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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See Instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the Instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900-a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Adjutant General's Residence
other names/site number Building 118

2. Location

street & number Camp Murray not for publication
city, town Tacoma vicinity
state Washington code WA county Pierce code 053 zip code 98430

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	—	—
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	—	—
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
			Total
Name of related multiple property listing: <u>N/A</u>		Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register <u>0</u>	

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Jacob E. [Signature] 3/14/91
Signature of certifying official Date

Dept. of Community Development, Office of Archaeology & Historic Preservation
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

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. 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:)

[Signature] 5/1/91
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Defense: military facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)Other: 20th Century Vernacular

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete
walls wood shinglesroof composition shingles
other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Adjutant General's house, also known as "the White House," was constructed in 1921 and located on the grounds of the Camp Murray military reservation. Camp Murray is located adjacent to Interstate 5 and the unincorporated Pierce County community of Tillicum. Wedged between sprawling Fort Lewis and American Lake to the west, the 231 acre compound is home to the National Guard of Washington State and Washington State Military Department.

The Adjutant General's house is one of many structures at Camp Murray. Other buildings range in style and materials from the corbeled Arsenal of 1916 to modern concrete block and metal buildings constructed in recent decades. The house is located directly west of the Administration Building on a site which slopes gradually from the southwest to the northeast toward Murray Creek. The creek roughly bisects the camp flowing to the northwest and draining into American Lake.

Surrounded by lawns and studded with mature trees, the Adjutant General's house is set in a campus environment. A long walkway stretches from the front entry to a crescent driveway which leads off an access road to other camp buildings. Within the ellipse formed by the driveway and on axis to the front door, is a cylindrical landscape feature made of cobblestones and about two feet in height. The visual axis to the front door is enhanced by a pair of cobblestone pylons which stand adjacent to the access road. The cobblestone pylons interrupt a hedge which lines the access road and frame a glimpse of the home.

Officially designated Building 118, the Adjutant General's house is one and one half stories in height. A partial basement is exposed on the rear elevation by the slope to Murray Creek. The building is rectangular in plan at approximately 48 by 35 feet in dimension. The house has side gables with eaves facing the front and rear elevations. Gable ends are chamfered affording the house a decidedly residential feeling in contrast to other buildings in the Camp Murray complex. An enclosed porch or sun room is attached to, and centered, on the rear (northeast) facade and is partially cantilevered over the basement wall. Continuous shed dormers on the second floor span much of the front and rear elevations. Exterior walls are covered entirely with machine sawn shingles and painted white. Roof material is composition shingle, probably not original.

The residence is simple in design and plan. Only very restrained references are made to classical styles as evidenced by a symmetrical front facade; return cornices on the gable ends; and classically inspired trim at the front entry, sun room exterior, and side porch stoop. The main entry is topped by an elliptical arch flanked by classical pilasters, features which provide some relief to the otherwise flat appearance of

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the building. A side door stoop on the east elevation is protected by a hipped roof which is supported by two classical columns and full entablature.

A handsome element of the building's design are window and door openings. In addition to the classical entry and side porch stoop, the front door is flanked by small closet windows with four light sash. Further balancing the symmetry are matching French doors with ten lights in each sash. Two French doors are also located on the west elevation which open up from the living room onto a small concrete patio. Windows are also used to best advantage in the library/study, at the northwest corner of the house, and in the sun room on the rear. In the small library, a large picture window is flanked by two narrower sashes. All windows are topped by clerestory windows with divided lights. A similar window treatment wraps around the corner to give the room almost two walls of natural light and views to the backyard and Murray Creek. Likewise, the sun room is enclosed on three sides by large expanses of windows, several with thirty-two lights. A side door leads from the porch to steps down to the backyard. Major General Maurice Thompson, adjutant general during planning and construction of the house, is said to have had an interest in plants, particularly exotic plants. This interest may explain, at least in part, the light filled sun room and study; the extensive use of French doors; and what may have been formal landscaping at the approach to the house. Although not extant, sources indicate that Thompson maintained a formal garden along the creek behind the house.

On the front elevation, second floor windows are double-hung sash with six-over-one lights. The windows are evenly spaced across the face of the shed dormer. Three rear elevation windows on the second floor are double-hung four-over-one light windows, plus there is a door which opens onto a porch formed by the roof of the sun room below. Other second floor windows include four small closet windows (two on each gable end) which flank three double-hung six-over-one windows.

On the interior, the main entry leads into a small vestibule within which is placed a plaque dedicated to Adjutant General Maurice Thompson for whom the residence is closely associated. The vestibule opens into a reception hall from which a staircase ascends to the second level. Small closets are on either side of the entry. From the reception area, a hall leads to a small half bath and beyond to the sun room.

Thresholds to the left and right of the entry lead to the living room and dining room respectively. Notable features of the living room include three French doors and a fireplace. The fireplace mantel is wood carved in a classical motif. Glazed tile surrounds the fireplace opening. The fireplace is located on a wall which separates the living room from the library/study. The library/study is small but large window areas provide an open feeling with views to the backyard and creek. Other walls are lined with shelves and drawers.

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To the right of the main entry is the dining room with one pair of French doors opening to the exterior. Built-in shelves and cabinets line one wall. From the dining room, a door leads to a small passageway from which stairs descend to the basement and a side door leads outside. Beyond lies the kitchen off which is a small alcove used as a breakfast nook. Cabinetry in the kitchen appears to be steel. The breakfast nook also opens to the sunroom.

Upstairs, there are four bedrooms and two bathrooms. Off the large master bedroom is a three quarter bathroom. A full bathroom is located off the upstairs hallway and both bathrooms are finished with blue tile. All bedrooms have large closets or built-in cabinets and drawers. Floors in the living room, dining room, and study are oak and covered with linoleum in the kitchen and breakfast nook. Other interior details include baseboard and wall moldings; a handsome staircase banister; and panelled doors with glass doorknobs. French doors which once opened off the entry hall into the both the living and dining rooms, have been removed.

In 1962, the building was discontinued as a residence and at that time turned into office space for the Military Department. Fortunately, the house retains excellent integrity and a residential character despite its use as offices for nearly thirty years. Changes worth noting include an aluminum screen door at the main entry; a new side door; a kitchen window; and removal of a balustrade on the second floor porch above the sunroom. An undated photograph (probably from the 1920s or 1930s) confirms that the house has retained much of its original design and building fabric. An important exception is the loss of shutters (with heart cutouts) at each of the exterior French doors and second floor windows on the front facade. From the black and white photograph, the shutters were painted a dark color and served to contrast with the white wall surfaces giving the somewhat flat facade of the house greater depth and visual interest. In regard to its setting, a tennis court and flower gardens behind the house and associated with Major General Thompson's occupancy, have been removed.

Aside from the office furniture and damage to wall plaster, the interior and floor plan of the house remains essentially unchanged. Some interior features such as cabinetry, built-in shelving, plus kitchen fixtures and surfaces may not be original but obviously date from remodelings while the building still served as a residence. However, recollections by people familiar with the building's past indicate that any changes date from the period of significance.

8. Statement of Significance

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

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Military
Politics/Government

1921-1941

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

Maj. Gen. Maurice W. Thompson

Unknown

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

As the adjutant general's former official residence, Building 118 at Camp Murray is significant in reflecting the occupant's status as director of the Washington State Military Department and commanding officer of the National Guard of Washington. The period of significance begins with completion of the building in September 1921; the building remained a residence until 1962 when it was converted to office use. Of the adjutant generals who resided there, the house is closely identified with Major General Maurice W. Thompson and is sometimes referred to as the Maurice Thompson House. Thompson is noteworthy as having served as adjutant general for a total of twenty seven years during three terms (1914-18, 1919-41, 1945-47) and at the appointment of both Republican and Democratic governors. Because the house was constructed during his tenure, it is speculated that Thompson played a role in its planning and construction.

Washington National Guard: Beginning in the territorial era and continuing to the present, the Organized Militia and its successor, the Washington National Guard, has served as a peacekeeping force and aiding in the event of natural disasters. By the 1880s, active militia companies were organized across the state and by 1885 the first summer training camp was held near Olympia. Following anti-Chinese riots in Seattle in 1886, interest in the organized militia rose to the point that two full regiments of infantry were established in eastern and western Washington.

At its first session following statehood, the legislature recognized the value of maintaining a force such as the militia and enacted a 1/5 mill tax levy to support the activity of the Military Department and what had come to be referred to as the National Guard of Washington. From this funding source, a brigade encampment was organized by Adjutant General Rossell G. O'Brien in the summer of 1890 near American Lake in Pierce County. Budget cuts to the department during the 1890s forced cancellation of later annual training camps. Nevertheless, a regiment of Washington National Guard volunteers was mustered into service with the regular army during the Spanish American War and served with distinction.

Federal legislation passed at the turn of the century provided the states with stable funding for National Guard operations and established standards for training, equipment, and organization. National Guard companies continued to be called on alert or in active duty for civil disturbances and natural disasters in the state. Labor unrest beginning during the territorial era and continuing through the Depression often necessitated a response from the militia or Guard. However, impressive performance during the Spanish American War (and later during World War I), led the National Guard to be regarded more as

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a military force supplementing regular army strength during national emergencies. As a result, Washington National Guard troops were called into service during World War II and for conflicts in the modern era.

Camp Murray: Even before the turn of the century, the vicinity of Pierce County just east of American Lake became the favored setting for federal troop maneuvers and National Guard summer encampments and mobilization activities. Located alongside the Northern Pacific Railroad tracks connecting Seattle and Portland, the site was close to the capitol at Olympia and was described by Adjutant General O'Brien in 1892 as offering all the physical attributes suitable for training troops. By 1903, the Military Department convinced the legislature of the value of purchasing a permanent training site. As a result, 220 acres of land were purchased at "Murray Station." Subsequent additional purchases expanded camp size to 231 acres by 1932.

The reservation continued to be used solely for training purposes until Adjutant General Thompson recommended that a warehouse be constructed at the camp to house tents, wagons, and other equipment. This request resulted in construction of The Arsenal in 1916. The Arsenal provided storage space on site thereby alleviating the need to transport equipment back and forth to the State Armory in Seattle. Subsequent buildings added to the site included storage sheds and horse stables plus the adjutant general's residence in 1921. Completion of the residence occurred at the time that the Office of the Adjutant General was moved from Seattle to nearby Camp Lewis. In 1928, the Adjutant General's Office was moved to Camp Murray following construction of the Administration Building. All three of these buildings survive and are still in use by the Military Department. Camp historian Colonel Virgil F. Field's 1959 *The Camp Murray Story* lists at least seven other buildings constructed at the reservation from 1924 to 1959, including the Camp Murray Armory built in 1957. Recently constructed buildings include the Captain Fortson Armory.

Major General Maurice Thompson: The Adjutant General's residence at Camp Murray is closely associated with Major General Maurice W. Thompson, the first resident and occupant for twenty two years. Thompson's administration from 1919 to 1941 occurred at the height of his career and witnessed important changes for the Guard and development at Camp Murray.

Thompson first enlisted in Company B of the 2nd Infantry of the National Guard of Washington in 1898 and rose in the ranks to lieutenant, captain, and major, then becoming the assistant adjutant general by 1909. He was named Brigadier General of the Guard in 1914 and at that time was appointed adjutant general by Governor Lister. Thompson held this post until 1917 when he served with the regular army during World War I. Upon returning from the war, Thompson was reappointed adjutant general by Governor Lewis Hart remaining in that position until 1941 also serving under Governors Hartley and Martin. He was apparently persuaded to retire by Governor Arthur Langlie in 1941, but thereafter

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appointed director of the State Soldiers Home in Orting. Thompson's third and final appointment as adjutant general began in 1945 coming from Governor Mon Walgren. His retirement came in February of 1947 as poor health prevented his continuing in the role which he had enjoyed for so long.

Thompson was witness to many changes within the Guard and growth at Camp Murray and was responsible for construction of several armories across the state. The National Guard (and its forerunner the state militia) were used on several occasions to quell labor unrest beginning in territorial years and continuing into the 1930s. Widely attributed to organized labor groups such as the International Workers of the World (I.W.W.), violence flared in coal mining communities in the Cascade foothills; at urban lumber mills and rail centers; and in the orchards of central Washington. In 1921 Thompson formed an intelligence division within the Military Department in response to perceived threats to national security. The duties of the G-2 section included "providing military, political, and economic information to military officials, and cooperating with civil law enforcement organizations in dissemination of the intelligence" (McLatchy, p.389). Thompson formed the G-2 after the 1921 legislature rejected his efforts to create such a force of civilian special agents. However, the Guard's role as a statewide police force was diminished during the Depression when the legislature changed the Highway Patrol to the Washington State Patrol and given full police powers. Even so, the Guard was called out twice during the Depression for labor disturbances in the Yakima Valley and during a 1935 lumber strike in Tacoma and Aberdeen.

Following legislation in 1916, increased federal funding for National Guards meeting federal standards meant an increasingly professional force in terms of training, equipment, and facilities. During Thompson's administration as adjutant general, armories were completed in Everett and Walla Walla in 1921; Aberdeen in 1922; and followed by Felts Field in Spokane, Pullman, Centralia, Olympia, and a new armory at Seattle in 1939. Importantly, headquarters for the National Guard were moved from Seattle in 1922 to Camp Lewis and finally in 1928 to Camp Murray itself upon completion of the Administration Building.

"The White House" at Camp Murray: Construction of the Adjutant General's residence in 1921 acknowledged the importance of establishing a permanent base of operations for the National Guard at Camp Murray. During a time when transportation and communication were somewhat difficult and time consuming, Governor Lister made it apparent that it was important for the adjutant general to be accessible to the Governor's office in Olympia. Further, it only made sense that the Adjutant General be in close communication with his own office at all times in the event of an emergency. When headquarters was moved from Seattle to Camp Lewis in 1922, the Adjutant General's residence at Camp Murray was only a few miles away, and only a few steps away once headquarters was finally established there in 1928.

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Although research failed to uncover the exact circumstances of the construction of the residence, information handed down through the Guard's history holds that construction of the house was financed by the camp's "manure fund". Manure sweepings from the stables at Camp Murray were apparently sold to nearby farmers collecting the \$10,172 needed to complete the building. This private source of funding makes sense in view of the budget conscious legislature's probable reluctance to pay for what could have been construed as a frill for a state employee. Nevertheless, it was probably fairly common for the states to provide a residence for their National Guard commanding officers.

Though not lavish, the Adjutant General's residence at Camp Murray was a comfortable retreat for the commanding officer and the scene of social functions connected with operations of the National Guard. An interview with the last adjutant general to reside at the house, Major General George Haskett (ret.) revealed that receptions were held there on numerous occasions. Traditional events included inauguration parties, a reception on New Years Day, and an outdoor buffet served on the date of the Governor's review of the training camp, usually held in mid-June. Although Major General Maurice Thompson is most closely associated with the house, other adjutant generals to reside there include: Brigadier General Walter J. DeLong (1941-45), Major General Lilburn H. Stevens (1949-57), and Major General George Haskett (1957-65). Of note is the political scandal in the late 1940s which forced Brigadier General Ensley M. Llewellyn (adjutant general from 1947 to 1949) to resign after alleged misuse of state funds. Choosing to live at his Pierce County home, Llewellyn permitted his chief of staff to reside at the adjutant general's residence, but continued to collect quarter's allowance from the state. Perhaps the victim of political maneuvering, the controversial Llewellyn was nevertheless removed from office by Governor Langlie.

For nearly forty years, the "White House" at Camp Murray served as the official residence for the adjutant general of the National Guard of Washington. As the commanding officer of this military and peacekeeping force, the adjutant general has played a significant role in the state's military and political history. Though discontinued as a residence in 1962, the building conveys its association as the residence of this important state official.

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Washington State Military Department, Office of the Adjutant General, *The Camp Murray Story*, Compiled by Virgil F. Field, 1959.
- Washington State Military Department, Office of the Adjutant General, *Washington National Guard Pamphlet: The Official History of the Washington National Guard*, Compiled by Virgil F. Field, 7 Vol., Mimeographed, 1961.
- Washington State Military Department, *Office of the Adjutant General Biennial Reports, 1919-1929*, Olympia: State Printing Office.
- McLatchy, Patrick H., "The Development of the National Guard of Washington as an Instrument of Social Control, 1854-1916," Unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, University of Washington, 1945.
- Telephone Interview, Major General George M. Haskett (retired), November 13, 1990.
- Telephone Interview, Mrs. Frank Mandell, November 30, 1990.
- Telephone Interview, John Murphy, National Guard of Washington, November 16, 1990.
- Telephone Interview, Robert Shoemaker, November 28, 1990.

See continuation sheet

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: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property less than one

UTM References

A	<u>10</u>	<u>533175</u>	<u>5218980</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	Zone	Easting	Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is on the Camp Murray Military Reservation, Section 21, Township 19 North, Range 2 East in Pierce County, Washington, and is described thusly: beginning at a point located 1,975 feet southwest of the intersection of Union Avenue and Berkeley Street S.W., proceed 175 feet in a northwest direction; from this point proceed 100 feet in a northeast direction; from this point proceed 175 feet in a southeast direction; from this point, proceed 100 feet in a southwest direction to the point of beginning.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the nominated property, designated 'Building 118' by the Washington National Guard, and surrounding yard.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title	<u>Donald B Mathis (expanded upon by Greg Griffith, OAHP)</u>	date	<u>November 1990</u>
organization		telephone	<u>(206) 564-8507</u>
street & number	<u>314 Farralone</u>	state	<u>Washington</u> zip code <u>98466</u>
city or town	<u>Tacoma</u>		