

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



1. Name of Property

historic name National Guard Statistical Building

other names/site number Veterans Building

2. Location

street & number Park Road, 1 block west of 6th St. not for publication N/A

city or town Chandler vicinity N/A

state Oklahoma code OK county Lincoln code 081

zip code 74834

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this XX 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 XX meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally XX statewide locally. (N/A See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Blake Ward 2 May 1999
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 Edson H. Beall 6/3/99
 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 of Keeper Date of Action

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5. Classification

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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> 2 </u>	<u> 1 </u> structures
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u> objects
<u> 3 </u>	<u> 1 </u> Total

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

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

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6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DEFENSE Sub: military facility

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: SOCIAL Sub: clubhouse

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS--Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

roof SYNTHETICS--fiberglass

walls STONE--sandstone

other _____

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

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8. Statement of Significance

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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)

MILITARY

Period of Significance 1909-1915

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8. Statement of Significance (Continued)
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Significant Dates 1909

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder STEER, HARRY--builder

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

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9. Major Bibliographical References
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(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: _____

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10. Geographical Data
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Acreage of Property less than 1 (one) acre

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	14	691230	3952910	3	—	—
2				4	—	—

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.)

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11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Dianna Everett

organization Consultant to Lincoln Co. Hist. Soc. date 15 Feb. 1999

street & number 2510 Countrywood Lane telephone (405) 348-4272

city or town Edmond state OK zip code 73003-6433

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Additional Documentation
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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)

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Property Owner
=====

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

name City of Chandler

street & number c/o City Hall telephone (405) 258-3200

city or town Chandler state OK zip code 74834

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Section 7 Page 9

National Guard Statistical Building
name of property
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county and State

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SUMMARY:

The 1909 National Guard Statistical Building, in Chandler, Oklahoma, is located on a steep hill on the east side of Park Road, one block west of 6th Street, in Tilghman Park. The building's placement gives it a view of the park, which in the period of significance, 1909-1915, was the Oklahoma National Guard's state training camp and rifle range. The building was sited to provide a clear view of the rifle range, and that view remains generally intact today. The building sits midway down a steep hill, on a sandstone outcrop. The vernacular Craftsman-style, reddish-brown sandstone, hip-roofed building has a very wide veranda on the north, west, and south. Craftsman details include a low-pitched roof, wide overhangs, unboxed eaves with exposed rafters and tails, and square porch columns that extend into a stone retaining wall on the north, west, and south. The load-bearing walls are made of irregularly shaped sandstone rubble. The concrete slab foundation extends to form the veranda floor. All of the wooden window and door frames are original, and openings are placed irregularly in the elevations. The open overhang reveals the original wooden roof decking and rafters. The interior plaster walls and ceiling remain, as do original wood window and door facings. On the north and south sides, concrete steps, counted as 2 contributing structures, built during the 1909-1915, period lead down the steep hill to the roadway and, on the south, to the site of a contemporaneous bathhouse (now gone). Today, a c. 1982 concrete walkway with steel railing (a noncontributing structure) sits outside the building adjacent to the retaining wall on the north, west, and south.

Alterations to the exterior have been few; a roof of unknown material was replaced with composition shingles at an unknown date and re-replaced in 1994; original veranda screening was removed at an unknown date; missing window sashes were replicated and missing doors replaced in 1994. Interior partition walls were removed at an unknown date. These alterations do not impede the National Guard Statistical Building's ability to convey its historic significance. The building retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship. The overall sense of past time and place is present, as the view from the west-side veranda still commands the rifle range area. The National Guard Statistical Building retains sufficient integrity to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

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DESCRIPTION:

The 1909 National Guard Statistical Building, in Chandler, Oklahoma, is located on the east side of Park Road (an extension of 6th Street) one block south of the point at which 6th Street curves southward to run through Tilghman Park (at a point where 7th Street would intersect with Park Road). The building lies midway up a steep hill, with the north, west, and south sides of the property lying at very steep angles. Access is provided via a gravel drive that circles up the steep slope on the north and south sides and curves behind the building on the east side. The building's placement gives it a panoramic view of Tilghman Park, Bell Cow Creek, and outlying flat fields. Originally, in the period of significance, 1909-1915, the area consisted of open fields on both sides of the creek. All of this area was used for National Guard training activities and included a large rifle range directly west, below the building. The building was sited to provide a clear view of the rifle range, and that view remains generally intact today. Today, the area to the southwest, once the Guard's campground, is occupied by ball fields, field houses, Chandler public school system buildings, and general park grounds. During the period of significance (and today) that view was blocked by the tall growth of trees beside the building. Toward the northwest and north, the view is much the same as it was historically, with open flat areas. To the east, on top of the hill behind the building, are houses that face east on Pierce Street. These were constructed in the early 1900s.

The vernacular Craftsman-style, reddish-brown sandstone, hip-roofed building is horizontally massed, with the roof overhang forming a wide, open veranda on the north, west, and south sides. The one-story building measures 42.5 feet north to south (including veranda) by 30 feet east to west, including the veranda on the west. The veranda is eight feet wide, supported by eleven, sixteen-inch-square stone pillars, regularly placed on three sides. The measurements of the building itself are 26.5 feet north to south by 22.5 feet east to west.

The National Guardsmen who constructed the building house used details typical of the vernacular Craftsman style, popular in America from around 1905 through the early 1930s. Craftsman details apparent in the Statistical Building include: a low-pitched roof; wide roof overhangs; unboxed eaves with exposed rafters and no fascia covering the rafter tails; and square, columnar porch supports that extend down past the porch, into the ground. The open eaves

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reveal the original, six-inch-wood-plank roof decking and rafters. These simple details give visual character to an otherwise unadorned, very functional building. The east-side overhang on the north and south is enclosed with one-by-four lumber set vertically, with a horizontal fascia at the bottom.

The load-bearing sandstone walls and the pillars that support the veranda overhang are made of irregularly sized, randomly laid, slightly dressed rubble stone with rough mortar joints. The veranda floor is concrete and is an extension of the concrete slab that lies under the building. All window and door lintels are concrete. Window sills are stone. On the east side, the building is flush with the ground surface; the building actually sits on a shelf or outcropping of sandstone midway up the hill. The west side of the building juts out from the slope and rests on a retaining wall approximately four feet high. The wall is rubble stone set with mortar, but there may be an extension of the concrete foundation behind it. The west-side pillars are part of this wall, which wraps around to the north and south to support the porch there as well.

The elevations are irregularly pierced with 7 windows and 3 door openings. On the north, or main, elevation, is a centrally placed, wood-frame doorway. The door frame is original, but the doorway is infilled with plywood and is not used. Screening covers the opening. On the east side of the doorway is a large window, with original wood frame and a new, single-hung, wood sash with 1 x 1 glazing pattern. The window is covered with a new (c. 1998) steel grating, for security. The west elevation, which overlooks the rifle range, has an off-centered doorway flanked on the north by two new, single-hung wood sash 1 x 1 windows and on the south by one new, single-hung wood sash 1 x 1 window. The wood frames are original. These windows are also covered by steel grating. The west doorway is also infilled with plywood and is not used; screening material is tacked over the opening on the outside. The south elevation has a centered doorway and one window, to the west of the door. The window is infilled with plywood and has a ventilator. The east elevation, not sheltered by a veranda, has a narrow overhang and has two windows. The southernmost window is infilled with plywood and has a ventilator; the northernmost is a new, wood sash 1x1 window, with original wood frame, and with a steel grating. All of the openings achieved their present condition during a 1996-97 rehabilitation of the building; all original, wooden door frames were retained, and several deteriorated window frames were replaced, using the original frames as a pattern for single-hung construction and glazing. As the windows and doors are not the building's most prominent features, being concealed by the wide

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overhang, the replacement of window material did not appreciably change the building's visual appearance. In addition, according to 1910 and 1913 photographs, the veranda was originally screened, with screening material suspended between the columns and supported by vertical wood laths. Attachments for the screening are still visible in the columns that support the roof.(1)

On the north and south sides of the building, concrete steps lead down the hill. A contributing structure, the wide north steps, with three landings, lead due north down to the gravel driveway. This set of steps touch but are not attached to the veranda on the north side of the building. These steps date at least c. 1913, according to a photograph of that date. A contributing structure, the south steps (added at an unknown date but visible in a c. 1913 photo) are narrow and steep, with five landings. This set of steps is not physically connected to the building, but sits about five feet out from the veranda. The steps run from the brow of the hill, in a southwest line, down to the site of a bathhouse that once stood at the bottom of the hill south of the statistical building. (The bathhouse was demolished at an unknown date.)

The building's interior originally had three rooms. The space was originally divided east-west across the center, and the south section was divided again into two rooms. Each of these rooms had a doorway and at least one window. Original, milled door and window facings and baseboards remain intact.

Below the retaining wall/porch on the north, west, and east sides, a concrete walkway with a steel handrail was added in the 1980s. A sheet-metal chimney rises from the roof on the east side. Also on the east, a steel flagpole sits close to the building. A concrete drainage ditch at the foot of the east wall carries water away from the building.

ALTERATIONS

There have been few alterations to the exterior of the National Guard Statistical Building. The veranda screening was removed at an unknown date. The building stood empty and open for approximately a decade from 1982 to the mid-1990s and was used as a park pavilion. The window glazing was destroyed and the interior suffered damage by vandals. The primary changes to the building came after the Guard sub-leased the building to a local veteran's social club in 1994. Window materials were replicated in 1996 or 1997, and security grates were added soon after. In 1996 solid wood doors were added. In 1994 the

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building's sub-lessees removed the old, deteriorated roofing material of composition shingles and covered the original decking with fiberglass shingles. The original 1909 roofing material is unknown, but historic photographs suggest that it was either composition shingles or wood. It is likely that when the Guard divested itself of the building in 1915, any roof replacement done by the city would have been with inexpensive, relatively maintenance-free composition materials.

Interior alterations have been extensive. Original interior partition walls were removed at an unknown date, perhaps in the 1930s to accommodate the Business & Professional Woman's Club as lessee or perhaps in 1982 when the National Guard leased the building. In 1996 or 1997 these sub-lessees covered the original, deteriorated wood-lath and plaster ceiling with a new drop ceiling. Original plaster on the walls remains intact and has been repaired.

Exterior alterations do not impede the National Guard Statistical Building's ability to convey its historic significance. The building retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship. The overall sense of past time and place is present, as the view from the west-side veranda still commands the rifle range area. The National Guard Statistical Building retains sufficient integrity for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

ENDNOTES

1. Photograph labeled 1913, showing north steps, Vertical Files, Lincoln County Historical Society, reprinted in Lincoln County (Chandler, OK) News, 23 March 1982; postal card, cancelled 14 July 1910, copy on file, Lincoln County Historical Society, Chandler, OK); c. 1913 photo, Bathhouse, showing Statistical Building in background, with south steps, History of Lincoln County, 416; c. 1913 photo, view looking west from building, in History of Lincoln County, 414.

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SUMMARY:

The 1909 National Guard Statistical Building, in Chandler, Oklahoma, retains statewide military significance for its role in the training of the Oklahoma National Guard in the pre-World War I years. The building served Camp Chandler, Oklahoma, during the active life of the camp, 1909-1915. Oklahoma's militia history began in 1890, when the Oklahoma Territorial Guard was established as a loose organization with no funding for training or equipment. In 1895 a reorganization created the Oklahoma National Guard. Statehood in 1907 brought another reorganization, and in 1909 a permanent state training ground was established at Camp Chandler, Oklahoma. A camp ground, rifle range, Statistical Building, Bathhouse, and equipment building were built by a Guardsman, Harry Steer, west of Chandler, Oklahoma, on land owned by a high ranking Guard official, Col. Roy V. Hoffman. From 1909 through 1915, each summer the Oklahoma National Guard trained at Camp Chandler, primarily in marksmanship training. Records of their performance were compiled by officers working in the National Guard Statistical Building. This training enabled the Guard to perform well in various actions, beginning in 1910 with the "Crazy Snake Rebellion," at Henryetta, Oklahoma; in 1916 on the Mexican border, in pursuit of Mexican revolutionaries led by Pancho Villa; and in 1917-1918, in France during World War I battles in the Saint Mihiel and Argonne offensives. Training ended at Camp Chandler in 1915, when the low-lying camp areas proved to be flood-prone and unsanitary. Nevertheless, training received there enabled Oklahoma's National Guard to be proficient in the arts of war.

The reorganization of the Oklahoma National Guard again under the federal National Guard Act of 1916 brought other training grounds to the fore in Oklahoma. Camp Chandler returned to its original agricultural purposes. The city acquired the land for a park in the 1920s, and from 1932 through 1981 the city leased the National Guard Statistical Building to Chandler's Business & Professional Woman's Club for their meeting place. The Oklahoma National Guard leased the building from the city in 1982 and sub-leased it to a veteran's organization, thereby returning a quasi-military flavor to the weathered old building.

Other military resources from the early statehood period at Camp Chandler are now gone. The Bathhouse, at the bottom of the hill, was removed at an unknown date, and the equipment warehouse was torn down at an unknown date. One portion of the rifle range's concrete wall remains, hidden in underbrush. There are no older National Guard built military training facilities. Other, U.S. Army built facilities at Ft. Sill date from 1913. The National Guard

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Statistical Building is the oldest resource remaining to illustrate the military preparations taken by Oklahomans to defend their state and nation in the early twentieth century. Soldiers who trained at Camp Chandler saw action on the Mexican border and in Europe in World War I. Their experience at Camp Chandler served them well. The National Guard Statistical Building retains its integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. A lonely sentinel, barely noticeable atop a hill overlooking Tilghman Park, the National Guard Statistical Building has statewide military significance and is therefore eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A.

HISTORIC/MILITARY CONTEXT:

Oklahoma's militia history began in 1890, when the Oklahoma Territorial Guard was established and organized by an act of the First Territorial Legislature. A loose organization of militia units, the Territorial Guard was placed under an adjutant general and was subject to call by the governor in times of emergency. Unfortunately, the legislature did not feel bound to appropriate government funding for training or equipment, and ensuing legislatures held the same view. Nevertheless, the territory posted a regiment of militia units that wore hand-me-down uniforms and trained with their own or donated weapons that were generally obsolete. In 1895, in keeping with a national trend, the territorial legislature reorganized the military arm of the government into the Oklahoma National Guard. While the Guard consisted of only 500 men in peace time, all white male citizens between the ages of 18 and 45 were subject to call. Oklahoma's peace time guard consisted of cavalry, infantry, and artillery units. In charge was a grouping of staff officers under the office of the Adjutant General. Under the command of Col. Leonard Wood and Lt. Col. Theodore Roosevelt, Oklahoma's regiment of soldiers, plus volunteer units from both Oklahoma Territory and Indian Territory, performed valiantly in the Spanish-American War of 1898. In the later months of the war, four additional companies from Oklahoma Territory were recruited to form the Oklahoma Battalion, one captain of which was Roy Hoffman, of Chandler, Oklahoma. On a national scale, the Spanish American War galvanized military thinking. The United States had been caught somewhat unprepared, with too small an army and too little reserve force. Henceforward, the nation would maintain a regular army force, with reserve militia in the form of the National Guard. In Oklahoma, the 1895 militia act remained in force until the time of statehood in 1907, when the militia was reorganized into a new Oklahoma National Guard.(1)

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MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE:

The 1909 National Guard Statistical Building, in Chandler, Oklahoma, retains statewide military significance for its role in the training of the Oklahoma National Guard in the pre-World War I years. The building served Camp Chandler, Oklahoma, the state's first and only central training facility, during the active life of the camp, 1909-1915.

The National Guard Organization and Maintenance Act of May 1908 reorganized the militia into a thousand-man regiment. The military department remained under the authority of an Adjutant General, with an advisory State Military Board to set policy. This time, however, planning, funding, and regulations were established for training and equipment. An annual ten-days muster was mandated, specifically to provide the citizen soldiers with small arms practice, and all officers and men were required to attend.(2) In territorial days, an "encampment" had been held in various locations around the state; in 1905 Chandler, Oklahoma, had hosted the trainees at "Camp Lincoln" in the flat lands surrounding the Bell Cow Creek. In that instance, Col. Roy V. Hoffman was in command of the encampment.(3) After 1907 Guardsmen would meet annually for practice. Unfortunately, local Guard units had no opportunity for small arms practice, as there was a shortage of armories and weapons and there were no local rifle ranges. This situation led directly to the establishment of a state encampment ground and rifle range at Chandler, Oklahoma, in 1909.

In the early months of 1909 the state legislature considered and then passed "An Act to Appropriate Certain School Lands for Maneuver Grounds for the National Guard." According to Section 1 of the act, the south half and the northwest quarter of Section 16, Township 14 North, Range 4 West, consisting of school lands, was now set aside for annual state encampments. This land lay southwest of the town of Chandler, Oklahoma, in Lincoln County. Through the area ran Bell Cow Creek and a railroad track. The lessees of the land were to be paid for half the value of their improvements, with the money coming from the general fund (the lessees sued and lost).(4) In headlines, the Chandler Tribune crowed, "Chandler Gets Plum! The National Guard Encampment Ground Located Permanently." The report added that the Roy V. Hoffman and Neal Brown farms on the section due west of Chandler would be the site of the state rifle range. "Much praise is due Col. Roy Hoffman and the other citizens through whose efforts these good results have been achieved for the making of Chandler," noted the editor.(5) By June a force of engineers from Ft. Sill were busy clearing the rifle range and erecting targets for a thirty-day training session to be held in the near future.(6)

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The establishment of a statewide training facility for the National Guard is intimately bound with the story of one of the Guard's most prominent leaders, Roy V. Hoffman. Hoffman came to Guthrie, Oklahoma, in 1889, with the land run. He established the Guthrie Daily Leader and then went into law, being admitted to the Oklahoma Territorial Bar in 1891. Within a few years he became Assistant United States Attorney, a post from which he resigned in favor of active duty during the Spanish American War. An incredibly busy man, he was a lawyer, a politician, a civil servant--and a citizen soldier. He served as a delegate to the national convention that nominated William Jennings Bryan in 1892, as chairman of the state Democratic convention in 1904, as county attorney in various western Oklahoma Counties, prosecuting or defending 100 murder cases and even defending Temple Houston for an alleged murder at Woodward. He ran for the U.S. Senate in 1907, served on the State Board of Affairs in 1910, and held a term as a District Judge in 1912. From 1890 onward, he served the Oklahoma National Guard in increasingly important capacities. By 1890 he was a Lt. Colonel, and in 1900 his rank was raised to Colonel. In 1917 he was named Brigadier General in command of the Guard. Shortly thereafter he left Oklahoma to command the U.S. Army's 93rd Negro Division in World War I. In 1933 he retired from the Guard and afterward was involved in law, oil, banking, and investments.(7)

Hoffman's leadership experience in general and with the Oklahoma National Guard in specific apparently led him to carefully consider its training needs. In 1909 he became part of the movement to establish a permanent training ground at Chandler, Oklahoma, where he owned a large farm west of town. At that time he was also involved in real estate development in Chandler, having in 1902 established an addition to the town on its west edge (adjacent to the site of the Statistical Building and rifle range).(8) Hoffman allowed the Oklahoma National Guard to locate the rifle range and build the Bathhouse and Statistical Building on his property. Hoffman's farm manager, Henry Steer, who was a color sergeant in the National Guard, designed and built the Statistical Building, the Bathhouse, and some of the structural portion of the rifle range.(9)

The National Guard Statistical Building was constructed in the summer of 1909, in preparation for the first annual encampment to be held at Camp Chandler. After the encampment adjourned, Adjutant General F. M. Canton

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reported that he had "visited the range and at that time we had a well equipped range up to twelve hundred yards with a Statistical House and Bath House for the convenience of the men, and a good warehouse for the storage of property."(10)

The Statistical Building and Bathhouse had been completed in time to be used by the officers and men at the first encampment, July 20-27, 1909.(11) In command of the First Infantry Regiment at the first encampment of 1909 was Col. Roy Hoffman, who was also the commander of the entire encampment.(12) On February 24, 1910, Adjutant General Canton issued orders that "the [next] regular practice season for troops of the Oklahoma National Guard is hereby announced for the year 1910." His further order described the purpose that would be attached to the Statistical Building: "a complete record will be kept of all shots fired at Gallery Practice and while firing on the range." He went on to add that all officers and enlisted men would also have to qualify with the revolver, in Gallery Practice.(13) Much paperwork was involved in keeping a record of the performance of the Guard's 60 officers and 930 enlisted men on the rifle range and in the gallery, and that record was kept by officers who worked in the Statistical Building. The marksmanship training statistics were the only objective proof of the efficacy of each summer's training camp.

From 1909 through 1915, each summer the Oklahoma National Guard trained at Camp Chandler, marching, shooting, and presenting mock battles for training as well as for the entertainment of the public. That training came in handy in the spring of 1910, when the National Guard, under Hoffman's command, was called to action by Governor Charles N. Haskell in the incident called the "Crazy Snake Rebellion." Between 1900 and 1909 a quasi-military native-resistance organization led by Chitto Harjo, a Creek, may have been planning to overthrow the Creek tribal government. In 1909 an incident caused Haskell to call out the Guard. Col. Hoffman led 200 men to Henryetta in March 1910, whereupon Harjo's troops disbanded.(14) Although this would not be much of a test, it did emphasize the importance of good training for Guardsmen, at least in marching. And it was the first of a number of "trial runs" in preparation for World War I action.

The Guard encampment of the summer of 1914 took place amidst the gathering terror of World War I. On August 9 Chandler Tribune page 1 headlines screamed, "All Europe Plunges Wildly into Sudden Terrible War." Further on, a page 5 story detailed the "Oklahoma National Guard Encampment," with Col. Roy V. Hoffman in command. Noted the editor, "The European war is turning everyone's thoughts to military matters, and this camp affords an opportunity

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to see how our soldiers are equipped and sheltered and fed and how they work and study and shoot and drill and play. Everybody who can should visit the camp." Days later, headlines proclaimed necessity of riflery and war-maneuver training for Oklahoma boys in the "National Guard for National Defense." (15) Foreboding is also sensed in the thoughts of the camp's commander, who on August 20 wrote that "You tell me that our young men should not be ready for war, and I hope to God that we will never have to enter into a conflict with any other nation. . . but if we do, we will not have time to stop and train our men, and I hope the state of Oklahoma will be at the front if at any time it is called upon." (16)

Within two years, Oklahoma and America were at war--but not in Europe. The governor called on the Oklahoma National Guard to mobilize on June 19, 1916, for Mexico, to chase Mexican revolutionaries under Pancho Villa. Initially, the Oklahoma troops were directed to mobilize at Chandler. However, Camp Chandler was avoided after U.S. Army regulars inspected it and determined it unfit for habitation. The governor's order was rescinded under federal orders and all entrained for Ft. Sill. (17) Subsequently, Oklahoma guardsmen trained, drilled, patrolled the Mexican border, and tried to apprehend Villas's infiltrators. The Guard saw limited action in battle through 1916 and returned to Oklahoma in February 1917--just in time to see the United States become enmeshed in World War I in Europe. Their training in the field prepared them well for the call to service in France before the end of 1917. Oklahoma Guardsmen served in the Thirty-sixth National Guard Division and in the Rainbow division and saw action in the Saint-Mihiel and Argonne offensives. Of three Medals of Honor awarded to the Thirty-Sixth Infantry, Oklahoma National Guard soldiers earned two. (18)

Camp Chandler ultimately was judged to be an unsuitable training ground because of its condition during wet weather. For several summers disease and sanitation had been serious problems, because the flat, low lands around Bell Cow Creek easily flooded and were difficult to drain. Company commanders' reports on the encampments for 1911, 1912, 1914, and 1915 contain many complaints, and several officers recommended that the site be abandoned. (19) The question of whether Camp Chandler would remain viable, however, became moot in 1916 when the federal government condemned the camp's use. Ironically, Oklahoma's soldiers met similar nasty conditions on battlefields in France--conditions for which Camp Chandler's occasionally deplorable conditions had prepared them.

The reorganization of the Oklahoma National Guard again under the federal National Guard Act of 1916 brought other training grounds to the fore in

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Oklahoma. Camp Chandler receded into memory, and local citizens returned it to its original agricultural uses. The city acquired the land for a park in the 1920s, and from 1932 through 1981 the city leased the National Guard Statistical Building to Chandler's Business & Professional Woman's Club for their meeting place. The Oklahoma National Guard leased the building from the city in 1982 and sub-leased it to a veteran's organization, thereby returning a quasi-military flavor to the weathered old building. (20)

Other resources from the early statehood period once stood within the confines of the Camp Chandler training ground. They are now gone. The Bathhouse, at the bottom of the hill, was removed at an unknown date, and the equipment warehouse was torn down at an unknown date. One portion of the rifle range's concrete wall remains, hidden in underbrush. There are no older National Guard built military training facilities. Other, U.S. Army built facilities at Ft. Sill date from 1913. The National Guard Statistical Building is the oldest resource remaining to illustrate the military preparations taken by Oklahomans to defend their state and nation in the early twentieth century. Soldiers who trained at Camp Chandler saw action on the Mexican border and in Europe in World War I. Their experience at Camp Chandler served them well. The National Guard Statistical Building retains its integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. A lonely sentinel, barely noticeable atop a hill overlooking Tilghman Park, the National Guard Statistical Building has statewide military significance and is therefore eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

ENDNOTES

1. Kenny Franks, Citizen Soldiers: Oklahoma's National Guard (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1984), 3-12.
2. Ibid.
3. Chandler (Oklahoma) Daily Publicist, 20 September 1905, 27 September 1905, 3 October 1905, 9 October 1905, 12 October 1905.
4. Chandler News, 11 March 1909; H.B. 400, Vertical File, Lincoln County Historical Society; Adjutant General's Report, 1909 (Guthrie: State Capitol Publishing Company, 1910), 85.
5. Chandler Tribune, 12 March 1909.

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6. Vinita (Oklahoma) Weekly Chieftain, 11 June 1909.
 7. Daily Oklahoman (Oklahoma City), 25 February 1898, 12 May 1899, 27 July 1904, 8 July 1917, 24 August 1917, 25 July 1935; Stillwater (Oklahoma) Gazette, 1 March 1900; Vinita Weekly Chieftain, 14 January 1910.
 8. Plat Maps, Chandler, Oklahoma, County Clerk's Office, Lincoln County, Oklahoma.
 9. History of Lincoln County (N.p.: Lincoln County Historical Society, 1988), 1293-1294.
 10. Adjutant General's Report, 1910 (Oklahoma City: 1911), 104.
 11. Chandler News-Publicist, 23 July 1909.
 12. Adjutant General's Report, 1910, 104.
 13. Ibid., 16-18.
 14. Franks, Citizen Soldiers, 14.
 15. Chandler Tribune, 9 August 1914; *ibid.*, 13 August 1914.
 16. Chandler Tribune, 20 August 1914.
 17. Donald E. Houston, "The Oklahoma National Guard on the Mexico Border, Chronicles of Oklahoma 53 (1975-76):447-49.
 18. *Ibid.*; Franks, Citizen Soldiers, 19-23, 36, 37.
 19. Adjutant General's Report, 1912 (Oklahoma City: 1913), 54-56; Adjutant General's Report, 1913 (Oklahoma City: 1914), 51; Adjutant General's Report, 1914 (Oklahoma City: 1915), 47, 53, 57; Adjutant General's Report, 1915 (Oklahoma City: 1916), 70-73.
 20. Lincoln County News, 23 March 1982.

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- "Senate Action on H.B. 400, 11 March 1909. Vertical File, Lincoln County Historical Society, Chandler, Oklahoma.
- Vinita (Oklahoma) Weekly Chieftain, 11 June 1909.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Beginning at the northeast corner of the building, proceed ten feet due east to the point of beginning; from the point of beginning, proceed 95 feet due south; turn due west and proceed 120 feet west; turn due north and proceed 150 feet due north; turn due east and proceed 120 feet; turn due south and proceed 55 feet to the point of beginning, having described an enclosed polygon measuring 120 feet east to west and 150 feet north to south.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

This boundary encloses the 1909 building and the two sets of stairs that are associated.