



The Department of  
**Arkansas  
Heritage**

Mike Beebe  
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

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December 6, 2012

Ms. Carol Shull  
Chief of Registration  
United States Department of the Interior  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
8th Floor  
1201 Eye Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005



11000693

RE: Camp Chaffee Tank Destroyer Battalion Historic District –  
**Name Change- Camp ~~District~~ Chaffee Historic District**  
**(Preferred Name)**– Fort Smith, Sebastian County, Arkansas

Dear Ms. Shull:

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. As part of the National Register of Historic Places Nomination, we are seeking both a name change as well as contributing additional documentation.

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

Sincerely,

Cathie Matthews  
State Historic Preservation Officer

CM:tar

Enclosure

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
**National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form**



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instruction in National Register Bulletin *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (formerly 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Camp Chaffee Historic District (Preferred)

other names/site number Camp Chaffee Tank Destroyer Battalion Historic District, SB1139-SB77, SB1179-SB1181, and SB1183-SB87

### 2. Location

street & number Area roughly bound by Terry St., Ward Ave., Ellis St., and Darby Ave. not for publication ☐

city or town Fort Smith

vicinity ☐

state: Arkansas code: AR county: Sebastian code: 131 zip code: 72923

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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.)

Charlie Matthews  
Signature of certifying official/Title

12/6/12  
Date

State or Federal agency or Tribal government

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

Signature of commenting official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau or Tribal government

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

- ☐ 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

Camp Chaffee Historic District (Preferred)

Name of Property

Sebastian County, Arkansas

County and State

## 5. 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  
☐ object

### Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing

Noncontributing

44	2	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
44	2	Total

### Name of related multiple property listing.

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

"We've Gotta Get Tough":History of World  
War II Home Front Efforts in Arkansas,  
1941-1946

### Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

## 6. Function or Use

### Historic Function

(Enter categories from instructions)

Military: military facility

### Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Vacant  
Commerce/Trade: business  
Industry/Processing/Extraction: manufacturing  
facility

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Plain-Traditional

### Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete, Concrete block  
walls Metal, Aluminum, Weatherboard  
roof Metal, Asphalt  
other

## Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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### DESCRIPTION

The Camp Chaffee Historic District is an excellent example of a United States Army constructed barracks building district from the World War II era. While a fine example of World War II construction, it also tells the story of those who were stationed at Fort Chaffee (Camp Chaffee) through World War II and a portion of the Cold War. Located near Fort Smith, Arkansas, bound roughly by Terry St., Ward Ave., Ellis St., and Darby Ave., the buildings were constructed by the United States Army. As part of the enlargement of the cantonment for two tank destroyer battalions, there were four building types used in the construction of both military barracks and other military buildings bound between the Terry St., Ward Ave., Ellis St., and Darby Ave. roadways.

The site, on which the Camp Chaffee Historic District is located, is generally set on the northwest side of the camp in Fort Smith, Arkansas. Surrounding the barracks on three of the four sides are long, narrow, one and two-story barrack and mess hall buildings. Nearly all of the buildings have been clad in aluminum siding since they were constructed c. 1942. Even though many of the barracks have been clad in aluminum siding, the original weatherboard siding is still located beneath the aluminum. Several of the previous and current tenants of buildings within the district boundaries have taken steps to remove the aluminum to rehabilitate the buildings exteriors to their c. 1942 cladding.

As previously stated, there are six different designs of buildings found within the boundaries of the Camp Chaffee Historic District. There are two types of building designs for the one-story structures, two types of building designs used for the two-story structures, a Chapel, and a modern pole barn. Of the six designs, the biggest difference the two groups come from the one-story structures. The two-story structures (barracks) have only two real differences which come from the location of the ladder on the second-story and the location of windows on the corresponding side. The one-story buildings have significant differences between the two types of building. In one type, the entire building is elevated using piers, while the other type of building is constructed on a concrete slab; with the back half elevated using piers.

#### **Mess Hall- (One Story, completely set up on piers)**

##### *Front Façade*

The front façade of the mess halls face northwest and are situated on the front gabled portion of the building. Many of the mess halls are clad with aluminum siding which is also found on the other three sides of the barracks building. However, building 803, 854, and 857 still retain the original exterior cladding of novelty siding. The other mess halls retain the novelty siding beneath the aluminum cladding which is the main exterior cladding for the other buildings. A set of either wooden or concrete steps are located perpendicular to the front façade. They lead up to the wooden door, which contains three wooden inset panels on the bottom and four small square lights situated to create one large square. The door is located on the right side of the facade. Centrally located on the front façade is an eight-over-eight, double-hung window. Directly above that window, but below the ridgeline is a rectangular-louvered vent which allows air circulation throughout the attic space. Another small flood light is located just to the right of the vent. On the northeast side of the front façade is a narrow, rectangular four-over-four, double-hung window. The front gabled roof contains a boxed cornice that projects slightly from the exterior wall.

##### *East Elevation*

The east elevation consists of a centrally-located aluminum, single-action door. A small six-step, concrete staircase allows access to this entrance. Above the entrance is another small flood light, which accentuates the entrance. Located to the right of the centrally-



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located entrance is another small louvered vent, which is centrally located between the floor and the boxed cornice. Just below the vent, and located at ground level, is a small lattice fence, which surrounds an air conditioner condenser unit. Positioned to the left of the centrally located aluminum-entrance, are seven, eight-over-eight, double-hung, windows. The top of the window frame is located directly in line with the roof eave. At the far left of the building, there is a small gas meter, which supplies natural gas to the building for heat. On the east side of the roof, there are three attic ventilators, which are evenly spaced along the northeast side of the ridgeline. There are also two vent stacks, located on either end of the barracks building.

### *South Elevation*

The east elevation has limited fenestration. There is a centrally located aluminum entrance, which is elevated approximately three feet off the ground. A concrete stairway, with tubular handrails, leads down from the entrance to the ground via nine steps. Located above the entrance is another small flood light and rectangular, louvered vent. Located to the left of the entrance is another air conditioner condenser unit, along with an electrical meter box. There is no fenestration on the right side of the door.

### *West Elevation*

The west elevation contains more fenestration than the rest of the Mess Hall. The entrance, sits slightly to the left of center. The steps leading to the platform run perpendicular to the building and are accentuated by a seven-step rise to the platform. There are nine, eight-over-eight, double-hung windows, located to the right of the front entrance. There are also four smaller, four-over-eight, single-hung windows located to the left of the front entrance. There is also a small vent stack located in the upper left portion of the roof near the ridgeline.

### *Variations*

Though the design of the buildings is very similar, there is a possibility that there are variations on the location of the windows. According to several tables depicting various changes during construction, some of the buildings were modified and are reflected in the report *World War II Structures at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas: Fort Chaffee Cultural Resources Studies Report No. 15* by Jeffrey Blakely and John D. Northrip.

### **Storehouse and Recreation Building- (One-Story, with piers and concrete slab foundations)**

#### *Front Façade*

The front entrance to the building distinguishes the front façade of the Storehouse and Recreation Building by being offset slightly to the left of the center of the elevation with a hollow-core aluminum door. On either side of the front entrance, there is a one-over-one, double-hung window. For many of the Storehouses and Recreation Buildings, they are clad with aluminum siding which is also found on the other three sides of the barracks building. However, Building 862 retains the original exterior cladding of novelty siding. The other Storehouse and Recreation Buildings retain the novelty siding, though it is beneath the aluminum siding which is the main exterior cladding for the other buildings.

#### *East Elevation*

The east elevation begins to reveal the separate areas within the storehouse, the front portion (north) is set on a solid concrete slab foundation, and the back portion (south) is set on a pier foundation. This bisection of the storehouse is also visible along the roofline where the front portion (north) is set lower than the back portion (south). The front portion (north) contains three, one-

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over-one, double-hung windows and a small overhead door. Though the location of the door can be found in almost all of the storehouse buildings there are still several of the openings that retain dual sliding doors allowing access for trucks to load and unload cargo as troop movements were called upon. Moving right to left or north to south, the next architectural feature is the intersection of the lower and upper rooflines, which visually shows the separation of the storehouse from the rest of the building.

The next portion of the building is elevated slightly compared to the front since it sets on a foundation of piers. Located lower and to the left of the roofline change, there is another small one-over-one, double-hung window. Located to the left of the window is a set of steps leading to a small platform landing providing access to an elevated doorway. The platform contains round tubular handrails, which allows access to the entrance. The hollow-core doorway is accentuated by a horizontal, rectangular window just above the door handle. The door swings left to right across the entrance platform. Above the door is a small flat porch cantilevered off the side of the building with two braces attached to the front of the porch roof and to the building. To the left of the first entranceway, is a set of double doors, which allows access to a mechanical room for HVAC. To the left of the double doors is another single, one-over-one, double-hung window. Located to the left of the windows is a second elevated entranceway. It is identical to the first entrance. Located to its left is another one-over-one, double-hung window before the building terminates at the corner.

### *South Elevation*

The south elevation of the building varies from storehouse building to storehouse building. Though this elevation has limited ornamentation, it usually is comprised of one of three patterns. The first pattern consists of a single, one-over-one, double-hung window centrally located on the elevation. The second pattern consists of three, one-over-one, double-hung windows evenly spaced on the elevation. While, the third pattern usually consists of a single, hollow-core door centrally located within the elevation. If a single door is used there is a small flat porch cantilevered off the side of the building with two braces attached to the front of the porch roof and to the building.

### *West Elevation*

The west elevation is much like the east elevation, working right to left across the elevation there is first a small, one-over-one, double-hung window. Located to the left of the window is a set of steps leading to a small platform landing providing access to an elevated doorway. The platform contains round tubular handrails, which allows access to the entrance. The hollow-core doorway is accentuated by a horizontal rectangular window just above the door handle. The door swings left to right across the entrance platform. Above the door is a small flat porch cantilevered off the side of the building with two braces attached to the front of the porch roof and to the building. To the left of the entrance are a set of three, one-over-one, double-hung windows. The middle window of the three is more narrow and set slightly higher than the surrounding other two windows. There is limited ornamentation located between the set of windows and the next entranceway. The entranceway mimics the other three elevated doorways. To the left of the entranceway, is another one-over-one, double-hung window. This window is the last feature before returning to the front portion of the building, which is set lower and substantiated by the lower roofline, discussed earlier. Located to the left of the change in height there is another one-over-one, double-hung window. Between this window and the next two side by side windows there is limited ornamentation. Then the next two windows are similar one-over-one, double-hung windows.

### *Variations*

As noted, there are several variations located throughout this type of building. On the front elevation, the door is usually centered or slightly offset to one side or the other possibly with a window located on either side. The east and west elevations vary

considerably. In general, there were usually two doors to these elevations with windows intermittently. The south elevation and its variations were talked about considerably in the previous section.

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### Two-Story Barracks Building.

The two-story barracks buildings are very similar to each other from form to form. There are really only two small variations from one type of two-story barracks to the other two-story barracks building. The major difference is the location of the second story ladder, which is located on the back of the buildings. In one type of building, it is located on the left and on the other type is located to the right of the two entrances. The window arrangements on either side of the building are identical for each type of building, but they are reversed. For example, while facing the rear of the barracks building the ladder is on the left of the two doors, the concrete pad and double doors will be on the right side (west elevation) of the barracks. However, if the ladder is located to the right of the two doors, the concrete pad and double doors will be on the left side (east elevation).

#### *Front façade*

The front façade of both types of barracks consist of a centrally located double door, with a set of concrete steps leading to the front entrance. There is a small louvered ventilator located to either the left or the right of the double door entrance. The vent location varies depending on the location of the ladder on the back of the barracks. (The two items have no other significance to each other.) Occasionally there will be a small casement window directly opposite the vent on the other side of the double doors. Above the door is a small flat porch cantilevered off the side of the building with two braces attached to the front of the porch roof and to the building. Directly above the cantilevered porch, is a small single, one-over-one double-hung window centrally located below the ridge of the roof. Just above the window, but below the ridgeline, is another bigger louvered ventilator used to replace stagnant air from the second-story, with fresh air. It is about the size of a single window. The louvered ventilator is another variation from building to building. The window size louvered ventilator is found on only a small number of two-story barracks. However, the majority of the barracks have a large triangular louvered ventilator that stretches from the ridgeline to the edge of the eaves.

#### *Ladder Side*

The side with the corresponding ladder arrangement consists of a small casement window located near the front corner of the barracks. To the left of the small casement window are two one-over-one, double-hung windows. However, on several of the barracks, these two windows are either missing or were never placed on this elevation at all. Moving to the left there is a small-unornamented area between the two, one-over-one, double-hung windows and another set of six, one-over-one, double-hung windows. After the sixth window, the elevation comes to an end but not before making the corner for the rear of the building.

#### *Rear Elevation*

The rear elevation of the barracks consists of a small concrete staircase with tubular metal handrails, which leads up to a set of doorways. One doorway opens to the left and the other to the right. This elevation generally varies from building to building, but usually consists of two vents, one on either side of the two single doors. There is also the inclusion of a second story ladder. This ladder, as previously mentioned could be located one either the right or left of the two first-floor doorways. The factor in determining whether the ladder is located to the right or left is location of the second story doorway. If the doorway is located above the right door on the first floor, the ladder will be located to the right of the first floor doorway and vise-a-versa. Above each of the entrances, both first and second floor there are small flat porches cantilevered off the side of the building with two braces attached to the front of the porch roof and to the building. Located just below the ridgeline is a louvered ventilator used to replace stagnant air from the second-story, with fresh air similar to the one found on the front façade.

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### *Non-Ladder Side Elevation*

The non-ladder side elevation really varies very little from building to building. In moving right to left, there are six, one-over-one, double-hung windows. There is a small gap between the group of six windows and the next one-over-one, double-hung window. Located below this last window is a concrete pad. It is unknown at this time what the concrete pad was used for originally. To the left of the concrete pad, there is a set of full-length double doors. The second story consists of six, one-over-one, double-hung windows located directly above the six windows on the first floor and two more one-over-one windows located directly above the concrete pad. A chimney is located along the bottom edge of the roof, directly between the two groups of windows on this elevation. On most of the buildings, there are two attic ventilators, which are used to move fresh air through the attic or wall cavity space.

### **Chapel.**

Located within the district is one of the ten chapels used by the Protestant, Catholic and Jewish congregations.<sup>3</sup> The building was once entirely clad in weatherboard, but has since been changed to aluminum siding to blend in with the surrounding barrack buildings. A. Farnell Blair built the Chapel in 1942 as part of the Armored Division Contract.<sup>4</sup>

### *Front Façade*

The front façade of the chapel is accessed by a large set of six steps, which leads to a centrally located entranceway located in the center of the square steeple. The foundation is clad in stone similar to the stone found through the entire foundation. The square steeple protrudes from the rest of the façade so that it may become the focal point of the building. The entranceway is in-set into the steeple and contains a single wood-panel door. A small pediment is located just above the entranceway. To both the right and the left of the entranceway and centrally located within the two bays, is a single one-over-one, double-hung window. The second story of the steeple contains a narrow louvered vent, which is centrally located on the front of the steeple. A tall pyramidal roof with a small ornate lightning rod at the top covers the steeple.

### *Northwest Elevation*

The northeast elevation contains five, four-pane, casement windows moving right to left. To the left of the last four-pane, casement window is a HVAC unit ductwork, which enters this elevation twice in this location. To the left of the ductwork is a single, one-over-one, double-hung, window, and then there is a small area of the elevation that is left unornamented before turning a corner. Upon turning the corner, a small set of concrete steps allows access to a metal, hollow-core door that is covered by a small shed-roof porch. The door remains on the northeast elevation of the addition while the small porch roof is supported off the northeast elevation. To the left of the door is a small single, one-over-one, double-hung window.

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<sup>3</sup> Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, *Camp Chaffee*, Folder 5, Camp Chaffee Materials, The Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Little Rock, Arkansas.; The Southwestern Bell Telephone Company book only depicts nine chapels but says that there are ten with the chapel in question not designated on the map.

<sup>4</sup> Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, *Camp Chaffee*, Folder 5, Camp Chaffee Materials, The Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Little Rock, Arkansas.; Camp Chaffee, Arkansas: Completion Report, Initial Construction Program, 1942. U.S. Engineer Office, Camp Chaffee, Arkansas. Completion Letter.; "A Brief History of... .. Camp Chaffee,": Camp Chaffee, AR, Date Unknown, Tank Destroyer Battalion Historic District Folder, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock, AR.



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### *Northeast Elevation*

The northeast elevation, or rear portion of the building, consists of a centrally-located doorway with a small louvered vent located to the left of the door. A shed roof covers the small addition that makes up half of the northeast elevation. A small chimney is located in the upper left corner of the shed roof, while a small louvered vent is centrally located on the main portion of the chapel just below the ridgeline of the gabled roof. On the northeast elevation of the main portion of the chapel is another small, one-over-one, double-hung window before the building makes another corner and completes the northeast elevation.

### *Southeast Elevation*

The southeast elevation consists of a small, one-over-one, double-hung window located on the small addition which protrudes from the northeast elevation of the main building. However, moving right to left across southeast elevation of the main building, there is a small, one-over-one, double-hung window and then five, one-over-one-over-one-over-one, casement windows. To the left of the five casement windows is another small, one-over-one, double-hung window that supports a window air-conditioner before the building terminates at the southeast corner.

### **Rowe Sheet Metal Works Building (Non-Contributing)**

The Rowe Sheet Metal Works Building is a steel framed, aluminum clad building on the edge of the district. The large rectangular building with a gabled roof was built c.2011 on a formerly vacant lot at the end of a row of Company Administration/Storehouses/Recreation area buildings.

### *Front Façade*

The front façade of the Rowe Sheet Metal Works Building is limited in its ornamentation. An aluminum framed door with a large glass window is centrally located on the façade. To both the right and left of the front entrance there is a long narrow sidelight. To the left and right of the door and sidelights is a single, horizontal sliding window. Near both of the corners on the front façade, there is a small louvered vent that is situated midway up the elevation. Above the door is a small flat roof that is cantilevered off the side of the building with two braces attached to the front of the roof and the other end to the building. However, located above the flat roof, but below the ridgeline of the gable roof, is a small metal sign that reads, "Rowe Sheet Metal Works."

### *Northeast Elevation*

The northeast elevation also is limited in its ornamentation. In moving right to left across the elevation there is a large exhaust fan vent and a single hollow-core, aluminum door, centrally located on the elevation. At the far left side of the elevation there is large covered work area for storage of large sheets of metal. The open air quality of the building reveals the steel skeleton of the structure.

### *Southwest Elevation*

The southwest elevation consists of the large open air, covered storage area with exposed steel skeleton. The rear of the main structure can be seen and consists of a large overhead garage door that is offset to the right of central of the building. To the upper-right of the garage door is a large ventilation fan. On the left side of the elevation in exactly the same location but reversed, is a second large ventilation fan.



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### *Northwest Elevation*

The northwest elevation consists of a large overhead garage door to the far right. To the left of the garage door there is a single hollow-core, aluminum door, centrally located on the elevation. Farther to the left is another large exhaust fan and another single hollow-core, aluminum door before coming to the corner.

### **Handball Court (Non-Contributing)**

Building 868 or the handball court, was constructed in 1974. This steel framed building with a concrete foundation is 1,184 ft<sup>2</sup> and is covered by a slight gable roof over the larger portion of the handball court and a small flat roof over the small entranceway. The building was originally used as a recreational handball court before being used as a storage site for the United States Marine Corps Toys for Tots campaign.

### *Front Façade*

The front façade faces northwest and is accessed by a small sidewalk that leads to a single aluminum doorway located on the right side of the elevation in the small gathering area. The small gathering area is attached to the bigger playing surface. The rest of the elevation contains no other ornamentation.

### *Northeast Elevation*

The northeast elevation contains no ornamentation and consist of only a solid aluminum panel that stretches nearly 1 ½ floors.

### *Southwest Elevation*

The southwest elevation only contains a large overhead garage door before for use in loading and unloading of equipment. It is unknown at this time, whether the garage door was added later. It is speculated that it was added later since it is not functional to have a garage door in a handball court.

### *Northwest Elevation*

The northwest elevation consists of an all aluminum elevation with no ornamentation other than the small entrance addition, which protrudes from the lower left corner of the northwest elevation.

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Resource #	Historic Name	Address	C/NC
SB1187	Building 128	12001 Ward Ave.	C
SB1186	Building 800	7301 Terry St.	C
SB1185	Building 802	7309 Terry St.	C
SB1038	Building 803	7313 Terry St.	C
SB1183	Building 805	7321 Terry St.	C
SB1181	Building 808	7405 Terry St.	C
SB1180	Building 809	7409 Terry St.	C
SB1179	Building 810	7413 Terry St.	C
SB1177	Building 812	7421 Terry St.	C
SB1175	Building 818	7300 Buckhorn St.	C
SB1174	Building 819	7304 Buckhorn St.	C
SB1173	Building 820	7308 Buckhorn St	C

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SB1172	Building 821	7312 Buckhorn St.	C
SB1171	Building 822	7316 Buckhorn St.	C
SB1170	Building 823	7400 Buckhorn St.	C
SB1169	Building 824	7404 Buckhorn St.	C
SB1168	Building 825	7408 Buckhorn St.	C
SB1167	Building 826	7412 Buckhorn St.	C
SB1166	Building 827	7416 Buckhorn St.	C
SB1165	Building 828	7420 Buckhorn St.	C
SB1164	Building 829	7424 Buckhorn St.	C
SB1163	Building 830	7428 Buckhorn St.	C
SB1150	Building 836	7301 Buckhorn St.	C
SB1151	Building 837	7305 Buckhorn St.	C

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(Preferred)

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SB1152	Building 838	7309 Buckhorn St.	C
SB1153	Building 839	7313 Buckhorn St.	C
SB1154	Building 840	7317 Buckhorn St.	C
SB1155	Building 841	7401 Buckhorn St.	C
SB1156	Building 842	7405 Buckhorn St.	C
SB1157	Building 843	7409 Buckhorn St.	C
SB1158	Building 844	7413 Buckhorn St.	C
SB1159	Building 845	7417 Buckhorn St.	C
SB1160	Building 846	7421 Buckhorn St.	C
SB1161	Building 847	7425 Buckhorn St.	C
SB1162	Building 848	7429 Buckhorn St.	C
SB1149	Building 854	7300 Ellis St.	C

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SB1148	Building 856	7308 Ellis St.	C
SB1147	Building 857	7312 Ellis St.	C
SB1146	Building 859	7402 Ellis St.	C
SB1145	Building 860	7406 Ellis St.	C
SB1144	Building 862	7412 Ellis St.	C
SB1142	Building 864	7420 Ellis St.	C
SB1141	Building 865	7424 Ellis St.	C
SB1140	Building 866	7428 Ellis St.	C
SB1139	Building 868	1182 Darby Ave.	NC
SB1176	Rowe Sheet Metal Works Building	7425 Terry St.	NC
	C: 44 (96%) NC: 2 (4%)		



## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **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.)

Property is:

- ☐ **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.

### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Military

### Period of Significance

1942-1946

### Significant Dates

1942

### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

### Cultural Affiliation

### Architect/Builder

A. Farnell Blair Construction Company

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

### 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:

Fort Chaffee Redevelopment Authority  
Army Corps. Of Engineers – Little Rock  
District.

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### SIGNIFICANCE

#### Significance

The Camp Chaffee Historic District near Fort Smith, Arkansas, is being amended to reflect new information, which has come about regarding the buildings at Fort Chaffee. The original nomination name and section did not reflect the true use of the buildings listed in the original National Register of Historic Places nomination where it was listed under local significance under **Criterion A** for its association with military base construction in Arkansas and its use as housing for the two tank destroyer battalions located at Camp Chaffee. It is also being listed as part of the context We've Gotta Get Tough":History of World War II Home Front Efforts in Arkansas, 1941-1946 under the property type Military Housing, Subdivisions, Federal Complexes, and Associated Landscapes.

The buildings nominated in the original National Register Nomination were used to house members of the Armored Division and non-divisional troops rather than the Tank Destroyer Battalions. In discovering this information, it also changes the contractors who built the barracks, mess halls, company administration and storage buildings.

#### Elaboration

The military has a long history in the Fort Smith, Arkansas, area. The area surrounding Fort Smith, Arkansas, has had military occupation since 1817, when sixty-four riflemen were sent to then Belle Point to try to keep the peace between the Cherokee and the Osage.<sup>5</sup> The area would again regain its military occupation in 1846 when a new garrison was constructed at what is today known as Fort Smith.<sup>6</sup> The military's occupation of the surrounding area really became strong during both the Mexican and Civil War. During the Mexican War, it was used as a supply depot for those men headed southwest. During the Civil War, the fort remained occupied by both the Confederacy and the Union throughout the war. In 1871, the fort was decommissioned thus ending a long period of occupation in the area until the pre-war mobilization of World War II.<sup>7</sup>

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 on Poland in September of 1939.<sup>8</sup> Between September 1939 and March 1940, a period known as the "phony war" because there were no major hostile acts or no land operations attempted during this period<sup>9</sup>, the United States government was already beginning to "[anticipate] a major emergency, [and began] to [press] for further rearmament."<sup>10</sup> It is at this time that troop preparation was beginning to increase. The military

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<sup>5</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>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Julie Webster, *Historical and Architectural Overview of Military Aircraft Hangars* (Champaign, IL: United States Army Construction Engineering Research Laboratory, 2001), 4-1.

<sup>9</sup> "Phony War." *Encyclopædia Britannica*. 2010. Encyclopædia Britannica Online.  
<<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/457343/Phony-War>>. (accessed Sep. 01, 2010).

<sup>10</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.

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had its sights set on a wartime force of 4 million troops. However, in order for the United States to be substantially ready for the possibility of war, it "would require two years from the time money [was] available"<sup>11</sup> to construct manufacturing plants, depots and military post construction reported Major General Wesson. It was not until the end of the "Phony War" in 1940 that real consideration was given to a vast mobilization of US troops and equipment.

With the military's mobilization coming into full operation by early 1941, the creation of Camp Chaffee near Fort Smith, Arkansas, was already beginning to take shape. The future camp would be named after "the Major General Adna Romanza Chaffee, father of the armored forces, and one of the first cavalry officers to visualize the tank as a natural successor to horse units in providing mobile striking power."<sup>12</sup> It was on May 5, 1941, that Black and Veatch, an architecture-engineering firm from Kansas City, Missouri, signed a contract to design the layout of the cantonment for the army base. It would only take three days for the firm of Black and Veatch to begin surveying the area of the proposed site.<sup>13</sup>

The proposed site for Camp Chaffee included Armored Division housing, housing for two tank battalions, 834 bed hospital, warehouses, and utilities "to serve an aggregated Military[sic] population of 21,535."<sup>14</sup> The construction of Camp Chaffee was assembled through two major programs known as the Armored Division and the Tank Destroyer Battalions. On August 6, 1941, contract plans and specifications were sent out to eight perspective bidders.<sup>15</sup> Of the eight perspective bidders, only four proposals were submitted. Of those four proposals, the company of A. Farnell Blair of Decatur, Georgia, came in with the low bid of \$15,512,786.25. With the bidding process completed, A. Farnell Blair agreed to the construction contract on September 5, 1941.<sup>16</sup> It was March 26, 1942, that A. Farnell Blair completed the initial construction and layout of the camp for the Armored Division and attachment units.<sup>17</sup>

However, this is not the first government project that the A. Farnell-Blair Construction Company had undertaken with much of their work taking place between 1940 and 1944. In 1940, the A. Farnell-Blair<sup>18</sup> Company was contracted to construct the Covington, Kentucky, Post Office under the Supervision of Architect Louis A. Simon.<sup>19</sup> Then in June 1941, Farnell-Blair accepted the contract for the construction of the Utility Building on the Maritime Training Station in St. Petersburg, Florida.<sup>20</sup> Following the construction of the Utility Building the contract for Camp Chaffee was signed and construction started. At the same time the A. Farnell-Blair Company was working on Camp Chaffee, the company was also sub-contracted to work on the establishment of the City of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, where they worked until at least 1944 along with other contractors.<sup>21</sup> A third project was bid on and

<sup>11</sup> Ibid, 109.

<sup>12</sup> Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, *Camp Chaffee*, Folder 5, Camp Chaffee Materials, The Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Little Rock, Arkansas.

<sup>13</sup> Jeffrey A. Blakely and John D. Northrip, "World War II Structures at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas" (Washington, D.C.: Department of Defense, 1991, University of Arkansas Fort Smith, Boreham Library, Library use only), 4-1.

<sup>14</sup> Camp Chaffee, Arkansas: Completion Report, Initial Construction Program, 1942. U.S. Engineer Office, Camp Chaffee, Arkansas. Completion Letter.

<sup>15</sup> Blakely and Northrip, 4-3.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid, 4-23.

<sup>17</sup> Camp Chaffee, Arkansas: Completion Report, Initial Construction Program, 1942, 1.

<sup>18</sup> Other buildings that the A. Farnell-Blair Construction Company constructed were the Blair- Rutland Building in Decatur, Georgia. This was the home office of A. Farnell-Blair Construction from 1939 to at least 1946, when the building was sold. The Blair-Rutland Building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2002 by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources- Historic Preservation Division.

<sup>19</sup> Rita Walsh, "Covington Downtown Commercial Historic District (District Expansion)" *National Register of Historic Places Nomination* (Lexington, KY: Kentucky Heritage Council, 1995, photocopied), 8-5.

<sup>20</sup> "\$88,592 Maritime Contracts Let," *The Evening Independent* (St. Petersburg, Florida, 6 June 1941, 1.

<sup>21</sup> Oak Ridge, Tennessee became well known after the end of World War II, as the home of one of the production sites for the Manhattan Project. George Robinson, *The Oak Ridge Story* (Kingsport, TN: Southern Publishers, Inc., 1950), 62.

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accepted in early 1942, for the construction of Camp Atterbury in Indiana.<sup>22</sup> Following the completion of Camp Chaffee the A. Farnell-Blair Company would be awarded the contract for the construction of the Mayo General Hospital in Galesburg, Illinois, which began construction around May 21, 1943 and served as the 3613 Service Unit to care for sick and wounded soldiers as well as prisoners of war.<sup>23</sup> Only a year later the company would help in the construction of the acoustical enclosure at Wright- Patterson Air Force Base outside of Dayton, Ohio, in 1944.<sup>24</sup>

The second portion of the major construction, as part of the military build up was the construction of the housing for two tank destroyer battalions. The bid for this portion of the cantonment was awarded to the Leck Construction Co. and the Jensen Construction Co. of Minneapolis, Minnesota, "as prime contractor, doing business as Leck-Jensen Construction Company."<sup>25</sup> This portion of the camp is located in the far south- southeast corner of the cantonment area and it still within the active installation.

The Armored Division Housing, located on the east side of the camp, was the beginning of the construction at Camp Chaffee, which would last through 1943 as part of the World War II build up. As part of the original layout of the camp, the first realignment was commissioned therefore causing the roadways and sewer system to be resurveyed in June 17, 1941. However, only five days later, the Armored Force, Quartermaster General's Office, and Zone Constructing Quartermaster's Office visited the project where they decided to construct a third layout for the camp. These constant changes kept the project moving slowly with several delays to reorient the housing stock. Consequently by June 25, 1941, the layout completed for the second revision was created "based on the use of 63 man barracks which were 29'6" wide by 80' long. Only three days later, the building plans would be changed again to accommodate 74 man barracks 25' wide by 110' long. This would cause the layout to be revised once again. Only a month later, after the plans had been revisited again on July 23, 1941, the barrack buildings were to be changed again. This time they kept the idea of the 74-man barracks, but changed the length and width. Instead of being 25' wide it was changed to 29'6" and instead of 110' long it was changed to 90'.<sup>26</sup> This change created another problem with the layout of the entire camp. Military regulations had called for there to be 50' of space between barracks.<sup>27</sup> The increase in the width from 25' to 29'6" caused there to be a decrease in space by 4'6". There were two options to fix the spacing issues caused by the increased size of the buildings. The first options would be to would be to realign the barrack to meet the 50' spacing or simply leave the current plan in place. After receiving special permission granted by the Office of the Quartermaster General the contractors went with leaving the spacing at 45'6". This change though very minor would be a change that affected the entire camp.

Even with the changes to the layout of the camp, the biggest changes came in the form of a new series of buildings. They were to be built at Camp Chaffee with a limited amount of labor and cost, therefore the Military went with a very simple form of building. As part of this ease of construction, "framing remained simple. Anticipated work force shortages made it necessary to use unskilled labor. Only a portion of those employed on building crews would be experienced in carpentry, so framing techniques were intentionally designed to be uncomplicated."<sup>28</sup> The need for this plain style of construction was seen when the Office of the Quartermaster General replaced the 700 series plan, with the 800 series plan, which was new the camp was implemented in late 1941 but modified in 1942. The elements typically found in the 800 series of building include: the elimination of the skirt roof over windows, the proportions of the two-story barracks buildings, ceiling height increased by five inches, from the apron of the

<sup>22</sup> While working on Camp Atterbury in Indiana, the A. Farnell-Blair Company constructed nearly three-fourths of the barracks and the sports arena located within the camp. Dorothy Riker, *The Hoosier Training Ground: A history of Army and Navy Centers, Forts, Depots, and Other Military Installations within the State Boundaries during World War II* (Bloomington, IN: Indiana War History Commission, 1952), 15.

<sup>23</sup> L. Willard Freeman, "Mayo General Hospital," *Journal of Illinois State Historical Society* (Spring 1951): 26-31.

<sup>24</sup> "Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Area B, Building 20A, Propeller Whirl Rigs Acoustical Enclosure," HABS-HAER Documents, Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. <<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/pp.print>> (Accessed on 3 July 2012).

<sup>25</sup> Ibid, 68.

<sup>26</sup> Ibid, 5.

<sup>27</sup> Ibid.

<sup>28</sup> John S. Garner, *World War II Temporary Military Buildings: A Brief History of the Architecture and Planning of Cantonment and Training Stations in the United States* (Champaign, IL: US Army Corps of Engineers, Construction Engineering Research Laboratories, 1993), 39.



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building to the apex of the roof was increased from 24'6" to 26'5", as well as shortening the over-hanging eave from three feet to nine inches with a boxed fascia and soffit. These elements, which were modified on creating the Series 800 building, are all found in the barracks, mess halls, company administration and storage buildings at Camp Chaffee.

After the completion of grading the site and staking the layout of the buildings, construction began on the Armored Division buildings and was completed by April 23, 1942. Only four months earlier on January 20, 1942,

"A revised table of organization required the addition of 57 new buildings in the Armored Division area to accommodate the increased personnel... due to the tight arrangement of the layout, it was difficult to find sites for all the required buildings within the areas where such additions were required. It was necessary to locate some of the barracks in the Mess Hall and Company Administration and storage building row."<sup>29</sup>

With only four months to construct fifty-seven buildings within the Mess Hall and Company Administration and storage building rows, the A. Farnell-Blair company began construction on this newly defined project as part of the larger Armored Division contract.

With the A. Farnell-Blair Company beginning the work of laying out the additional fifty-seven buildings the work began immediately on January 21, 1942.<sup>30</sup> There was minimal amount of clearing and grading that needed to take place for the construction of the new barracks in the Mess Hall and Company Administration and storage building rows, since most of that work had been completed during the initial phase of clearing and grading for the mess halls and administration buildings. This work was subcontracted out to the Western Contracting Corporation, of Sioux City, Iowa, with five crews each consisting of twenty-five to thirty men and one foreman. As worked neared completion the number of crews began to decrease. The clearing and grading both began on September 17, 1941, and ended March 26, 1942.<sup>31</sup> It took slightly longer than anticipated with the addition of the fifty-seven buildings added to the Armored Division contract.

As part of the authorization under the Supplementary Troop contract proposed by the U.S. Engineer Office<sup>32</sup>, the new facilities would be able to house 2,516 enlisted men and officers.<sup>33</sup> The completed housing area provided thirty-four enlisted men barracks for seventy-four men each for this complement area.<sup>34</sup> Another two barracks were added as part of this order, but were built for the sole purpose of housing individuals incarcerated within the stockade.

When construction began on January 21, 1942,<sup>35</sup> the A. Farnell- Blair Company had already subcontracted much of the work to the following companies.

Interstate Roofing Co., Anniston, Ala., Roofing and Sheet Metal work.  
O'Pry Heating and Plumbing Co. Atlanta, Ga., Plumbing and steam heating.  
George E. Reese Co., Chattanooga, Tenn., Hot Air and Duct work.  
Miller Electric Co., Jacksonville, Fla., Electrical work.

<sup>29</sup> Camp Chaffee, Arkansas: Completion Report, Initial Construction Program, 1942, 6.

<sup>30</sup> Ibid, 65.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid. 41.

<sup>32</sup> The United States Engineers Office was the precursor to the United States Corps of Engineers.

<sup>33</sup> Camp Chaffee, Arkansas: Completion Report, Initial Construction Program, 1942, 9.

<sup>34</sup> Though this addition to the Mess Hall and Company Administration and storage building rows, was able to hold 2,516 enlisted men, the nominated area only contains twenty-six of the thirty-four enlisted men barracks allowing for those barracks to hold 1,924 enlisted men. The other eight barracks have since been demolished.

<sup>35</sup> Camp Chaffee, Arkansas: Completion Report, Initial Construction Program, 1942, 65.



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Frank H. Abel, Dallas, Texas, Painting.<sup>36</sup>

The construction of these additional fifty-seven buildings as required by the change in the tables of organization for the Armored Division contracts, were all "completed in time for the acceptance with all structures provided for under the original contract."<sup>37</sup> As part of the original contract, the buildings that would be built would come from two types of construction, "namely mobilization and T/O"<sup>38</sup> type buildings.<sup>39</sup>

Since all of the construction being completed by multiple companies, the entire operation was "essentially" completed by May 26, 1942,<sup>40</sup> with the transfer of jurisdiction to the Post Authorities on the same date.<sup>41</sup> It was reported that the only thing that really slowed down the building process was the abnormal amount of rain in October.<sup>42</sup> In another article it states that visitors/sightseers and slow moving highway traffic were causing trucks to be hindered in moving from the supply source to the campsite.<sup>43</sup>

As completion of the cantonment came to a close and the general contractors left, the new camp was already beginning to fill with military personnel from across the United States. Even before the camp formally opened, it was stated that soldiers were already rolling in and that construction workers rolled merrily along.<sup>44</sup> The first three soldiers arrived at Camp Chaffee on Dec. 6, 1941.<sup>45</sup> From this point forward troop counts gradually rose at Camp Chaffee, and jumped substantially when the 6<sup>th</sup> Armored Division was ordered from Fort Knox, Kentucky to Camp Chaffee in March of 1942.<sup>46</sup> Though evidence may exist on whom it was that was stationed in the barracks throughout World War II, due to the separation of units, regiments and battalions, it is believed that any or all of the three-armored divisions or non-divisional troops stationed at Camp Chaffee probably were quartered in these barracks.

With the arrival of the 6<sup>th</sup> Armored Division from Fort Knox, Kentucky, on March 15, 1942, the camp began to evolve into one of the main post for the armored division. The 6<sup>th</sup> Armored Division was officially formed on February 15, 1942. "On March 4, 1942 the division received orders to move to Camp Chaffee,"<sup>47</sup> with the armored vehicles moved by train and the remaining personnel being moved the 660 miles by road from Fort Knox to Camp Chaffee.<sup>48</sup> After having completed 13-weeks of training<sup>49</sup>, the 6<sup>th</sup> Armored Division participated in a series of maneuvers undertaken in north and west-central Louisiana.<sup>50</sup> After the entire division

<sup>36</sup> Ibid, 64.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid, 65.

<sup>38</sup> Post Planning Board, 15.

<sup>39</sup> By 1946, there were only a few building the board would deem permanent: sewage lift stations, the hospital boiler plant, the D-OD ordinance shop building, the two incinerators and the water booster pump. (Ibid.) The T/O type construction was not originally suppose to last any great period of time, but even by 1946 the buildings were so well built by the A. Farnell-Blair Company that these type of building were in much better shape then those at other installations. (Ibid, 16)

<sup>40</sup> Camp Chaffee, Arkansas: Completion Report, Initial Construction Program, 1942, 68.

<sup>41</sup> Even though the majority were already transferred over to the Post Authority, the "last building was not transferred to the jurisdiction of the Post Authority until April 23, 1942. (Camp Chaffee, Arkansas: Completion Report, Initial Construction Program, 1942, 68).

<sup>42</sup> Ibid. 98. (It should also be noted, that the A. Farnell-Blair Company "credit[ed] ... for the contractor's efforts and accomplishment[s] in preparing the buildings to take troops on or before the completion dates," but that the all other aspects suffered due to lack of adequate direction and coordination. (Ibid.)

<sup>43</sup> Wagner, Ralph, "Chaffee Chatter," *Southwest-Times Record*, 1 March 1942. 6.

<sup>44</sup> Ibid.

<sup>45</sup> "First Enlisted Men Arrive at Camp," *Fort Smith Times Record*, 7 December 1941, 1.

<sup>46</sup> Blakely and Northrip, 6-10.

<sup>47</sup> Ibid.

<sup>48</sup> Ibid.

<sup>49</sup> The first four weeks was basic disciplinary training, then five weeks of specialist training, followed by four weeks of tactical training. (Blakely and Northrip, 6-10).

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returned to Camp Chaffee by September 26, 1942, the 6<sup>th</sup> Armored Division received orders to move to California, and began the move in October 1942.<sup>51</sup>

Following the 6<sup>th</sup> Armored Division move to California, where the 6<sup>th</sup> Armored division would train in the Mojave Desert for several months before being transferred again within California before landing at Camp Cooke. The 6<sup>th</sup> would remain at Camp Cooke until January 25, 1944, when they would be transferred to Camp Shanks, NY. By February 23, 1944, the 6<sup>th</sup> Armored Division had already left New York State and had landed for training in England. By July 18, 1944, the 6<sup>th</sup> Armored Division was landing on Utah Beach, taken only a month earlier in the Invasion of Normandy, France. One of the 6<sup>th</sup> Armored Division best distinctions came during the "Battle of the Bulge" when they took "over a sector of the south flank facing the north along the bank of the Sauer River."<sup>52</sup> As the military operation continued throughout Europe the 6<sup>th</sup> Armored Division continued to march east into Germany. By April 11, 1945, the 6<sup>th</sup> Armored division was outside the gates of the notorious German concentration camp Buchenwald and by 3:15 pm they had liberated nearly 21,000 Jewish citizens and Allied prisoners of war<sup>53</sup>. By the beginning of May 1945 the 6<sup>th</sup> Armored Division had crossed the Mulde River and taken up camp in Rochlitz, Germany, until VE Day on May 8, 1945. Following the end of hostilities in Europe, the 6<sup>th</sup> Armored was transported back to the United States where the 6<sup>th</sup> Armored Division was deactivated on September 18, 1945, at Camp Shanks, NY.<sup>54</sup> By the time the 6<sup>th</sup> Armored Division was deactivated they had spent two hundred seventy-two days of combat, gaining one metal of honor, twenty-four distinguished service crosses and three distinguished service medals.<sup>55</sup>

Even before the 6<sup>th</sup> Armored Division was departing Camp Chaffee, the 14<sup>th</sup> Armored Division was already beginning to fill the vacant bunks left by the 6<sup>th</sup> Armored Division. The 14<sup>th</sup> Armored Division was already beginning to put together the division's skeletal staff in October 1942, which is during the same period that the 6<sup>th</sup> Armored Division was beginning to pack and head to California, thus leaving the entire camp to the 14<sup>th</sup> Armored Division, which had still not filled its ranks yet.<sup>56</sup> However, on November 15, 1942, the 14<sup>th</sup> Armored Division was officially activated on the parade ground of Camp Chaffee.<sup>57</sup> However, the division was not completely manned until December 23, 1942.<sup>58</sup> While at Camp Chaffee the 14<sup>th</sup> Armored Division continued through rigorous amounts of basic training. Their training included everything from running through twenty-mile hikes, with fifty-pound packs. Other training exercises included the rifle range and 25<sup>th</sup> Street Anti-tank gun range. With the American and British forces forcing the Axis powers out of North Africa, the 14<sup>th</sup> Armored Division was gearing up for a possible move. However, their move was short lived as they were sent to Lebanon, Tennessee, for advanced training exercises.<sup>59</sup> Upon completing the Tennessee Maneuvers, the 14<sup>th</sup> was shipped to Camp Campbell, Kentucky, where they would endure another round of advanced training and war games. Once training was complete, the 14<sup>th</sup> Armored Division had been training for nearly two years.<sup>60</sup>

<sup>50</sup> In military history from 1941 to the present day, maneuvers like these are termed Louisiana Maneuvers. The last set of large-scale maneuvers took place between 1992 and 1996. (James L. Yarrison, *The Modern Louisiana Maneuvers* (Washington D.C.: U.S. Chief of Military History, 1999), iii.

<sup>51</sup> George F. Hofmann, *The Super Sixth: History of the 6<sup>th</sup> Armored Division in World War II and its post-war Association*. (Louisville, KY: Sixth Armored Division Association, 1975), 23.

<sup>52</sup> United States Army 6<sup>th</sup> Armored Division, *Combat History of the 6<sup>th</sup> Armored Division: In the European Theatre of Operations 18 July 1944—8 May 1945* (Yadkinville, NC: Ripple Publishing Company, 1946), 114.

<sup>53</sup> United State of America War Office, *The Army Almanac* (Washington D.C.: United States Government Printing office, 1950), 577.

<sup>54</sup> United States of America War Office, 578.

<sup>55</sup> Ibid, 577.

<sup>56</sup> Blakely and Northrip, 6-12.

<sup>57</sup> Ibid.

<sup>58</sup> Hugh Warren West and John Scura, *Recon Trooper: A Memoir of Combat with the 14<sup>th</sup> Armored Division in Europe, 1944-1945* (Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland and Company, Inc., 2010), 27.

<sup>59</sup> Ibid, 38. It is quite possible that while the 14<sup>th</sup> was stationed in Tennessee, there were actually housed near Cumberland University which was the headquarters for the Tennessee Maneuvers.

<sup>60</sup> Ibid, 29.

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After finishing training at Camp Campbell, Kentucky, the 14<sup>th</sup> Armored Division was set for deployment. After a short train trip up to New York, the entire division “gathered in Camp Shanks on October 8, 1944.”<sup>61</sup> By Oct. 14, 1944, the 14<sup>th</sup> had set sail for

Marseilles, France, where they landed on Oct. 29, 1944.<sup>62</sup> Within two weeks of landing the 14<sup>th</sup> was fully engulfed the atrocities of war. After moving through the Vosges Mountains, the 14<sup>th</sup> moved through the “hard fighting [areas] of Gertwiller, Benfeld and Barr”<sup>63</sup> before the German defenses fell. After working across eastern France into southern Germany the 14<sup>th</sup> Armored Division was approaching Moosburg, Germany. Moosburg was home to Stalag VII-A prison of war camp which when liberated in late April 1945, by the 14<sup>th</sup> Armored Division, held between 80,000 to 110,000 allied prisoners of war. This would be the last large scale operation the 14<sup>th</sup> would participate in as the processing of the prisoners of war would last through the end of the war in Europe. They would later return to the United States on September 7, 1945, and be deactivated only nine days later. The 14<sup>th</sup> Armored Division and the strong training which took part at Camp Chaffee helped the soldier of the 14<sup>th</sup> Armored Division bring home numerous distinctions like one medal of honor, nine distinguished service crosses, and one distinguished service medal. These are a tribute to the training received while stationed at Camp Chaffee.<sup>64</sup>

Even while the 14<sup>th</sup> Armored Division was still stationed at Camp Chaffee, construction of the new Armored Division barracks were still being constructed on the west side of camp. With the completion of the new barracks and the proximity to the warehouse area and barracks located within that area which are the subject of the nomination. The 16<sup>th</sup> Armored division was activated on July 15, 1943. Much of the history of the 16<sup>th</sup> Armored Division while stationed at Camp Chaffee is currently unattainable. It is known that they were later transferred to France and arrived there on February 11, 1945, where they were put on security duty in Nurnberg, Germany, right away. After small activities on their way to Indorf, Germany,<sup>65</sup> they had seized several small villages before being recalled to Nurnberg, Germany. By May, the 16<sup>th</sup> had marched into the City of Pilsen (Plzeň), Czechoslovakia, known for its beer brewing production, with little resistance. For the rest of the war in Europe, the 16<sup>th</sup> was patrolling the area around Pilsen (Plzeň). The activity would mark “the deepest penetration into Czechoslovakia” by any American troops. By October 6, 1945, the 16<sup>th</sup> had embarked for the journey back to the United States and went inactive only nine days later on October 15, 1945.<sup>66</sup>

Of these three Armored Division which were located at Camp Chaffee during World War II any of the three could have possibly used the barrack buildings being nominated for the National Register of Historic Places because of their activities while at Camp Chaffee and abroad. However, there is one other possible group of men that could have used these barracks during this time, this group of men would be the non-divisional troops who would enlist at Camp Chaffee before being sent to other battalions or inserted into battalions located at Camp Chaffee.<sup>67</sup> It is known that by 1943, with the addition of more barracks to the northeast of West Warehouse St., currently known as Tyler St., that nearly 1000 non-divisional troops were to be stationed in this area. Therefore, it is also possible that due to a possible lack of house for these troops that the barracks and other buildings could have housed these non-divisional troops.<sup>68</sup>

With the end of World War II, there was little need to maintain the barracks assigned to the battalions, and they were converted to solely housing for non-divisional troops stationed at Camp Chaffee. In June of 1946, “a report entitled *Analysis of Existing*

<sup>61</sup> Ibid, 50.

<sup>62</sup> United States of America War Office, 583.

<sup>63</sup> Ibid. 582.

<sup>64</sup> Ibid, 583.

<sup>65</sup> Indorf, Germany is currently a small community about a mile southeast of Erding, Germany.

<sup>66</sup> United States of America War Office, 84.

<sup>67</sup> By contemporary military standard, the term non-divisional troops, no longer is used to describe this type of soldiers. Soldier found to be in this situation are often referred to as “feeder soldiers” and are often used to resupply battalions with more soldiers as needed.

<sup>68</sup> It is also known that by 1958, these barracks located with the National Register District boundary, were also used to house troops who were newly inducted into the army before being transported elsewhere to be aligned with a certain battalion or division. (Joey Chasteen, email message to author, October 22, 2012, Camp Chaffee Armored Division Historic District file, Arkansas Historic Preservation Office.)

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*Facilities:* Camp Chaffee was prepared by the Post Planning Board of Camp Chaffee,<sup>69</sup> and called for the base to remain active for use by the Infantry Division for training. As part of this report, it also stated that the base was able to expand in case the need arose.<sup>70</sup> However, the report was not accepted and on July 31, 1946, the base was placed on inactive status though it was still a military installation.<sup>71</sup> As it turned out this was just the first cycle of activity and inactivity that the installation would see over the next 45 years. The installation would be "opened and closed eight additional times..."<sup>72</sup> including 1956, when Camp Chaffee was designated as part of the fort class making it a permanent installation.<sup>73</sup> The district would be the site to another social media event in 1958, when famed rock n' roll star Elvis Presley received his famous GI hair cut in Building 803. However, even with the inactivity at the camp, maintenance crews did general upkeep on the facilities throughout this period. Consequently, "in 1995 the Defense Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission recommended the permanent closure of Fort Chaffee, AR."<sup>74</sup> With this recommendation, the base was permanently closed on September 27, 1997, with the change of Command Ceremony at Fort Chaffee.<sup>75</sup> The Fort Chaffee Redevelopment Authority with only a few properties that are privately owned, owns the base and most of the area associated with the district. The Fort Chaffee Redevelopment Authority, has plans to make this the historic conservation area of the redevelopment of the base, with a Historic Preservation Core and buffer area.<sup>76</sup>

The housing provided for any of these armored division or non-divisional troops provides an opportunity to explain military history to those that come to see what is left of what was Camp Chaffee and later Fort Chaffee. With the divisions serving in all magnitudes of military and social life through out the Camp Chaffee area, it is easy to see the history start to fade, as Camp Chaffee is lost in the record books. Thus keeping the barracks and other building associated with the Armored Divisions and non-divisional troops only continue to maintain the military heritage that the area around Fort Chaffee has been living since 1817. Therefore, the Camp Chaffee Historic District near Fort Smith, Arkansas, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A** for its association with military base construction in Arkansas and its association with the Armored Divisions of World War II.

<sup>69</sup> Blakely and Northrip, 6-15.

<sup>70</sup> Post Planning Board, *Analysis of Existing Facilities: Camp Chaffee* (Camp Chaffee, Arkansas: Post Planning Board, 1946), 14.

<sup>71</sup> Ibid. 6-16.

<sup>72</sup> Ibid.

<sup>73</sup> "Chaffee Goes Into Fort Class; It's Permanent," *Arkansas Gazette*, 22 March 1956, 1B.

<sup>74</sup> "Fort Chaffee," <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/facility/fort-chaffee.htm> (accessed September 20, 2010).

<sup>75</sup> Ibid.

<sup>76</sup> Information provided by the Plans designed by Crafton Tull Sparks. Fort Chaffee Development Authority.



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Camp Chaffee Historic District (Preferred)

Name of Property

Sebastian County, Arkansas

County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 19

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1.	<u>  /  /  </u> Zone	<u>  /  /  /  /  /  /  /  /  </u> Easting	<u>  /  /  /  /  /  /  /  /  </u> Northing
2.	<u>  /  /  </u> Zone	<u>  /  /  /  /  /  /  /  /  </u> Easting	<u>  /  /  /  /  /  /  /  /  </u> Northing
3.	<u>  /  /  </u> Zone	<u>  /  /  /  /  /  /  /  /  </u> Easting	<u>  /  /  /  /  /  /  /  /  </u> Northing
4.	<u>  /  /  </u> Zone	<u>  /  /  /  /  /  /  /  /  </u> Easting	<u>  /  /  /  /  /  /  /  /  </u> Northing

[ X ] See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Travis Ratermann, Survey Historian  
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date 12/6/2012  
street & number 323 Center St. 1500 Tower Building telephone 501-324-9874  
city or town Little Rock state AR zip code 72201

## Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps:

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

### Photographs

Representative images of the property.

### Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

## Property Owner

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

name Fort Chaffee Redevelopment Corps.  
street & number 7020 Taylor Ave telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Fort Smith state AR zip code 72916

**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. 470 *et seq.*). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to range from approximately 18 hours to 36 hours depending on several factors including, but not limited to, how much documentation may already exist on the type of property being nominated and whether the property is being nominated as part of a Multiple Property Documentation Form. In most cases, it is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form to meet minimum National Register documentation requirements. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

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National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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### GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

#### UTM

- 1.) 15 E381477 N3908205
- 2.) 15 E381765 N3908510
- 3.) 15 E381793 N3908482
- 4.) 15 E381761 N3908447
- 5.) 15 E381877 N3908336
- 6.) 15 E381625 N3908066

#### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Starting at the corner of Darby Ave. and Terry St., at UTM 15 E381477 N3908205, travel east UTM 15 E381765 N3908510. Then travel south to UTM15 E381793 N3908482. The go west to UTM 15 E381761 N3908447. Go south once again to UTM 15 E381877 N3908336 before going west to UTM 15 E381625 N3908066. Travel north to return to the original point of UTM 15 E381477 N3908205.

#### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary contains the core of the barracks and Administration buildings associated with the Armored Divisions and non-divisional troops that were stationed at Camp Chaffee during World War II and their immediate settings.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY Camp Chaffee Historic District  
NAME:

MULTIPLE World War II Home Front Efforts in Arkansas, MPS  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Sebastian

DATE RECEIVED: 12/14/12 DATE OF PENDING LIST:  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/30/13  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 11000693

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 1.29.30 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Additional Documentation Approved**

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

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

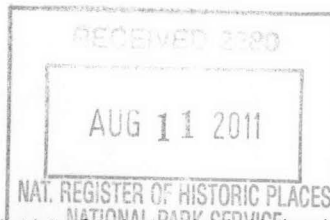
TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
**National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form**



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instruction in National Register Bulletin *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (formerly 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**historic name Camp Chaffee Tank Destroyer Battalion Historic Districtother names/site number SB1139-SB77, SB1179-SB1181, and SB1183-SB87**2. Location**street & number Area roughly bound by Terry St., Ward Ave., Ellis St., and Darby Ave. not for publication ☐city or town Fort Smithvicinity ☐state: Arkansas code: ARcounty: Sebastiancode: 131zip code: 72923**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency or Tribal government

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

Signature of commenting official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau or Tribal government

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby certify that the 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

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

9-23-11

## 5. 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  
☐ object

### Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing

Noncontributing

44	2	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
44	2	Total

### Name of related multiple property listing.

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

"We've Gotta Get Tough":History of World  
War II Home Front Efforts in Arkansas,  
1941-1946

### Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

## 6. Function or Use

### Historic Function

(Enter categories from instructions)

Military: military facility

### Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Vacant  
Commerce/Trade: business  
Industry/Processing/Extraction: manufacturing  
facility

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Plain-Traditional

### Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	<u>Concrete, Concrete block</u>
walls	<u>Metal, Aluminum, Weatherboard</u>
roof	<u>Metal, Asphalt</u>
other	 

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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### DESCRIPTION

The Camp Chaffee Tank Destroyer Battalion Historic District is an excellent example of a United States Army constructed barracks building district from the World War II era. While a fine example of World War II construction, it also tells the story of those who were stationed at Fort Chaffee (Camp Chaffee) through World War II and a portion of the Cold War. Located near Fort Smith, Arkansas, bound roughly by Terry St., Ward Ave., Ellis St., and Darby Ave., the buildings were constructed by the United States Army. As part of the enlargement of the cantonment for two tank destroyer battalions, there were four building types used in the construction of both military barracks and other military buildings bound between the Terry St., Ward Ave., Ellis St., and Darby Ave. roadways.

The site, on which the Camp Chaffee Tank Destroyer Battalion District is located, is generally set on the northwest side of the camp in Fort Smith, Arkansas. Surrounding the barracks on three of the four sides are long, narrow, one and two-story barrack and mess hall buildings. Nearly all of the buildings have been clad in aluminum siding since they were constructed c. 1942. Even though many of the barracks have been clad in aluminum siding, the original weatherboard siding is still located beneath the aluminum. Several of the previous and current tenants of buildings within the district boundaries have taken steps to remove the aluminum to rehabilitate the buildings exteriors to their c. 1942 cladding.

As previously stated, there are six different designs of buildings found within the boundaries of the Camp Chaffee Tank Destroyer Battalion Historic District. There are two types of building designs for the one-story structures, two types of building designs used for the two-story structures, a Chapel, and a modern pole barn. Of the six designs, the biggest difference the two groups come from the one-story structures. The two-story structures (barracks) have only two real differences which come from the location of the ladder on the second-story and the location of windows on the corresponding side. The one-story buildings have significant differences between the two types of building. In one type, the entire building is elevated using piers, while the other type of building is constructed on a concrete slab; with the back half elevated using piers.

#### Mess Hall- (One Story, completely set up on piers)

##### *Front Façade*

The front façade of the mess halls face northwest and are situated on the front gabled portion of the building. Many of the mess halls are clad with aluminum siding which is also found on the other three sides of the barracks building. However, building 803, 854, and 857 still retain the original exterior cladding of novelty siding. The other mess halls retain the novelty siding beneath the aluminum cladding which is the main exterior cladding for the other buildings. A set of either wooden or concrete steps are located perpendicular to the front façade. They lead up to the wooden door, which contains three wooden inset panels on the bottom and four small square lights situated to create one large square. The door is located on the right side of the facade. Centrally located on the front façade is an eight-over-eight, double-hung window. Directly above that window, but below the ridgeline is a rectangular-louvered vent which allows air circulation throughout the attic space. Another small flood light is located just to the right of the vent. On the northeast side of the front façade is a narrow, rectangular four-over-four, double-hung window. The front gabled roof contains a boxed cornice that projects slightly from the exterior wall.

##### *East Elevation*

The east elevation consists of a centrally-located aluminum, single-action door. A small six-step, concrete staircase allows access to this entrance. Above the entrance is another small flood light, which accentuates the entrance. Located to the right of the centrally-

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located entrance is another small louvered vent, which is centrally located between the floor and the boxed cornice. Just below the vent, and located at ground level, is a small lattice fence, which surrounds an air conditioner condenser unit. Positioned to the left of the centrally located aluminum-entrance, are seven, eight-over-eight, double-hung, windows. The top of the window frame is located directly in line with the roof eave. At the far left of the building, there is a small gas meter, which supplies natural gas to the building for heat. On the east side of the roof, there are three attic ventilators, which are evenly spaced along the northeast side of the ridge line. There are also two vent stacks, located on either end of the barracks building.

### *South Elevation*

The east elevation has limited fenestration. There is a centrally located aluminum entrance, which is elevated approximately three feet off the ground. A concrete stairway, with tubular handrails, leads down from the entrance to the ground via nine steps. Located above the entrance is another small flood light and rectangular, louvered vent. Located to the left of the entrance is another air conditioner condenser unit, along with an electrical meter box. There is no fenestration on the right side of the door.

### *West Elevation*

The west elevation contains more fenestration than the rest of the Mess Hall. The entrance, sits slightly to the left of center. The steps leading to the platform run perpendicular to the building and are accentuated by a seven-step rise to the platform. There are nine, eight-over-eight, double-hung windows, located to the right of the front entrance. There are also four smaller, four-over-eight, single-hung windows located to the left of the front entrance. There is also a small vent stack located in the upper left portion of the roof near the ridge line.

### *Variations*

Though the design of the buildings is very similar, there is a possibility that there are variations on the location of the windows. According to several tables depicting various changes during construction, some of the buildings were modified and are reflected in the report *World War II Structures at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas: Fort Chaffee Cultural Resources Studies Report No. 15* by Jeffrey Blakely and John D. Northrip.

### **Storehouse and Recreation Building- (One-Story, with piers and concrete slab foundations)**

#### *Front Façade*

The front entrance to the building distinguishes the front façade of the Storehouse and Recreation Building by being offset slightly to the left of the center of the elevation with a hollow-core aluminum door. On either side of the front entrance, there is a one-over-one, double-hung window. For many of the Storehouses and Recreation Buildings, they are clad with aluminum siding which is also found on the other three sides of the barracks building. However, Building 862 retains the original exterior cladding of novelty siding. The other Storehouse and Recreation Buildings retain the novelty siding, though it is beneath the aluminum siding which is the main exterior cladding for the other buildings.

#### *East Elevation*

The east elevation begins to reveal the separate areas within the storehouse, the front portion (north) is set on a solid concrete slab foundation, and the back portion (south) is set on a pier foundation. This bisection of the storehouse is also visible along the roofline where the front portion (north) is set lower than the back portion (south). The front portion (north) contains three, one-



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over-one, double-hung windows and a small overhead door. Though the location of the door can be found in almost all of the storehouse buildings there are still several of the openings that retain dual sliding doors allowing access for trucks to load and unload cargo as troop movements were called upon. Moving right to left or north to south, the next architectural feature is the intersection of the lower and upper rooflines, which visually shows the separation of the storehouse from the rest of the building.

The next portion of the building is elevated slightly compared to the front since it sets on a foundation of piers. Located lower and to the left of the roofline change, there is another small one-over-one, double-hung window. Located to the left of the window is a set of steps leading to a small platform landing providing access to an elevated doorway. The platform contains round tubular handrails, which allows access to the entrance. The hollow-core doorway is accentuated by a horizontal, rectangular window just above the door handle. The door swings left to right across the entrance platform. Above the door is a small flat porch cantilevered off the side of the building with two braces attached to the front of the porch roof and to the building. To the left of the first entranceway, is a set of double doors, which allows access to a mechanical room for HVAC. To the left of the double doors is another single, one-over-one, double-hung window. Located to the left of the windows is a second elevated entranceway. It is identical to the first entrance. Located to its left is another one-over-one, double-hung window before the building terminates at the corner.

### *South Elevation*

The south elevation of the building varies from storehouse building to storehouse building. Though this elevation has limited ornamentation, it usually is comprised of one of three patterns. The first pattern consists of a single, one-over-one, double-hung window centrally located on the elevation. The second pattern consists of three, one-over-one, double-hung windows evenly spaced on the elevation. While, the third pattern usually consists of a single, hollow-core door centrally located within the elevation. If a single door is used there is a small flat porch cantilevered off the side of the building with two braces attached to the front of the porch roof and to the building.

### *West Elevation*

The west elevation is much like the east elevation, working right to left across the elevation there is first a small, one-over-one, double-hung window. Located to the left of the window is a set of steps leading to a small platform landing providing access to an elevated doorway. The platform contains round tubular handrails, which allows access to the entrance. The hollow-core doorway is accentuated by a horizontal rectangular window just above the door handle. The door swings left to right across the entrance platform. Above the door is a small flat porch cantilevered off the side of the building with two braces attached to the front of the porch roof and to the building. To the left of the entrance are a set of three, one-over-one, double-hung windows. The middle window of the three is more narrow and set slightly higher than the surrounding other two windows. There is limited ornamentation located between the set of windows and the next entranceway. The entranceway mimics the other three elevated doorways. To the left of the entranceway, is another one-over-one, double-hung window. This window is the last feature before returning to the front portion of the building, which is set lower and substantiated by the lower roofline, discussed earlier. Located to the left of the change in height there is another one-over-one, double-hung window. Between this window and the next two side by side windows there is limited ornamentation. Then the next two windows are similar one-over-one, double-hung windows.

### *Variations*

As noted, there are several variations located throughout this type of building. On the front elevation, the door is usually centered or slightly offset to one side or the other possibly with a window located on either side. The east and west elevations vary considerably. In general, there were usually two doors to these elevations with windows intermittently. The south elevation and its variations were talked about considerably in the previous section.



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### Two-Story Barracks Building.

The two-story barracks buildings are very similar to each other from form to form. There are really only two small variations from one type of two-story barracks to the other two-story barracks building. The major difference is the location of the second story ladder, which is located on the back of the buildings. In one type of building, it is located on the left and on the other type is located to the right of the two entrances. The window arrangements on either side of the building are identical for each type of building, but they are reversed. For example, while facing the rear of the barracks building the ladder is on the left of the two doors, the concrete pad and double doors will be on the right side (west elevation) of the barracks. However, if the ladder is located to the right of the two doors, the concrete pad and double doors will be on the left side (east elevation).

#### *Front façade*

The front façade of both types of barracks consist of a centrally located double door, with a set of concrete steps leading to the front entrance. There is a small louvered ventilator located to either the left or the right of the double door entrance. The vent location varies depending on the location of the ladder on the back of the barracks. (The two items have no other significance to each other.) Occasionally there will be a small casement window directly opposite the vent on the other side of the double doors. Above the door is a small flat porch cantilevered off the side of the building with two braces attached to the front of the porch roof and to the building. Directly above the cantilevered porch, is a small single, one-over-one double-hung window centrally located below the ridge of the roof. Just above the window, but below the ridgeline, is another bigger louvered ventilator used to replace stagnant air from the second-story, with fresh air. It is about the size of a single window. The louvered ventilator is another variation from building to building. The window size louvered ventilator is found on only a small number of two-story barracks. However, the majority of the barracks have a large triangular louvered ventilator that stretches from the ridgeline to the edge of the eaves.

#### *Ladder Side*

The side with the corresponding ladder arrangement consists of a small casement window located near the front corner of the barracks. To the left of the small casement window are two one-over-one, double-hung windows. However, on several of the barracks, these two windows are either missing or were never placed on this elevation at all. Moving to the left there is a small-unornamented area between the two, one-over-one, double-hung windows and another set of six, one-over-one, double-hung windows. After the sixth window, the elevation comes to an end but not before making the corner for the rear of the building.

#### *Rear Elevation*

The rear elevation of the barracks consists of a small concrete staircase with tubular metal handrails, which leads up to a set of doorways. One doorway opens to the left and the other to the right. This elevation generally varies from building to building, but usually consists of two vents, one on either side of the two single doors. There is also the inclusion of a second story ladder. This ladder, as previously mentioned could be located one either the right or left of the two first-floor doorways. The factor in determining whether the ladder is located to the right or left is location of the second story doorway. If the doorway is located above the right door on the first floor, the ladder will be located to the right of the first floor doorway and vise-a-versa. Above each of the entrances, both first and second floor there are small flat porches cantilevered off the side of the building with two braces attached to the front of the porch roof and to the building. Located just below the ridgeline is a louvered ventilator used to replace stagnant air from the second-story, with fresh air similar to the one found on the front façade.

#### *Non-Ladder Side Elevation*

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The non-ladder side elevation really varies very little from building to building. In moving right to left, there are six, one-over-one, double-hung windows. There is a small gap between the group of six windows and the next one-over-one, double-hung window. Located below this last window is a concrete pad. It is unknown at this time what the concrete pad was used for originally. To the left of the concrete pad, there is a set of full-length double doors. The second story consists of six, one-over-one, double-hung windows located directly above the six windows on the first floor and two more one-over-one windows located directly above the concrete pad. A chimney is located along the bottom edge of the roof, directly between the two groups of windows on this elevation. On most of the buildings, there are two attic ventilators, which are used to move fresh air through the attic or wall cavity space.

### Chapel.

Located within the district is one of the ten chapels used by the Protestant, Catholic and Jewish congregations.<sup>3</sup> The building was once entirely clad in weatherboard, but has since been changed to aluminum siding to blend in with the surrounding barrack buildings. A. Farnell Blair built the Chapel in 1942 as part of the Armored Division Contract, not as part of the Tank Destroyer Battalion done by the Leck-Jensen Construction Company.<sup>4</sup>

### Front Façade

The front façade of the chapel is accessed by a large set of six steps, which leads to a centrally located entranceway located in the center of the square steeple. The foundation is clad in stone similar to the stone found through the entire foundation. The square steeple protrudes from the rest of the façade so that it may become the focal point of the building. The entranceway is in-set into the steeple and contains a single wood-panel door. A small pediment is located just above the entranceway. To both the right and the left of the entranceway and centrally located within the two bays, is a single one-over-one, double-hung window. The second story of the steeple contains a narrow louvered vent, which is centrally located on the front of the steeple. A tall pyramidal roof with a small ornate lightning rod at the top covers the steeple.

### Northwest Elevation

The northeast elevation contains five, four-pane, casement windows moving right to left. To the left of the last four-pane, casement window is a HVAC unit ductwork, which enters this elevation twice in this location. To the left of the ductwork is a single, one-over-one, double-hung, window, and then there is a small area of the elevation that is left unornamented before turning a corner. Upon turning the corner, a small set of concrete steps allows access to a metal, hollow-core door that is covered by a small shed-roof porch. The door remains on the northeast elevation of the addition while the small porch roof is supported off the northeast elevation. To the left of the door is a small single, one-over-one, double-hung window.

<sup>3</sup> Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, *Camp Chaffee*, Folder 5, Camp Chaffee Materials, The Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Little Rock, Arkansas.; The Southwestern Bell Telephone Company book only depicts nine chapels but says that there are ten with the chapel in question not designated on the map.

<sup>4</sup> Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, *Camp Chaffee*, Folder 5, Camp Chaffee Materials, The Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Little Rock, Arkansas.; Camp Chaffee, Arkansas: Completion Report, Initial Construction Program, 1942. U.S. Engineer Office, Camp Chaffee, Arkansas. Completion Letter.; "A Brief History of... . Camp Chaffee,": Camp Chaffee, AR, Date Unknown, Tank Destroyer Battalion Historic District Folder, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock, AR.

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### *Northeast Elevation*

The northeast elevation, or rear portion of the building, consists of a centrally-located doorway with a small louvered vent located to the left of the door. A shed roof covers the small addition that makes up half of the northeast elevation. A small chimney is located in the upper left corner of the shed roof, while a small louvered vent is centrally located on the main portion of the chapel just below the ridgeline of the gabled roof. On the northeast elevation of the main portion of the chapel is another small, one-over-one, double-hung window before the building makes another corner and completes the northeast elevation.

### *Southeast Elevation*

The southeast elevation consists of a small, one-over-one, double-hung window located on the small addition which protrudes from the northeast elevation of the main building. However, moving right to left across southeast elevation of the main building, there is a small, one-over-one, double-hung window and then five, one-over-one-over-one-over-one, casement windows. To the left of the five casement windows is another small, one-over-one, double-hung window that supports a window air-conditioner before the building terminates at the southeast corner.

### **Rowe Sheet Metal Works Building (Non-Contributing)**

The Rowe Sheet Metal Works Building is a steel framed, aluminum clad building on the edge of the district. The large rectangular building with a gabled roof was built c.2011 on a formerly vacant lot at the end of a row of Company Administration/Storehouses/Recreation area buildings.

### *Front Façade*

The front façade of the Rowe Sheet Metal Works Building is limited in its ornamentation. An aluminum framed door with a large glass window is centrally located on the façade. To both the right and left of the front entrance there is a long narrow sidelight. To the left and right of the door and sidelights is a single, horizontal sliding window. Near both of the corners on the front façade, there is a small louvered vent that is situated midway up the elevation. Above the door is a small flat roof that is cantilevered off the side of the building with two braces attached to the front of the roof and the other end to the building. However, located above the flat roof, but below the ridgeline of the gable roof, is a small metal signs that reads, "Rowe Sheet Metal Works."

### *Northeast Elevation*

The northeast elevation also is limited in its ornamentation. In moving right to left across the elevation there is a large exhaust van vent and a single hollow-core, aluminum door, centrally located on the elevation. At the far left side of the elevation there is large covered work area for storage of large sheets of metal. The open air quality of the building reveals the steel skeleton of the structure.

### *Southwest Elevation*

The southwest elevation consists of the large open air, covered storage area with exposed steel skeleton. The rear of the main structure can be seen and consists of a large overhead garage door that is offset to the right of central of the building. To the upper-right of the garage door is a large ventilation fan. On the left side of the elevation in exactly the same location but reversed, is a second large ventilation fan.

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### *Northwest Elevation*

The northwest elevation consists of a large overhead garage door to the far right. To the left of the garage door there is a single hollow-core, aluminum door, centrally located on the elevation. Farther to the left is another large exhaust fan and another single hollow-core, aluminum door before coming to the corner.

### **Handball Court (Non-Contributing)**

Building 868 or the handball court, was constructed in 1974. This steel framed building with a concrete foundation is 1,184 ft<sup>2</sup> and is covered by a slight gable roof over the larger portion of the handball court and a small flat roof over the small entranceway. The building was originally used as a recreational handball court before being used as a storage site for the United States Marine Corps Toys for Tots campaign.

### *Front Façade*

The front façade faces northwest and is accessed by a small sidewalk that leads to a single aluminum doorway located on the right side of the elevation in the small gathering area. The small gathering area is attached to the bigger playing surface. The rest of the elevation contains no other ornamentation.

### *Northeast Elevation*

The northeast elevation contains no ornamentation and consist of only a solid aluminum panel that stretches nearly 1 ½ floors.

### *Southwest Elevation*

The southwest elevation only contains a large overhead garage door before for use in loading and unloading of equipment. It is unknown at this time, whether the garage door was added later. It is speculated that it was added later since it is not functional to have a garage door in a handball court.

### *Northwest Elevation*

The northwest elevation consists of an all aluminum elevation with no ornamentation other then the small entrance addition, which protrudes from the lower left corner of the northwest elevation.

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Resource #	Historic Name	Address	C/NC
SB1187	Building 128	12001 Ward Ave.	C
SB1186	Building 800	7301 Terry St.	C
SB1185	Building 802	7309 Terry St.	C
SB1038	Building 803	7313 Terry St.	C
SB1183	Building 805	7321 Terry St.	C
SB1181	Building 808	7405 Terry St.	C
SB1180	Building 809	7409 Terry St.	C
SB1179	Building 810	7413 Terry St.	C
SB1177	Building 812	7421 Terry St.	C
SB1175	Building 818	7300 Buckhorn St.	C
SB1174	Building 819	7304 Buckhorn St.	C
SB1173	Building 820	7308 Buckhorn St	C



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SB1172	Building 821	7312 Buckhorn St.	C
SB1171	Building 822	7316 Buckhorn St.	C
SB1170	Building 823	7400 Buckhorn St.	C
SB1169	Building 824	7404 Buckhorn St.	C
SB1168	Building 825	7408 Buckhorn St.	C
SB1167	Building 826	7412 Buckhorn St.	C
SB1166	Building 827	7416 Buckhorn St.	C
SB1165	Building 828	7420 Buckhorn St.	C
SB1164	Building 829	7424 Buckhorn St.	C
SB1163	Building 830	7428 Buckhorn St.	C
SB1150	Building 836	7301 Buckhorn St.	C
SB1151	Building 837	7305 Buckhorn St.	C

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SB1152	Building 838	7309 Buckhorn St.	C
SB1153	Building 839	7313 Buckhorn St.	C
SB1154	Building 840	7317 Buckhorn St.	C
SB1155	Building 841	7401 Buckhorn St.	C
SB1156	Building 842	7405 Buckhorn St.	C
SB1157	Building 843	7409 Buckhorn St.	C
SB1158	Building 844	7413 Buckhorn St.	C
SB1159	Building 845	7417 Buckhorn St.	C
SB1160	Building 846	7421 Buckhorn St.	C
SB1161	Building 847	7425 Buckhorn St.	C
SB1162	Building 848	7429 Buckhorn St.	C
SB1149	Building 854	7300 Ellis St.	C

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SB1148	Building 856	7308 Ellis St.	C
SB1147	Building 857	7312 Ellis St.	C
SB1146	Building 859	7402 Ellis St.	C
SB1145	Building 860	7406 Ellis St.	C
SB1144	Building 862	7412 Ellis St.	C
SB1142	Building 864	7420 Ellis St.	C
SB1141	Building 865	7424 Ellis St.	C
SB1140	Building 866	7428 Ellis St.	C
SB1139	Building 868	1182 Darby Ave.	NC
SB1176	Rowe Sheet Metal Works Building	7425 Terry St.	NC
	C: 44 (96%) NC: 2 (4%)		

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **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.)

Property is:

- ☐ **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.

### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Military

### Period of Significance

1942-1946

### Significant Dates

1942

### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

### Cultural Affiliation

### Architect/Builder

Leck/Jensen Construction Companies

A. Farnell Blair Construction Company

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

### 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:

Fort Chaffee Redevelopment Authority  
Army Corps. Of Engineers – Little Rock  
District.

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### SIGNIFICANCE

The Camp Chaffee Tank Destroyer Battalion Historic District near Fort Smith, Arkansas, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places local significance under **Criterion A** for its association with military base construction in Arkansas and its association with the Tank Destroyer Battalions of World War II. The Camp Chaffee Tank Destroyer Battalion Historic District is a well-preserved example of military construction built by both the Leck and Jensen Construction Company and the A. Farnell Blair Company during the pre-war mobilization prior to World War II and continuing on in the war years. The buildings constructed by both the Leck and Jensen Construction Company and A. Farnell Blair's company between 1941 and 1943 feature cast concrete piers, double-hung windows as well as the narrow, rectangular shape of the buildings, which exemplifies the type of construction built by contractors for the United States military during this time period. Although the buildings of the district have been sided, they still are significant for their associations with World War II-era construction in Arkansas and the Tank Destroyer Battalions of World War II.

### Elaboration

The military has a long history in the Fort Smith, Arkansas, area. The area surrounding Fort Smith, Arkansas, has had military occupation since 1817, when sixty-four riflemen were sent to then Belle Point to try to keep the peace between the Cherokee and the Osage.<sup>5</sup> The area would again regain its military occupation in 1846 when a new garrison was constructed at what is today known as Fort Smith.<sup>6</sup> The military's occupation of the surrounding area really became strong during both the Mexican and Civil War. During the Mexican War, it was used as a supply depot for those men headed southwest. During the Civil War, the fort remained occupied by both the Confederacy and the Union throughout the war. In 1871, the fort was decommissioned thus ending a long period of occupation in the area until the pre-war mobilization of World War II.<sup>7</sup>

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 on Poland in September of 1939. Between September 1939 and March 1940, a period known as the "phony war" because there were no major hostile acts or no land operations attempted during this period<sup>8</sup>, the United States government was already beginning to "[anticipate] a major emergency, [and began] to [press] for further rearmament."<sup>9</sup> It is at this time, that troop preparation was beginning to increase. The military had its sights set on a wartime force of 4 million troops. However, in order for the United States to be substantially ready for the possibility of war, it "would require two years from the time money [was] available"<sup>10</sup> to construct manufacturing plants, depots and military post construction reported Major General Wesson. It was not until the end of the "Phony War" in 1940 that real consideration was given to a vast mobilization of US troops and equipment.

<sup>5</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>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> "Phony War." *Encyclopædia Britannica*. 2010. Encyclopædia Britannica Online.  
<<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/457343/Phony-War>>. (accessed Sep. 01, 2010).

<sup>9</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>10</sup> Ibid, 109.



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With the military's mobilization coming into full operation by early 1941, the creation of Camp Chaffee near Fort Smith, Arkansas, was already beginning to take shape. The future camp would be named after "the Major General Adna Romanza Chaffee, father of the armored forces, and one of the first cavalry officers to visualize the tank as a natural successor to horse units in providing mobile striking power."<sup>11</sup> It was on May 5, 1941, that Black and Veatch, an architecture-engineering firm from Kansas City, Missouri, signed a contract to design the layout of the cantonment for the army base. It would only take three days for the firm of Black and Veatch to begin surveying the area of the proposed site.<sup>12</sup> The proposed site for Camp Chaffee included Armored Division housing, housing for two tank battalions, 834 bed hospital, warehouses, and utilities "to serve an aggregated Military [sic] population of 21,535."<sup>13</sup> The construction of Camp Chaffee was assembled through two major programs known as the Armored Division and the Tank Destroyer Battalions. On August 6, 1941, contract plans and specifications were sent out to eight perspective bidders.<sup>14</sup> Of the eight perspective bidders, only four proposals were submitted. Of those four proposals, the company of A. Farnell Blair of Decatur, Georgia came in with the low bid of \$15,512,786.25. With the bidding process completed, A. Farnell Blair agreed to the construction contract on September 5, 1941.<sup>15</sup> It was March 26, 1942, that A. Farnell Blair completed the initial construction and layout of the camp for the Armored Division and attachment units.<sup>16</sup>

The second portion of the major construction, as part of the military build up was the construction of the housing for two tank destroyer battalions. The bid for this portion of the cantonment was awarded to the Leck Construction Co. and the Jensen Construction Co. of Minneapolis, Minnesota, "as prime contractor, doing business as Leck-Jensen Construction Company."<sup>17</sup>

The Armored Division Housing, located on the east side of the camp, was the beginning of the construction at Camp Chaffee, which would last through 1943 as part of the World War II build up. Though the Armored Division housing is outside the realm of the topic of the Tank Destroyer Battalion District, the changes that occurred to the Armored Division housing directly affected the Tank Destroyer Battalion Housing. As part of the original layout of the camp, the first realignment was commissioned therefore causing the roadways and sewer system to be resurveyed in June 17, 1941. However, only five days later, the Armored Force, Quartermaster General's Office, and Zone Constructing Quartermaster's Office visited the project where they decided to construct a third layout for the camp. These constant changes kept the project moving slowly with several delays to reorient the housing stock. Consequently by June 25, 1941, the layout completed for the second revision was created "based on the use of 63 man barracks which were 29'6" wide by 80' long. Only three days later, the building plans would be changed again to accommodate 74 man barracks 25' wide by 110' long. This would cause the layout to be revised once again. Only a month later, after the plans had been revisited again on July 23, 1941, the barrack buildings were to be changed again. This time they kept the idea of the 74-man barracks, but changed the length and width. Instead of being 25' wide it was changed to 29'6" and instead of 110' long it was changed to 90'.<sup>18</sup> This change created another problem with the layout of the entire camp. Military regulations had called for there to be 50' of space between barracks.<sup>19</sup> The increase in the width from 25' to 29'6" caused there to be a decrease in space by 4'6". There were two options to fix the spacing issues caused by the increased size of the buildings. The first options would be to would be to realign the barrack to meet the 50' spacing or simply leave the current plan in place. After receiving special permission

<sup>11</sup> Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, *Camp Chaffee*, Folder 5, Camp Chaffee Materials, The Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Little Rock, Arkansas.

<sup>12</sup> Jeffrey A. Blakely and John D. Northrip, "World War II Structures at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas" (Washington, D.C.: Department of Defense, 1991, photocopied), 4-1.

<sup>13</sup> Camp Chaffee, Arkansas: Completion Report, Initial Construction Program, 1942. U.S. Engineer Office, Camp Chaffee, Arkansas. Completion Letter.

<sup>14</sup> Blakely and Northrip, 4-3.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid, 4-23.

<sup>16</sup> Camp Chaffee, Arkansas: Completion Report, Initial Construction Program, 1942, 1.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid, 68.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid, 5.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

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granted by the Office of the Quartermaster General the contractors went with leaving the spacing at 45'6". This change though very minor would be a change that affected the entire camp including the Tank Destroyer Battalion housing area.

Even with the changes to the layout of the camp, the biggest changes came in the form of a new series of buildings. They were to be built at Camp Chaffee with a limited amount of labor and cost, therefore the Military went with a very simple form of building. As part of this ease of construction, "framing remained simple. Anticipated manpower shortages made it necessary to use unskilled labor. Only a portion of those employed on building crews would be experienced in carpentry, so framing techniques were intentionally designed to be uncomplicated."<sup>20</sup> The need for this plain style of construction was seen when the Office of the Quartermaster General replaced the 700 series plan, with the 800 series plan, which was new the camp was implemented in late 1941 but modified in 1942. The elements typically found in the 800 series of building include: the elimination of the skirt roof over windows, the proportions of the two-story barracks buildings, ceiling height increased by five inches, from the apron of the building to the apex of the roof was increased from 24'6" to 26'5", as well as shortening the over-hanging eave from three feet to nine inches with a boxed fascia and soffit. These elements, which were modified on creating the Series 800 building, are all found in the Tank Destroyer Battalion housing at Camp Chaffee.

After the completion of grading the site and staking the layout of the buildings, construction began on the Armored Division buildings and was completed by April 23, 1942. Only four months earlier the "Construction Authorization, Job N.1-1 Directive Cons. GT-2 January 24, 1942, for two Tank Destroyer Battalions, the preliminary site location work had previously been accomplished."<sup>21</sup> With nearly all of the preliminary work taken care of under the authorization to create the Armored Division housing, the complete contract plans were sent out to bidders on February 1, 1942, and received back from potential bidders on February 16, 1942. It is unknown how many bidders were in the race to accept the bid for the construction of the two Tank Destroyer Battalions, but the bid was granted to Leck Construction Company and Jensen Construction Company of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The Leck Construction Company was the largest construction company in the Minneapolis area by the late 1920s. The Leck Construction Company had its hand in the construction of several of the nations top collegiate football stadiums in the mid to late 1920s, including the Memorial Stadium (University of Minnesota)<sup>22</sup>, and Michigan Stadium (University of Michigan)<sup>23</sup>. Like their work on collegiate football stadiums, the work at Camp Chaffee was not the first work of cantonment for the United State Government. The Leck Construction Company had also worked on US Army Warehouses, hangars, and storage buildings in Ogden, Utah, during their existence. However, it was the first time that the Leck Construction Company had teamed up with another construction company to complete the work.<sup>24</sup>

<sup>20</sup> John S. Garner, *World War II Temporary Military Buildings: A Brief History of the Architecture and Planning of Cantonment and Training Stations in the United States* (Champaign, IL: US Army Corps of Engineers, Construction Engineering Research Laboratories, 1993), 39.

<sup>21</sup> Camp Chaffee, Arkansas: Completion Report, Initial Construction Program, 1942, 7.

<sup>22</sup> Patricia Johnson, "Hilding Mortenson, A Glimpse of History," *Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers Local 1 Minnesota/North Dakota Quarterly Update*, June 2008, Vol. 16, Number 2, 1.

<sup>23</sup> University of Michigan Archives, "The Michigan Stadium Story: Building the Big House" Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan Athletics History, <http://bentley.umich.edu/athdept/stadium/stadtext/stadbild.htm> (Accessed April 7, 2011.)

<sup>24</sup> During the period in which the Two Tank Destroyer Battalions were being built, there were actually two Leck Construction Companies located in Minneapolis, Minnesota. In 1929, the nephew of James Leck, D'Arcy Leck, asked to sever his ties with the James Leck Construction Company to start a new business. After a rough start to the new construction company, the D'Arcy J.M. Leck Construction Company is said to have gone to Texas to start another construction company in the mid to late 1930s, but was back in Minnesota by 1946 when they were registered with the Minnesota Secretary of the State under the D'Arcy Leck Construction Company. With this knowledge it is plausible that the construction contract was awarded to the James Leck Construction Company and not the D'Arcy Leck Construction

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With Leck and Jensen combined to make the Leck-Jensen Construction Company the work of laying out the buildings began immediately with no changes being made to the original layout.<sup>25</sup> There was minimal amount of clearing and grading that needed to take place for the construction of the Tank Destroyer Battalion. This work was subcontracted out to the Bowen Construction Company, of Kansas City, Missouri, with one crew of ten men to clear twenty-eight acres. The same crew was contracted to complete the grading of the site, which included 19,315 cubic yards of dirt. The clearing and grading both began on March 2, 1942, and ended June 6, 1942.<sup>26</sup>

As part of the authorization under the Supplementary Troop contract proposed by the U.S. Engineer Office<sup>27</sup>, the new facilities would be able to house 1,776 enlisted men and officers.<sup>28</sup> The completed housing area provides twenty-four enlisted men barracks for 74 men each for the Two Tank Destroyer Battalions. However, in addition to the twenty-four barracks, another four barracks with seventy-four men were constructed under this contract making the maximum number of enlisted men in this new cantonment 2,072.<sup>29</sup>

When construction began on March 3, 1942, the Leck-Jensen Construction Company had already subcontracted much of the work to the following companies.

W.C. Wiedenmann and Sons, Kansas City, MO - Sheet metal work and Hot air heating  
Manoy Engineering Co. Oklahoma City, OK- Plumbing and steam heating  
Harry G. Barr, Fort Smith, AR- Roofing  
Frank H. Abel, Dallas, TX- Painting<sup>30</sup>

Power was supplied to the Tank Destroyer Battalions through the work of I.K. Electric Company of Little Rock, Arkansas, who was also a subcontractor of the Leck-Jensen Construction Company. It took a "General foreman, a pole and anchor foreman, six linemen, eight groundmen [sic], one truckdriver [sic], and ten laborers:"<sup>31</sup> to complete the slow moving process, partially because the proper wire was slow to be received.

Since all of the construction being completed by multiple companies, the entire operation was completed by May 26, 1942, with the transfer of jurisdiction to the Post Authorities on the same date. It was reported that the only thing that really slowed down the building process was the lack of lumber and other materials, but that the overall progress was "satisfactory".<sup>32</sup>

As the project began to end, the Tank Destroyer Battalions were nearly ready to be formed. On June 1, 1942, both Tank Destroyer Battalions, the 817<sup>th</sup> and 819<sup>th</sup>, were activated at Camp Chaffee, Arkansas under General Order No. 44, from the Second Army. The 819<sup>th</sup> Tank Destroyer Battalion received most of its enlisted cadre from the 705<sup>th</sup> Tank Destroyer Battalion located at Camp Cooke, California, or were assigned directly from Infantry School at Fort Benning, Georgia. With not enough men to fill a company, the members of the battalion continued to drill and attend classes through July 1942 when they received fillers to

Company. ("D'Arcy Leck Construction Company", Unknown Researcher to Northwest Architectural Archives, Date unknown, Northwest Architectural Archives, Andersen Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.)

<sup>25</sup> Camp Chaffee, Arkansas: Completion Report, Initial Construction Program, 1942, 7.

<sup>26</sup> Ibid. 42.

<sup>27</sup> The United States Engineers Office was the precursor to the United States Corps of Engineers.

<sup>28</sup> Camp Chaffee, Arkansas: Completion Report, Initial Construction Program, 1942, 9.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid.

<sup>30</sup> Ibid. 69.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid. 72.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid. 69.

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National Park Service

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complete the battalion. The battalion would remain at Camp Chaffee until December 15, 1942, when they were relieved and sent to Camp Bowie, Texas taking a few honors with them.<sup>33</sup> In October 1942, the first "company competition on rifle marksmanship was completed on the Camp Chaffee Rifle Range...with Company "B" winning high honors."<sup>34</sup>

Following the marksmanship honors and the move to Camp Bowie, the battalion was assigned to the Tank Destroyer Center and continued to grow until it had too many men. While at Camp Bowie, it was assigned to the Tank Destroyer Group for training, then to Camp Hood for advanced training before moving to Ibis, California, for seven months. Following the seven month stay at Ibis, California, the battalion was told it was preparing to move out. As the stage was set for their "baptism by fire," the first was briefly extinguished when they arrived in Hawaii on March 24, 1944. While in Hawaii the tactics of the 819<sup>th</sup> changed when the battalion's main weaponry changed from 3" towed guns to M10 tanks causing the battalions to train extensively to acquaint themselves with the new machinery.<sup>35</sup>

After relearning many of their previous tactics, the Battalion left Hawaii on January 17, 1945, and arrived at Eniwetok in the Marshall Islands for refueling before arriving at Peleliu, Palau Island. While at Peleliu the battalion was in charge of anti-boat missions to deter any attempt from the Japanese recapturing the Island and the defense of Ngeregong. After firing "1104 rounds ...on enemy held islands from 30 April through 8 May",<sup>36</sup> the battalion's stay became quiet until the middle of June. With even less action occurring in the island up until August 14, 1945, when the first reports of a Japanese surrender were reported. It only took seven days for the first member of the battalion to be discharged under the point system. On September 16, 1945, the entire 819<sup>th</sup> Tank Destroyer Battalion was awarded the bronze star for participation in the Western Pacific Campaign.<sup>37</sup> The entire battalion was nearly gone following the October 8 discharge of the enlisted men through the point system thus ending the war for the 819<sup>th</sup> Tank Destroyer Battalion.

The experience of the 819<sup>th</sup> in the Pacific Theater, though long in coming, was much less traumatic then their counter part, 817<sup>th</sup>, also active at Camp Chaffee on June 1, 1942. The 817<sup>th</sup> Tank Destroyer Battalion was quickly converted to a towed battalion in June 1943 similar to the 819<sup>th</sup>. The 817<sup>th</sup> first arrived overseas on July 31, 1944, in Greenock, Scotland. By December 1944, they were engaged in a battle along with the 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry, at Hurtgen Forest. Throughout the early part of 1945, the battalion was engaged at both the Roer River and the Rhine River. By the end of March 1945, the battalion was also being to make the switch to new weaponry with the advancement of the M18 tank. Only a month later they would join the 104<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division and make a push to the east to the Harz Mountains in central Germany. Following the capture of Halle, Germany, the battalion pushed further east to the Mulde River in Germany before offensive operations ceased,<sup>38</sup> probably around May 7, 1945.<sup>39</sup>

With the on set of V - J Day and the end of World War II, the need for Tank Destroyer Battalions also ended one month short of five years of activity.<sup>40</sup> Though most studies note that the Tank Destroyers were extremely favorable in combat, it was also noted by General George Patton that tanks also had done well with a kill/loss ratios being nearly equal at ten to one. Even though they had shown their worth throughout both theaters of combat, the "line between the tank and the destroyer in combat had become so blurry as to be nearly impossible to see."<sup>41</sup> With the many areas the tank destroyers served including the "roles of antitank weapons,

<sup>33</sup> "History of the 819<sup>th</sup> Tank Destroyer Battalion," 819<sup>th</sup> Tank Destroyer Battalion, <http://www.tankdestroyer.net/index> (accessed June14th, 2011).

<sup>34</sup> Ibid.

<sup>35</sup> Ibid.

<sup>36</sup> Ibid.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid.

<sup>38</sup> The information in the paragraph provided has come from a single source. Harry Yeide, *The Tank Killers* (Havertown, PA: Casemate, 2004), 278.

<sup>39</sup> May 7, 1945 was the day that the Germany Army surrendered to the western allies at Reims, Germany.

<sup>40</sup> Ibid, 1.

<sup>41</sup> Ibid, 251.



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assault guns, artillery, cavalry, and infantry,” it is not surprising that many of the tank destroyers would move from 3” towed guns to light and maneuverable tanks such as the M10 or M18. However, even General Patton recognized the warning sign, when he predicted that the tank destroyer would become just another tank.<sup>42</sup> After a study by the European Theater of Operation, it came to a similar prognosis calling the tank destroyer superfluous, while recommending that the Tank Destroyer Force be dissolved. The last Tank Destroyer went inactive in 1946 at Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

With the end of tank destroyer force, there was little need to maintain the barracks assigned to the battalions, and they were converted to the armored division stationed at Camp Chaffee. In June of 1946, “a report entitled *Analysis of Existing Facilities: Camp Chaffee* was prepared by the Post Planning Board of Camp Chaffee,”<sup>43</sup> and called for the base to remain active for use by the Infantry Division for training. However, the report was not accepted and on July 31, 1946, the base was placed on inactive status though it was still a military installation.<sup>44</sup> As it turned out this was just the first cycle of activity and inactivity that the installation would see over the next 45 years. The installation would be “opened and closed eight additional times...”<sup>45</sup> Including 1956, when Camp Chaffee was designated as part of the fort class making it a permanent installation.<sup>46</sup> Even with the inactivity at the camp, maintenance crews did general upkeep on the facilities throughout this period. However, “in 1995 the Defense Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission recommended the permanent closure of Fort Chaffee, AR.”<sup>47</sup> Consequently, the base was permanently closed on September 27, 1997, with the change of Command Ceremony at Fort Chaffee.<sup>48</sup> The Fort Chaffee Redevelopment Authority with only a few properties that are privately owned, owns the base and most of the Tank Destroyer Battalion area. The Fort Chaffee Redevelopment Authority has plans to make this the historic conservation area of the redevelopment of the base, with a Historic Preservation Core and buffer area.<sup>49</sup>

The housing provided for the two tank destroyer battalions provides an opportunity to explain military history to those that come to see what is left of what was Camp Chaffee and later Fort Chaffee. The tank destroyer battalion can be viewed as the most “successful failure” in military history. With the battalions serving in all magnitudes of military life, and thus taking the roll of a typical tank battalion, it is easy to see the history start to fade as the tank destroyers are lost in the record books. Thus keeping the barracks and other building associated with this short lived military “experiment” only continues to maintain the military heritage that the area around Fort Chaffee has been living since 1817. Therefore, the Camp Chaffee Tank Destroyer Battalion District near Fort Smith, Arkansas, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A** for its association with military base construction in Arkansas and its association with the Tank Destroyer Battalions of World War II.

<sup>42</sup> Ibid.

<sup>43</sup> Blakely and Northrip, 6-15.

<sup>44</sup> Ibid. 6-16.

<sup>45</sup> Ibid.

<sup>46</sup> “Chaffee Goes Into Fort Class; It’s Permanent,” Arkansas Gazette, 22 March 1956, 1B.

<sup>47</sup> “Fort Chaffee,” <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/facility/fort-chaffee.htm> (accessed September 20, 2010).

<sup>48</sup> Ibid.

<sup>49</sup> Information provided by the Plans designed by Crafton Tull Sparks. Fort Chaffee Development Authority.



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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Camp Chaffee Tank Destroyer Battalion Historic District  
Name of Property

Sebastian County, Arkansas  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 19

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1.	<u>  /  /  </u> Zone	<u>  /  /  /  /  /  /  /  </u> Easting	<u>  /  /  /  /  /  /  /  </u> Northing
2.	<u>  /  /  </u> Zone	<u>  /  /  /  /  /  /  /  </u> Easting	<u>  /  /  /  /  /  /  /  </u> Northing
3.	<u>  /  /  </u> Zone	<u>  /  /  /  /  /  /  /  </u> Easting	<u>  /  /  /  /  /  /  /  </u> Northing
4.	<u>  /  /  </u> Zone	<u>  /  /  /  /  /  /  /  </u> Easting	<u>  /  /  /  /  /  /  /  </u> Northing

[ X ] See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Travis Ratermann, Survey Historian

organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

date 8/5/2011

street & number 323 Center St. 1500 Tower Building

telephone 501-324-9874

city or town Little Rock

state AR

zip code 72201

## Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps:

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

### Photographs

Representative images of the property.

### Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

## Property Owner

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

name \_\_\_\_\_

street & number \_\_\_\_\_

telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_

state \_\_\_\_\_

zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**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. 470 *et seq.*). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to range from approximately 18 hours to 36 hours depending on several factors including, but not limited to, how much documentation may already exist on the type of property being nominated and whether the property is being nominated as part of a Multiple Property Documentation Form. In most cases, it is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form to meet minimum National Register documentation requirements. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

Camp Chaffee Tank Destroyer  
Battalion Historic District  
Name of Property

Sebastian County, Arkansas

County and State

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

### GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

#### UTM

- 1.) 15 E381477 N3908205
- 2.) 15 E381765 N3908510
- 3.) 15 E381793 N3908482
- 4.) 15 E381761 N3908447
- 5.) 15 E381877 N3908336
- 6.) 15 E381625 N3908066

#### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Starting at the corner of Darby Ave. and Terry St., at UTM 15 E381477 N3908205, travel east UTM 15 E381765 N3908510. Then travel south to UTM 15 E381793 N3908482. Then go west to UTM 15 E381761 N3908447. Go south once again to UTM 15 E381877 N3908336 before going west to UTM 15 E381625 N3908066. Travel north to return to the original point of UTM 15 E381477 N3908205.

#### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary contains the core of the barracks and Administration buildings associated with the Two Tank Destroyer Battalions that were stationed at Camp Chaffee during World War II and their immediate settings.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Camp Chaffee Tank Destroyer Battalion Historic District  
NAME:

MULTIPLE World War II Home Front Efforts in Arkansas, MPS  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Sebastian

DATE RECEIVED: 8/11/11 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/08/11  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/23/11 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/26/11  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 11000693

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 9.23.11 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places

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.





1. Building 868, Camp Chaffee Tank Destroyer Battalion Barracks Historic District
2. Sebastian County, Arkansas
3. TRAVIS RATERMANN 3/14/2011
4. 03/14/2011 at Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
5. ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM
6. Photo of Building 868, which is noncontributing. The building was built in 1974 as a handball court. The photo is facing southeast.
7. #1



1. BUILDING 810, CAMP CHAFFEE TANK DESTROYER BATTALION BARRACKS HISTORIC DISTRICT
2. SEBASTIAN, ARKANSAS
3. TRAVIS RATERMANN
4. 03/14/2011
5. ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM
6. PHOTO OF BUILDING 810 FACING SOUTH-SOUTHWEST. THE PHOTO ALSO SHOW THE EXTERIOR OF STOREHOUSE AND ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
- 7) #2





1. BUILDING 810, Camp CHAFFEE TANK DESTROYER BATTALION BARRACKS HISTORIC DISTRICT
2. SEBASTIAN COUNTY, ARKANSAS
3. TRAVIS RATERMANN
4. 03/14/2011
5. ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM
6. PHOTO OF BUILDING 810 FRONT FACADE. THE CAMERA IS FACING SOUTH-SOUTHEAST.
- 7) #3





1. BUILDING 809, Camp CHAFFEE TANK DESTROYER BATTALION BARRACKS HISTORIC DISTRICT
2. SEBASTIAN COUNTY, ARKANSAS
3. TRAVIS RATERMANN
4. 03/14/2011
5. ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM
6. PHOTO OF BUILDING 809, a mess hall, THE CAMERA IS FACING SOUTHWEST.
7. #4





1. BUILDING 809, CAMP CHAFFEE TANK DESTROYER BATTALION BARRACKS HISTORIC DISTRICT
2. SEBASTIAN COUNTY, ARKANSAS
3. TRAVIS RATERMANN
4. 03/14/2011
5. ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM
6. PHOTO OF THE FRONT FACADE AND SOUTHWEST ELEVATION OF BUILDING 809, a former MESS HALL. THE CAMERA IS FACING SOUTHEAST.
7. #5





1. BUILDING 128/CHAPEL, CAMP CHAFFEE TANK DESTROYER BATTALION BARRACKS HISTORIC DISTRICT
2. SEBASTIAN COUNTY, ARKANSAS
3. TRAVIS RATERMANN
4. 03/14/2011
5. ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM
6. PHOTO OF BUILDING 128, THE CHAPEL, LOCATED AT THE CORNER OF TERRY ST + WARD AVE.  
THE CAMERA IS FACING NORRTEAST. THIS IS A TYPICAL DESIGN FOR THE CHAPELS AT  
CAMP CHAFFEE.
7. #6.



1. BUILDING 128/CHAPEL, CAMP CHAFFEE TANK BATTALION BARRACKS HISTORIC DISTRICT
2. SEBASTIAN COUNTY, ARKANSAS
3. TRAVIS RATERMANN
4. 03/14/2011
5. ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM
6. PHOTO OF BUILDING 128, THE CHAPEL, LOCATED AT THE CORNER OF TERRY ST + WARD AVE.  
THE CAMERA IS FACING NORTH-NORTHWEST. THE SMALL ADDITION ON THE BACK CAN BE FOUND  
ON ALL THE CHAPELS AT CAMP CHAFFEE.
7. #7





1. BUILDING 830, CAMP CHAFFEE TANK DESTROYER BATTALION BARRACKS HISTORIC DISTRICT
2. SEBASTIAN COUNTY, ARKANSAS
3. TRAVIS RATERMANN
4. 08/14/2011
5. ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM
6. PHOTO OF BUILDING 830, A 2-story Barrack BUILDING. THE PHOTO DEPICTS THE REAR ELEVATION OF A BARRACK BUILDING. CAMERA IS FACING SOUTHEAST.
- 7.) #8





1. BUILDING 830, CAMP CHAFFEE TANK DESTROYER BATTALION BARRACKS HISTORIC DISTRICT
2. SEBASTIAN COUNTY, ARKANSAS
3. TRAVIS RATERMAN
4. 03/14/2011
5. ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM
6. PHOTO OF BUILDING 830'S SOUTHWEST ELEVATION. THE CAMERA IS FACING NORTHEAST.
7. # 9





1. BUILDING 830, CAMP CHAFFEE TANK DESTROYER BATTALION BARRACKS HISTORIC DISTRICT
2. SEBASTIAN COUNTY, ARKANSAS
3. TRAVIS RATERMANN
4. 03/14/2011
5. ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM
6. PHOTO OF BUILDING 830'S FRONT FACADE. THE BUILDING IS LOCATED ALONG BUCKHORN ST. THE CAMERA IS FACING NORTH-WEST.
7. # 10





1. BUILDING 862, CAMP CHAFFEE TANK DESTROYER BATTALION BARRACKS HISTORIC DISTRICT
2. SEBASTIAN COUNTY
3. TRAVIS RATERMANN
4. 03/14/2011
5. ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM
6. PHOTO OF BUILDING 862, a complete STOREHOUSE + ADMINISTRATION BUILDING. NOTICE THE 8-over-8, DOUBLE-HUNG WINDOWS. CAMERA IS FACING NORTH-WEST TOWARD THE FRONT PORCH.

7. # 11



1. BUILDING 862, Camp CHAFFEE TANK DESTROYER BATTALION BARRACKS HISTORIC DISTRICT
2. SEBASTIAN County, ARKANSAS
3. TRAVIS RATERMANN
4. 03/14/2011
5. ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM
6. PHOTO OF BUILDING 862, a FORMER STORE-HOUSE + ADMIN. BUILDING. CAMERA FACING NORTHWEST TOWARD THE FRONT FACADE.
7. #12





1. BUILDING 857, CAMP CHAFFEE TANK DESTROYER BATTALION BARRACKS HISTORIC DISTRICT
2. Sebastian County, ARKANSAS
3. TRAVIS BATERMANN
4. 03/14/2011
5. ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM
6. PHOTO OF BUILDING 837, LOCATED ALONG ELLIS ST. THIS IS ANOTHER ORIGINAL CLAD MESS HALL BUILDING. CAMERA IS FACING SOUTHWEST.
- 7) # 13





1. BUILDING 857, CAMP CHAFFEE TANK DESTROYER BATTALION BARRACKS HISTORIC DISTRICT
2. SEBASTIAN COUNTY, ARKANSAS
3. TRAVIS PATERMANN
4. 03/14/2011
5. ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM
6. PHOTO OF BUILDING 857, A FORMER MESS HALL, WITH ORIGINAL CLADDING. NOTICE WINDOW PANE ARRANGEMENT. CAMERA IS FACING NORTH.
7. II 14





1. BUILDING 857, CAMP CHAFFEE TANK DESTROYER BATTALION BARRACKS HISTORIC DISTRICT
2. SEBASTIAN COUNTY, ARKANSAS
3. TRAVIS RATERMANN
4. 03/14/2011
5. ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM
6. PHOTO OF BUILDING 857 AND THE FRONT FACADE. THE CAMERA IS FACING NORTHWEST
7. #15







1. CORNER OF BUCKHORN + WARD AVE., CAMP CHAFFEE TANK DESTROYER BATTALION HISTORIC DISTRICT
2. SEBASTIAN COUNTY, ARKANSAS
3. TRAVIS RATERMAN W
4. 03/14/2011
5. ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM
6. PHOTO OF THE TWO ROWS, OF TWO-STORY BARRACK BUILDINGS. PHOTO WAS TAKEN FROM THE CORNER OF BUCKHORN + WARD AVE. CAMERA FACING WEST.
7. # 16



1. CORNER OF TERRY ST + WARD AVE., CAMP CHAFFEE TANK DESTROYER BATTALION HISTORIC DISTRICT
2. SEBASTIAN COUNTY, ARKANSAS
3. TRAVIS RATERMAN
4. 03/14/2011
5. ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM
6. PHOTO OF THE BUILDING LOCATED ALONG TERRY ST. MANY OF THESE BUILDINGS ARE STOREHOUSE + ADMIN. BUILDINGS OR MESS HALLS. CAMERA FACING SOUTHWEST.
7. #17







1. CORNER OF TERRY ST. + DARBY AVE., CAMP CHAFFEE TANK DESTROYER BATTALION HISTORIC DISTRICT
2. SEBASTIAN COUNTY, ARKANSAS
3. TRAUS RATERMANN
4. 03/14/2011
5. ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM
6. PHOTO AT THE CORNER OF TERRY ST + DARBY AVE SHOWING THE BUILDINGS ALONG TERRY ST. CAMERA FACING NORTH.
7. #18



1. CORNER OF BUCKHORN + DARBY AVE., CAMP CHAFFEE TANK DESTROYER BATTALION  
HISTORIC DISTRICT
2. SEBASTIAN COUNTY, ARKANSAS
3. TRAVIS RATERMAN
4. 03/14/2011
5. ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM
6. PHOTO OF THE 2-STORY BARRACKS FROM THE CORNER OF BUCKHORN + DARBY.  
CAMERA FACING NORTHEAST.
7. # 19



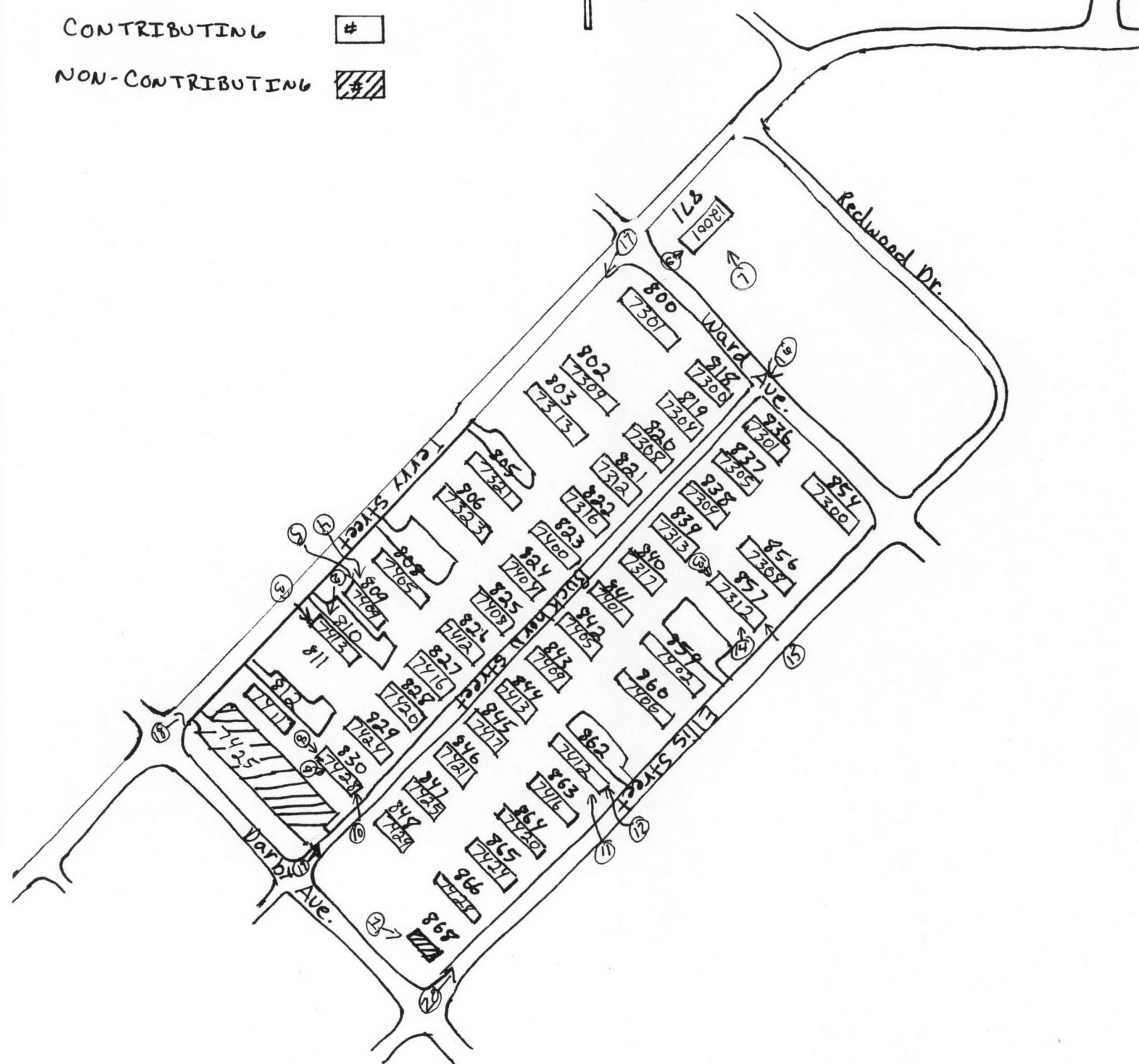




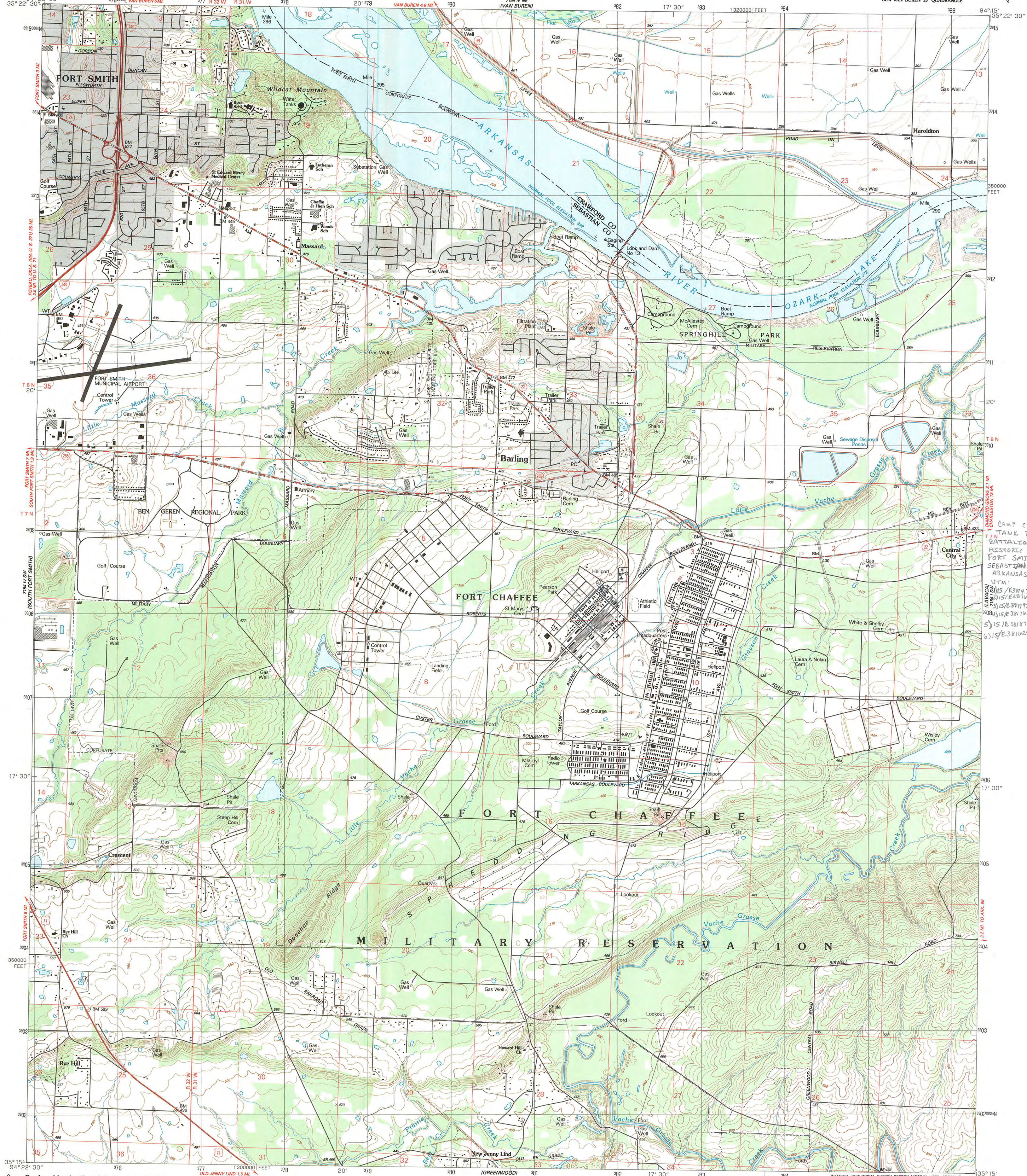
1. CORNER OF DARBY AVE. + ELLIS ST., CAMP CHAFFEE TANK DESTROYER BATTALION  
HISTORIC DISTRICT
2. SEBASTIAN COUNTY, ARKANSAS
3. TRAVIS RATERMAN
4. 03/14/2011
5. ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM
6. PHOTO OF THE BUILDING LOCATED ALONG DARBY AVE. CAMERA FACING NORTHEAST.
7. #20

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## The Department of Arkansas Heritage

Mike Beebe  
Governor

Cathie Matthews  
Director

Arkansas Arts Council

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Arkansas Natural Heritage  
Commission

\*

Delta Cultural Center

\*

Historic Arkansas Museum

\*

Mosaic Templars  
Cultural Center

\*

Old State House Museum



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August 4, 2011

Ms. Carol Shull  
Chief of Registration  
United States Department of the Interior  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
8th Floor  
1201 Eye Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005

RE: Camp Chaffee Tank Destroyer Battalion Historic District –  
Fort Smith, Sebastian County, Arkansas

Dear Ms. Shull:

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.

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

Sincerely,

Cathie Matthews  
State Historic Preservation Officer

CM:tar

Enclosure