

NPS Form 10-900  
(Rev. 10-90)

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 **Williamsburg Armory**  
other names/site number **Wh-W-12**

2. Location

street & number **S. Second St.** not for publication **N/A**  
city or town **Williamsburg** vicinity **N/A**  
state **Kentucky** code **KY** county **Whitley** code **235** zip code **40769**

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

*David L. Morgan*  
Signature of certifying official **David L. Morgan, SHPO / Excutive Director** **6-18-02**  
Date

**State Historic Peservation Office/ Kentucky Heritage Council**

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register *Elson R. Beall*  
 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* **9/6/02**  
Signature of Keeper Date  
of Action



8. Statement of Significance

**WILLIAMSBURG ARMORY**  
WH-W-12; Whitley County, KY

Applicable National Register Criteria

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "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 a grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance **MILITARY** \_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance **1941-1949**

Significant Dates **1941** \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person **N/A**

Cultural Affiliation **N/A**

Architect/Builder **Gregg, Edd R., architect**

**Builders unknown (WPA-funded project)** \_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Statement of Significance (begins p. 8-1)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Geographical Data  
Acreage of Property .20 acres

**WILLIAMSBURG ARMORY**  
WH-W-12; Whitley County, KY

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone Easting	Northing	Zone Easting	Northing	
1	16	753 880	4069	250	Williamsburg Quad
2					
3					
4					

Verbal Boundary Description and Boundary Justification (see p. 10-2)

11. Form Prepared By  
name/title Kate Carothers

organization Kentucky Archaeological Survey date 4-16-99

street & number 1020A Export St. telephone (606) 257-1944  
city or town Lexington state KY zip code 40502

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Commonwealth of Kentucky

street & number Boone National Guard Center telephone (502) 564-0269

city or town Frankfort state KY zip code 40601

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

**WILLIAMSBURG ARMORY**  
WH-W-12; Whitley County, KY

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Kentucky's National Guard Facilities: 1931-1951 MPS

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**Narrative Description**

The Williamsburg Armory (WH-W-12) was funded in part by the Works Progress Administration, and is located near downtown on South Second Street. The armory is similar in appearance to the other WPA-era, two-story armories, such as Harrodsburg and Springfield. This armory has not been painted like the ones in Harlan and St. Matthews. The armory is a grey two-story poured concrete building with attached two-story drill hall/maintenance shop combination at the rear. Like the other five WPA armories of this time period, Williamsburg was designed by Louisville architect Edd R. Gregg. The building is topped by a flat, rolled asphalt roof and has elements of the Art Deco architectural style, with its linear and horizontal ornamentation on the east elevation (front facade). The original double wooden doors and hardware on the front of the seven-bay building are intact, as are most of the metal casement windows.

On the north and south elevations of the building, both the administrative and drill hall windows are original metal-casement and metal multi-light windows. The first floor (north elevation) features three garage bays. Above this is the barrel-vaulted drill hall.

On the interior of the armory, most of its original features are intact, including virtually every original wooden door with metal hardware, radiators, and the original hardwood drill hall floor. The original dedication plaque is intact in the entryway. A tiled floor has been put down on the first floor, but the rooms have not been altered or changed, otherwise.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

The Williamsburg Armory (WH-W-12) meets criteria A (historic association) and C (type of construction) of the National Register. The armory is a good example of the National Guard in Kentucky within the historic context of "Kentucky's National Guard Armories: 1931-1951." The armory served as both a military and community center during the period of significance, and it meets the registration requirements established for the armory property type because it possesses integrity of location, materials, design, and setting. The Williamsburg Armory is still in the residential/industrial setting in which it was built. The armory is still recognizable as such on both the interior and exterior, and has high integrity of materials and design. The armory is still owned by the National Guard, and has integrity of association. The old armory maintains a very high degree of integrity, with almost all of its original materials intact. The building is still owned by the Commonwealth of Kentucky and is currently being leased to Cumberland College, who uses the building for storage. The National Guard occupied the building until 1982, when they moved to a new armory close to Highway 75.

A military unit has been in Williamsburg since the Civil War, but a unit was not Federally recognized

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WH-W-12; Whitley County, KY

**National Register of Historic Places  
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Kentucky's National Guard Facilities: 1931-1951 MPS

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there until 1921, when Company D of the 149th Infantry was installed. The Infantry unit served in World War II; they were stationed in the South Pacific from 1941-1945. In addition to Infantry, the unit has been the 241st Tank Battalion, the 438th Military Police, and Infantry again. Currently, detachment 1 of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 1/149th Infantry are in Williamsburg. The armory served as both a home for the National Guard and a community center for Williamsburg during the period of significance. Mr. Edward Freeman, a member of the Cumberland College staff and life-long resident of Williamsburg, remembers activities such as "... church group meetings, square dances, and basketball games..." taking place in the armory when it was still owned by the National Guard." (Interview with Mr. Freeman, July, 1998). In addition, the armory was used as a voting precinct for the area.

The Williamsburg Armory was one of eight Works Progress Administration armories built between 1941-42, and was the first armory built in Williamsburg. The Foster Lane family donated the land for the armory in 1940.

**Verbal Boundary Description** - The parcel designated by the Whitley County PVA as tax map/parcel #111-30-07-007.00.

**Verbal Boundary Justification** - The chosen boundary encompasses the lot historically associated with the Williamsburg Armory, including the land on which the armory sits, for a total of .20 acres.

**Bibliography**

Historical Annual of the National Guard of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Author unknown.  
Baton Rouge: Army and Navy Publishing Company, 1938.

Interview with Mr. Edward Freeman, July 1998.

Interview with Mr. Jerry Rabold, July 1998.

Phone Interview with armory manager SGT Tony Jones, June 1998.