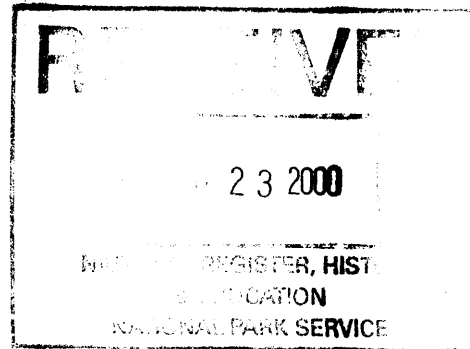


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

2002



1. Name of Property

historic name Richmond Armory
other names/site number Ma-R-72

2. Location

street & number corner of 2nd St. and Moberly Ave. not for publication N/A
city or town Richmond vicinity N/A
state Kentucky code KY county Madison code 151 zip 40476

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. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

David L. Morgan David L. Morgan, SHPO / Executive Director 2-11-2000
Signature of certifying official Date

State Historic Preservation Office/ Kentucky Heritage Council

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register Edson H. Beall 3/24/00
- 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): _____

Signature Date of Action

8. Statement of Significance

RICHMOND ARMORY
MA-R-72; Madison County, KY

Applicable National Register Criteria

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or a grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance **MILITARY** _____

Period of Significance **1942**

Significant Dates **1942-1949** _____

Significant Person **N/A**

Cultural Affiliation **N/A**

Architect/Builder **Weber & Weber, architects** _____

Builders unknown (funded in part by the WPA)

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

___ Other

Name of repository: _____

RICHMOND ARMORY
MA-R-72; Madison County, KY

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.5 acres

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	16	738 560	4181 4503			
2				4		

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kate Carothers

organization Kentucky Archaeological Survey date 4-16-99

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

Property Owner

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

name City of Richmond

street & number P.O. Box 250 telephone (606) 623-1000

city or town Richmond state KY zip code 40476

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

RICHMOND ARMORY
MA-R-72; Madison County, KY

7 & 8

1

Kentucky's National Guard Facilities: 1931-1951 MPS

Section number _____ Page _____

Narrative Description

The historic Richmond Armory (MA-R-72) was built by the Works Progress Administration (WPA), and is located at the corner of 2nd Street and Moberly Avenue, outside the town square in Richmond. The Richmond Armory is similar to the Lexington Armory in that both buildings were constructed out of brick rather than concrete. The armory is two stories tall, and is composed of a central block flanked by two smaller wings. The armory has been painted yellow, and is in the shape of a "T." The armory is now home to the City of Richmond Recreation Center offices, and it serves as a youth and community center for the city. The Richmond and Lexington armories were designed by the Lexington architecture firm of Weber & Weber, and were built with money from the WPA. The building is topped by a flat roof which covers both the administrative building and the drill hall. The east elevation of the building is largely unadorned, with only a few architectural details. Vertical and horizontal ornamentation give the building an Art Deco appearance. Stepped vertical ornamentation around the doors, and bands of horizontal bricks around the second-story windows are reminiscent of the Art Deco style. The two glass front doors are replacements, while the single-pane windows are original. One of the front windows was closed up at an unknown date.

On the north side of the building, a fire escape and handicapped-accessible ramp were added, and the drill hall windows were replaced by glass block and louvered windows. At the rear of the building, two lower-level garage doors were replaced by double glass doors and sidelights.

On the interior of the building, offices, classrooms, and the drill hall make up the first two floors. Many of the original features of the building, such as its original wooden doors, original drill hall floor, original light fixtures, and original room configurations are intact. On the lower level (basement), there is one large room with smaller offices, store rooms, and a snack bar located off the main room. This "day room" serves as a gathering center for the community. Originally, this area served as a garage for the armory, but was converted into a day room in the late 1970s, after the city acquired the building. Interior renovations such as new electric wiring, central air, and HVAC systems were installed in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Narrative Statement of Significance

The historic Richmond Armory (MA-R-72) meets criteria A (historic associations), and criteria C (type of construction), of the National Register. The armory is a good example of Kentucky's National Guard buildings from the 1940s, and fits within the context of "Kentucky's National Guard Armories: 1934-1951." The armory served as both a military and community center during its period of significance, and it meets the registration requirements of location, materials, design, and setting. The building is in its original location and setting, outside the Richmond town square, and it is recognizable as an armory on both the interior and exterior. The building retains a high degree of integrity in its materials and appearance, and the design of the building is largely unchanged. The

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

RICHMOND ARMORY
MA-R-72; Madison County, KY

Kentucky's National Guard Facilities: 1931-1951 MPS

Section number 8, 9, 10 Page 2

historic Richmond Armory has been a property of the City of Richmond since 1978, when the National Guard moved to a new armory on Irvine Road.

A military unit of some type has been in Richmond since 1916, when a unit was federally recognized there as Field Hospital Company No. 2. The unit was incorporated into the 113th Medical Regiment on February 16, 1923. Since that time, the unit has undergone several reorganizations, with a medical detachment located there during World War II. This unit served during the war in Ardennes, France, and the Argonne Forest. Units from Richmond have also served during the Korean War, and most recently, in Desert Storm. During Desert Storm, the 2123rd Transportation Company was stationed in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, where they transported equipment such as tanks. The unit was overseas from October 1990 to July 1991. Besides the 2123rd Transportation Company, the 206th Engineers are also currently stationed in Richmond. The National Guard has been an important organization in Richmond, and they have participated in many projects both in the city and around the state. The WPA Armory is important for both its military and social ties. While the Guard was in the old armory, events such as sock hops, roller skating, church events, and basketball games all took place there. Today, the old armory continues to serve the Richmond community in that capacity. The WPA Armory was built on the site of Caldwell High School, which burned down in the 1920s. The one-and-a-half acre lot then sat empty until construction of the armory began.

Verbal Boundary Description - the parcel designated by the Madison County PVA as tax map/parcel #R7-27-1.

Verbal Boundary Justification - The chosen boundary encompasses the lot historically associated with the Richmond WPA Armory, including the land on which the building sits, the surrounding parking lot, and front and side yards, for a total of 1.5 acres.

Bibliography

Phone interview with Mr. Elmo Gum, retired Sergeant Major, Richmond, May, 1998.

Interview with Armory manager and SFC Nolan, Richmond, May, 1998.

Interview with David Graham, Richmond city manager, May, 1998.

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