

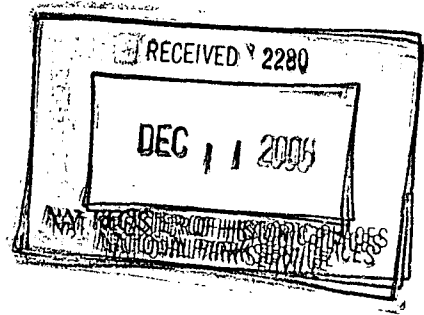
1270

Clarksville National Guard Amory  
Name of Property

Johnson County, Arkansas  
County and State

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

OMB No. 1024-0018



**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

**1. Name of Property**

Historic Name: Clarksville National Guard Amory

Other Name/Site Number: Alston Youth Center; JO0129

**2. Location**

Street & Number: 309 College Street

Not for Publication: NA

City/Town: Clarksville

Vicinity: NA

State: AR County: Johnson Code: AR071 Zip Code: 72830

**3. Classification**

Ownership of Property: Public-city

Category of Property: Building

Clarksville National Guard Amory  
Name of Property

Johnson County, Arkansas  
County and State

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	___
___	___
___	___
___	___
<u>1</u>	___

buildings  
sites  
structures  
objects  
Total

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

Name of related multiple property listing: NA

**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Cathie Marshall 11/22/06  
Signature of certifying official Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

RECEIVED  
NOV 22 2006  
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

RECEIVED  
NOV 22 2006  
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Clarksville National Guard Amory  
Name of Property

Johnson County, Arkansas  
County and State

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### 5. National Park Service Certification

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I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the  
National Register  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the  
National Register
- removed from the National Register

other (explain):

*Joe Edison H. Beall* 1-24-07  
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

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### 6. Function or Use

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Historic: DEFENSE Sub: arms storage

Current : RECREATION AND CULTURE Sub: sports facility

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### 7. Description

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Architectural Classification: Art Deco

Materials: foundation Concrete roof Metal and Asphalt  
walls Brick other

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

SUMMARY:

The Clarksville National Guard Amory at 309 N. College St. is a two-story, brick-masonry structure constructed in 1930 and designed in a restrained interpretation of the Art Deco style of architecture.

ELABORATION:

The Clarksville National Guard Amory at 309 N. College St. is a two-story, brick-masonry structure constructed in 1930 and designed in a restrained interpretation of the Art Deco style of architecture.

The two-story front section faces east and is built of red brick. On the first floor from south to north it is fenestrated by four six-over-six, double-hung windows, a double door flanked by vertical pilasters, and four more six-over-six, double-hung windows. On the second story from south to north are six-over-six, double-hung windows, a pair of six-over-six, double-hung windows above the door, between the pilasters and below a concrete course engraved with the words NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY, then four more six-over-six, double-hung windows. The brick is designed in a diamond pattern between the top of the door and the bottom of the windows between the pilasters.

On the northern façade of the building, the front section is fenestrated on both floors by two six-over-six, double-hung windows. Continuing west on the rear section, which is topped by a flat roof with shed roof overhangs above exposed rafter tails, there are eight bricked-in window openings, followed by a door and three more bricked-in window openings..

The rear or west façade from west to east is completely sheathed in vertical artificial siding.

The southern façade beings at its western end with a pair of overhead doors, followed by eight bricked-in window openings. The front section is fenestrated on both floors by two six-over-six, double-hung windows.

A cornerstone on the northeast corner of the front façade reads: HON. HARVEY PARNELL/GOVERNOR/BRIG. GEN. E.L. COMPERE/ADJUTANT GENERAL/DURWARD F. KYLE ARCHT/E.V. BIRD CONST. CO./A.D. 1930.

Though all of the windows on the rear section of the building have been bricked in and the rear façade is covered in artificial siding, the Clarksville National Guard Amory retains a high degree of all seven elements of integrity. With its vertical pilasters and decorative brick design on the front façade, it still reflects a restrained interpretation of the Art Deco style of architecture and remains highly evocative of its intended use as a military training facility.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: A

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): NA

Areas of Significance: Military

Period(s) of Significance: 1930-1957

Significant Dates: 1930

Significant Person(s): NA

Cultural Affiliation: NA

Architect/Builder: Durward F. Kyle, architect/E.V. Bird Construction Co., contractor

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

SUMMARY:

The Clarksville National Guard Amory is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A** with **statewide significance** for its association with the history of the Arkansas Army National Guard.

ELABORATION:

**National Guard**

The modern National Guard is a well-trained reserve fighting force controlled by states and equipped by the federal government. They can be called into service by either federal or state governments to assist in everything from disaster relief to full-fledged war. This requires a presidential order or a declaration of a state of emergency by their state's governor. When Guard members are not mobilized, they are required to report for training sessions "one weekend a month, two weeks a year."

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

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

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

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

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

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

Early Arkansas militias were mainly concerned about the threat posed by neighboring Indians. In the minds of

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

One of the most notable uses of the post-war Arkansas militia was an ideological and political conflict known as the "Brooks-Baxter War." As the gubernatorial elections of 1872 approached, Arkansans were split between Radical

Republican Elisha Baxter and Liberal Republican Joseph Brooks. Baxter was declared the winner, but suspecting fraud, Brooks filed an immediate challenge. A year after the initial results were handed down, the election was overturned. Brooks called for militia support to evict Baxter from the statehouse, and Baxter called for support to defend the statehouse from Brooks. Fortunately, large-scale violence was avoided when President U.S. Grant recognized Baxter as the rightful governor.

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

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

The problems that Arkansans faced during the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century were remedied in part by the Dick Act. The state militia was officially organized into the Arkansas National Guard, and any funding problems previously faced were alleviated by federal aid. Their first assignment under the new organization was to patrol the Mexican border in 1916.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In September 1917 Arkansas National Guard units reported to Camp Beauregard in Alexandria, Louisiana. After

eleven months of training, the 110 officers and 6,317 enlisted men sailed for Europe where they would see several months of combat action. Those who returned from "The Great War" were discharged at Arkansas' Camp Pike in January and February of 1919.

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

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

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

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

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

## **Armories**

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

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

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

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

Very few armories were built during the Civil War because the federal government lacked the control and funding to undertake such projects. After the war, though, labor and social unrest spurred many state legislatures to increase the



funding of their militias. Incidents like the Draft Riots of 1863, the Paris Commune of 1871, and the Railroad Strike of 1877—culminating with the Haymarket Affair of 1886—convinced the legislatures of the need for sufficiently equipped and housed militias. New arsenals, typically designed by local architects paid by the state Guard, gave an increased number of state militiamen places where they could go to be effectively organized and trained.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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- \* Armory maintenance and custodian facility within armory: 200 square feet
  - \* Armory boiler room: 600 square feet
  - \* Outdoor rifle range: 1,880 square feet

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

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

### **Clarksville National Guard Amory**

The Clarksville Amory was constructed in 1930 as part of a statewide armory building program that was authorized by Act 271 of 1925, which created a "Military Fund" to be used in the construction of armories. A total of seventeen armories were built or purchased using the fund; after the Great Depression hit the state, most armory building was done through such New Deal agencies as the Works Progress Administration. The structure reflects the Art Deco style of architecture, one of the more popular styles for the armories that were built during the period.

On March 7, 1929, the Clarksville *Herald-Democrat* reported that Captain Fay Brown of the local National Guard troop – Company E, 153<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Regiment – had just returned from a meeting with Arkansas National Guard Adjutant General Joe Harris regarding construction of a new armory for the city. According to the newspaper, "Captain Brown stated that the armory would be erected by the state and it would not be a tax on anyone, but the site for the building would have to be given by the town." Harris visited Clarksville later that month to review possible locations for the building and said the state was ready to spend \$20,000 for an armory. The *Herald-Democrat* noted that "different lots owned by the College of the Ozarks are being considered and several people connected with the College are willing for the College to donate a site for the armory," adding that the proposed building could also serve as a community center and a site for college and high school basketball games. On October 9, 1929, the College of the Ozarks conveyed Lots Six and Seven of Block Two, Wards Addition to the City of Clarksville to the Arkansas National Guard for one dollar.

In August the new adjutant general, E.L. Compere, said that only \$17,000 was available for construction. Architect Durward Kyle estimated that another \$6,000 would be needed to complete the structure. That apparently was not a problem, and on September 19 the *Herald-Democrat* reported that building would commence within thirty days. "The plans call for a building of red brick with white stone trimmings to conform with the style of several buildings on the College campus," which was adjacent to the armory site. The newspaper reported that the inside clearance of the building would be 105 feet by 70 feet and that the two-story front section would hold offices for the National Guard, the American Legion and other civic groups. In addition, it would hold a 50 foot by 94 foot basketball court with seating for 1,000 spectators.

Numerous delays ensued, but on April 30, 1930, the newspaper reported that the E.V. Bird Construction Company won the bid to construct the building for \$18,720. It noted that the construction was supposed to be completed by July 15 of that year. No other mention of the armory could be found in the newspaper for the remainder of 1930.

Company E made good use of the building. On July 24, 1932, the company was mobilized for riot duty in Johnson County, remaining active for three days. A detachment of two officers and fifteen men was sent to aid the Searcy County sheriff and to maintain order in Marshall. The company was mobilized on January 28, 1937, and sent to Forrest City to aid flood refugees; the soldiers fed 11,000 refugees twice a day until February 8, 1937. The troop was called into active duty on December 23, 1940,

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and served during World War II in the Aleutian Islands, being deactivated on June 30, 1944. In response to the Central High School desegregation crisis, Company E was activated on September 24, 1957, and brought into federal service on October 22 of that year. The company was redesignated as Company E, 217<sup>th</sup> Engineering Battalion, 39<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division on June 1, 1959; then changed again to Company A of the 217<sup>th</sup> on May 1, 1963. It was finally redesignated as the 239<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company on December 1, 1967. That unit used the armory until a new one was constructed; it was dedicated in 1980. The State of Arkansas formally returned possession of the land on which the armory stood to the City of Clarksville on January 29, 1979, for the price of one dollar.

The Clarksville National Guard Armory stands today as a reminder of the state's military heritage and as a living memorial to the men and women who have stood ready to serve in state and national emergencies. It is also one of the few armories surviving in the state that were built through the state Military Department's armory construction fund.

The Clarksville National Guard Armory is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A** with **statewide significance** for its association with the history of the Arkansas Army National Guard.

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### 9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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

Clinton Pumphrey, National Guard Context Report, on file at the AHPP

Major Todd Johnson, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, e-mail to author, April 7, 2006; telephone interview July 31, 2006.

Clarksville *Herald-Democrat*, March 7, March 21, August 29 and September 19, 1929; April 1, 1930.

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

Sondra McKelvey, Deeds related to Clarksville National Guard Armory.

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 #

Clarksville National Guard Amory  
Name of Property

Johnson County, Arkansas  
County and State

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: Camp Robinson, Arkansas

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### 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: Less than one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A 15 457667 3925768 B  
C          D

Verbal Boundary Description:

Lots Six and Seven, Block Two, Ward's Addition to the City of Clarksville, Johnson County, Arkansas.

Boundary Justification:

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

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### 11. Form Prepared By

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Name/Title: Mark Christ/Community Outreach Director

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: August 24, 2006

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

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Clarksville National Guard Armory

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Johnson

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

REFERENCE NUMBER: 06001270

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N    DATA PROBLEM: N    LANDSCAPE: N    LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N    PDIL: N    PERIOD: N    PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N    SAMPLE: N    SLR DRAFT: N    NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    1.24.07 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the  
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

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



Clarksville National Guard Armory  
Clarksville, Johnson Co, AR

Photo by H. Hope

July 2006

Negative on file at AHPP

View from northwest<sup>ca</sup>





Clarksville National Guard Armory  
Clarksville, Johnson Co, AR

Photo by H. Hope

July 2006

Negative on file at AHPP

View from north



Clarksville National Guard Armory  
Clarksville, Johnson Co, AR  
Photo by H. Hope  
July 2006  
Negative on file at AHPP  
View from south<sup>west</sup>~~east~~



Clarksville National Guard Armory  
Clarksville, Johnson Co, AR

Photo by H. Hope

July 2006

Negative on file at AHPP

View from south<sup>ea</sup>st

HON HARVEY PARNELL.  
GOVERNOR  
BRIG. GEN. E. L. COMPERE  
ADJUTANT GENERAL.  
BYWARD F. KYLE, ARCHT.  
V. BIRD CONST CO.  
1930.

Clarksville National Guard Armory

Clarksville, Johnson Co, AR

Photo by H. Hope

July 2006

Negative on file at AHPP

View from east of detail





Clarksville National Guard Armory

Clarksville, Johnson Co, AR

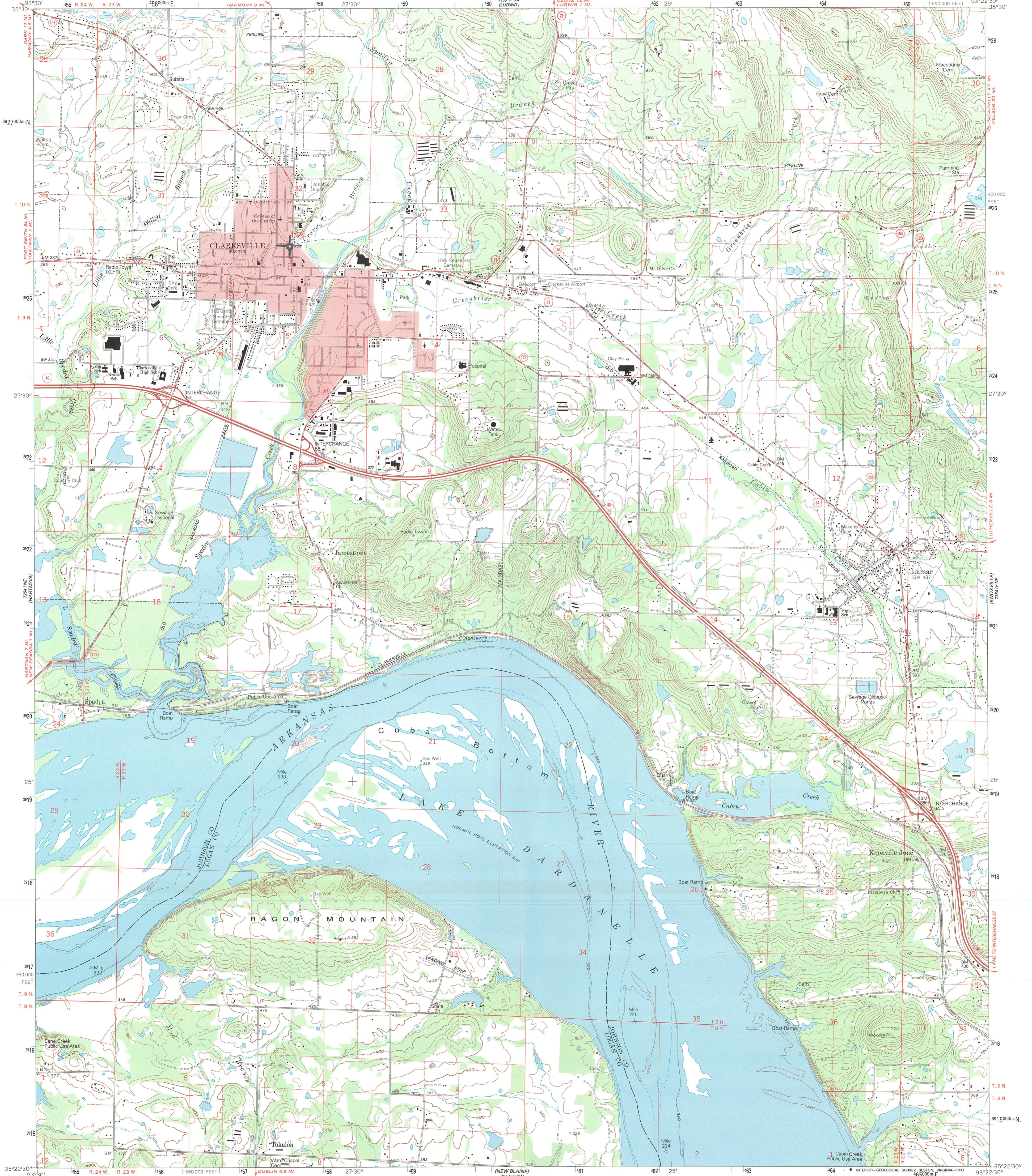
Photo by H. Hope

July 2006

Negative on file at AHPP

Detail from east

Clarksville National Guard Armory  
Clarksville, Johnson Co, AR  
15/457667/3925768



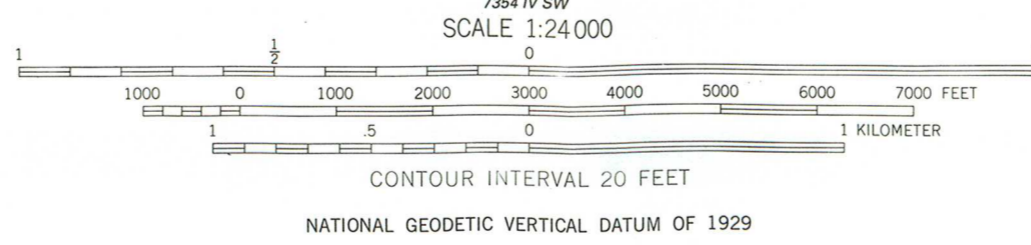
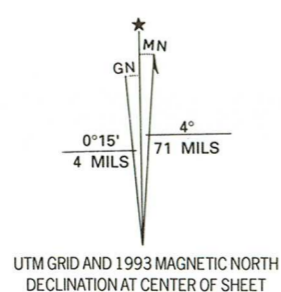
Produced by the United States Geological Survey

Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and USCE  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1958. Field checked 1962. Revised from aerial photographs taken 1989. Field checked 1992. Map edited 1993

Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Arkansas coordinate system, north zone (Lambert conformal conic)  
Blue 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator ticks, zone 15 1927 North American Datum (NAD 27)

North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed corner ticks  
The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83 for 7.5-minute intersections are given in USGS Bulletin 1875

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown  
Unlabeled wells are gas wells



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

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

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092 AND ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72204  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

CLARKVILLE, ARK.  
35093-D4-TF-024

1993

DMA 7354 IV NW-SERIES V884



The Department of  
**Arkansas  
Heritage**

December 7, 2006

Mike Huckabee, Governor  
Cathie Matthews, Director

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



Arkansas Historic  
Preservation Program

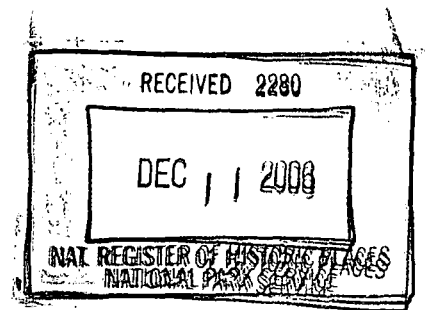
1500 Tower Building  
323 Center Street  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
(501) 324-9880  
fax: (501) 324-9184  
tdd: (501) 324-9811

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

website:

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

An Equal Opportunity Employer



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

RE: Clarksville National Guard Armory, Clarksville, Johnson  
County, Arkansas

Dear Dr. Matthews:

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

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathie Matthews  
State Historic Preservation Officer