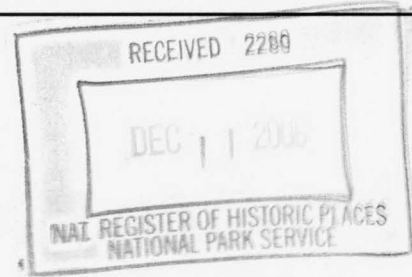


Helena National Guard Amory  
Name of Property

Phillips 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: Helena National Guard Amory

Other Name/Site Number: Helena Community Center; PH0428

=====  
**2. Location**  
=====

Street & Number: 511 Miller St.

Not for Publication: NA

City/Town: Helena-West Helena

Vicinity: NA

State: AR County: Phillips Code: AR0107 Zip Code: 72342

=====  
**3. Classification**  
=====

Ownership of Property: Public-local

Category of Property: Building

Helena National Guard Amory  
Name of Property

Phillips County, Arkansas  
County and State

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing    Noncontributing

  1           buildings  
           sites  
           structures  
           objects  
  1           Total

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

Name of related multiple property listing:   "An Ambition to be Preferred: New Deal Recovery Efforts and Architecture in Arkansas, 1933-1943"  

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**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**

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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.

  Catherine Matthews          11/22/06    
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

Helena National Guard Amory  
Name of Property

Phillips County, Arkansas  
County and State

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**5. National Park Service Certification**

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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):

*for Edson H. Beall* 1.24.07  
Signature of Keeper      Date      of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic:      DEFENSE      Sub: arms storage

Current: RECREATION AND CULTURE      Sub: sports facility

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification: Art Deco

Materials: foundation Concrete      roof Metal and Asphalt  
                 walls Brick      other

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

SUMMARY:

The Helena National Guard Amory at 511 Miller St. is a one-story, brick-masonry structure constructed in 1937 and designed in the Art Deco style of architecture.

ELABORATION:

The Helena National Guard Amory at 511 Miller St. is a one-story, brick-masonry structure constructed in 1937 and designed in the Art Deco style of architecture. It rests on a continuous cast-concrete foundation.

**RECEIVED**  
**NOV 22 2006**  
**DIRECTOR'S OFFICE**

The south, or front, façade exhibits the Art Deco style strongly, with one story brick sections topped with concrete courses flanking the central area, which is characterized by a vertical emphasis including two towers and four pilasters along a pointed-arch roofline. The two one-story corner sections are fenestrated with a single six-over-six double-hung window each. The central arched section is inset, and a single door pierces the east and west faces of the one-story sections respectively. Separated by the pilasters, from west to east are a set of double doors, a single door and another single-door. On the second floor, a pair of four-pane hopper windows fenestrate between the second and third pilasters (commencing from west to east), three five-pane hopper windows fenestrate between the third and fourth pilasters, and another pair of four-pane hoppers fenestrates between the fourth and fifth pilasters.

The east façade, from south to north, is fenestrated by six double-hung, six-over-six windows. The rear section of the building protrudes slightly, and the location of a former doorway, probably for an overhead door, is filled with concrete blocks – probably the only alteration to the exterior of the building.

The north, or rear, façade simulates the pointed arch design of the front of the building. From east to west, it is pierced by two double-hung, six-over-six windows, an overhead garage door, and two separate single doors.

The west façade is fenestrated with eleven double-hung, six-over-six windows.

The Helena National Guard Armory exhibits remarkable integrity, with the only obvious alteration to the building being the one overhead door opening that has been filled. Even with that, it remains a remarkable example of the Art Deco style of architecture and clearly reflects its original and intended use, the storage of military arms and equipment.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): NA

Areas of Significance: Military

Period(s) of Significance: 1937 to 1957

Significant Dates: 1937-1957

Significant Person(s): NA

Cultural Affiliation: NA

Architect/Builder: Works Progress Administration

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

### SUMMARY:

The Helena National Guard Armory is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A** with

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**local significance** for its association with the history of the Arkansas Army National Guard and the Works Progress Administration and under **Criterion C** with **local significance** by virtue of its status as the best example in Phillips County of an Art Deco-style armory.

## ELABORATION:

On October 25, 1935, the Arkansas Central Office of the Works Progress Administration approved WPA Project #2-54-6-501, which authorized \$11,123 for construction of a new National Guard armory in Helena to house Battery G, 206<sup>th</sup> Coastal Artillery, though it took close to a year before construction began. That did dampen the enthusiasm of the people of Helena, however, especially when they learned that the new structure would be available for the full use of civic organizations and public institutions in addition to the local National Guard outfit, though the *Helena World* reported that the new building “was not to be commercialized nor rented to private concerns who make a profit from the use of the building.” In addition, the newspaper noted, the WPA agreed to pave the 500 block of Miller Street because National Guard regulations stipulated that all armories must be located on paved streets.

The site for the new armory was purchased from the Arkansas Utilities Company in mid-May and excavation of the foundation of the structure commenced on October 16, 1936; at that time, the *Helena World* reported that the total project cost would be \$30,000. That total included \$5,000 that was to be raised by local citizens, a task with which the local Chamber of Commerce would struggle throughout the spring and summer of 1937. On December 20, 1936, the *World* reported that the foundation was laid and construction was beginning on the superstructure, and on January 20 the newspaper reported that “Workmen have started erecting steel trusses for the roof of the building.”

Construction halted during February as the Mississippi River threatened to flood and thousands of people from throughout the Arkansas Delta fled to higher ground, but by March 8, the *World* reported that “bricklayers and carpenters are busily engaged on the structure.” The last reference to the Helena National Guard Armory in the newspaper was on June 10, 1937, when it reported that the local Chamber of Commerce had accepted title to the armory lot that day, signifying that the local financial obligations had been met, and that completion was expected in the next few weeks. The armory served the National Guard until 1978, then was turned over to the City of Helena, which designated it the Helena Community Center in March 1982, a function it continues to serve to this day.

The Helena National Guard Armory was home to Battery G, 206<sup>th</sup> Coast Artillery, which was formed in 1936 and served in Alaska’s Aleutian Islands during World War II. Following the war, the building housed Battery A, 455<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Battalion from 1945 to 1956, followed by Battery B, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 206<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery from 1956 to 1967. That unit was reorganized into part of Company C, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 153<sup>rd</sup> Infantry in 1967 and was housed at the armory until its 1978 closure.

The Helena National Guard Armory stands today as a reminder of the state’s military heritage and as a living memorial to the men and women who have stood ready to serve in state and national emergencies and is a reminder of the important role the Works Progress Administration played in helping the country recover from the Great Depression. It is also an excellent example of the Art Deco-style aesthetic sometimes exhibited in armories designed by the Works Progress Administration during the Great Depression.

The Helena National Guard Armory is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A** with **local significance** for its association with the history of the Arkansas Army National Guard and the Works Progress Administration and under **Criterion C** with **local significance** by virtue of its status as the best example in Phillips County of an Art Deco-style armory.

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### 9. Major Bibliographical References

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WPA Central Office Files, 1935-1937, Arkansas History Commission

*Helena World*, September 4, September 28 and December 20, 1936; January 8, 14 and 20, March 8 and June 10, 1937.

Steve Rucker, Arkansas National Guard Museum, e-mail to author, August 25, 2006.

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:

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### 10. Geographical Data

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Acreege of Property: Less than one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing    Zone Easting Northing

A 15 495231    3774996 B  
C          D

Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at a point formed by the intersection of a line 20 feet southeast of the southeast corner of the building and the north edge of Miller Street commence due north 200 feet; thence commence westerly for 120 feet along a perpendicular line; thence commence due south along a perpendicular line for 200 feet to the northern edge of Miller Street; thence commence due east for 120 feet along the northern edge of Miller Street to the point of beginning.

Helena National Guard Amory  
Name of Property

Phillips County, Arkansas  
County and State

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Boundary Justification:

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

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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Name/Title: Mark Christ/Community Outreach Director

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: August 11, 2006

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 Helena National Guard Armory  
NAME:

MULTIPLE New Deal Recovery Efforts in Arkansas MPS  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Phillips

DATE RECEIVED: 12/11/06 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/05/07  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 1/20/07 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/24/07  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 06001266

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 1.24.07 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

LISTED 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.





Toy Book  
Lending Library  
located in  
Helena Community Center

Helena National Guard Armory  
Helena-West Helena, Phillips Co, AR  
photo by M. Whitfield  
August 2006  
Negative on file at AHPP  
View from south



Helena National Guard Armory  
Helena-West Helena, Phillips Co, AR  
Photo by M. Whittfield  
August 2006  
Negative on file at AHPP  
View from southeast

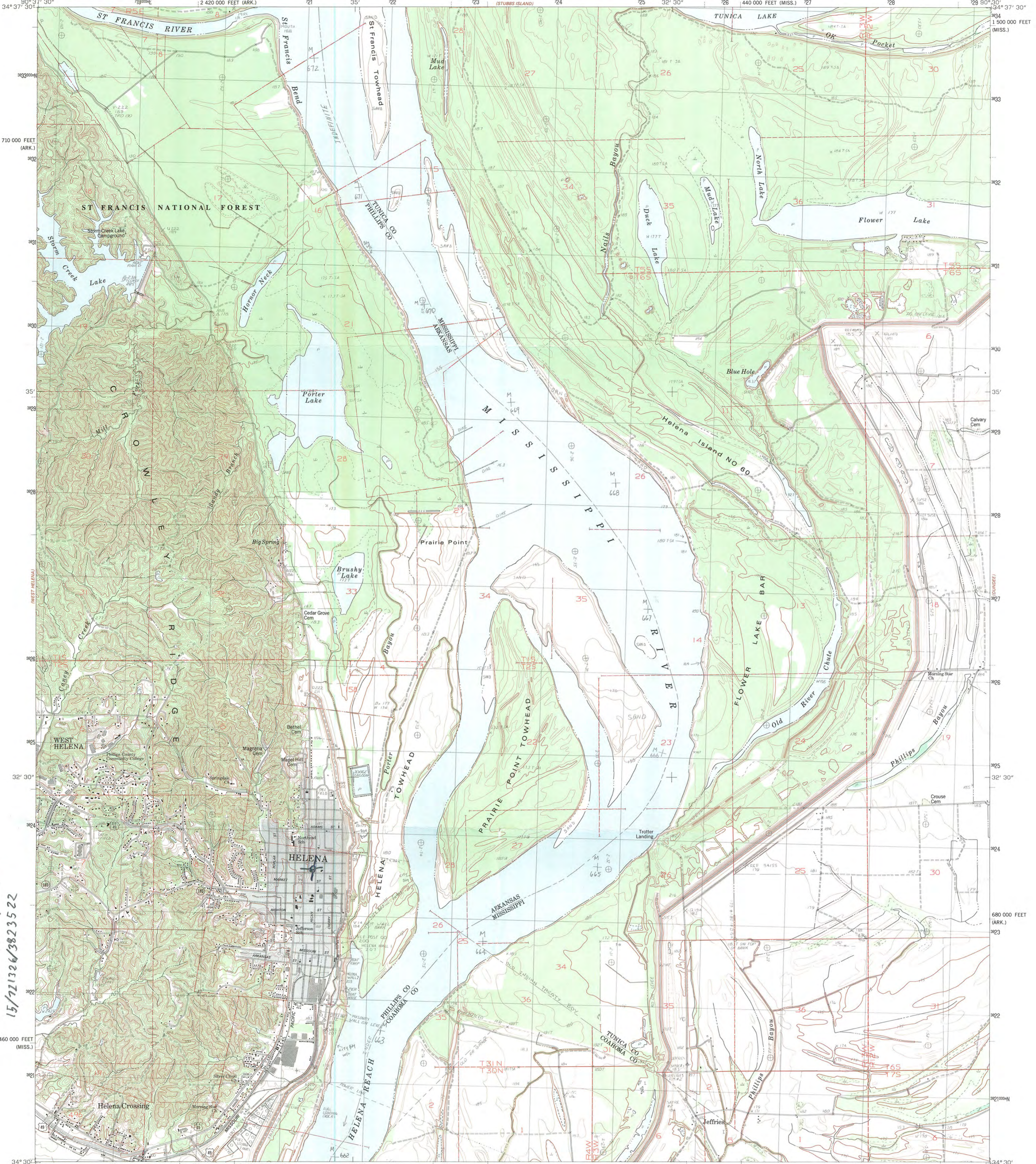


Helena National Guard Armory  
Helena - West Helena, Phillips Co, AR  
Photo by M. Whitfield  
August 2006  
Negative on file at AHPP  
View from southwest



Helena National Guard Armory  
Helena-West Helena, Phillips Co, AR  
photo by M. Whitfield  
August 2006  
Negative on file at AHPP  
View from northeast





Helena National Guard Armory  
Helena-West Helena, Phillips Co, AR  
15/721326/3823522

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1977. Field checked 1978. Map edited 1982

Projection: Mississippi coordinate system, west zone (transverse Mercator)

10,000-foot grid ticks based on Mississippi coordinate system, west zone and Arkansas coordinate system, south zone

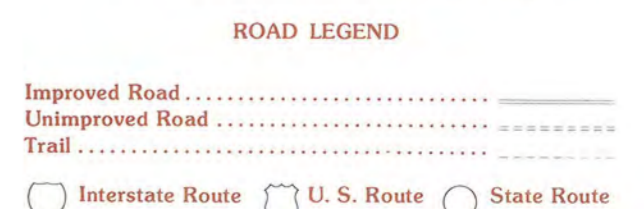
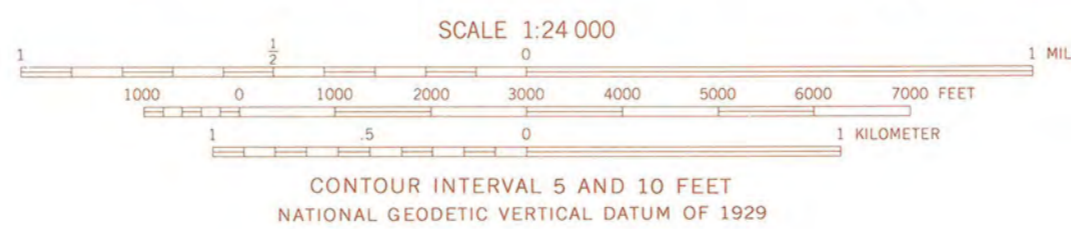
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 15

1927 North American Datum

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 8 meters south and 9 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map

Gray tint indicates area in which selected buildings are shown



PROVISIONAL MAP  
Produced from original  
manuscript drawings. Infor-  
mation shown as of date of  
field check.

HELENA, ARK.-MISS.  
PROVISIONAL EDITION 1982

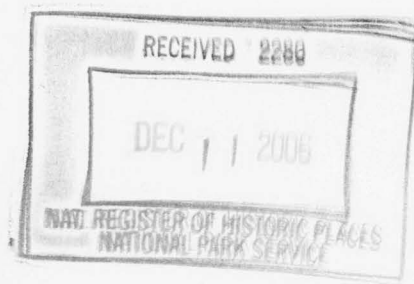
34090-E5-TF-024

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
AND ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72204



# The Department of Arkansas Heritage

December 7, 2006



Mike Huckabee, Governor  
Cathie Matthews, Director

Dr. Jan Matthews  
Chief of Registration  
United States Department of the Interior  
National Register of Historic Places  
1201 Eye St., NW  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor (MS 2280)  
Washington, DC 20005

- Arkansas Arts Council
- 
- Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission
- 
- Delta Cultural Center
- 
- Historic Arkansas Museum
- 
- Mosaic Templars Cultural Center
- 
- Old State House Museum

RE: Helena National Guard Armory, Helena-West Helena,  
Phillips County, Arkansas

Dear Dr. Matthews:

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

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathie Matthews  
State Historic Preservation Officer

Arkansas Historic  
Preservation Program

1500 Tower Building  
323 Center Street  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
(501) 324-9880  
fax: (501) 324-9184  
tdd: (501) 324-9811

e-mail: [info@arkansaspreservation.org](mailto:info@arkansaspreservation.org) enc.

website:

[www.arkansaspreservation.org](http://www.arkansaspreservation.org)

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