

682

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Registration FormRECEIVED  
MAY 02 1991NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

## 1. Name of Property

historic name National Guard Armory

other names/site number N/A

## 2. Location

street &amp; number DeQueen and Maple Streets

☐ not for publication N/A

city, town Mena

☐ vicinity N/A

state Arkansas

code AR

county Polk

code AR 113

zip code 71953

## 3. Classification

## Ownership of Property

- ☒ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

## Category of Property

- ☒ building(s)  
☐ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

## Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
1	buildings
	sites
	structures
	objects
1	0 Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously  
listed in the National Register N/A

## 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

4-29-91

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

## 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- ☒ entered in the National Register.  
☐ See continuation sheet.  
☐ determined eligible for the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.  
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.  
☐ removed from the National Register.  
☐ other, (explain:)

entered in  
National Register

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

## 6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Defense/Armory

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture/Gymnasium

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Rustic Fieldstone

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Stone

roof Asphalt

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

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**Summary**

The National Guard Armory, constructed 1930-31 and located at the southwest corner of DeQueen and Maple Streets, is a fieldstone and concrete masonry armory building consisting of a large, single story function area to the west and a smaller, two story office section to the east. It is designed in a rough, local stone masonry tradition common to the mountainous regions of the state.

**Elaboration**

The National Guard Armory, constructed 1930-31 and located at the southwest corner of DeQueen and Maple Streets, is a fieldstone and concrete masonry armory building consisting of a large, single story function area to the west and a smaller, two story office section to the east. It is designed in a rough, local stone masonry tradition common to the mountainous regions of the state. Its plan is basically rectangular, with the two story front section projecting slightly beyond the northern and southern walls of the auditorium to the west. Two brick chimneys rise from the southern slope of the auditorium's gambrel roof, one to the west and the other abutting the rear of the two-story section to the east. Asphalt shingles cover the gambrel roof, while a built-up tar roof covers the flat roof behind the stone and concrete castellated parapet. The walls are faced with random fieldstone and the structure rests upon a continuous concrete foundation.

The eastern or front elevation is composed of four paired window bays placed symmetrically around a projecting central entrance bay. The entrance bay is accessed through a central, double-leaf door set into an opening faced with brick arranged in corbels that recede from the wall. Above the door, a pair of six-over-six wood sash windows light the rooms behind, and a concrete sign that reads "National Guard Armory" finishes the elevation. Two concrete buttresses flank the entrance, windows and sign. The walls to either side are lighted with pairs of six-over-six wood sash windows on both floors that are divided by tall, thin stone buttresses.

The northern and southern elevations are virtually identical. Each consists of nine bays, with the two eastern bays containing six-over-six wood sash windows and the seven bays to the west being separated by tall, thin buttresses. The only difference between the two elevations is that while the western bay of the southern elevation features the same pair of six-over-six wood sash windows seen elsewhere in the auditorium walls, the western bay on the northern elevation is accessed via a large, overhead rolling garage door.

The western elevation is blank with the exception of four, symmetrically-placed triple-hung wood sash windows.

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There are few significant exterior details of note. The castellated parapet, the brick facing around the door and window openings and the decorative buttresses along the walls provide the only relief from the rustic aspect of the random fieldstone walls.

The interior of the armory is of the simplicity and functionality typical of such structures. The entrance foyer or vestibule contains a pair of fifteen-pane doors that lead into the auditorium behind and a quarter-turn wood staircase with a turned wood balustrade. The auditorium is floored with wood strip flooring and covered with an open, metal truss ceiling.

There have been virtually no alterations to the National Guard Armory and it is in good condition.

## 8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1930-31

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Kyle, Derwood F.

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

☒ See continuation sheet

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)  
has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings  
Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering  
Record # \_\_\_\_\_

☒ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one

UTM References

A 

1	5
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3	8	6	4	6	0
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3	8	2	7	4	3	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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B 

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Zone Easting Northing

D 

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☐ See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description** Beginning at the point formed by the intersection of the western edge of DeQueen Street with the southern edge of Maple Street, proceed westerly along latter edge to a point formed by its intersection with a perpendicular line running along the buildings western elevation; thence proceed southerly along said line to a point formed by its intersection with a perpendicular line running along the building's southern elevation; thence proceed easterly along said line to a point formed by its intersection with a perpendicular line running along the western edge of DeQueen Street; thence proceed northerly along ☐ See continuation sheet said line to the point of beginning.

**Boundary Justification**

This boundary includes all the property historically associated with this resource.

☐ See continuation sheet

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth Story, Architectural Historian / Shirley Gooden, Historian

organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date 4/10/91

street & number 225 East Markham, Suite 300 telephone (501) 324-9346

city or town Little Rock state Arkansas zip code 72201

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 1

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**Summary**

**Criterion C, local significance**

The National Guard Armory is eligible under Criterion C with local significance as the best example in Mena of the rough, fieldstone masonry construction tradition that is commonly found in the mountainous regions of northern and western Arkansas and that continues to influence new construction in those areas today.

**Elaboration**

As was the case with a number of relatively isolated, small Arkansas towns that were settled in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the western Arkansas railroad community of Mena could boast of several official and semi-official military organizations that were organized primarily to preserve local community. Such organizations as the "Home Guards" drilled regularly and were occasionally called into service. By 1921, the first Mena National Guard Unit was federally recognized as Battery D, 142nd Field Artillery, part of the Fifth Arkansas Infantry. They trained at Camp Pike in North Little Rock that summer, and earned some distinction there in spite of their "youth."

It was not until 1931 that they obtained a facility of their own in Mena, however. In 1930 the state of Arkansas (under which all state National Guard units were organized) agreed to finance the greater part of the construction cost of a new armory building in downtown Mena and let the contract for its construction. Derwood F. Kyle of Pine Bluff was the architect of the new building, and Walter Vernon of Fort Smith served as the contractor. The total cost of the site and the building came to \$24,000, and the building measured 70' by 125'. The building was designed not only to serve the National Guard unit and provide a storage facility for their ordinance, but also as a community and recreational center with rest rooms.

The National Guard Armory in Mena is unique architecturally due to its employment of the native Arkansas stone masonry tradition in service to what is essentially an Art Deco armory building, similar in all other respects to a number of other armories constructed around the state during this period. Though always of masonry construction, other Art Deco armories are virtually always of a buff-colored brick and ornamented with the stylized, geometric detail typical of the Art Deco. The Mena armory, on the other hand, due to its reliance solely upon the texture and random linearity of the fieldstone for its ornament, exploits thereby the medieval aspect lent the design by the castellated parapet and the wall buttresses. The end result is an armory that, though not nearly as architecturally-sophisticated as the fancier, more erudite Art Deco designs elsewhere in the state, presents a far more formidable and permanent aspect to the viewer.



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The National Guard Armory in Mena stands as the finest example locally of construction in the native fieldstone masonry tradition indigenous to the mountainous regions of the state since the first European settlement began in the northern and western sections of the state. Furthermore, it is a remarkably successful rendering of a modern and popular architectural style in this vernacular construction technique. It is thus being nominated under Criterion C with local significance.



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National Park Service

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**Bibliography**

*Mena Star*, Mena, Arkansas: February 13, 1930; April 17, 1930; December 25, 1931; August 27, 1936; January 15, 1941; August 19, 1971.

Owen, Gene, "Letters to the Editor," *The Looking Glass*, Hatfield, Arkansas; November, 1984; January, 1985; February, 1985.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY National Guard Armory  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Polk

DATE RECEIVED: 5/02/91 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/20/91  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/05/91 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/16/91  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 91000682

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 6/5/91 DATE

**Entered in the  
National Register**

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_  
REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_  
DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

---

CLASSIFICATION

☐ count      ☐ resource type

---

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

---

FUNCTION

☐ historic      ☐ current

---

DESCRIPTION

☐ architectural classification  
☐ materials  
☐ descriptive text

---

SIGNIFICANCE

Period      Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates      Builder/Architect  
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

☐ summary paragraph  
☐ completeness  
☐ clarity  
☐ applicable criteria  
☐ justification of areas checked  
☐ relating significance to the resource  
☐ context  
☐ relationship of integrity to significance  
☐ justification of exception  
☐ other

---

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

☐ acreage      ☐ verbal boundary description  
☐ UTM's      ☐ boundary justification

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ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

☐ sketch maps    ☐ USGS maps    ☐ photographs    ☐ presentation

---

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



MENA NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY  
MENA, ARKANSAS

Roll 11

PHOTOGRAPHED BY P. ZOLLNER  
JANUARY, 1991

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT ANPP  
VIEW FROM SOUTHEAST





MENA NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY  
MENA, ARKANSAS  
PHOTOGRAPHED BY P. ZOLLNER  
JANUARY, 1991  
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP  
VIEW FROM SOUTHWEST

Dull 3





MENA NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY  
MENA, ARKANSAS

Dulka

PHOTOGRAPHED BY P. ZOLLNER  
JANUARY, 1991

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT ANPP  
VIEW FROM NORTHWEST





MENA NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY  
MENA, ARKANSAS

Dalco

PHOTOGRAPHED BY P. ZOLLNER  
JANUARY, 1991

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP  
VIEW FROM NORTHEAST





MENA NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY  
MENA, ARKANSAS

Palka

PHOTOGRAPHED BY P. ZOLLNER  
JANUARY, 1991

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP  
DETAIL OF FRONT DOOR



HON. HARVEY PARNELL  
GOVERNOR  
BRIG. GEN. E. L. COMPERE  
ADJUTANT GENERAL  
DURWARD F. KYLE ARCH'T  
WALTER M. VERNON CONTR.  
A.D. 1930





MENA NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY  
MENA, ARKANSAS

Pulce

PHOTOGRAPHED BY D. ZOLLNER  
JANUARY, 1891

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP  
DETAIL OF CORNERSTONE





MENA NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY

Park W

MENA, ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY P. ZOLLNER

JANUARY, 1991

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW OF GYMNASIUM INTERIOR





MENA NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY  
MENA, ARKANSAS

Parker

PHOTOGRAPHED BY P. ZOLLNER  
JANUARY, 1991

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW OF INTERIOR GYMNASIUM DOOR





MENA NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY  
MENA, ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY P. ZOLLNER

JANUARY, 1991

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT ANPP

VIEW OF INTERIOR STAIRCASE

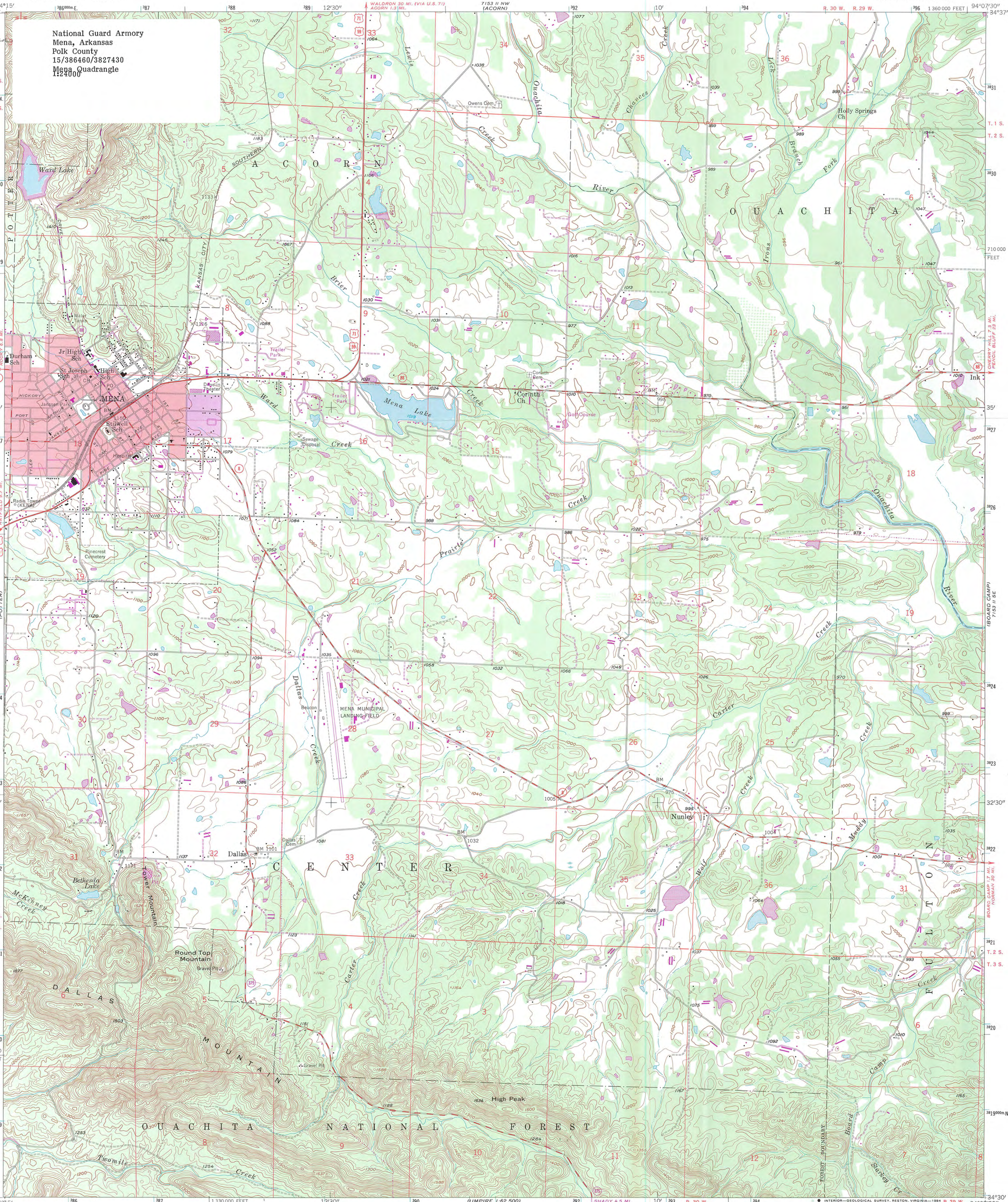
Dallu



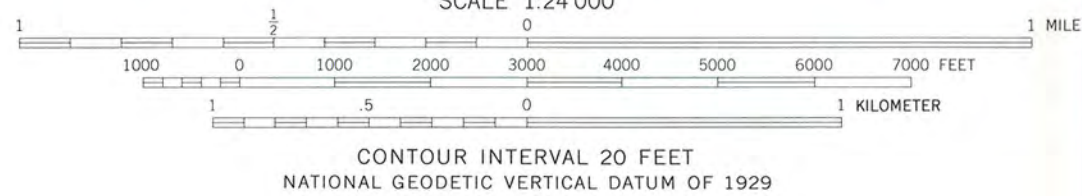
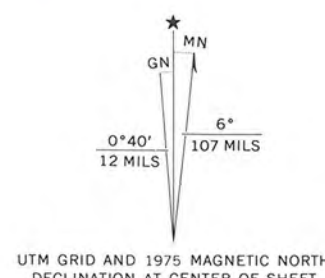
UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

MENA QUADRANGLE  
ARKANSAS—POLK CO.  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)  
SW 4 MENA 15' QUADRANGLE

National Guard Army  
Mena, Arkansas  
Polk County  
15/386460/3827430  
Mena 15' Quadrangle  
1:24000



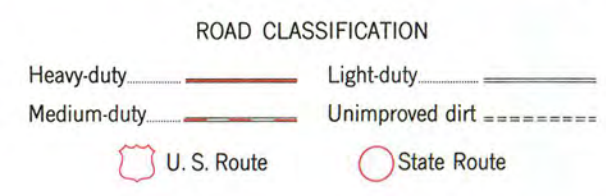
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and USC&GS  
Topography from aerial photographs by multiplex methods  
Aerial photographs taken 1955. Field check 1958  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American Datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Arkansas coordinate system, south zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 15, shown in blue  
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983,  
move the projection lines 7 meters south and  
18 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks  
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of  
the National or State reservations shown on this map  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown  
Unchecked elevations are shown in brown



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



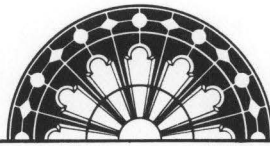
Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs  
taken 1975. This information not field checked  
Purple tint indicates extensions of urban areas



MENA, ARK.  
SW 4 MENA 15' QUADRANGLE  
N 3430—W 9407.5/7.5

1958  
PHOTOREVISED 1975  
AMS 7153 II SW—SERIES V884





ARKANSAS  
HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION  
PROGRAM

RECEIVED  
MAY 02 1991

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

April 29, 1991

Carol D. Shull  
Chief of Registration  
United States Department of the Interior  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
1100 "L" Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

RE: National Guard Armory  
Mena - Polk County, Arkansas

Dear Carol:

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

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathy Buford  
State Historic Preservation Officer

CB:kg

Enclosures

