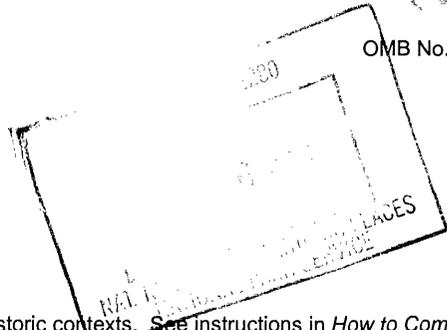


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COVER

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Multiple Property Documentation Form**



This form is for use for documenting multiple property groups relating to one or several historic contexts. See instructions in *How to Complete the Multiple Property Documentation Form* (National Register Bulletin 16B). Complete each item by entering the requested information. For additional space, use continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900-a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

New Submission     Amended Submission

**A. Name of Multiple Property Listing**

National Guard Armories of Kansas

**B. Associated Historic Contexts**

(Name each associated historic context, identifying theme, geographical area, and chronological period for each.)

Pre-1951 Armories: 1937-1951  
Nickell's Armories: 1952-1973

**C. Form Prepared by**

name/title Susan Jezak Ford  
organization Citysearch Preservation date February 11, 2002  
street & number 3628 Holmes St. telephone 816/531-2489  
city or town Kansas City state Missouri zip code 64109

**D. Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this documentation form meets the National Register documentation standards and sets forth requirements for the listing of related properties consistent with the National Register criteria. This submission meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60 and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)  
Richard D. Landcuty DSHPO 5-24-04  
Signature and title of certifying official Date  
Kansas State Historical Society  
State or Federal agency and bureau

I hereby certify this multiple property documentation form has been approved by the National Register as a basis for evaluating related properties for listing in the National Register.  
Edson H. Beall 7/7/2004  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

## Table of Contents for Written Narrative

Provide the following information on continuation sheets. Cite the letter and the title before each section of the narrative. Assign page numbers according to the instructions for continuation sheets in *How to Complete the Multiple Property Documentation Form* (National Register Bulletin 16B). Fill in page numbers for each section in the space below.

	<b>Page Number</b>
<b>E. Statement of Historic Contexts</b> (If more than one historic context is documented, present them in sequential order.)	<b>3</b>
<b>F. Associated Property Types</b> (Provide description, significance, and registration requirements.)	<b>11</b>
<b>G. Geographical Data</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>H. Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods</b> (Discuss the methods used in developing the multiple property listing.)	<b>14</b>
<b>I. Major Bibliographic References</b> (List major written works and primary location of additional documentation: State Historic Preservation Office, other State agency, Federal agency, local government, university, or other, specifying repository.)	<b>15</b>

### Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

### Name of repository:

Kansas State Historical Society

**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. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 120 hours per response including the 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**Kansas National Guard Armories**

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**Section E: Statement of Historic Contexts**

**INTRODUCTION**

This multiple property thematic context statement is based primarily on previous works by two individuals. Randall Thies, archeologist with the Kansas State Historical Society, produced two sources of Kansas National Guard documentation, "Kansas Army National Guard Cultural Resources Survey" and "Guarding the Guard's Cultural Resources: An Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan for the Kansas Army National Guard." These documents provided survey results specific to each armory in Kansas, as well as the groundwork for this document. *A Guard in Peace and War; The History of the Kansas National Guard, 1854-1987* by Brian Dexter Fowles provided an in-depth narrative history of the Kansas National Guard.

Two historic contexts and one associated property type have been identified for this statement. Future amendments may more fully develop additional proposed contexts and property types. Significant themes in Kansas National Guard history have been identified, but individual properties not yet recognized could be important in defining additional historic contexts and research values.

**CONTEXTS**

Pre-1951 Armories  
Nickell's Armories

**ASSOCIATED PROPERTY TYPES**

Kansas National Guard Armory Buildings

**Pre-1951 Kansas National Guard Armories**

*Early History of the Kansas National Guard and Its Armories*

The Kansas National Guard has its beginnings in the Kansas volunteer regiments and state militia units that served as part of the Union army during the Civil War. Two additional regiments were formed after the war to counter Indian threats in western Kansas and several independent militia groups were formed during the Indian Wars. These groups were loosely organized and locally focused, either ignored or given only minimal support from the regular Army and state government. With the demise of the Indian threat, labor troubles created a new and compelling need for a state militia. By early 1879, ten independent militia companies had been formed with the encouragement of the governor. Later that year, these units were organized into the 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment of the Kansas State Militia, followed soon thereafter by the formation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment. These units achieved official status and the title of "Kansas National Guard" through passage of the Militia Law of 1885, which provided for the establishment of a Military Board to administer the militia and hold it to regular responsibilities and codes of conduct. In addition, the law contained provisions to provide funding for uniforms

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**Kansas National Guard Armories**

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and training, including the rental of armories. Despite this new structure, the Kansas National Guard still received inadequate financial support and was somewhat unsystematic, resulting in low standards of training, poor equipment and inadequate armories. The Guard's primary duties in the late 1800s was to provide more entertainment than protection, often participating in exhibition drills and sham battles for public displays at county or state fairs.<sup>1</sup>

The Dick Act, passed by Congress in 1903, created the basis for the modern National Guard, formalizing state militia units by creating a National Guard of the various states as the primary reserve of the U.S. Army. The act placed state units under the supervision of federal authorities and established standards of training. The need for training facilities led to the creation in many Kansas communities of regularly used armories for drilling and equipment storage. Although most of these were located in rented or borrowed facilities, they were the forerunners of the modern-day KSARNG armories.

Kansas Guardsmen served in Mexico during the Mexican Border Crisis of 1916 and then fought in France during World War I as part of the 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. After the war, an anti-war and anti-military atmosphere evolved in the 1920s and 1930s. During this era, the Guard survived primarily by attracting enlistments through financial remuneration to Guardsmen (particularly important during the Depression) and through financial support from the federal government. Although the Depression cost the U.S. Army financially, the Guard did not suffer as severely. In Kansas, hard times meant more community support and full unit strength. Besides providing local paychecks, the Kansas National Guard's organization served to stem the rash of bank robberies throughout the state. At the time, the Kansas National Guard often had manpower and equipment superior to county law enforcement agencies.<sup>2</sup>

By the end of the 1930s it was apparent that America might soon be embroiled in the European conflict. A general strengthening of the U.S. military began, with the military infrastructure benefiting from federally funded programs initiated through federal agencies such as the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and its precursor, the Public Works Administration (PWA).

The PWA, created by Franklin Roosevelt in 1933, and the WPA, created in 1935, was designed to relieve the country's severe depression by creating work projects. The infusion of cash into the PWA and WPA projects all over the country significantly impacted hundreds of communities with the construction of bridges, schools, stadiums, museums and National Guard armories. Anti-military sentiment initially created resistance to including armories in WPA projects, but the worsening Depression and deteriorating situation in Europe promoted a realization that armories should be built to train potential soldiers. Thus, a wave of new armory

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<sup>1</sup> Brian Dexter Fowles, *A Guard in Peace and War; The History of the Kansas National Guard, 1854-1987* (Manhattan, KS: Sunflower University Press, 1989), 47.

<sup>2</sup> Fowles, 90.

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construction began in the mid-1930s.

The United States had 866 National Guard armories in 1934. By 1942, the Works Progress Administration and the Public Works Administration had remodeled more than 500 of those and added more than 400 new armories.<sup>3</sup> The PWA armories were usually the largest, professionally designed and constructed by skilled laborers. These were designed primarily for larger cities to serve also as facilities for meetings and conventions.<sup>4</sup> The WPA armories were mostly smaller, built by unskilled labor and designed by local architects.<sup>5</sup> The average cost of a one-company armory was from \$20,000 to \$40,000.<sup>6</sup>

One tangible result in Kansas of the federal work project effort was the construction of armories in Kingman, St. Marys and Hiawatha, built between 1937 and 1943. Although the Kingman armory was not built through the WPA program, the WPA influence can be seen in the architectural design of the building, as well as in its intended use. The St. Marys and Hiawatha armories were full-fledged WPA work projects, employing up to 50 WPA workers at a time. All three armories were designed to serve the local National Guard installation, as well as the nearby civilian community. The assembly hall/drill floor often served as a gathering place for social and athletic events. Each was placed within easy access to the town's center. The Kingman armory was built with local funds; the St. Marys and Hiawatha armories were built with a combination of federal and local funds. Still extant and well preserved, these three armories are among the earliest elements of the permanent KSARNG installation and reflect the PWA Moderne style.

After construction, the armories of Kingman, St. Marys and Hiawatha immediately began serving their towns as training facilities for the National Guard and as community centers. They filled the needs of the local citizens, even when units left for World War II. They continue today to fill their original dual-purpose role. The buildings have been used as sites for entertainment, exercise, mass meals and even shelter in times of need. The buildings have been adapted over the years to meet the needs of the units and their towns. Examples of adaptations include the closing off of bandstands, the addition of energy conserving materials, the conversion of shooting ranges to storage space and the improvement of acoustics within assembly halls. Most changes are reversible and do not significantly impact the buildings. The buildings remain in good condition as significant contributors to their citizens and the local military.

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<sup>3</sup> Dianna Everett, *Historic National Guard Armories; A Brief, Illustrated Review of the Past Two Centuries* (Washington: National Guard Bureau, 1993), 33.

<sup>4</sup> *America Builds; The Record of PWA* (Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1939), 202.

<sup>5</sup> Everett, 33.

<sup>6</sup> Robert M. Fogelson, *America's Armories; Architecture, Society, and Public Order* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1989), 198.

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**Kansas National Guard Armories**

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*Architecture*

By the time that the Kingman (1937), Hiawatha (1938-40) and St. Marys (1941-43) armories were constructed, the traditional function of the armory had shifted. Historically viewed as primarily a storage facility and protection from anticipated attacks, the armory was now serving as a community center.<sup>7</sup> This perception of the function of armories was reflected in the design; the earlier castellated fortress designs found in the eastern United States gave way to designs that reflected a multi-purpose function, found in these earliest extant Kansas armories. Post-World War I designs typically featured a high roof over a drill hall, as is found in these three armories.<sup>8</sup> This design element made possible the use of the room for indoor athletic events and presented a less military and more modern appearance on the exterior. The evolution of armory design followed national trends, including the inclination toward clean lines and geometric styles following the Stock Market crash of 1929. This desire for simplicity and spareness continued well into the 1940s.

From the early 1920s through 1940, Art Deco was a popular American architectural style. Its geometric ornamentation and vertical emphasis was evident in armories through the use of set backs, tall metal casement windows and highly stylized ornament usually cast in concrete. In the mid- to late-1930s, the Art Moderne style began surpassing Art Deco, emphasizing horizontality through rounded corners or grooved coping at the roofline, occasionally relieved on the armories by piers, buttresses and window openings. By combining elements of these two styles with elements from the traditional Beaux Arts style, the PWA Moderne architectural subcategory evolved and was frequently used on public buildings constructed between 1933 and 1944 by the PWA and WPA.<sup>9</sup>

Leaders of the PWA and WPA ordered that new armories should follow “the newer tendencies toward simplification in architectural style,”<sup>10</sup> but that it “is purely a matter of available materials, taste and community influence and is therefore something for local determination.”<sup>11</sup> Exterior appearance varied by locale. While classical revival styles were popular throughout the southern and northeastern states, vernacular styles such as Spanish Revival and Mission were used in Florida and in the west. Modernistic styles were frequently used in all areas of the country (except the South.) Local interpretations of the Modernistic style were common, eventually leaning toward the combination of the vertical Art Deco and horizontal Art Moderne later named as PWA Moderne.

The armory designs of Kingman, St. Marys and Hiawatha are all variations of the PWA Moderne style. The

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<sup>7</sup> Everett, 3.

<sup>8</sup> Everett, 30.

<sup>9</sup> Cyril M. Harris, *American Architecture; An Illustrated Encyclopedia* (New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 1998), 263.

<sup>10</sup> Everett, 35.

<sup>11</sup> Fogelson, 198.

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floor plans of these armories are typical of armories of this era, with an office/classroom area adjacent to a large drill floor in the rear of the building.<sup>12</sup> The Kingman, St. Marys and Hiawatha armories all contain reserved ornament, prominent horizontal features and noticeable vertical punctuation. These three armories all make use of modern materials that include glass block, metal molding or ornamental concrete. These armories, as was common in small towns during the 1930s and 1940s, provided a modern, relatively large space in which the community could gather for social, athletic and cultural events. The addition of wood floors, designated band areas, bleachers and basketball goals gave the armories a multifunctional use in a modern design.

**Nickell's Armories**

*Later History of the Kansas National Guard and Its Armories*

The Kansas National Guard was federalized in 1940 and subsequently saw combat in World War II. After the war, a general demobilization occurred which affected the Guard as it did the regular military establishment. Although the military perceived a need for more armories, few could be built due to the housing crisis and the public's postwar disinterest in the military. Without armory facilities, recruitment and training efforts for the Kansas National Guard were crippled.<sup>13</sup>

As the Cold War developed and the Korean War flared, the situation changed as the public began to realize the benefits and need for an expanded military, including an enhanced National Guard. After 1953, the American military and Kansas National Guard promoted continuous adaptation and growth. This effort combined the promotion of growth and technology with federal and state participation in the construction of armories. Much of the facility expansion was propelled by the "superior persuasive qualities and political savvy" of the Kansas Guard's best spokesman, Brigadier General Joe Nickell.<sup>14</sup> Nickell served as Adjutant General of Kansas from 1951 until 1972. The lasting reminder of Nickell's term was the construction between 1953 and 1962 of 57 armories in 54 Kansas cities, with one additional armory completed a decade later in 1973.

For obvious reasons, "Nickell's armories" is an apt term to describe these facilities. Joe Nickell's experience as a newspaper editor, news broadcaster and as a state senator meshed with his career in the National Guard. By the time he rose to the position of Adjutant General, he was well equipped to promote the expansion of the Kansas National Guard installation. The need in the 1950s and 1960s for armories was clear, due primarily to three factors. First, between 1940 and 1950, Kansas shifted from having a mostly rural population to an urban population, a trend that accelerated in the 1950s and 1960s.<sup>15</sup> Second, the Korean War exposed deficiencies in the quality of US equipment, readiness, training and an ability to mobilize. Third, the Reserve Acts of 1952 and

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<sup>12</sup> *Still Serving: Reusing America's Historic National Guard Armories* (Washington: Nation Trust for Historic Preservation, 2000), 16.

<sup>13</sup> Fowles, 135.

<sup>14</sup> Fowles, 136.

<sup>15</sup> Fowles, 136.

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1955 provided several categories of military obligation and incentives. These three factors contributed to Guard recruitment and a massive armory-building program. Nickell appealed to local communities, stressing the benefits that would come of having an armory in terms of payroll and as use as a community center. The armories were built with funding from local bond issues, matched by federal dollars and, in many cases, the city donated the land on which the local armory was built. The armory-building program between 1953 and 1962 was the largest peacetime task ever accomplished by the Kansas National Guard.

Armories also took on new importance in the 1950s as centers for Civil Defense and disaster relief, which were new roles for the Guard. The importance of the Guard in dealing with natural disasters was particularly realized in the 1951 flood, one of the most disastrous floods in Kansas history. With these factors in mind, along with the general expansion of the American military during the Cold War, the Kansas Army Guard and the Guard's physical installation grew enormously.

The new armories served local communities as civic centers, a situation which took on a more formal status in 1964 when the Military Board formally adopted a policy of leasing armories to various community organizations.<sup>16</sup> Many different uses were made of the buildings as the result of the policy and they became important focal points of community life. Local organizations and groups were only required to pay for utilities and janitorial services and were encouraged to use the armories except for commercial purposes or when Guard events were scheduled. Armories were typically used for meetings of chambers of commerce, Boy or Girl Scouts, various agricultural organizations and basketball practices and games. This cooperation established the National Guard armory as a goodwill bridge between the military and the anti-war movement during the Vietnam War. As stated by historian Brian Dexter Fowles, "the armories of the previous period became the bastions of the local community during the next."<sup>17</sup>

As the years passed and the Guard's needs changed, various KSARNG properties were relinquished and new ones built. In recent years, twelve of the Cold War armories (in Beloit, Ellsworth, Eureka, Fredonia, Harper, Leavenworth, McPherson, Medicine Lodge, Neodesha, Pleasanton, Wellington and Yates Center) were turned over to local governments, while new armories were built at Goodland, Great Bend, Lenexa, Olathe, Paola and the Salina airport. Sizable additions were also constructed on Cold War armories in Iola and Junction City. Eight of the armories also have Organizational Maintenance Shops (OMS shops) associated with them as either attached or freestanding structures used for vehicle maintenance. In addition, there are two stand-alone or independent OMS shops at Hays and Wichita.

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<sup>16</sup> Fowles, 158.

<sup>17</sup> Fowles, 165.

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**Kansas National Guard Armories**

Today the KSARNG installation consists of 58 facilities designated as armories. This total includes 54 armories which fit the description of dual-function buildings, serving the Guard and the neighboring community. The primary purpose of these buildings is to provide a setting for National Guard activities, but each also serves as a community center. In addition, the installation contains four other buildings that are labeled as armories but have specialized functions or limited access and therefore do not serve as community centers. These include the Aviation Armory (also referred to as the Salina West Armory) at the Salina Airport; Building 605 at Forbes Field in Topeka, which is used by the 108<sup>th</sup> Aviation Regiment; Building 1151 at Fort Leavenworth, which serves as a training center and headquarters for the 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division; and Building 1170 at Fort Riley, which serves as headquarters for the 1127<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Detachment. Likewise, the installation includes three buildings classified by KSARNG as “armory type facilities.” These include the State Defense Building (SDG) at the KSARNG headquarters complex in Topeka, the SDB Annex (Building 101) located in the same complex and the Wichita South Annex on the grounds of the Wichita South armory in Wichita. The Wichita South Annex is an old OMS shop used mainly for vehicle maintenance and the SDB Annex is an office complex used by the Director of Facilities Engineering. The SDB is a large office complex with conference room facilities that are occasionally used by the public for events such as the recent World War II Roundtable meetings. A complete list of armories that fall under the classification of “Nickell’s Armories” can be found below with the year of completion.

Abilene	1953	Horton	1954	Salina	1956
Atchison	1963	Hutchinson	1958	Smith Center	1960
Augusta	1958	Iola	1954	Topeka	1956
Belleville	1956	Junction City	1958	Troy	1953
Burlington	1954	Kansas City	1956	Wichita-East	1955
Chanute	1957	Larned	1961	Wichita-West	1955
Cherryvale	1956	Lawrence	1961	Wichita-South	1958
Clay Center	1955	Liberal	1958	Winfield	1953
Coffeyville	1956	Manhattan	1955		
Colby	1960	Mankato	1958		
Concordia	1953	Marysville	1954		
Council Grove	1954	Newton	1955		
Dodge City	1959	Norton	1957		
Emporia	1955	Ottawa	1954		
Fort Scott	1955	Phillipsburg	1963		
Garden City	1958	Pittsburg	1956		
Garnett	1955	Pratt	1955		
Hays	1956	Russell	1956		
Holton	1973	Sabetha	1953		

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**Kansas National Guard Armories**

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*Architecture*

Following World War II, the National Guard recognized a nationwide need for modern facilities. A 1948 law decreed that 75 percent of the construction cost of future armories would be paid for by the federal government, with state and local governments paying the balance. After 25 years, each of these buildings would revert to state ownership.<sup>18</sup>

With federal funding came a uniformity of design. Most of the armories of this era were of a “contemporary” style, with Kansas armories being no exception. Nationally distributed plans were contracted out to local builders. Constructed with clean lines and primarily flat roofs, the new armories were often identical, not only from town to town, but from state to state as well.

Although lacking in the architectural distinction of their predecessors, the Nickell’s armories clearly reflect their important role as community centers. Standardized designs were approved after World War II for Kansas National Guard armories. All armories built under the term of Adjutant General Joe Nickell contain a large assembly hall/gymnasium area, individual offices/meeting rooms and garage bays. The buildings have low silhouettes, with usually only the assembly hall rising above the one-story building and are typically clad in brick on most sides. These designs boasted the maximum amount of floor space to accommodate community affairs and usually included a kitchen to aid in the preparation and serving of dinners.

These designs may not appear noteworthy to today’s observer, but the collection of Nickell’s armories can be viewed as a physical manifestation of the Cold War, Joe Nickell’s term and the growing partnership between the military and civilian communities.

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<sup>18</sup> Everett, 43.

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**Kansas National Guard Armories**

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**Section F: Associated Property Types**

**I. Name of Property Type: Kansas National Guard Armories**

Kansas National Guard Armories were constructed to house the equipment and activities of the units of the Kansas National Guard. Like the rest of the country, the Kansas National Guard units saw an ebb and flow in membership and community support. The construction of armories was a direct representation of that fluctuation. Eligible armories are associated with the last 65 years of the Kansas National Guard, but do not include a wide variety of eligible styles and building types. For the purposes of this document, armories have been classified into two main subtypes: *WPA Armories* and *Nickell's Armories*.

**II. Description**

***Pre-1951 Armories***

Three pre-World War II armories have been determined by the Kansas SHPO as eligible to the National Register of Historic Places: Hiawatha armory, built 1938-1940, St. Marys armory, built 1941-1943, Kingman armory, built in 1937. The Hiawatha and St. Marys armories were built with assistance from the Works Progress Administration and all three reflect a national growing trend of the armory's role as a community center and a National Guard training facility. These three armories are all designed in the Moderne Style and fall into the sub-category of PWA Moderne. They are all substantial buildings, constructed of brick, stone or poured concrete, or a combination of these three materials. All consist of a two-story assembly hall/drill floor with office/classroom/storage space along the periphery, with a large garage bay located adjacent to a secondary entrance.

***Nickell's Armories***

The designation of Nickell's Armories refers to the 57 Kansas armories built from 1951 through 1973 during the term of Kansas adjutant general Joe Nickell. These armories are all strikingly similar in design, consisting of a tall assembly hall/drill floor with attached one-story spaces that can include offices, classrooms, kitchen and/or storage. Garage space is included in the buildings as well, in either one-story or two-story portions of the building. These armories were built to be an integral part of the community and often included items such as basketball backboards and large kitchens as part of the original construction. Nickell's armories are faced with brick on most of the building and contain modern, clean lines with little or no ornamentation.

**III. Significance**

The National Guard Armories of Kansas are significant under Criterion A in the areas of COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT and MILITARY. Construction of the armories followed a national trend that designated the buildings for the training needs of local National Guard units, but were also designed to provide community space for the surrounding towns. Although associated primarily with the military, they also served as integral assets to the local communities. The armories are also significant under Criterion C in the area of ARCHITECTURE as local representatives of national trends and styles found in these institutional buildings. The WPA armories were designed in a style that became common with the construction of public buildings by the WPA. The architecture of the Nickell's armories also reflects a national trend, although one of

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standardization and consistency with an emphasis on functionality.

The *WPA Armories* were designed and built for community interaction. Regular use by the locals was pre-planned, not an afterthought, as residents realized the benefits that a large accessible gymnasium and community space would bring to their town. From their outset as work projects during the end of the Depression, the buildings were an integral part of their settings, involving the locals with national military structure. This interaction continued to serve as a link between the military and local citizens at times when sentiments fluctuated. Because the armories were usually built and owned in a partnership, they provided a permanent tie between the two factions.

As armories changed from serving as defensive structures to a combination of military and community use, their design also changed. As the public altered its perception of the armory's function, the exterior and interior design evolved, reflecting social change and change in the purpose and function of the National Guard.<sup>19</sup> The new buildings were stylistically more approachable and inviting to public entry. This is evident in the pre-1951 armories of Kansas. Their simple, modern designs are representative of national changes in the architectural scene. The bold PWA Moderne style emphasizes the function of the building, relying more on the strength of the structure for inspiration rather than applied ornamentation.

The *Nickell's Armories* provide a large, nearly intact group of modern-day armories. Built in partnership with the National Guard, state government and local direction, ownership and day-to-day management was often shared between the different parties. This trend reinforced and institutionalized patterns set before World War II, making the armory an important part of most communities.

The consistent design of the Nickell's armories is representative of a national style established by the National Guard after World War II. By providing a simple, basic design, the Guard was able to accurately estimate construction time and costs. This undoubtedly streamlined the process for communities replacing older, deteriorated armories. Although the style may not be fully appreciated for a number of years, the design of the Nickell's armories can be considered modern, functional form. Ornament is kept to a bare minimum and the buildings are clad in brick, bringing to mind efficiency and strength.

The Kansas National Guard armories are local representatives of a unique American architectural legacy. The United States is the only nation that constructed such buildings to serve its military resources and the Kansas buildings remain as a physical legacy of the National Guard's role in local communities.

**IV. Registration Requirements**

To be eligible under Criterion A in the area of COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT, the property must have been used by the Kansas National Guard as an armory.

The armory should retain integrity of location, design, materials and setting. A historic sense of time and place

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<sup>19</sup> Everett, 3.

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should be evident. Original road layout, sidewalks, driveways and placement should be evident. The latter is retained by original setback and lot size.

To be eligible under Criterion C in the area of ARCHITECTURE, the armory must retain integrity in the areas of design, materials, workmanship, and location. Of utmost importance is visual integrity as viewed from a public street. Additions to the rear, however, are allowable. Original fenestration patterns, facade symmetry (or asymmetry) and exterior finishes should also be evident. The armory should still be identifiable to the time it was constructed, however, and should not reflect details that falsely correspond with an earlier period. Alterations that have achieved their own significance over time (generally, those over fifty years in age) are allowable.

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**Section G: Geographical Data**

The State of Kansas.

**Section H: Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods**

In September 1996 the National Guard of Kansas contracted with the Kansas State Historical Society (KSHS) for a cultural resources survey of the Kansas Army National Guard (KSARNG) installation consisting of various properties owned, operated or used by KSARNG. The primary purpose of the study was to survey, identify and record all significant cultural resources owned, used or impacted by KSARNG. The study was intended to fulfill the Guard's obligations as required under Sections 106 and 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), EO 11593, Army Regulation 200-4 and other pertinent laws. The NHPA required federal entities to identify, evaluate and to take into account all undertakings on cultural resources under their jurisdiction and to evaluate any impact on cultural resources that may occur by that entity's actions even though such resources are not owned by that entity. Further, all federal division or federally funded divisions are required to exercise caution in assuring that any resource able to qualify for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places is not inadvertently transferred, sold, demolished, substantially altered or allowed to significantly deteriorate.

The KSARNG comprises various combinations of armories, maintenance shops, administrative complexes and training centers in some 70 locations across the state. Prior to the survey, no KSARNG properties were listed on the National Register, no Historical Preservation Plan had been completed and no consistent effort had been made to maintain unit or armory histories.

As a result of the contract, KSHS staff surveyed and inventoried all KSARNG properties and evaluated each for historical significance using the four criteria for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. A final report entitled "Kansas Army National Guard Cultural Resources Survey" was submitted to the National Guard of Kansas by Randall M. Thies on January 1, 2001.

The survey identified 58 facilities designated as armories, with three eligible for nomination to the National Register in Kingman, Hiawatha and St. Marys. All other buildings in the Guard installation are of such recent construction or have been so modified as to preclude their consideration for listing on the National Register or the Kansas Register. However, several of the buildings within this group will soon become old enough for consideration. Armories constructed under the leadership of Adjutant General Lieutenant General Joe Nickell (4/21/51-12/31/72) were deemed significant as a collection of Cold War development. After consulting with the Guard and KSHS staff, the KSHS agreed to pursue plans to produce a Multiple Property Documentation Form for all KSARNG armories and National Register nominations for Hiawatha, Kingman and St. Marys armories. This document is the result of that plan.

This document is based on the KSHS survey of KSARNG properties and the contexts were based on the final report of that survey. This report interpreted the history of Kansas National Guard armories, dividing the significant structure into two main periods of history. Thus the chronologically based approach for historic

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contexts seemed most fitting for this multiple property submission. This document can be utilized and amended by interested citizens or groups for National Register nominations.

**I. Major Bibliographical References**

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