on this side have drop ceilings, added over the past thirty years; walls in the office area are panelled. On the east side are two original vehicle maintenance rooms now functioning as a kitchen; these adjoin a two bay garage, still functioning as such. On the other side of the garage is an original two-room area that served as the commander's office (now storage); it has panelled walls and a drop ceiling. No alterations have been made to the original floor plan.

The west wing, which housed a field artillery unit, was also built from a standard plan. All rooms lie on either side of an east-west hallway. On the south is a four-bay garage with two small rooms, originally a commander's office/latrine and a tool room, that now function as offices. On the north are a large supply room with arms vault (now a training room), a locker room (now a classroom), and a shower/latrine room. The central hallway is plastered and painted, and all other walls are exposed brick. Original concrete ceilings are visible. No alterations have been made to the original floor plan.

Despite a few alterations to exterior doors, the Anadarko Armory still retains the essential integrity of location, setting, design, materials, and workmanship to enable it to convey its past identity and its historical and architectural significance. It is an excellent embodiment of WPA-type military architecture in Oklahoma.

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ENDNOTES

1. Sgt. Leslie Blalock, 171st Field Artillery, interview by Dianna Everett, Anadarko, Oklahoma, March 16, 1993.
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid.

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SUMMARY:

The Anadarko Armory (Anadarko National Guard Armory) is significant within the economic context of Works Progress Administration projects in Anadarko, Oklahoma, 1935-1937, within the military context of national defense requirements of the Oklahoma National Guard's local unit in the era between the two world wars, and within the architectural context of WPA building style and methodology locally and in Oklahoma. The armory was constructed between 1935 and 1937 by local men who were qualified for work relief under WPA guidelines. The project brought \$60,000 into the economy of Anadarko, Oklahoma, by employing as many as 210 previously unemployed, unskilled workers for more than thirteen months. The armory also filled a longstanding military need for an adequate, secure drill hall and arms storage building for three units: Regimental Headquarters unit of the 158th Field Artillery; Company B, 158th Field Artillery; and Company F, 120th Quartermaster Regiment, all of the 45th Infantry Division of the Oklahoma National Guard, which had previously had no permanent armory. The Anadarko Armory is significant architecturally as an example of an excellent, intact example of WPA architecture. The materials, brick manufactured in Oklahoma, and craftsmanship evident in masonry work, reflect both the goals of the WPA Building Program in Oklahoma and the practical considerations of using unskilled labor to construct large public buildings. As it is essentially intact, the Anadarko Armory conveys the appropriate feeling and association within these three contexts.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

Oklahoma suffered severely during the initial years of the Great Depression, 1929-1933, but in a predominantly rural state, where in 1930, 65.7 percent of the population lived in rural areas, and twenty-seven of the state's seventy-seven counties had no towns of more than 2,500 persons, drought, general agricultural failure from 1932 through 1938, and a downturn in the petroleum industry exacerbated the general economic depression. Rural communities, towns, and cities, which functioned as agricultural or petroleum service centers, consequently foundered.

Oklahoma's state and local governments were unable to provide much help for citizens, whether urban or rural. Limited relief offered by counties did not alleviate the suffering, nor did meager annual relief appropriations by the state legislature. No public funding was available to maintain the existing infrastructure, and private charity failed to create or to support relief initiatives. The Federal Emergency Relief Administration, established in May of 1934 by the Roosevelt administration, provided some direct relief, in terms of food, clothing, and small stipends, but until the inception of the Works Progress Administration in 1935 only a few Oklahomans received adequate assistance. The urban unemployed and displaced farm families combined to create a situation in which 33 percent of all Oklahoma families were on the

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direct relief rolls by the time that Roosevelt created the WPA by executive order in May, 1935. By July 1935, there were 127,416 jobless men certified in Oklahoma.¹

The inauguration of the Works Progress Administration in 1935 stands as one of the benchmarks of Franklin D. Roosevelt's "New Deal" for the United States. Administered on the national level by Harry Hopkins, the program was designed to assist in lifting the nation from the depths of severe economic depression. Make-work projects provided work-relief for literally millions of individual citizens whose lives had been devastated by the near-collapse of the American economy. The infusion of cash into work-relief projects all over the state made a significant economic impact on hundreds of communities. During the seven-and-one-half-year life of the WPA, more than \$10.75 billion were expended, of which Oklahoma received more than \$185 million for projects ranging from school lunch programs, flood control, and archeological excavations, to major construction projects such as armories, highways, bridges, schools, stadiums, and museums.²

Localities competed for WPA funds from the outset. Chambers of Commerce and planning committees drew up specifications to meet three major criteria established by the administration: 1) projects must meet a well-defined community need; 2) each project must be sponsored by a public body, such as a city or county government or school district, which was required to provide from 10 to 25 percent of the project cost in cash and/or materials; and 3) 90 percent of those hired must be unemployed employable workers who were carried on the relief rolls. Compensation was to be based on 130 hours of work for \$21 (later \$23) per month for unskilled labor.³ In June of 1935 Oklahoma WPA Director (Gen.) William S. Key estimated that there were already "70,000 employable unemployed" ready to work on his agency's projects throughout the state; by November of that year, 67,973 people were at work for the WPA, and by January of 1936, WPA rolls reached an all-time high of 94,281.⁴

Armory construction was the first major thrust of the WPA Building Program in Oklahoma. By mid-1937, 126 armories had been constructed throughout the United States, and 51 of these projects were located in Oklahoma. When the WPA ended its program in 1943, 54 armories had been built and 53 others "reconstructed" in the state. The new construction had infused \$3.5 million into local economies.⁵

Caddo County, a predominantly rural area, had once been part of the Wichita-Caddo and Kiowa-Comanche-Apache reservations. After the region was opened to settlement by a land lottery in 1901, agriculture--cotton farming--became an important economic activity. The town of Anadarko, laid out before

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the lottery, became a prominent service center for the predominantly agricultural and ranching region. By 1930 Anadarko had grown into a community of 5,036. Depressed market prices in the late 1920s and drought in the early 1930s devastated the economy in Caddo County as elsewhere.⁶ By September of 1934, 3,194 families, comprising 26.4 percent of the county population, were on direct relief. The WPA had a significant impact, reducing the number of families on relief to 1,661, or 14.8 percent of the county population by September of 1935. WPA jobs employed 210 persons by November of 1935 and 1,119 by September of 1936.⁷ The armory project was a major portion of this effort.

By late summer, 1935, Caddo County commissioners had submitted proposals for several WPA projects, including sidewalks, an athletic stadium, a community building, a fairgrounds grandstand, and an armory. In order to obtain WPA approval for its armory proposal, the city deeded a site measuring 225 feet by 250 feet in Randlett Park to the State of Oklahoma in October. Scheduled to begin on November 1, construction was postponed by a federal order that brought several Oklahoma armory projects to a temporary standstill. The order was rescinded in late November, and groundbreaking began in earnest on December 4, 1935.⁸ The sponsor's share of the cost of the armory was provided in land.

The Anadarko Armory project expanded quickly in terms of building size, time frame, and labor requirements. Rather than the two-unit armory originally envisioned, the final plans called for a three-unit structure of more than 23,000 square feet in four sections, making this one of the largest armories constructed under the program. The size of construction crews varied from one hundred to two hundred men working in staggered shifts of six hours.⁹ The building was completed during the first week of January, 1937, though the Guard began storing equipment on the premises as early as August, 1936. During the latter part of January, 1937, the city parks board sponsored a crew of seven National Youth Administration boys to landscape the grounds. Clubs and church groups began using the armory for social programs upon its completion, and the National Guard moved in, despite the fact that the dedication date was pushed back several times. Finally, on April 27, 1937, Anadarko dedicated its new armory with an elaborate program. General Key, state WPA director, and other state and local dignitaries participated in a program that began with a "stag" lunch and included a parade, a cornerstone ceremony, a banquet, and a dance in the new armory.¹⁰

WPA projects in 1935-1937 propped up the sagging rural economy of Caddo County, hard-hit because of extended agricultural depression and severe drought. Major projects in and near Anadarko included several farm-to-market roads, two large schools, a swimming pool, a community center, and the customary WPA road repair and paving. By February of 1936 more than \$342,000 had been allocated for these projects. The WPA's cost on the armory project was \$60,000. The federal government invested more in the armory than in any other single construction project in the county, though the aggregate

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expenditure for farm-to-market roads was approximately \$72,000.¹¹ In human terms, tens of thousands of person-hours of labor went into the armory's construction. Most significantly, several hundred men were employed on the project. As with most WPA projects, the armory project was labor-intensive, designed to provide as much work as possible for those on relief rolls. Most of the hours were consumed in hand labor--bricklaying and pouring concrete, and in installing a wood-block floor in the drill room (an estimated 100,000 wood blocks were cut, primed, set in asphalt, sanded, oiled, and polished, in sections). A concrete floor would have sufficed, but ample time and labor were available to create a complicated design.¹²

Upon completion, the Anadarko Armory became the home of three 45th Infantry Division units: Regimental Headquarters unit of the 158th Field Artillery; Company B, 158th Field Artillery; and Company F, 120th Quartermaster Regiment.¹³ Reorganized in 1923 under the National Defense Act of 1920, the Guard was an integral part of United States military preparedness. Since 1920 approximately five-sixths of America's military strength lay with "citizen soldiers"--National Guard divisions and Reserve divisions in nine corps areas across the nation. Each corps area had one Regular Army division, two National Guard divisions, and three Reserve divisions. Oklahoma, along with New Mexico, Arizona, and Colorado, formed one division of National Guard within the Eighth Corps. Despite inadequate training facilities, the Oklahoma National Guard provided service during numerous natural disasters and civil disturbances in the 1920s and 1930s.¹⁴

Because the Guard paid its members a monthly stipend, which they spent locally to support their families, Oklahoma communities actively competed to secure local Guard units in the years between the wars. In 1918 Anadarko had received a field artillery unit, in 1924 a quartermaster unit, and in 1927 a regimental headquarters company. By 1936 the combined total of these three units numbered 13 officers and 92 non-commissioned officers and enlisted men.¹⁵

The National Guard received only one-tenth of the War Department's budget in the interwar years, and equipment was surplus from World War I. Many units needed permanent training, drilling, and storage facilities, as Guard members were required to meet 48 drills per year. Units without permanent armories usually rented space in warehouses that often lacked proper security. The four hundred new armories created by the cooperative effort of the federal and local governments helped correct this serious deficiency.¹⁶

The new Anadarko Armory provided permanent housing for the unit, which formerly had been storing its equipment and drilling in the exhibits building at the Caddo County fairgrounds.¹⁷ The new facility was more than adequate for the detachment's needs. The building was divided into areas serving specific functions. The entire central section housed the drill hall, comprising the stage and the drill floor. Underground, beneath the stage, was

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a rifle range. The north and south wings comprised arms vaults, supply rooms, the locker rooms, small garage spaces, and offices, with the north wing occupied by Regimental Headquarters and the south wing occupied by Company F of the 120 QM Rgt. The west section, containing a large garage space as well as offices, lockers, supply, and offices, housed the Company B of the 158th F.A. Thus the building provided for virtually every training need, except for field exercises.

Due in large measure to the WPA armory-building program, the 45th Infantry Division achieved a level of military efficiency and readiness that prepared it to be among the first four National Guard divisions federalized in late 1940 by President Roosevelt. After the United States entered World War II, the 45th saw action in North Africa, Sicily, and Italy.¹⁸

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:

In several ways the Anadarko Armory typifies WPA armory architecture in Oklahoma. In the mid-1930s several armory plans were developed by Major Bryan W. Nolen, an Oklahoma City architect and National Guard officer selected in 1935 to serve on the staff of WPA administrator Gen. William S. Key. Nolen planned for every armory to have a drill hall section, usually having a high ceiling and either a barrel or a flat roof, and also a flat-roofed, single-story extension on one or both sides, the number depending on the number of units (one, two, or four) to be housed in the building.¹⁹ Design was flexible, allowing for the orientation of the building to various avenues of egress, to size of property, or to size/number of Guard units to be served. The Anadarko Armory was designed as a three-unit facility, which was somewhat out of the ordinary. In this case, the central drill hall/two-wing plan (standard for two units) was used, with a third wing (for the third unit) attached to the rear of the drill hall. In other ways the Anadarko Armory is more typical of WPA philosophy. The WPA preferred to use locally purchased building materials, and therefore armories were constructed of native stone, usually quarried locally, or brick, manufactured locally or within the state. The Anadarko Armory was built of red Oklahoma brick manufactured at the state prison in McAlester.²⁰

WPA architectural philosophy prohibited the use of ornate features, intricate structure, and elaborate trim; therefore; WPA armories tend to be straightforwardly utilitarian. They have a strong horizontal massing, a fortresslike quality, which is often relieved only by vertical Art Deco detailing or by virtue of being a provincial interpretation of a romantic high style, such as Tudor.²¹ The Anadarko Armory is a very minimal example of vernacular Art Deco applied to military architecture. Like other WPA military buildings, it reflects the skills of designers and supervisors and the minimal funding for design and materials, as well as the use of unskilled labor as bricklayers, stonecutters, masons, and so forth. While these buildings may not

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be architectural masterpieces, they served the WPA's purpose--to make work, and to provide secure space for national defense units. WPA armories exemplify the New Deal's practical determination to "do something--and do something now." As David Baird notes in his survey of WPA structures of Oklahoma, WPA buildings are "the architecture of the poor," "mute reminders of the emotional distress and physical pain many Oklahomans suffered during the 1930s and of the enlightened relief effort by the federal government that alleviated much of the suffering."²² In type, style, scale, materials, and workmanship, the Anadarko Armory is a fine example of WPA military architecture in Oklahoma, buildings that as a class are unique when compared to the rest of the built environment, both in Anadarko and across the state.

ENDNOTES

1. C. Roger Lambert, "Dust, Farmers, and the Federal Government," Hard Times in Oklahoma: The Depression Years, ed. K. E. Hendrickson, Jr. (Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Historical Society, 1983), 71-72, 78-79, 81; Guthrie (Oklahoma) Daily Leader, July 9, 1935; W. David Baird, "Final Report: WPA Structures Thematic Survey (Phase III)" (Stillwater: Oklahoma State University, 1987), 5.
2. Baird, "Final Report", 10; "Final Report of the Oklahoma Work Projects Administration, February 27, 1943," Archives of the Work Projects Administration and Predecessors, 1933-1943, Series One: The Final State Reports, 1943 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1987), 1; "Building Construction Report, February, 1943," *ibid.*, 5-6.
3. "Questions and Answers on the WPA [brochure]," (Washington, D.C.: Work Projects Administration, December 1, 1939), Vertical File, Oklahoma Historical Society; Baird, "Final Report," 11; Kingfisher (Oklahoma) Times, July 9, 1936.
4. Guthrie (Oklahoma) Daily Leader, June 23, 1935; Anadarko Daily Star, November 17, 1935; Daily Oklahoman, September 12, 1937.
5. "Accomplishments: Works Progress Administration for Oklahoma, July 1, 1935-March 1, 1937" (Oklahoma City: Works Progress Administration, 1937), 38; "Building Construction Report," 5-6.
6. John W. Morris, "The Smaller Cities," Cities of Oklahoma, ed. John W. Morris (Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Historical Society, 1979), 11, 16; Rev. J. J. Methvin, In the Limelight: History of Anadarko (Caddo County) and Vicinity from the Earliest Days (n.p.: n.p., c. 1939), 96, 134; Garry Nall, "King Cotton in Oklahoma, 1825-1939," Rural Oklahoma, ed. Donald E. Green (Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Historical Society, 1977), 38-43, 51-52.
7. Daily Oklahoman, September 29, 1935; Anadarko Daily News, November 1, 1935; Daily Oklahoman, September 12, 1937.

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8. Anadarko Daily News, October 8, 1935; *ibid.*, November 13, 1935; *ibid.*, November 20, 1935; *ibid.*, November 28, 1935.
9. *Ibid.*, November 28, 1935; *ibid.*, January 24, 1936; *ibid.*, February 25, 1936; WPA Project No. 243, "Index to Reference Cards for Work Projects Administration Project Files, 1935-1942," (Washington, D.C.: WPA, c. 1942), Micro T-935, reel 54.
10. Anadarko Daily News, August 5, 1936; *ibid.*, January 2, 1937; *ibid.*, January 7, 1937; *ibid.*, February 9, 1937; *ibid.*, April 27, 1937.
11. *Ibid.*, January 2, 1936; *ibid.*, January 17, 1936; *ibid.*, February 12, 1936.
12. *Ibid.*, January 2, 1937; *ibid.*, January 24, 1937; WPA Project No. 243, "Index to Reference Cards."
13. Historical Annual: National Guard of the State of Oklahoma, 1938 (Baton Rouge, La.: Army and Navy Publishing Company, 1938), 179, 308, 317; Anadarko Daily News, April 27, 1937.
14. Guy Nelson, Thunderbirds: A History of the 45th Infantry Division (Oklahoma City: 45th Infantry Division Association, 1970), 6-9; Kenny Franks, Citizen Soldiers: Oklahoma's National Guard (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1984), 38, 40, 48;
15. Anadarko Daily News, April 4, 1936; *ibid.*, August 7, 1936; *ibid.*, April 27, 1937; Historical Annual, 179, 308, 317.
16. Nelson, Thunderbirds, 6-9; Franks, Citizen Soldiers, 38, 40, 48.
17. Anadarko Daily News, August 5, 1936.
18. Nelson, Thunderbirds, 12.
19. "Accomplishments," 38, 40; Historical Annual, 18.
20. "Accomplishments," 40.
21. Final Report on the WPA Program, 1935-43 (Washington, D.C.: G. P. O., c. 1943), 52; Baird, "Final Report," 15, 21, 23.
22. *Ibid.*, 17; *ibid.*, 2.

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"Index to Reference Cards for Work Projects Administration Project Files, 1935-1942." Washington, D.C.: WPA, c. 1942. Micro T-935, Reel 54.

Anadarko Daily Star, August 2, 1935-March 24, 1937.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Beginning at a point 76 feet west of the southwest corner of Block 55, original townsite of Anadarko, Oklahoma, proceed west for 225 feet; turn north and proceed north for 250 feet; turn east and proceed east 225 feet; turn and proceed south for 250 feet back to the point of beginning, having described an enclosed polygon.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

These are the boundaries of the property as legally recorded in Book 83, page 360, Deed Records, Caddo County, Oklahoma and are historically associated with the nominated property.