562448

### **National Register of Historic Places Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, there only categories and subcategories from the instructions. 1. Name of Property Historic name: Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) 500-Man Barracks Other names/site number: CA0074, CA0075 Name of related multiple property listing: (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing 2. Location Street & number: Southside of Arkansas Highway 274 between Spellman Road and Arkansas Highway 203 City or town: East Camden State: Arkansas County: Calhoun Not For Publication: Vicinity: 3. State/Federal Agency Certification As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance: national statewide X local Applicable National Register Criteria:  $\mathbf{X}$  A 4-3-18 Signature of certifying official/Title: **AHPP** State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_does not meet the National Register criteria. Signature of commenting official: Date State or Federal agency/bureau Title: or Tribal Government

Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot

Object

## Arkansas (NAD) 500-Man Barracks County and State Name of Property 4. National Park Service Certification I hereby certify that this property is: ventered in the National Register \_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register \_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register \_\_\_ removed from the National Register \_ other (explain:) 5.21.2018 Signature of the Keeper Date of Action Classification 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

Calhoun County,

Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) 500-Man Barracks		Calhoun County Arkansas
ne of Property	_	County and State
Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resour Contributing 2		buildings
	<del></del>	sites
		structures
		objects
2	0	Total
6. Function or Use Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)  DEFENSE: military facility		
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)		
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)  DEFENSE: military facility		
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)  DEFENSE: military facility  Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)		
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)		

Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) 500-Man Barracks	Calhoun County, Arkansas
Name of Property	County and State
Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)	
Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick, Asphalt, Concrete	

### **Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

### **Summary Paragraph**

The Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) 500-Man Barracks is an excellent example of a United States Naval Ammunition Depot 500-Man barracks, from the end of World War II on the former Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot which was located in the former area known as Shumaker, Arkansas,<sup>1</sup> to house civilian employees on the installation. The Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) was constructed near the end of World War II and beginning of the Korean War as a vital and pivotal location for missile manufacturing during this new era of military armament and missile propulsion. While a fine example of Arkansas's strong roll in military manufacturing throughout World War II it also relays the story of how the community was engaged in the depot from construction through closure. The Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) 500-Man Barracks, located along the south side of Arkansas State Highway 274, between Spellman Road and Arkansas 203.

These large, Z-shape, two-story, buildings were built in 1952, while the United States was actively engaged in the Korean War. These large, two-story buildings rest on a cast-concrete foundation that uses blonde brick to clad the first floor and second floor of the building. A red shingle roof with wide overhanging eaves covers the building. Uniquely, the design of the concrete shades found over the first floor windows is similar to a design used in early World War 2 barrack construction, known as a series 700 building, but was discontinued around 1941. The site on which the Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) 500-Man Barracks is located on sits just east of the Calhoun and Ouachita County line roughly six miles from the City of Camden, Arkansas. Surrounding the Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) 500-Man Barracks on the north side is Arkansas Highway 274 and the rest of the Administration Area. Located to the East, West and South, there is a grove of trees that outlines the property. The

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The United States Navy referred to the base and the military housing associated with the Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot as Shumaker, Arkansas. Shumaker, Arkansas, would later become East Camden, Arkansas. As part of the selling of the land following the closure of the depot, the land on which the Administration Area was located, was annexed into the city of Camden, Arkansas.

Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) 500-Man Barracks

Calhoun County, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) 500-Man Barracks offers a remarkable comparison between the World War II barracks found at several former military camps throughout Arkansas from the WWII period and those that remained active through the 1990s, and how these barracks differ in comparison.

Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) 500-Man Barrack 18-A

### **North Elevation**

Since the north elevation is very horizontal the description will work right to left across the elevation. All window and door openings align between the first and second floor, unless otherwise noted. Starting at the far right corner of the north elevation, there is a single, six-overthree, awning style window on the first and second floor. To the left of the single window, is a paired, six-over-three, awning style window on the first and second floor. To the left of the paired windows on the first floor is an aluminum-framed, door with a three pane, sidelight to its left. The entrance is covered by a standing-seam metal awning, located between the first and second floor. Located on the second floor is another pair of six-over-three, awning style windows. A large unornamented section of wall is located to the left of the door, before coming to two-pairs of six-over-three, awning style windows. This pattern of unornamented section of wall followed by two-pairs of six-over-three, awning style windows happen three more times before that pattern is terminated by an unornamented section of wall followed by a single pair of six-over-three, awning style windows, two times. This pattern is them terminated by the location of a single, aluminum-framed, door. The entrance is covered by a standing-seam metal awning, located between the first and second floor. Located on the second floor is another pair of sixover-three, awning style windows. To the left of the door is another unornamented section of wall, before the elevation protrudes outward. On the section of wall that is protruding outward, there is a large glass wall separated into three pane segments which is repeated in four rows, of five columns. This section of wall is framed by cantilevered concrete above and below the windows segments and continues around a corner creating three-pane segments of four rows and four columns. Located on the inside of the protrusion on the second floor there are four, adjacent, six-over-three, awning style windows, before terminating at the corner. Moving around the corner and back to the main portion of the north elevation there is the continuation of the first floor windows mentioned above, which is terminated by a pair of aluminum-framed doors. This entrance is covered by a cast-concrete roof which is supported by two cast-concrete columns and is accessed by four cast-concrete steps. Located on the second floor above the large panes of glass and the entranceway, are three, adjacent six-over-three, awning style windows, followed by two rows of bricks, which is followed by a pair of six-over-three, awning style windows. A slightly larger unornamented section of wall is located to the left of the pair of windows, before being terminated by a single, six-over-three, awning-style window. Back on the first floor and located to the left of the entranceway, are twelve, evenly-spaced, six-over-three, awning style windows before that pattern is terminated by an aluminum-framed door, which has four sidelights, located on either side of the entrance. To the left of the door is an unornamented section of wall, before it terminates at the corner. A metal roof walkway connects Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) 500-Man Barrack 18-A to Shumaker Naval Ammunition

Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) 500-Man Barracks

Calhoun County, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

Depot (NAD) 500-Man Barrack 18-B, and is supported by six metal poles. Located on the second floor above the entrance are two, evenly-spaced, six-over-three, awning style windows.

### **East Elevation**

The east elevation contains largely no ornamentation except for two, centrally located, six-over-three, awning style windows, one stacked above the other on the first and second floors.

### **South Elevation**

The south elevation is very similar in design to the north elevation. All window and door openings align between the first and second floor, unless otherwise noted. Also located between the first and second floor is a cast-concrete cantilevered sun shade over the first floor windows. Starting at the far right corner of the north elevation, there are twelve, six-over-three, awning style windows on the first and second floor before the pattern is terminated by a steel entrancedoor on the first floor. Located above the steel entrance door is a single, six-over-three, awning style window. To the left to the steel door on the first floor is another pair of six-over-three, awning style windows on the first and second floor, before terminating in a corner that then proceeds to protrude outward. Located on the roof above the second floor set of windows is a hipped roofed dormer. On the section of wall that protrudes outward there are two, evenlyspaced pairs of six-over-three, awning style windows. Upon turning the corner to return to the main portion of the elevation the window arrangement does not correspond directly between the first and second floors. On the first floor working right to left is a set of three, six-over-three, awning style windows. Located above this set of windows is a pair of six-over-three, awning style windows. To the left of the first floor windows is a single, six-over-three, awning style window while the space on the second floor is an unornamented space. To the left of the single window, is another single window but it has a pair of six-over-three, awning style windows located above it on the second floor. A window pattern reemerges with two, evenly-spaced, sixover-three, awning style windows, followed by four, evenly-spaced, pairs of six-over-three, awning style windows with two rows of bricks located between the paired windows, followed by two, evenly-spaced, single, six-over-three, awning style windows, before it is terminated by a small jut out. The jut-out is unornamented on the first floor but does have a single, centrally located, six-over-three, awning style window on this portion of the elevation.

#### **West Elevation**

The west elevation is identical to the east elevation except that the first floor window is a four panel door, with four sidelights on each side of the entrance.

Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) 500-Man Barracks

Name of Property

Calhoun County, Arkansas

County and State

Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) 500-Man Barrack 18-B

### **North Elevation**

Since the north elevation is very horizontal the description will work right to left across the elevation. All window and door openings align between the first and second floor, unless otherwise noted. Starting at the far right corner of the north elevation, there is a large glass window that is covered by plywood. On the section of wall that is protruding outward, there is a large glass wall separated into three pane segments which is repeated in four rows of five columns. This section of wall is framed by cantilevered concrete above and below the window segments and continues around a corner creating three-pane segments of four rows and four columns. Located on the inside of the protrusion on the second floor there are four, adjacent, six-over-three, awning style windows, before terminating at the corner. To the left of this boarded area is a small unornamented section of wall, followed by twenty-one pairs of six-over three awning style windows. On the second floor of this section of the building there are three, six-over-three, awning style windows grouped into a single casing. To the left of this grouping of windows is a single, six-over-three awning style window, before continuing with twenty-one pairs of six-over three awning style windows to correspond with the lower floor.

Upon reaching the twenty-first paired window, the elevation bumps out to the north. On the section of wall that is protruding outward, there is a large glass wall separated into three pane segments which is repeated in four rows of five columns. This section of wall is framed by cantilevered concrete above and below the window segments and continues around a corner creating three-pane segments of four rows and four columns. Located on the second floor of this bumped out area is a single, six-over-three awning style window, followed by a grouping of three, six-over-three, awning style windows before turning the corner to the rest of the north elevation.

After turning the corner of the building the first floor corner windows continue as described previously, to the left of the large glass pane window area, there is a large front entrance to the barracks building. This entrance is accentuated by eight steps, with buttresses before arriving at front entrance. The front door is an aluminum frame door with glass panel and two glass side lights. The cantilevered concrete used around the corner window area extends out to create a porch area that is supported by two cast-concrete columns. To the left of the front entrance there are ten paired, six-over-three, awning style windows. Located between groupings two and three, is a small sign that reads "1B." The second floor is similar to the first floor. In the far right above the large glass area, is a grouping of three, six-over-three, awning style windows followed by a single six-over-three awning style window, before continuing the window pattern from the first floor.

### **East Elevation**

The east elevation contains largely no ornamentation except for the centrally located six-over-

Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) 500-Man Barracks

Calhoun County, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

three, awning style window on the second floor, and the steel entrance door located right below the window. Located between the door and window is another cast-concrete roof cantilevered over the entrance.

### **South Elevation**

The south elevation is very similar in design to the north elevation. All window and door openings align between the first and second floor, unless otherwise noted. Also located between the first and second floor is a cast-concrete cantilevered sun shade over the first floor windows. Starting at the far right corner of the south elevation, there is a small unornamented area that protrudes to the south. To the left of the unornamented area the wall is set back and continues the use of the cantilevered awning and window arrangement. The window arrangement for the first floor consists of two, single, evenly-spaced, six-over-three awning style windows followed by eight, evenly-spaced, paired, six-over-three awning style windows. To the left of the final paired set of windows is another small unornamented area of brick before the wall protrudes back out and is even with the original corner. This small section of wall protrudes outward and is also unornamented. The second floor follows closely to the alignment of the first floor, with a few changes. Located in the first bump out area is a single, six-over-three, awning style window, before the elevation becomes set back. Within the area that is set back, there is a small unornamented area followed by two, paired, evenly-spaced sets of windows before coming to another small unornamented area. The window alignment picks back up at the second paired window on the first floor followed by seven, evenly-spaced, paired, six-over-three awning style windows. However, located between the seventh and eighth window on the second floor is a narrow vertical support. Located within the second protruding area on this elevation, there is another single, six-over-three awning style window before the elevation turns and steps farther out to the south. Located along this long flat wall space on the first floor is a single entranceway tucked in the corner, with a cast-concrete cantilevered roof. The roof is supported by a single cast-concrete column. The rest of the first floor space is unornamented. The second floor in this area consists of only a small single, six-over-three, awning window also tucked in the corner, followed by unornamented space.

The first floor of the second section of south elevation consists of two, paired, six-over-three awning style windows, followed by a small entrance area consisting of only a steel door. To the left of the steel door are nineteen, paired, six-over-three, awning style windows before coming to a single, six-over-three awning window, and then another pair of six-over-three, awning style windows, before terminating at the end of the elevation. The second floor consists of two, paired, six-over-three awning style windows followed by an unornamented section of wall space that corresponds to the first floor entrance. To the left of the unornamented area is a single paired, six-over-three awning style window, and then a single, six-over-three awning style window. This single window corresponds to a unornamented section below it. This single window is then followed by twenty, evenly-spaced, paired six-over-three awning style windows.

### **West Elevation**

Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) 500-Man Barracks

Calhoun County, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

The west elevation consist of a single entrance area set below the cantilever canopy that connects Building 1A to 1B. To the left of the entrance is the rest of the large glass area partially described on the north elevation. The second floor consists of only a centrally located pair of six-over-three awning style windows.

### Interior

The interior of the barracks are broken up along a central hallway in each building. Multiple dorm rooms frequent each side of the hallway. Like the first floor, the second story is still broken up into more dorm rooms. Located on each floor, there is a larger suite that has a kitchen and living area. Each building also has a large community space which is shown on the exterior elevations by the large spans of glass at the corners.

### **INTEGRITY**

The NAD 500-Man Barracks outside of Camden has undergone very few changes over its lifetime. The building has been left alone since the base was closed down. Building 1B currently still houses tenants of the fire academy found on the Southern Arkansas University Tech Campus.

Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) 500-Man Barracks		Calhoun County, Arkansas	
Name of Prop		County and State	
8. Sta	atement of Significance		
	rable National Register Criteria "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the pro )	perty for National Register	
X	A. Property is associated with events that have made a subroad patterns of our history.	ignificant contribution to the	
	B. Property is associated with the lives of persons signif	icant in our past.	
	C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a construction or represents the work of a master, or poor represents a significant and distinguishable entity vindividual distinction.	ssesses high artistic values,	
	D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information history.	n important in prehistory or	
	ia Considerations "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 grave		
	D. A cemetery		
	E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure		
	F. A commemorative property		
	G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance with	in the past 50 years	

# Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) 500-Man Barracks

Name of Property

Calhoun County,
Arkansas
County and State

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)
Military
<del>-</del>
Period of Significance
1951-1957
Significant Dates
1951-1952
Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
C. L. LACCIL C
Cultural Affiliation
Architect/Builder
Peterson, Garbi, and Joseph, Inc. (Builder)

Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) 500-Man Barracks
Name of Property

Calhoun County,
Arkansas
County and State

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) 500-Man Barracks, in East Camden, Arkansas, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion A** for its significance in the area of Military History. The Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) 500-Man Barracks is a well-preserved example of civilian barracks built at the beginning of the Cold War era and that continued to thrive during these though geo-political times between 1951 and 1961. As it is noted in several news articles regarding the Naval Ammunition Depot, news about what was going on inside was hard to come by given the tight security measures surrounding the site. The Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) 500-Man Barracks was one of the final major construction projects to be undertaken at the Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot before it was closed in 1957 and then sold by 1961. What is known is that the 500-Man Barracks would house the civilian employees as housing was continually hard to find in and around the area. These employees would become the heart of the production and assembly operation at Shumaker right up to its final day in November 1961. The civilian employees would continue to produce and assemble rocket motors that helped create a top notch National Defense system during this time period.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

The military has a long history in Arkansas. The area surrounding Fort Smith, Arkansas, has had military occupation since 1817. It was influential in the peace between the Cherokee and the Osage,<sup>2</sup> during the Mexican War as a supply outpost and during the Civil War. Other areas such as Arkansas Post gain notoriety during the Civil War for the Confederate built Fort Hindman, which was later destroyed by Union Troops in January 1863. Although Arkansas has had a long history of military occupation, it was not until World War II that Arkansas's role became even more prevalent as the US military branches, began to expand into Arkansas through the establishment of Army Air Field Training school or aviation school, army camps, and munition assembly and storage.

Following the end of World War I, the United States military, went through a drastic demobilization. Starting as early as 1918 and continuing through 1938, all of the armed services went through lean budgetary years including those entities in charge of munition procurement and maintenance. It is stated by the United States Army Joint Munitions Command, that "at the cessation of hostilities in November 1918, immediate action was taken to decrease the manufacturing of munitions." As was the case in most of the military branches during the 1920s and 1930s, the areas of research and modernization were greatly impacted due to budget constraints during this time period. It is again stated that "as ammunition supplies were expended, there was no major resupply or modernization effort. At the same time, developments in weapons and doctrine, primarily abroad, rendered much of the stored ammunition

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Jeremy Lynch, "Fort Smith National Historic Site," *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture*. http://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=4522. (accessed September 1, 2010).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> US Army Joint Munitions Command, History of the Ammunition Industrial Base (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 2010), 8.

Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) 500-Man Barracks

Calhoun County, Arkansas

County and State

Name of Property

obsolete,"4 or deteriorated due to inadequate storage conditions.

Yet, it was not until 1929 that the lack of funding being put towards creating an adequate ammunition supply chain was again expressed. In 1929 a "special survey" was completed for the Office of the Chief of Ordnance, that stated that it took a year longer to arm fighting men then it took to train them to fight. It then went on to state that if global war broke out again, there was a "wide gap between the exhaustion of the present reserve and the receipt of munitions from new production." This would remain a serious problem until it was again looked at through further studies that advocated for future ammunition facilities to be located according to "proximity to strategic raw materials, transportation facilities to probable theaters of war, economy of operation and climate." These criteria would largely be part of the driving force in Arkansas's growing role in munition production during World War II.

Until mid-1939, the United States made a conscious decision that it would maintain its neutrality as Germany began to rearm itself for what would be the occupation of Czechoslovakia in March of 1939 and then attack Poland in September of 1939. However, the United States government was already beginning to "[anticipate] a major emergency, [and began] to [press] for further rearmament." In the years leading up to 1941, there were only nine naval ammunition depots to fulfill the Navy's peacetime munition needs. Yet, by 1940, the build up to maintain adequate munitions for a growing naval force was beginning to take shape. It is noted that following the fall of France in the spring of 1940 the United States implemented the "nation's emergency program of national defense construction," leading to an expansion of many of the Naval Ammunition Depots and the construction of new ammunition depots. With this drastic build-up of ammunition depots for both the Army and the Navy across the United States, Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot, would be the last Naval Ammunition Depot constructed by the Navy during World War II.

### Military Activity in Camden, Arkansas

The United States began its World War II operations in the Camden area as early as 1942, when the United States Army Air Corp proposed an aviation school near the city. By March 1942, the first meetings were held within the city to discuss the possibility of locating the school on a tract of land northeast of the city. That tract of land speculated on during the first community meeting was eventually purchased on April 2, 1942. The purchasing of the land for the construction of the cantonment and runways, for the aviation school was estimated at \$3,000,000. The aviation school would eventually be built just outside of Camden, Arkansas, on what is now Harrell Field.

By the middle of 1944, the number of cadets being trained in and at the many aviation schools in

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> *Ibid*, 9.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, 10.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Lenore Fine and Jesse A. Remington, *The Corps of Engineers: Construction in the United States* (Washington D.C.: Center for Military History, U.S. Army, 2003), 108.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> United States. *Building the Navy's Bases in World War II: History of the Bureau of Yards and Docks and the Civil Engineer Corps, 1940-1946, Volume 1* (Washington, DC: United States Government Printing Office, 1947), 325.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> "Citizens Endorse Aviation School," *The Camden News*, March 27, 1942, 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> "City Purchased Site For Flying School Here Today," *The Camden News*, April 2, 1942, 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> "New Camden Airport Cost \$3,000,000," The Arkansas Democrat, September 6, 1942, 10C.

Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) 500-Man Barracks
Name of Property

Calhoun County, Arkansas

County and State

Arkansas was beginning to slow down, including those being trained in Camden. Though the number of aviation cadets starting to level out and the need was not as strong, the need for advanced munitions was still strong throughout all branches of the military, including the United States Navy. It is through this continual need, that the Navy began looking for optimal locations to construct a new Navy Ordnance Plant. It is stated that on August 18, 1944, "the Secretary of the Navy directed a board to study several hundred [potential] locations." It was reported, only a couple of months later, that the potential site near Camden, Arkansas, was one of approximately 120 sites under consideration. Of those 120 sites, only fourteen were inspected in detail by Rear Admiral Kitts, assistant chief of the Bureau of Ordnance. The narrowing process was very favorable to the Camden location due in part to the selection board's criteria which looked at: climate, availability of labor, transportation facilities including water, rail and air, relative humidity, and housing and character of land.

Some of the features which led to the selection of the Arkansas site are as follows: Located on the site and available for construction activities and for future use in air transport were an airport (formerly an Army training base) consisting of surface runways, two large hangars, barracks and other buildings, power supply, water and sewage systems and other utilities. A six-inch high pressure, natural gas line, owned by the Arkansas-Louisiana Gas Company crosses the area. A high tension line (110,000 volts) of the Arkansas Power and Light Company crosses the area making 20,000 KW of energy available from this source. Three railroads serviced Camden and could be utilized for rail transport, U.S. and State Highways traversed the area and the Ouachita River was navigable for barge traffic from Camden to the Gulf of Mexico via the Mississippi River. The War Manpower Commission recommended that the areas covered by the South Central States were the most favorable for a labor market and the local commission in Arkansas advised that 4,000 employees could be obtained immediately for construction and operating work. The Board found that the topography of the area was excellent for construction, that adequate drainage could be provided and that the soil bearing was good for foundations. Large Gravel pits were located on the site. Local authorities indicated that the area selected was inferior for farming and that the land values were approximately half of that found on other sites considered.<sup>15</sup>

This potential plant became closer to reality for the Camden, Arkansas, area when Navy Officials and local elected official inspected a possible site in early September 1944. By late in September 1944, it became official that the Camden site would be selected as the location for the \$60,000,000 ordnance plant. It was only a short time later that the rough estimate of \$60,000,000 for construction and acquisition cost rose to a new estimate of around \$100,000,000.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> "In the Interest of... Shumaker NAD," Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) Administration Building File, National Register and Survey Files, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Department of Arkansas Heritage.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> "Camden Plant Will Be Huge, Admiral Says," *The Arkansas Gazette*, October 10, 1944, 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> "In the Interest of... Shumaker NAD," Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) Administration Building File, National Register and Survey Files, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Department of Arkansas Heritage.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> The comment about the sites being inferior for farming is questionable at this point and will be brought up gain in a later footnote. (*Ibid*.)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> \$60,000,000 Navy Ordnance Plant Goes to Camden," *The Arkansas Gazette*, September 24, 1944, 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> "New Plant May Cost 100 Million," The Arkansas Gazette, October 10, 1944, 2.

Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) 500-Man Barracks

Name of Property

Calhoun County, Arkansas

County and State

It is noted in the official news release by Senator John L. McClellan and Congressman Oren Harris, through the Secretary of the Navy, James V. Forrestal that "construction [would] begin in the immediate future... [and] While this plant is of course being constructed in forbearance of the present war efforts it is also designated to and will be used as a part of the Navy's permanent facilities and operations after the war." It was then Governor-Nominee Ben Laney stated that it was the help of advanced planning through the Arkansas State Planning Board that helped facilitate the ground work for this project. With the groundwork laid, in procuring the investment in the community, the Bureau of Ordnance designed the general layout of the ordnance plant, while the Bureau of Yards and Docks conceived of building details and construction documents. It is through the bidding process, put out by the Bureau of Yards and Docks, and the urgency in which the construction needed to happen, that the Bureau of Yards and Docks created a "cost plus fixed fee," which in part consolidated four construction companies: Winston Brothers, Haglin and Sons, Missouri Valley Constructors and Sollitt Construction Company, into one large conglomerate, better known as "WHMS."

By early October 1944, Navy Officials again inspected the site claiming that it would construct "a new type of weapon urgently needed by the army and Navy," It was also stated by Rear Admiral George Hussey, Jr., that "the plant will be owned by the Navy but will be operated by National Fireworks, Inc." This would be part of an ongoing program called a government owned and contractor operated (GOCO) facility. This type of program really began to take off again about 1937 as part of the Ordnance Department's new push to diversify its munition processing procedures, while also creating good relationships with the commercial companies that would be crucial to any global warfare that may arise. <sup>23</sup>

The National Fireworks, Inc. Company, initially received a contract that stated that it would run from September 1944 to July 1945, but the contract was extended in June 1945 to take the end of the contract through December 31, 1945.<sup>24</sup> This contract was awarded to the National Fireworks Inc. Company, in part because of past work performances for the Navy. Under the initial contract, National Fireworks was already engineering and designing assembly lines for the new ordnance plant.<sup>25</sup>

Only a few days after the inspection of the cultivated ground located in both Ouachita and Calhoun counties, it was speculated that the entire facility would span roughly 68,000 acres.<sup>26</sup> It is during this inspection that Rear Admiral W.A. Kitts stated that when inspecting possible locations that they could find no disadvantages with this site.<sup>27</sup> It is also at this time that the Admiral stated that the number of

<sup>23</sup> US Army Joint Munitions Command, 11.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> \$60,000,000 Navy Ordnance Plant Goes to Camden," *The Arkansas Gazette*, September 24, 1944, 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Benjamin Laney would eventually be elected Governor in 1945 and then again in 1947.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> "In the Interest of... Shumaker NAD," Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) Administration Building File, National Register and Survey Files, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Department of Arkansas Heritage.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> "Navy Officers Study Camden Plant Site," *The Arkansas Gazette*, October 5, 1944, 2.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> "In the Interest of... Shumaker NAD," Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) Administration Building File, National Register and Survey Files, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Department of Arkansas Heritage.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> In order to meet the demand of production and assembly, National Fireworks set up training courses at it Cordova, Tennessee, plant, which is near Memphis. (*Ibid.*)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> "68,000 Acres Taken for Navy Plant," *The Arkansas Gazette*, October 8, 1944, 2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> "Camden Plant Will Be Huge, Admiral Says," *The Arkansas Gazette*, October 10, 1944, 1.

Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) 500-Man Barracks

County and State

Arkansas

Calhoun County,

Name of Property

construction personnel would reach close to 6,000 and that nearly 4,000 personnel would be needed to operate the plant.<sup>28</sup> He also stated that the plant would take a year to build, but that production would begin in March 1945.<sup>29</sup> Once the plant was up and operational, the Navy would have fifty naval officers in charge of the operation, but that the National Fireworks, Inc. Company, would employ the plant personnel.<sup>30</sup> The construction crew of nearly 6,000 people<sup>31</sup> would be housed in barracks at the plant, but that housing for employees would be constructed as part of the overall plan and be done cooperatively between the Navy and the City of Camden. The area encompassing the ordnance plant and the civilian housing (Bilkits Housing) would officially be designated as Shumaker Station, or just Shumaker.<sup>32</sup> Once the munition plant was up and operational, Rear Admiral Kitts stated that "much of the ammunition and weapons made here will be moved by barge on the Ouachita River." He also noted that infrastructure improvement over the river would need to happen as well as deepening the Ouachita River channel.<sup>33</sup> It was at this point in time that they warned the citizens and politicians in the area that it would take a miracle to meet the deadline of March for beginning production and that it was up to these officials and citizens to push to make sure the deadline was met.<sup>34</sup>

Due to construction beginning to ramp up in order to meet the March 1 production deadline, a base of operation was established at the former Army Air Field Training base located to the west of the construction site. At the time, "the airport was closed for air traffic and all its facilities were converted to offices, barracks, cafeteria and motor pool usage. Hangars were used as office and design buildings. Runways were used as parking areas. Utilities were enlarged and in addition to existing buildings, hundreds of buildings and hutments were erected to accommodate the influx of personnel." By the time the base operations were completely up and mobile, it was able to accommodate approximately 14,000 people within the former Army Air Force Base.

With construction beginning in October 1944, the overall construction project was still moving slowly between November and January and may not meet the March 1, 1945, deadline to be up and operational. With this in mind, the War Manpower Commission put out a request for 16,000 construction workers to help put the construction project back in line with this production date. At this point in time, the Navy was calling the Camden plant its No.1 project in the entire nation. Citing that the munitions would be made in this plant were new developments and that the faster the weapons could be produced and shipped overseas, the faster the war would be won.<sup>36</sup> It is clear that the construction crews were unable

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> It is also during this statement that the Rear Admiral states that nearly half of the 4,000 workers needed would be female.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> "Camden Plant Will Be Huge, Admiral Says," *The Arkansas Gazette*, October 10, 1944, 1.

<sup>30</sup> Ibid

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> This number was later increase to nearly 17,000 workmen. ("Naval Officer At Rotary Club," *The Camden News*, April 2, 1942, 1.)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> The newspaper article misspelled Samuel R. Shumaker's name and includes it as "Samuel R. Schumacher." It is note that the Samuel Shumaker was a "Navy Hero" in the Pacific when he died in March 1944, having served 33 years in the Navy working with ordnance. ("Camden Plant Will Be Huge, Admiral Says," *The Arkansas Gazette*, October 10, 1944, 1.) In a later article Captain J. M. Lewis states that the plant would be named for Captain Bob Shumaker, who was a Navy hero in the south pacific. ("Naval Officer At Rotary Club," *The Camden News*, April 2, 1942, 1.)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> "Camden Plant Will Be Huge, Admiral Says," *The Arkansas Gazette*, October 10, 1944, 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> *Ibid*.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup> "In the Interest of... Shumaker NAD," Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) Administration Building File, National Register and Survey Files, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Department of Arkansas Heritage.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> "Would Speed Up Plant At Camden," *The Arkansas Gazette*, January 6, 1945, 2.

Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) 500-Man Barracks

County and State

Arkansas

Calhoun County,

Name of Property

to get the production and assembly personnel into operation to start production by March 1, 1945. The plant would open nearly two months late with the first building accepted by the Bureau of Ordnance on April 25, 1945, and the first assembled rocket motor completed the next day.<sup>37</sup> Still, even as most of the ordnance plant was still under construction the Navy was already trying to expand it as it received an additional \$32,600,000 to enlarge the plant.<sup>38</sup> With the plant up and operational, and munitions beginning to be sent to the Pacific to fight the Japanese military. However, word was already spreading by August 21, 1945, that the ordnance plant would be slowing production and assembly.<sup>39</sup> It was noted just a day later that construction would continue as planned. With the rumors of the plant's possible closure, construction workers and plant personnel continued to file into work, with a few terminations handed out, but no closure.

By September 1945, with the defeat of the Japanese Imperial Army and Navy, production was slowed and held at a reduced level due to peace-time requirements. It is unknown to what extent the Administration area was completed or at least under construction at this time. With the formal surrender of the Japanese on September 2, 1945, on the *USS Missouri*, all construction contracts were cancelled to await revision of schedules and plans, even though most of the plant was still actively under construction. With the end of World War II, it was again expressed that the Naval Ordnance Plant would be a permanent naval facility. <sup>40</sup> By November 5, 1945, the National Fireworks Company's contract was terminated and the ordnance plant was reverted back to the United States Navy. A small ceremony was held to mark the change over from being an Ordnance Plant, to the Shumaker Naval Ordnance Depot. It was noted that the ceremony was small and located at the flagpole in front of the cafeteria at the old Harrell Air Field, because many of the buildings were still under construction <sup>41</sup>.

It was during this time that construction began to "boom" again that it was noted progress was being made on the completion of the Administration Building and that work on the Administration Building and operational offices was "progressing rapidly." The contract to finish the construction that was started in 1944 and 1945 was again granted to the construction conglomerate of "WHMS" on a cost plus fixed-fee. Commander George Gans stated that "we are gradually increasing employment." The need for increased production and employment lead the Navy to contact the National Fireworks, Inc., on May 25, 1951, due to the heavy demand for rockets. By July 1, 1951, the entire operation was again handed over the National Fireworks, Inc., 44

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> "In the Interest of... Shumaker NAD," Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) Administration Building File, National Register and Survey Files, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Department of Arkansas Heritage.; "Rockets For U.S. Produced Here," *The Camden News*, April 26, 1945, 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> "\$32,600,000 To Enlarge Camden Plant," The Arkansas Gazette, October 10, 1944, 6.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> "NOP Work to Suspend," *The Camden News*, August 21, 1945, 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup> "Says Camden Plant Will Be Permanent," *The Arkansas Gazette*, January 3, 1945, 1.; "Rockets For U.S. Produced Here," *The Camden News*, April 26, 1945, 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> "Navy Takes Over NOP Nov. 5," *The Camden News*, November 3, 1945, 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>42</sup> "Progress Made on Building For NAD Group," *The Camden News*, November 7, 1950, 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>43</sup> Ibid

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>44</sup> "In the Interest of... Shumaker NAD," Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) Administration Building File, National Register and Survey Files, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Department of Arkansas Heritage.

Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) 500-Man Barracks
Name of Property

Calhoun County,
Arkansas
County and State

### Housing

Things remained slow at the Naval Ammunition Depot until the United States' entered into the conflict on the Korean Peninsula, in what would soon be known as the Korean War. It was at this time that production again increased with the addition of more employees. Therefore, the depot began adding shift workers, creating two shifts a day, six days a week.<sup>45</sup> Between late 1950 and early 1951, employment at the depot had increased to about 1800 personnel and shift workers. 46 As the need for production began to increase the need for housing also increased. Housing had always been a problem throughout the area once the Depot began operation back in 1944-45. As early as October 1944, the Camden Chamber of Commerce and the Navy agreed that the Navy would build 1,500 houses near the site of the plant. The Navy agreed to this proposal, but stated that they would like to have local citizens building the types of houses they wanted on these lots within the Navy's parameters before the Navy built the rest.<sup>47</sup> The boom in housing was also felt throughout the area as "towns long dormant are back in the news, such names as Eagle Mills, Millville, Onalasks, Salam, Woodbury... are back in the limelight because of the Naval Ordnance Plant." But that housing again crashed as the plant began to slow down on production and assembly. However, it would not stay dormant long, following the end of World War II, as the need for housing was again increasing as early as 1950-1951, as production at the Depot again increased with the entrance of the National Fireworks Inc. Company taking over production duties. With the need for housing again increasing, the Naval Ammunition Depot put out bids for the construction of civilian barracks located on the installation. This would be followed up by the Federal Government designating the area around the Naval Ammunition Depot and Camden, as a critical defense housing area. This designation allowed the...

"housing and home finance agency [to] work out housing programs for these areas, involving relazation<sup>48</sup> (*sic*) of credit controls, government guarantees to buy mortgages, and of 90 per cent, 30 year federal mortgage insurance.... The Law also provides for government help in installation of the necessary community facilities such as sewers, water facilities, schools and road construction, construction of temporary and permanent public housing and acquisition of defense housing sites in isolated areas.<sup>49</sup>

This designation would eventually lead to the construction of 500 housing units in western Camden. Even with the addition of these homes, the housing shortage remained. Like the homes in western Camden, the barracks that would be built on the installation would remain a large factor in keeping production rolling through two shifts. Unlike the homes outside of the installation, the rooms or units inside of Shumaker were easier to deal with financially due to their control by the Navy and National Fireworks Inc. The problem with the homes inside of Camden is that occupancy of these homes was met with the ebb and flow of the production line and the need on the battlefield and vast oceans. The ups and downs in production swings always affected the number of vacant or unused homes in this area as

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>45</sup> "NAD To Put On Additional Worker Shift," *The Camden News*, September 8, 1950, 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>46</sup> "In the Interest of... Shumaker NAD," Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) Administration Building File, National Register and Survey Files, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Department of Arkansas Heritage.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>47</sup> The general parameters discussed were that the houses must be approximately 800 square feet and cost about \$4,500. (Navy To Build 1500 Houses," *The Camden News*, October 12, 1944, 1.)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>48</sup> Relaxation

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>49</sup> "U.S. Designation Camden Area Vital To Defense," *The Camden News*, November 8, 1951, 1.

Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) 500-Man Barracks

Calhoun County, Arkansas

County and State

Name of Property

people came and went with the need of munitions. Consequently, the civilian barracks remained active and are still partially active through the present time.

In the original newspaper article from *The Camden Times*, it states that the bids for the construction of 500-Man Civilian barracks was under building specification No. 32573. The bid proposal states that the bids must be received by 2 pm CST, on November 14, 1951. It then states that the new barracks would be constructed with "reinforced concrete and concrete block bearing wall masonry building consisting of four unit, two stories, without basement." In an article only two months later, in December 1951, it states that construction was already beginning, for the barracks. It again states that the barracks would consists of four, two-story units, with each unit's outside dimensions being 200' x 40', with a total floor space of 74,000 square feet for single and double rooms with baths, dormitory rooms, and four person units. The contract was finally let for the construction of the barracks around January 24, 1952. An article discussing the contract states that it was let to Peterson, Garbi, and Joseph, of North Little Rock, Arkansas. The contract was awarded for \$978,400<sup>52</sup> though the official total after completion is listed as \$928,402.30. The building was expected to be complete by May 24, 1952, but it is unknown if that timeline was officially met, though military records do confirm that the barracks were finished within 1952.

As the Korean War raged on through 1953, so did the production and assembly at the depot, as well as the need for this living space within the civilian barracks. These Civilian 500-Man Barracks would be used constantly between 1952, when completed, and 1957 as production again began to slow. Though in the early years, when it was still a Naval Ordnance Plant, the Navy and National Fireworks tried diligently to hire employees from within 45 miles of the installation. However, as the technology advanced, so did the need for adequate trained personnel that began to come in from several of National Fireworks other plants across the United States, showing again the need of adequate housing within the confines of the installation. It was not until the conflict on the Korean Peninsula reached a ceasefire that things began to slow down once again. However, it only slowed a little bit, as production levels were maintained at war-like levels between 1953 and 1956. Technology and advancements in weaponry were being pushed in those same three years. In these three years, the Bureau of Ordnance set out new directives and specifications for methods of loading and assembly, which would go against current practices at the depot. Problems arose at the depot in trying to adhere to the new requirements which were unable to be met.<sup>55</sup> It is also at this time that news broke that the depot would be shutting down as Defense Department officials began inspecting the depot to see if any other military use could be found. 56 By June 30, 1957, the National Fireworks, Inc. Company, completed its contract and the Navy again took over facilitating the depot.<sup>57</sup> It was at this time that the entire depot went from full operations

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>50</sup> "Sealed Bids for NAD Barracks," *The Camden News*, October 18, 1951, 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>51</sup> "36,000,000 NAD Construction Phase Nears Completion," *The Camden News*, December 29, 1951, 6.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>52</sup> "Contract Given for NAD Project," *The Camden News*, January 24, 1921, 5.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>53</sup> "Buildings, Structures, Utilities, and Miscellaneous Facilities- Schedule A Supplement To Report of Excess Real Property," Page 1 of 50, National Archives- Fort Worth, RG269 Gen Records of GSA Real Prop. Cases ARk Camden S-NAD HM 1994 Box AR2 E269-1\F4 S- NAD NARk 436C 269-64A519 FRC 222452.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>54</sup> "Civilian Barracks, Building #18," National Archives- Fort Worth, RG269 Gen Records of GSA Real Prop. Cases ARk Camden S- NAD HM 1994 Box AR2 E269-1\F4 S- NAD NARk 436C 269-64A519 FRC 222452.

əə Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>56</sup> "Top Defense Officials To Inspect Shumaker, Check for Future Uses," *The Arkansas Gazette*, May 22, 1956, 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>57</sup> "1000 to Lose Jobs At U.S. Naval Depot," *The Camden News*, June 5, 1957, 1.

Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) 500-Man Barracks
Name of Property

Calhoun County, Arkansas

County and State

to maintenance status, causing many of the rooms within the civilian barracks to be vacated.

### Closure

It is noted that for fiscal years 1957-1958, only 410 employees would remain in operation at the depot, with sixty people working in production and assembly on the "new" guided Sidewinder missile, and the other 350 people would be working in plant maintenance and administration. It is unknown if any of those 410 employees that were retained were housed within the barracks, though it is plausible. Although a few people would remain to continue to work on the Sidewinder, it is noted that the depot was being shut down because "rockets are rapidly becoming obsolete and [were] being replaced by guided missiles."

As notifications continued to go out about the closure of the depot, the federal government and local economic programs continued to try to find a new occupant for the roughly 70,000-acre site. In order to promote the soon to be empty acres, the Camden Chamber of Commerce produced a booklet which would be used to promote the site to other federal agencies, as well as private manufacturers. By late 1959 the Navy was already set to approve the sale of the depot. The Navy had deemed the property excess after checking with the Army and Air Force again about possibly taking over the site. As part of this transaction to approve the sale of the site, it first had to be approved by a congressional committee before the property would be turned over to the General Services Administration (GSA) for final disposal or sale of the property. Between December 1959 and March 1961, GSA and the local government continued to fight to find a potential occupant for the site, with no success. Therefore, the GSA put the property up for sale to the general public.

Once open for bidding by the general public, the bids remained open until April 4, 1961, with twenty-five bids coming in. The highest bidder was International Paper with a bid of \$8,146,000. The second highest bid was from Brown Engineering Corporation out of Houston, Texas, with a bid of \$8,105,350. As part of the original bid process, the winning bidder could purchase all or part of the original acreage. Since International Paper was really only concerned with the timber associated with the Depot, it left Brown Engineering with the potential to buy the manufacturing portion of the depot, which was its main goal. However, the sale of the land, and the manner in which the land was disposed of did not sit well with local citizens or many Arkansas Government Officials. The fear was that Brown Engineering Corp, was going to purchase the property and "junk it" by selling off smaller parcels, all but killing any economic viability of reusing the current layout of the depot. These protests made their way all the way to Governor Faubus's office as he tried to halt the sale of the four parcels associated with the manufacturing area. Faubus went as far as to state that if he could not get assurance that the land would be put to its best use, the state would offer to take it on a long-term lease from the federal government. Faubus would eventually receive word from Brown Engineering that it would try to use the property to its best possible use, causing Governor Faubus to back away, while local citizens continued to criticize

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>58</sup> It is interesting that the reason for closing the depot was the increase in new guided missiles, but the depot was going to slowly continue to produce and assemble the Sidewinder missile. (*Ibid.*)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>59</sup> "Booklet On NAD Published," *The Camden News*, June 5, 1957, 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>60</sup> The Navy would sell the property, but retain the limited use of the bunkers where rockets were still being stored. The article advises that the Navy would continue to use these bunkers for no more than five years. (*Ibid.*)

<sup>61 &</sup>quot;State Moves to Halt Camden Plant's Sale For Junk Purposes," *The Arkansas Democrat*, April 17, 1961, 1. Section 8 page 20

Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) 500-Man Barracks
Name of Property

Calhoun County, Arkansas

County and State

the GSA for the fact that the parcels were so large that local citizens could not purchase them.<sup>62</sup> One other problem that arose with local citizens was that the original agreement in 1944 between the original property owners and the Navy stated that if the property ceased to be needed by the Navy for its intended purposes, the original owners had first right of refusal to buy it back at the price received for it.<sup>63</sup> In a corresponding letter, the reasons for dispersing of the property in large chunks rather than holding to the agreement become clearer. The Surplus Property Act of 1944, which would have allowed the original property owners first right of refusal, was repealed in 1949. <sup>64</sup> It also become clear that the GSA would not notify the public about the repeal, but it was looking to get the most out of the site and make money on the deal. <sup>65</sup> However, the sale went on with Brown Engineering purchasing the final four parcels, on May 12, 1961, that were not purchased by International Paper in the original bidding process.

With the final sale completed, Brown Engineering began moving into the former depot in July 1961.<sup>66</sup> By November 1961, the "keys" to the depot were officially handed over to Brown Engineering in a small ceremony that included the remaining ten employees, which included three Navy staff and seven civilian employees. With the formal closure of the depot completed, the Administration Building remained vacant. Following the closure of the depot, Brown Engineering Company established the East Camden Industrial Park on the former Navy Depot site. Only a few years later, Brown Engineering Company donated the buildings and grounds for the creation of a manufacturing school, which would be known as the Southwest Vocational-Technical Institute. This new vocational school would use the surrounding manufacturing companies to help further their students' experience in the field. The school was opened in 1968 and continued to further its mission, under a new name: Southern Arkansas University—Tech (SAU-Tech). <sup>67</sup> SAU-Tech partially still uses the barracks buildings to house members of the public that come to train in the SAU-Tech law Enforcement Academy and the University's Arkansas Fire Training Academy, allowing the buildings to remain in use and fulfill the buildings mission.

Therefore, the Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) 500-Man Barracks, in East Camden, Arkansas, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion A** for its significance in the area of Military History. The Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>62</sup> This would become an even bigger issue and cover-up by the GSA, when original property owners started to come back asking to buy their property back for the price they were paid for it, which was the original agreement.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>63</sup> J.O. Lasiter, to President Dwight Eisenhower, 15 November 1960, National Archives- Fort Worth, RG291 Fed Prop Resources Services- GSA Real Prop. Cases ARk S- NAD HM 1994 Box AR3, Folder Camden 1 S- NAD 291-63A16 FRC94050.

<sup>64 &</sup>quot;Secton 23(d) of the Surplus Proerty Act of 1944 provided for the negotiated sale of certain classes of real property to former owners under a price preference formula. This provision was repealed by the Federal Property and Administration Services Act of 1949, as amended, which does not afford former owners either a priority or price preference in reacquiring surplus property. GSA has opposed legislation which has for its purpose the restoration of the above-mentioned priority and price preference provision of the 1944 Act." (Franklin Floete, to Senator Fulbright, 9 December 1960, National Archives- Fort Worth, RG291 Fed Prop Resources Services- GSA Real Prop. Cases ARk S- NAD HM 1994 Box AR3, Folder Camden 1 S- NAD 291-63A16 FRC94050.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>65</sup> "A further factor which infuenced our proposed method of disposal was that the Depot site contains the finest stand of prime timber in this section of Arkansas and could well be an important adjunct to our successful disposal of the installation. A subdivision of the timber area or the severance of component portions of production facilities so as to officer the property in 400 former ownership tracts would seriously depress the value of the entire installation." (*Ibid.*)

<sup>66 &</sup>quot;New Owner Is Moving In At Shumaker," The Arkansas Gazette, July 8, 1961, 2A.

<sup>67</sup> The name changed from the Southwest Vocational- Technical Institute to Southern Arkansas University- Tech, in 1975.

Section 8 page 21

Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) 500-Man Barracks
Name of Property

Calhoun County, Arkansas

County and State

(NAD) 500-Man Barracks is a well-preserved example of civilian barracks built at the beginning of the Cold War era and that continued to thrive during these though geo-political times between 1951 and 1961. These employees that would be housed in the barracks would become the heart of the production and assembly operation at Shumaker right up to its final day in November 1961. The civilian employees would continue to produce and assemble rocket motors that helped create a top notch National Defense system during this time period.

Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) 500-Man Barracks
Name of Property

Calhoun County,
Arkansas
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

- "1000 to Lose Jobs At U.S. Naval Depot," The Camden News, June 5, 1957, 1.
- "\$32,600,000 To Enlarge Camden Plant," The Arkansas Gazette, October 10, 1944, 6.
- "36,000,000 NAD Construction Phase Nears Completion," The Camden News, December 29, 1951, 6.
- \$60,000,000 Navy Ordnance Plant Goes to Camden," The Arkansas Gazette, September 24, 1944, 1.
- "68,000 Acres Taken for Navy Plant," The Arkansas Gazette, October 8, 1944, 2.
- "Booklet On NAD Published," The Camden News, June 5, 1957, 1.
- "Buildings, Structures, Utilities, and Miscellaneous Facilities- Schedule A Supplement To Report of Excess Real Property," Page 1 of 50, National Archives- Fort Worth, RG269 Gen Records of GSA Real Prop. Cases ARk Camden S- NAD HM 1994 Box AR2 E269-1\F4 S- NAD NARk 436C 269-64A519 FRC 222452.
- "Camden Plant Will Be Huge, Admiral Says," The Arkansas Gazette, October 10, 1944, 1.
- "Change in Naval Command," The Camden News, June 6, 1946, 1.
- "Citizens Endorse Aviation School," *The Camden News*, March 27, 1942, 1.
- "City Purchased Site For Flying School Here Today," The Camden News, April 2, 1942, 1.
- "Civilian Barracks, Building #18," National Archives- Fort Worth, RG269 Gen Records of GSA Real Prop. Cases ARk Camden S- NAD HM 1994 Box AR2 E269-1\F4 S- NAD NARk 436C 269-64A519 FRC 222452.
- "Contract Given for NAD Project," The Camden News, January 24, 1921, 5.
- Fine, Lenore, and Jesse A. Remington. *The Corps of Engineers: Construction in the United States*. Washington D.C.: Center for Military History, U.S. Army, 2003.
- Floete, Franklin to Senator Fulbright, 9 December 1960. National Archives- Fort Worth, RG291 Fed Prop Resources Services- GSA Real Prop. Cases ARk S- NAD HM 1994 Box AR3, Folder Camden 1 S- NAD 291-63A16 FRC94050.

Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) 500-Man Barracks
Name of Property

Calhoun County, Arkansas

County and State

- "In the Interest of... Shumaker NAD," Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) Administration Building File, National Register and Survey Files, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Department of Arkansas Heritage.
- Lasiter, J.O. to President Dwight Eisenhower, 15 November 1960. National Archives- Fort Worth, RG291 Fed Prop Resources Services- GSA Real Prop. Cases ARk S- NAD HM 1994 Box AR3, Folder Camden 1 S- NAD 291-63A16 FRC94050.
- Lynch, Jeremy. "Fort Smith National Historic Site," *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History& Culture*. <a href="http://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=4522">http://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=4522</a>. (accessed September 1, 2010).
- "Many Visitors Awed at Huge Naval Plant Here," The Camden News, October 28, 1946, 1.
- "NAD Bids to Be Opened At 11 AM Friday," The Camden News, January 7, 1948, 1.
- "NAD Groups Move Into New Offices," The Camden News, December 15, 1950, 1.
- "NAD To Put On Additional Worker Shift," The Camden News, September 8, 1950, 1.
- "Naval Officer At Rotary Club," The Camden News, April 2, 1942, 1.
- "Navy Officers Study Camden Plant Site," The Arkansas Gazette, October 5, 1944, 2.
- "Navy Takes Over NOP Nov. 5," The Camden News, November 3, 1945, 1.
- "Navy To Build 1500 Houses," The Camden News, November 3, 1945, 1.
- "New Camden Airport Cost \$3,000,000," The Arkansas Democrat, September 6, 1942, 10C.
- "New Plant May Cost 100 Million," The Arkansas Gazette, October 10, 1944, 2.
- "New Owner Is Moving In At Shumaker," The Arkansas Gazette, July 8, 1961, 2A.
- "NOP Work to Suspend," The Camden News, August 21, 1945, 1.
- "Progress Made on Building For NAD Group," The Camden News, November 7, 1950, 1.
- "Rockets For U.S. Produced Here," The Camden News, April 26, 1945, 1.
- "Says Camden Plant Will Be Permanent," The Arkansas Gazette, January 3, 1945, 1.
- "Sealed Bids for NAD Barracks," The Camden News, October 18, 1951, 1.

Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) 500-Man Barracks
Name of Property

Calhoun County, Arkansas

County and State

- "State Moves to Halt Camden Plant's Sale For Junk Purposes," *The Arkansas Democrat*, April 17, 1961, 1.
- "Top Defense Officials To Inspect Shumaker, Check for Future Uses," *The Arkansas Gazette*, May 22, 1956, 1.
- United States. Building the Navy's Bases in World War II: History of the Bureau of Yards and Docks and the Civil Engineer Corps, 1940-1946, Volume 1. Washington, DC: United States Government Printing Office, 1947.
- US Army Joint Munitions Command. History of the Ammunition Industrial Base. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 2010.
- "U.S. Designation Camden Area Vital To Defense," *The Camden News*, November 8, 1951, 1.
- "Would Speed Up Plant At Camden," The Arkansas Gazette, January 6, 1945, 2.

numaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) 00-Man Barracks		Calhoun County, Arkansas	
me of Property	_	County and State	
Previous documentation on file (NPS)	):		
preliminary determination of indiv		een requested	
previously listed in the National R			
previously determined eligible by			
designated a National Historic Lar			
recorded by Historic American Bu	gingering Paged #	_	
recorded by Historic American En recorded by Historic American La			
	mascape survey ii	•	
Primary location of additional data:			
X State Historic Preservation Offic	ee		
Other State agency			
X Federal agency			
Local government			
University			
Other			
Name of repository: National Ar	chive- Fort Worth		
10. Geographical Data			
Acreage of Property <pre>&lt;1</pre>	<u> </u>		
Use either the UTM system or latitude/l	ongitude coordinates		
Latitude/Longitude Coordinates Datum if other than WGS84:	_		
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places) 1. Latitude:	Longitude:		
2. Latitude:	Longitude:		
3. Latitude:	Longitude:		
4. Latitude:	Longitude:		
Or UTM References			

Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD)		Calhoun County,
500-Man Barracks		Arkansas
Name of Property		County and State
Datum (indicated on	USGS map):	
NAD 1927 o	r x NAD 1983	
1. Zone: 15	Easting: 482349	Northing: 3822040
2. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
3. Zone: 4.	Easting:	Northing:
5. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

At the Northwest corner of the Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) 500-Man Barracks, located along Arkansas Highway 274, go to UTM 15 S. 526165 E. 3720966. Go east to UTM point 15 S. 526416 E. 3720955. Then go south to UTM point 15 S. 526452 E. 3720932. Then turn west to UTM point 15 S. 526181 E. 3720793. Then return to the original UTM point at UTM 15 S. 526165 E. 3720966.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary contains the land that is currently associated with the Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) 500-Man Barracks.

Shumaker Naval Ar	nmunition Depot (NAD)
500-Man Barracks	
Name of Property	

Calhoun County,	
Arkansas	
County and State	

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: <u>Travis Ratermann (Survey Historian)</u>
organization: <u>Arkansas Historic Preservation Program</u>
street & number:
city or town: <u>Little Rock</u> state: <u>Arkansas</u> zip code: <u>72201</u>
e-mail\_<u>Travis@arkansasheritage.org</u>
telephone: <u>501-324-9874</u>
date: <u>April 5, 2018</u>

#### **Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- Maps: A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- Additional items: (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

### **Photographs**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

Name of Property: Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) 500-Man Barracks

City or Vicinity: East Camden

County: Calhoun State: Arkansas

# Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) 500-Man Barracks

Calhoun County, Arkansas
County and State

Name of Property

Photographer: Callie Williams

Date Photographed: 11/16/2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo #1 (AR\_Calhoun County\_ Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) 500-Man Barracks Building 18-A 0001)

Photo of the north elevation of Building 18-A. Photo show the lounge area painted in red in the photograph. Camera facing Southeast.

Photo #2 (AR\_Calhoun County\_ Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) 500-Man Barracks Building 18-A\_0002)

Photo of the north elevation of Building 18-A. Camera facing southwest.

Photo #3 (AR\_Calhoun County\_ Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) 500-Man Barracks Building 18-A 0003)

Photo of the north elevation of Building 18-A. Photo show the lounge area painted in red in the photograph. Camera facing South.

Photo #4 (AR\_Calhoun County\_ Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) 500-Man Barracks Building 18-A\_0004)

Perspective photo of the east and south elevations of building 18-A. Camera facing Northwest.

Photo #5 (AR\_Calhoun County\_ Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) 500-Man Barracks Building 18-A 0005)

Photo of the South elevation of Building 18-A. Camera facing Northwest.

Photo #6 (AR\_Calhoun County\_ Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) 500-Man Barracks Building 18-A 0006)

Perspective photo of the west and south elevations of building 18-A. Camera facing north.

Photo #7 (AR\_Calhoun County\_ Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) 500-Man Barracks Building 18-B\_0007)

Photo of the west elevation of Building 18-B. Camera facing Southeast.

Photo #8 (AR\_Calhoun County\_ Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) 500-Man Barracks Building 18-B\_0008)

Photo of the north elevation of Building 18-B. Photo show the lounge area painted in black in the photograph. Camera facing Southeast.

# Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) 500-Man Barracks

Calhoun County, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

Photo #9 (AR\_Calhoun County\_ Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) 500-Man Barracks Building 18-B\_0009)

Photo facing back toward the lounge area and front door of Building 18-B. Camera facing Southwest.

Photo #10 (AR\_Calhoun County\_ Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) 500-Man Barracks Building 18-B 0010)

Perspective photo of the east and south elevations of building 18-B. Camera facing Northwest.

Photo #11 (AR\_Calhoun County\_ Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) 500-Man Barracks Building 18-B\_0011)

Photo of the entire south elevation of Building 18-B. Camera facing Northeast.

Photo #12 (AR\_Calhoun County\_ Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) 500-Man Barracks Building 18-B 0012)

Photo of the set back on the South elevation of Building 18-B. Camera facing Northwest.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement**: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

### Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) 500-Man Barracks, East Camden, Calhoun County



NAD 93

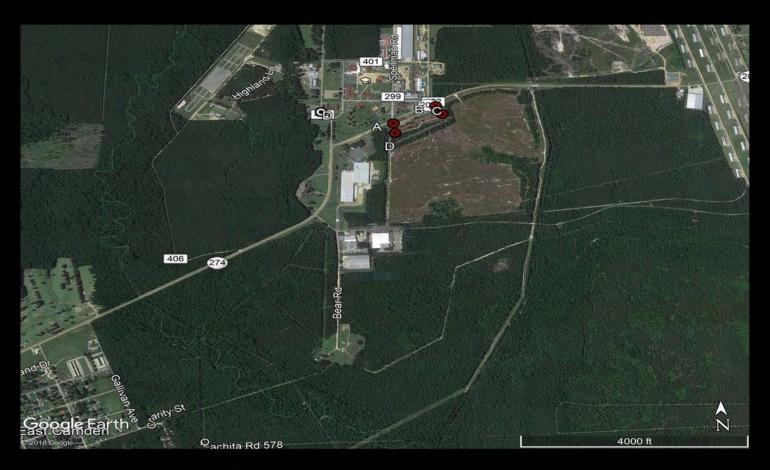
1. Zune 15 Fastine 526165 Northing: 3720066

II. Zone 15 Eastbre 526416 Northing 3720958

C. Zone 15 Easting: 520452 Northing: 3720932

D. Zone 15 Easting: 526181 Northing: 3720703

### Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) 500-Man Barracks, East Camden, Calhoun County



UTM NAD-93

A. Zono: 15 Easting: 526 165 Northing: 3720066

II. Zone 15 Eastbre 526416 Northing 3720958

C. Zone 15 Easting: 520452 Northing: 3720932

D. Zone 15 Easting: 526181 Northing: 3720793

























## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:	Nomination		
Property Name:	Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) 500-Man Barracks		
Multiple Name:			
State & County:	ARKANSAS, Calhoun		
Date Rece 4/10/20	(2) 1 전 :		
Reference number:	SG100002448		
Nominator:	State		
Reason For Review	r.		
X Accept	Return Reject 5/21/2018 Date		
Abstract/Summary Comments:	Important component of one of the navy's more significant rocket production plants		
Recommendation/ Criteria	Accept / A		
ReviewerJim Ga	abbert Discipline Historian		
Telephone (202)3	54-2275 Date		
DOCUMENTATION	see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No		
If a nomination is re	eturned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the		

National Park Service.



March 28, 2018

Asa Hutchinson Governor

> Stacy Hurst Director

Arkansas Arts Council

Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission

Arkansas State Archives

Delta Cultural Center

Historic Arkansas Museum

Mosaic Templars Cultural Center

Old State House Museum



1100 North Street Little Rock, AR 72201

(501) 324-9880 fax: (501) 324-9184 tdd: 711

e-mail:

info@arkansaspreservation.org website:

www.arkansaspreservation.com

An Equal Opportunity Employer

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief National Register and National Historic Landmark Programs National Register of Historic Places 1849 C St., NW Washington D.C. 20240

> RE: Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) 500-Man Barracks –East Camden, Calhoun County, Arkansas

Dear Mr. Loether:

We are enclosing for your review the above-referenced nomination. The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the documentation for the Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) 500-Man Barracks. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

If you need further information, please call Travis Ratermann of my staff at (501) 324-9874. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Stacy Hurst

State Historic Preservation Officer

SH:tar

**Enclosures**