

McGehee National Guard Amory
Name of Property

Desha County, Arkansas
County and State

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: McGehee National Guard Amory

Other Name/Site Number: DE0350

2. Location

Street & Number: 1610 South First St.

Not for Publication: NA

City/Town: McGehee

Vicinity: NA

State: AR County: Desha Code: AR041 Zip Code: 71654

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Public-local

Category of Property: Building

McGehee National Guard Amory
Name of Property

Desha County, Arkansas
County and State

Number of Resources within Property:

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: NA

Name of related multiple property listing: NA

4. 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. See continuation sheet.

 Caleb Matthews 4/3/06
Signature of certifying official Date

 Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

McGehee National Guard Amory
Name of Property

Desha County, Arkansas
County and State

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):

John Nelson H. Beall *5.31.06*
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: DEFENSE Sub: arms storage

Current : VACANT/NOT IN USE Sub:

7. Description

Architectural Classification: Plain/Traditional

Materials: foundation Concrete roof Metal and Asphalt
 walls Brick other

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

SUMMARY:

The McGehee Armory at 1610 S, First St. is a one-story, concrete-block structure sheathed in brick veneer and constructed in 1954.

ELABORATION:

The McGehee Armory at 1610 S, First St. is a one-story, concrete-block structure sheathed in brick veneer and constructed in 1954.

The 1954 McGehee Armory is a one-story, cinder-block building sheathed in brick veneer and reflecting the Plain/Traditional style of architecture. The large gable roof of the central room uses a steel support structure and includes two-over-two, steel-framed, clerestory, awning windows on each side. The floor plan is of a standard design and similar to that of most of the Arkansas Army National Guard armories built during the post-World War II era.

The armory's layout consists of a large central room with a gable roof surrounded on three sides by one-story, flat-roofed areas that hold office space, restrooms, storage, kitchens and similar support functions. The support areas are fenestrated by six-over-six, steel-framed hopper units and six-over-six-over-twelve hopper units. It has suffered few if any alterations

The McGehee Armory retains excellent integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling and association and remains highly evocative of its intended use as a military training facility.

8. Statement of Significance

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): NA

Areas of Significance: Military, Architecture

Period(s) of Significance: 1954-1956

Significant Dates: 1954

Significant Person(s): NA

Cultural Affiliation: NA

Architect/Builder: Townsend Construction Co., Conway, AR/Builder

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

SUMMARY:

The McGehee Armory is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A** with **statewide significance** for its association with the history of the Arkansas Army National Guard and under **Criterion C** with **statewide significance** by virtue of its status as a great example of the armories of its era, which featured open floor plans, steel-framed roofs and concrete-block walls, reflecting the Guard's need for larger facilities during the 1950s.

ELABORATION:

National Guard

The modern National Guard is a well-trained reserve fighting force controlled by states and equipped by the federal government. They can be called into service by either federal or state governments to assist in everything from disaster

relief to full-fledged war. This requires a presidential order or a declaration of a state of emergency by their state's governor. When Guard members are not mobilized, they are required to report for training sessions "one weekend a month, two weeks a year."

Though the National Guard as it exists today has been around for about a century, the idea of the citizen-soldier is much older. The concept originated in the Germanic regions of Europe during the Middle Ages, where the king reserved the right to call up a "home guard" consisting of all free males. The British began forming a similar organization of defense before the Norman invasion. The system, which was based on land ownership and required training for soldiers who were not on active duty, has been described by some historians as similar to our current National Guard.

As England began to gain territory in North America, colonists formed militias to protect themselves from invasion on the remote continent. Massachusetts established the first American militia in 1643, and Virginia, Connecticut, Maryland, and South Carolina soon followed suit. At first they fought alone against occasional groups of hostile Indians, but later it was alongside British regulars against competing colonial powers.

As colonists became increasingly discontent with their colonial rule, American militias began to face off against their former British allies. The first of these conflicts was the famous showdown at Concord's North Bridge. Though problems with disorganization and desertion plagued these militia units, the citizen-soldier proved an integral part in the American victory and their transition to an independent nation. George Washington recognized the failures and successes of the system: "[The country needs] a well organized Militia; upon a Plan that will pervade all the States, and introduce similarity in their Establishment, Maneuvers, Exercises and Arms."

In 1792 Congress passed the Calling Forth and Militia Acts, which clarified the constitution's positions concerning militias. The legislation gave the president power to call the state militia into federal service, placed an Adjutant General in charge of each state militia, and required all able-bodied men between 18 and 45 to enroll. Together, these acts would guide policy for the next 111 years.

Despite the government's early efforts to organize the militia, the years leading up to the Civil War proved turbulent for America's citizen-soldiers. Successes, like the suppression of a Pennsylvania mob in the Whiskey Rebellion and the victory at the Battle of New Orleans, were overshadowed by numerous blunders. The near-failure in the War of 1812 was due in large part to the incompetence and insubordination of the participating state militias. Furthermore, membership lull as states began to drop mandatory service requirements and growing economic wealth allowed some Americans to buy their way out of service.

During this same period, in 1803, the United States acquired the Louisiana Purchase, which included the territory that is now Arkansas. As American settlement of the area increased, so did the demand for military protection. In 1806 Arkansas Post raised the first militia in the state, which included one company of infantry and another of light cavalry. These units served more to give the appearance of law and order than to actually enforce it; there is little evidence of militia action until after Arkansas became a territory in 1819.

Early Arkansas militias were mainly concerned about the threat posed by neighboring Indians. In the minds of Arkansans, this threat gradually increased during the first decades of the nineteenth century as more and more Indians were removed to "Indian Territory," just to the state's west. This perceived danger led territorial governor George Izard to begin vigorously training the militia after his appointment in 1825. He believed the territory must "place the Militia in a condition to afford immediate protection to our settlements, should any disorder attend the passage of these people." The governor's fears were confirmed in 1828 when the militia was forced to enforce peace between Miller County settlers, and Shawnee and Delaware Indians.

The Mexican War was the first major conflict that involved Arkansas militiamen, though they joined the fight on a volunteer basis. Several companies of cavalry and infantry accepted the call to duty, and served in Mexico and on the western American frontier. United States Representative Archibald Yell and prominent Little Rock lawyer Albert Pike were among the more notable volunteers. Like the rest of the nation, though, interest in militia service waned in Arkansas after the conflict.

* * *

It was the dark times of the Civil War that brought a resurgence in militia activity. President Lincoln called state

militias to federal service in 1861, but the order was restricted by a 90 day limit. Early on, militias defended their home states, but as the war continued, most of their members were called up to serve on the federal level. In the South the militias were populated by the nation's first conscription law, which required all males from 18-35 to serve.

The United States government implemented sweeping changes on the nation's military structure during Reconstruction. Southern states were not allowed to organize militias unless they were controlled by Republican governments. It was not until 1876 that these states were given back full rights to run their military affairs. Black militias began to appear, but were most prevalent in the North since the idea of armed African-Americans was still very unsettling to southerners.

Labor disputes dominated the militia's efforts at the end of the nineteenth century. Governors were often forced to request military assistance to keep order during a period of numerous union-backed labor strikes. Also during this period, modern reforms began to take hold. Former Confederate Major General Dabney H. Maury founded the National Guard Association (NGA) in 1878, aiming to formalize and standardize militia policy and structure. As this group's title indicates, many states, excepting the South, began referring to their citizen-soldiers as the "National Guard" by the end of the century.

The imperfections of the century-old Militia Act finally showed through during the Spanish-American War. The surprise explosion of the *U.S.S. Maine* pushed an unprepared American military to war. Without the ability to call up militia units for extended federal service, President McKinley relied on volunteers in an attempt to build a formidable and properly-trained force. Though the campaign turned out to be a success, change in militia organization was certain.

That change came in the form of the Dick Act of 1903. Written by Charles W. F. Dick, who had strong ties with the NGA, the legislation sought to "promote the efficiency of the militia" and make it an "official junior partner of the Regular Army." It offered federal support for a militia's training, equipment, and pay. It also encouraged a closer relationship between the militia and Regular Army through organization and training. Together with the National Defense Act of 1916, which made further improvements to the nation's military structure, the Dick Act made the National Guard an effective part of the American armed forces.

The Civil War also brought a revival in militia activity in Arkansas. On February 5, 1861, several companies of Arkansas volunteers gathered and seized the Little Rock Arsenal from Captain James Totten's Federal troops. This type of activity repeated itself in Arkansas and all across the South as militia companies often took control of Union arsenals, customs houses, forts, and mints.

In accordance with Reconstruction policy, Arkansas was required to disband their militia organizations by 1867. It wasn't until the election of Governor Clayton Powell in 1868 that the state regained its military rights. With a militia composed largely of freed African-Americans, the loyal Republican administration suppressed the actions of the Ku Klux Klan through martial law until 1869.

One of the most notable uses of the post-war Arkansas militia was an ideological and political conflict known as the "Brooks-Baxter War." As the gubernatorial elections of 1872 approached, Arkansans were split between Radical Republican Elisha Baxter and Liberal Republican Joseph Brooks. Baxter was declared the winner, but suspecting fraud, Brooks filed an immediate challenge. A year after the initial results were handed down, the election was overturned. Brooks called for militia support to evict Baxter from the statehouse, and Baxter called for support to defend the statehouse from Brooks. Fortunately, large-scale violence was avoided when President U.S. Grant recognized Baxter as the rightful governor.

While militias across the nation were in decline during the end of the nineteenth century, the Arkansas militia was nearly abolished altogether. A conflict in Scott County, Arkansas, exacerbated a schism that had been growing between Governor William Miller and the state legislature. The legislature, who charged that Governor Miller was using the militia in Scott County to impose Reconstructionist tactics, voted to abolish the office of Adjutant General and cut funding for the state militia. Companies that survived, like the McCarthy Light Guards, did so only through private funding.

Such policies left Arkansas militias no more prepared for the Spanish-American War than those in other parts of the country. Nevertheless, Arkansas managed to muster two regiments from existing State Guard troops. Though these soldiers never saw action, 54 of them died from accidents and disease while training in Puerto Rico.

The problems that Arkansans faced during the end of the 19th century were remedied in part by the Dick Act. The state militia was officially organized into the Arkansas National Guard, and any funding problems previously faced

were alleviated by federal aid. Their first assignment under the new organization was to patrol the Mexican border in 1916.

* * *

War in Europe resulted in a large increase in National Guard numbers across the nation. This movement stemmed from the Selective Service Act of 1917, which provided for the creation of draft units composed of randomly selected draftees. Many draft-eligible Americans decided it would be better to join the Guard and serve with people from their region, some of whom they knew. Thus National Guard enrollment expanded from 177,000 before the draft began to 377,000 just four months later. Because the demand was so high for soldiers in Europe, State Guards were populated by those too old or physically unfit to join the Regular Army.

Though the American economy hit bottom as the nation transitioned from the 1920s to 1930s, enrollment in the National Guard increased. In fact, so many people sought employment with the Guard that many potential soldiers were put on a waiting list. Most deployments during this period were for civil unrest, labor disputes, or natural disasters. By the mid-1930s, though, Hitler was expanding his ideology and influence in Europe, and National Guard troops began training for war.

On August 27, 1940, President Franklin Roosevelt issued a presidential order that called-up the National Guard to federal service. This move substantially increased the American force, adding over 200,000 troops composed of 22 cavalry and infantry units. Accordingly, the Guard was already deployed when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, and they were ready for deployment in both the European and Pacific theatres.

After Hitler was finally defeated in 1945, the country entered an uncertain period of Cold War. With the Soviet Union emerging as America's opposing power, the National Guard was trained to fight in a "World War III scenario." This, along with inadequate funding, left the Guard ill-prepared for the unique wars in East Asia.

National Guard units totaling 138,600 soldiers were deployed after the 1950 invasion of South Korea by North Korea. Many of those troops arrived in South Korea in January 1951 while others filled vacant military roles in Europe and the United States. The National Guard saw only limited action in Vietnam; only about 12,000 guardsmen were called up for 24-month terms in 1968.

For those National Guard members who remained in the United States during the wars in East Asia, much of their duty concerned violence surrounding the Civil Rights movement. Protests and integrations kept the home units busy as old racism met progressive ideology. These controversial responsibilities, compounded by participation in increasingly unpopular wars, led to a period of disrespect by many Americans for the Guard.

The National Guard, devastated by the wars in East Asia, was revamped under President Ronald Reagan. His huge defense budgets included provisions for modern equipment and extensive training. Under Reagan, Guardsmen were able to participate in major overseas exercises with other countries' military forces.

In September 1917 Arkansas National Guard units reported to Camp Beauregard in Alexandria, Louisiana. After eleven months of training, the 110 officers and 6,317 enlisted men sailed for Europe where they would see several months of combat action. Those who returned from "The Great War" were discharged at Arkansas' Camp Pike in January and February of 1919.

The interwar years provided Arkansas Guardsmen with extensive domestic experience. The flood of 1927 was one of the worst disasters in the history of the Delta region, displacing many families and ruining their livelihoods. By giving far-reaching assistance to the region's citizens, the Arkansas Guard took on an increased role in disaster relief. Civil unrest was a more general problem of the 1920s and 1930s; during that period the Guard was called out more than 25 times.

With the threat of World War II on the horizon, Arkansas troops were again called to federal service. After their call on December 7, 1941, they saw service in mainland Alaska, the Aleutian Islands, North Africa, and throughout Europe. The Arkansans fought honorably and successfully, though much of their training and battle armament was last used in World War I.

Arkansas National Guardsmen were among those called to active duty after the South Korean invasion. Shortly after the incursion, the 154th Fighter Squadron, the 936th FA Battalion, the 937th FA Battalion, and the 217th Medical Company were sent to stop the Communist expansion. The first unit to arrive, the 936th, saw their first combat action on March 29, 1951, exchanging more than 50,000 rounds with their North Korean adversaries. Arkansans contributed to the

war effort in varying capacities, from ground combat to medical air evacuation.

Probably the most famous incident exclusively involving Arkansas Guardsmen occurred at Central High School in Little Rock. When federal courts ruled in 1954 that all American schools must integrate, the Little Rock School Board formulated a plan to begin the process in 1957. As the deadline approached, segregationists put pressure on governor Orval Faubus to block Arkansas school integration. Bowing to pro-segregation pressure, Faubus called the National Guard to block African-American students from entering the school for three weeks. When he recalled the soldiers, a period of violence ensued. Order was not restored until President Dwight D. Eisenhower federalized the Guard and used them to escort the nine students into Central High. The soldiers remained there for seven and a half months before the President felt it was safe for them to leave.

More recently the Arkansas National Guard has seen overseas action in the Middle East. During the First Gulf War, 13 units were called up from Arkansas and deployed from Europe to Southwest Asia. Seventeen units are now serving (as of July 2005) in the Iraq War. The Arkansas Army National Guard is currently composed of 102 units in 74 communities.

Armories

Armories have always been a central part of military activity. Generally they can be described as storage facilities for weapons and ammunition, but in the last several decades they have been built to accommodate National Guard training exercises. The construction and expansion of armory facilities traces the organization and purpose of the Guard.

Early armories were typically built in urban areas where heavy industrialization had taken root. This meant that the majority of the structures were concentrated in the northeast, while rural armories were rare. In addition to their use as a weapons storage facility, they were used as a point of defense until the 1830s.

The Federal Arsenal Program introduced two types of armories before the Civil War: “arsenals” and “armories.” The cost and construction of an arsenal was shared between the federal and state governments, and they were used to build and store weapons and ammunition. In the decades leading up to the Civil War, armories differed from arsenals mainly because they were rented spaces. Typical armories were located in hotels, taverns, or organizational halls; they provided shelter for the soldiers, but drill was always conducted outside.

Pre-Civil War armories were large, formidable structures. Most were constructed with thick, load-bearing masonry walls and large doors and windows. Though most armories were architecturally nothing out of the ordinary, some were beautiful fortress-like buildings in the Greek, Romanesque, and Italianate architectural styles. Today, the Jackson, Michigan, Armory, constructed in 1850 and the Jericho, Vermont, Armory, built in 1860, are the only remaining pre-Civil War armories.

Very few armories were built during the Civil War because the federal government lacked the control and funding to undertake such projects. After the war, though, labor and social unrest spurred many state legislatures to increase the funding of their militias. Incidents like the Draft Riots of 1863, the Paris Commune of 1871, and the Railroad Strike of 1877—culminating with the Haymarket Affair of 1886—convinced the legislatures of the need for sufficiently equipped and housed militias. New arsenals, typically designed by local architects paid by the state Guard, gave an increased number of state militiamen places where they could go to be effectively organized and trained.

The architectural style of armories was also modified for this post-Civil War period. A castellated design, which appeared in rare cases before the War, exploded in popularity by 1880. It combined elements of Italianate, Medieval Gothic, Romanesque, and Second Empire styles to create an attractive and impressive structure. Like a medieval castle, the armories in this style would have battlements, crenellations, towers, and turrets. Entries into the building’s thick walls were constructed of heavy wood and a protecting portcullis. The interiors could be describes as more refined, providing space for organization, training, and even socializing.

Much of the armory construction continued to occur in urban areas. The few built in the poor post-war South were often cheaply constructed, wood frame structures, contrasting sharply with the impressive masonry structures of the Northeast. Indeed, formal National Guard armories were still very rare across Arkansas. Construction of much-needed armories farther west was delayed by the ongoing efforts of territories to attain statehood. Forty-six armories, built from 1865-1910, currently exist, most of them in the Northeastern states of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and

Massachusetts.

Armories built after 1910 reflected America's decreasing concern about mob violence and civil war. Increasingly, the once solemn halls of the armories served to accommodate social functions and community events. The focus of design changed, too. Simplicity and functionality replaced grandeur and fortification. This trend was evidenced by the building boom in the final years of World War I: the drill hall came to overshadow the minimized administrative wing, and little or no ornamentation was used on either structure. Some of the later designs of the 1920s and 1930s featured the more decorative styles of Art Deco and Art Moderne.

Though the majority of this construction continued to occur in the Northeast, it began to spread south and west by 1930. Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal brought WPA and PWA armories to the poorer southern states in the trans-Mississippi West. When the Arkansas National Guard reorganized in 1926, most armory space was rented, and there were no state-owned armories. But by 1940, 25 armories had been built across the state: from Texarkana to Jonesboro and from Helena to Mena. Over an eight-year period beginning in 1934, over half of the 842 existing armories across the country were remodeled, and 400 new ones were built. The trend toward simplicity continued as architects utilized Colonial Revival, Neoclassical, and Art Deco styling for the structures.

The armory further enlarged its role in the community during the New Deal period. Some had stages that suited them for dance venues, while others had bleachers and basketball goals to facilitate the local high school team. Most armories were used more for social functions than military ones.

New Deal construction structurally prepared the National Guard for World War II. It wasn't until the Cold War Era that the country felt the need for an increased number of armories. In response the federal government passed the National Defense Facilities Act of 1950, which appropriated money for renovation and erection of Reserve Armed Forces facilities. Though the Korean War delayed major construction at first, by 1954 states were asking for money. Guidelines for the floor plan were as follows:

- * Minimum armory size: 11,800 square feet; maximum of 13,000 square feet
- * Drill hall within the armory: 5,500 square feet
- * Classrooms within the armory: 800-1,340 square feet
- * Unit supply storage within the armory: 770-1,200 square feet
- * Administrative offices within the armory: 288-800 square feet
- * Commanding Officer, orderlies, advisor offices within armory: 200 square feet each
- * Locker room within armory: 600-1,200 square feet
- * Toilets and showers within armory: 500-700 square feet
- * Women's public restroom within armory: 240 square feet
- * Library or day room within armory: 200-400 square feet
- * Armory kitchen: 160-200 square feet
- * Armory maintenance and custodian facility within armory: 200 square feet
- * Armory boiler room: 600 square feet
- * Outdoor rifle range: 1,880 square feet

Arkansas was one of the recipients of the federal aid. In 1952 Brigadier General John B. Morris, Jr. estimated that Arkansas's armory needs totaled \$3,705,000. The federal government would give \$2,778,750 while the State of Arkansas was to contribute \$926,250. When the money was appropriated, construction soon began.

Many of the Arkansas armories were designed by the architectural firm Wittenberg, Delony & Davidson. The design was a "type 'Z-Z' one unit" plan. Generally, the office space, restrooms, storage, and kitchens were to be built one-story high, with concrete block and brick veneer and a flat roof. The drill hall was to be built with a two-story high steel frame, and topped by a gable roof with several awning windows on each side. The armories from this era are most prevalent across the state today.

McGehee National Guard Armory

In 1953, the Arkansas General Assembly appropriated \$121,000 to match federal funding to construct new National Guard armories at McGehee and Booneville. The McGehee National Guard Armory was home to Company D, 217th Engineering Battalion, a unit consisting of four officers, one warrant officer and 52 enlisted men. (The unit originally was designated Company C, 206th Tank Battalion when it was activated on March 5, 1947, according to *The McGehee Times*, which reported “At the time, the unit was organized the old city jail was used for a supply room with the classroom in the American Legion Hut. Close order drill was held on Second street (traffic permitting).”)

Requests for bids to construct the new, 7,400-square-foot building were issued on January 2, 1954. Townsend Construction Company of Conway submitted the low bid of \$38,399.70. The plumbing and heating contract went to Daniel Zero Butane Company of Beebe, which bid \$3,900.20, while the contract for electrical work went to Pine Bluff Electric Company for its bid of \$2,475. The armory was to be built on land that had been the site of the 1952 Desha County fair; the land was purchased with money raised by McGehee merchants and citizens. Governor Francis Cherry, accompanied by Major General Lucien Abraham, attended the groundbreaking ceremony on February 18, 1954, and the structure apparently was completed later that year.

In addition to the 217th Engineering Battalion, the armory has housed Co. A, 2nd Battalion, 206th Armored Regiment and elements of Co. C, 3rd Battalion, 153rd Infantry Regiment.

On June 28, 2005, it was announced that five Arkansas National Guard armories would be closed, including the one at McGehee, as part of a major restructuring of the Guard. Officials indicated that the closed armories would be given to the cities in which they are located for future use as municipal facilities. Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee formally handed the deed to the armory over to the city on March 14, 2006.

Though it no longer will house a National Guard unit, the McGehee Armory still reflects the connections with Arkansas’s military heritage that it has embodied for more than 50 years. As such, the building remains a living memorial to the men and women of the Arkansas Army National Guard.

The McGehee Armory reflects standardized plans that featured open floor plans, steel-framed roofs and concrete block walls. This functional design is typical of Guard armories built during a period when larger facilities were needed. As a good example of its building type, the armory is eligible for National Register recognition under Criterion C.

The McGehee Armory is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A** with **statewide significance** for its association with the history of the Arkansas Army National Guard and under **Criterion C** with **statewide significance** by virtue of its status as a great example of the armories of its era, which featured open floor plans, steel-framed roofs and concrete-block walls, reflecting the Guard’s need for larger facilities during the 1950s.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Burns & McDonnell Engineering Co., Inc. and Historical and Architectural Research, LLC. *Army National Guard: Draft Final Historic Context Study, December 2004*. Kansas City, MO: Burns & McDonnell and Historical and Architectural Research, December 2004.

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URS Group, Inc. *Arkansas Army National Guard Intensive Historic Research and Context*. Gaithersburg, MD: URS Group, February 2005.

URS Corporation, Inc. *Historic Structures Reconnaissance Survey of 14 Arkansas National Guard Armory and Vehicle Storage Shed Facilities*. Little Rock, AR, March 2004.

Information supplied by Tammy Hilburn, Arkansas Army National Guard.

Information supplied by Anthony Rushing, Arkansas Army National Guard.

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, "Five Guard armories in Delta to shut in Army restructuring," Wednesday, June 29, 2005, p. 1A.; "5 towns receive deeds to closed armories," Wednesday, March 15, 2006, p. 3B.

The McGehee Times, "Bids Requested for Armory Here," January 2, 1954, p. 1; "Conway Firm is Low Bidder on Armory," January 20, 1954, p. 1; "Governor Cherry to Break Ground for New Guard Armory Here at Ceremony Feb. 18," February 10, 1954, p. 1; "Governor Cherry Breaks Ground for New National Guard Armory Here Thursday," February 24, 1954, p. 1.

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 -- Specify Repository: Camp Robinson, Arkansas

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: Approximately one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A 15 649869 3720267 B
C D

McGehee National Guard Amory
Name of Property

Desha County, Arkansas
County and State

Verbal Boundary Description:

Lot 2, Block 1, Skyway Addition to the City of McGehee, the above-described plot being the West back half of Lot 2, Block 1, Skyway Addition to the City of McGehee.

Boundary Justification:

This boundary includes all of the property associated with this resource that retains historic integrity.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Clinton Pumphrey/Intern; Mark Christ/Community Outreach Director

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: August 18, 2005

Street & Number: 1500 Tower Bldg., 323 Center St. Telephone: (501) 324-9880

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: McGehee National Guard Armory

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Desha

DATE RECEIVED: 7/19/06 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/01/06
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 06000441

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 5.31.06 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



McGehee National Guard Armory

McGehee, Desha Co., AR

Photo by C. Arthur

July 2003

Negative on file at AHPP

View from South



McGehee National Guard Armory
McGehee, Desha Co, AR
Photo by C. Arthur
Negative on file at AHPP
July 2003
View from ~~north~~ east



McGehee National Guard Armory

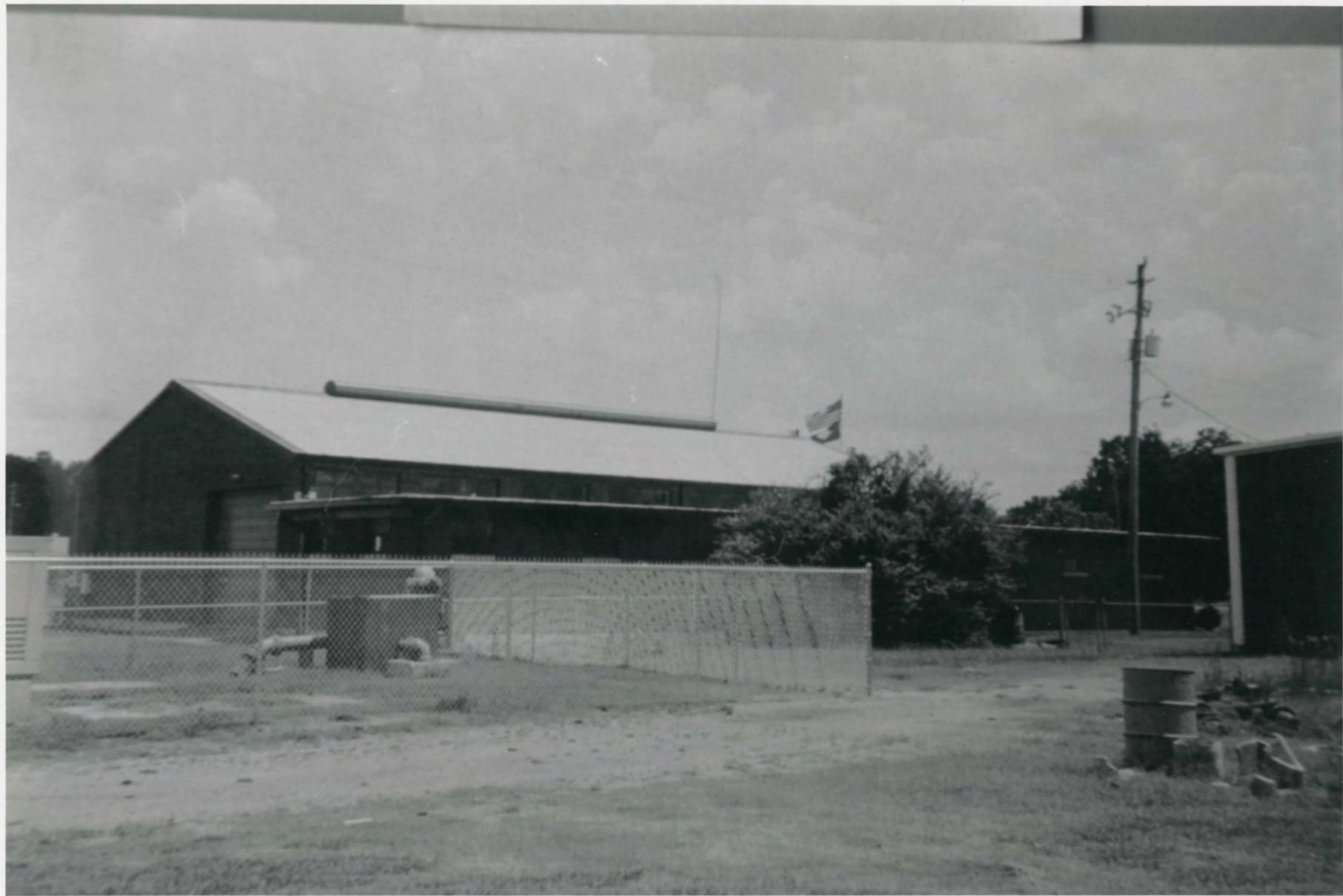
McGehee, Desha Co, AR

Photo by C. Arthur

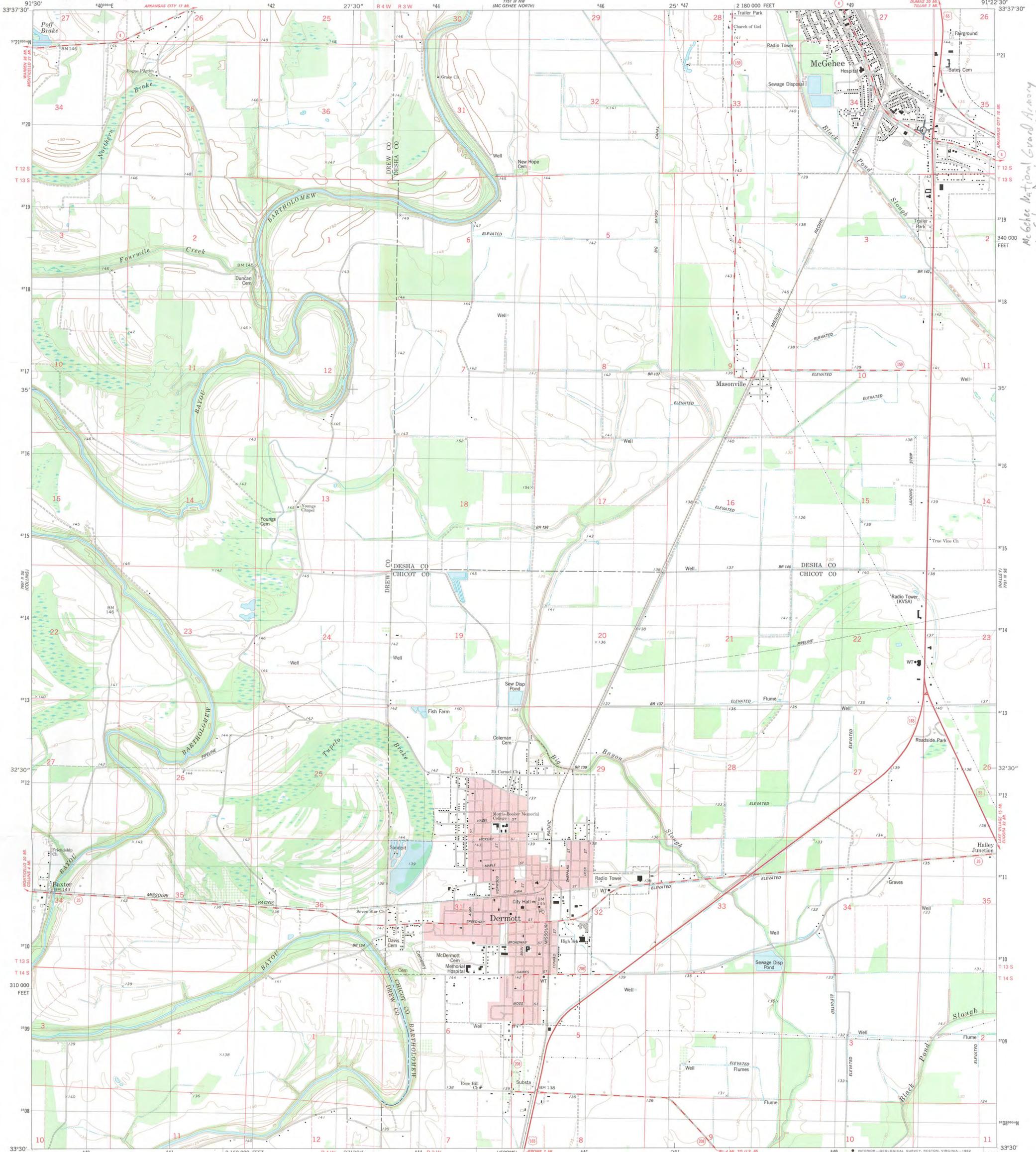
July 2003

Negative on file at AHP

View from north

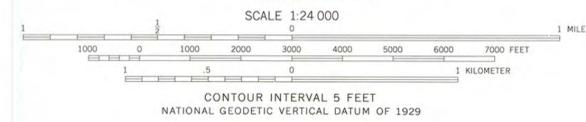


McGehee National Guard Armory
McGehee, Desha Co, AR
Photo by C. Arthur
July 2003
Negative on file at AHPP
View from west



*McGehee National Guard Army
McGehee, Desha Co, AR
1 S/649860/3720302*

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1975-76. Field checked 1978. Map edited 1981
Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks, Arkansas coordinate
system, south zone (Lambert conformal conic)
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 15
1927 North American Datum
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 10 meters south and
12 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks
Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, hard surface ——— Light duty road, hard or improved surface ———
Secondary highway, hard surface ——— Unimproved road ———
Interstate Route ——— U. S. Route ——— State Route ———

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
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A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

MC GEHEE SOUTH, ARK.
SW/4 MC GEHEE 15' QUADRANGLE
N3330-W9122.5/7.5
1981
DMA 7751 III SW-SERIES V884