

8. Statement of Significance

HENDERSON ARMORY
HE-H-229; Henderson County, KY

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

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

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

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or a grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

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

Areas of Significance **MILITARY** _____

Period of Significance **1950-1951** _____

Significant Dates **1950** _____

Significant Person **N/A**

Cultural Affiliation **N/A**

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

Derby Construction Co., builder _____

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

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

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: _____

HENDERSON ARMORY
HE-H-229; Henderson County, KY

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property **1.40 acres** _____

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
	16	448	490	4	188	850	Henderson Quad
1	_____	_____	_____	3	_____	_____	
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____	

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title **Kate Carothers** _____

organization **Kentucky Archaeological Survey** _____ date **4-16-99** _____

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

Property Owner

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

name **Commonwealth of Kentucky** _____

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

city or town **Frankfort** _____ state **KY** zip code **40601** _____

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

HENDERSON ARMORY
HE-H-229; Henderson County, KY

Kentucky's National Guard Facilities: 1931-1951 MPS

Section number 7, 8 Page 1

Narrative Description

The Henderson Armory, (HE-H-229) located at 735 N. Elm Street in Henderson, Kentucky, is similar in appearance to the WPA armories built ten years earlier. The Henderson Armory was completed in 1950 by the same architect that designed the six poured concrete, WPA-era buildings between 1941-42, Edd R. Gregg. The entire armory is painted white, and the building is located in a residential area of the city, close to downtown. The armory resembles the other Gregg-designed ones in its poured concrete aspect with the signature Art Deco entry of linear and horizontal lines. The armory is two stories tall and has an administrative building with an attached maintenance garage/ drill hall at the back. The building has retained most of its original metal casement windows in both the drill hall and its administrative section.

On the interior of the armory, the original radiators are intact. Some of the larger rooms have been divided up into smaller ones, and the drill hall floor has been replaced; this was done because the original wooden floor was ruined by a leaking roof, causing it to rot in several places. The original doors and hardware are intact in the armory, and the original plan of the building as an armory is evident. The Henderson Armory is a significant physical representation of the National Guard in Henderson. The armory was important both as a military and community center during its period of significance.

Narrative Statement of Significance

The Henderson Armory (HE-H-229) meets National Register eligibility criteria A (historic association) and C (type of construction), and meets the registration requirements established for the armory property type because it possesses integrity of location and setting, materials, design, and association. The armory served as both a community and military center during its period of significance, and is a good example of an earlier National Guard armory. The Henderson Armory has not moved since its construction, and its original setting in a residential area of Henderson has not changed. The armory retains its original metal-framed windows, wooden doors, radiators, and interior plan, so it retains its integrity of design and materials. The armory also has integrity of association, because it is still owned by the Kentucky National Guard.

A military unit of some type has been in Henderson since the mid-nineteenth century. The unit was organized as the Kentucky State Guard in 1860, and served under both Union and Confederate forces in the Civil War. Units from Henderson also served in the Spanish-American War in 1898, and in World War I (France) and World War II (South Pacific). The unit's last federal activation was in 1961, for the Berlin Crisis.

The first armory in Henderson was a structure built in the 1910's for use as a bakery; it was acquired by the Guard in the 1920s. It is a small concrete block- and- brick structure located on Fourth Street

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

HENDERSON ARMORY
HE-H-229; Henderson County, KY

8 2
9, 10 1

Kentucky's National Guard Facilities: 1931-1951 MPS

Section number _____ Page _____

near downtown Henderson. The first armory was used until 1950, when the Guard moved into their new armory. Presently, the first building serves as a storage warehouse.

The Henderson Armory was used for the Guard's military drills and meetings, and for several community activities. Square dances and club meetings were held at the armory, as were benefit dances, charity events, basketball games (Henderson Community College), and open houses where military equipment was displayed. Federal and state agencies also used the armory for a time to monitor tug boats and barges on the Ohio River. A radar system was set up in the armory for this purpose. Presently, the armory rents out some of its classrooms to the high school ROTC programs. Community activities such as basketball games, parties, and wedding receptions take place there.

The Henderson Guard participated in a Christmas parade every year, and they were activated for race riots in Louisville, as well as to stabilize the integration of schools school integration in Sturgis, Kentucky, in the 1960s. The Guard was also called up to quell a Job Corps riot in Morganfield (year). In 1978, a major snowstorm occurred, covering the roads, and the armory served as a shelter for four days until the roads were cleared. The Guard has also participated in clothing drives and Easter Seals fund-raisers. Presently, Detachment 2 of the 307th Maintenance Company is at the Henderson armory. In the past, Company B of the 2/123rd Armor was located there, as well as Company B, 3rd Infantry, and the 441st Field Artillery Battalion.

Verbal Boundary Description - The parcel designated by the Henderson County PVA as tax map/parcel #1-17-1-1

Verbal Boundary Justification - The chosen boundary for the Henderson Armory encompasses the armory, the related motor pool and parking area, and the front and side yards, for a total of 1.40 acres, the lot historically associated with the armory.

Bibliography

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

History of Henderson County, Kentucky, 1888-1978. Henderson County Genealogical and Historical Society. Evansville: Unigraphic, Inc. 1980.

Files on the Henderson Armory located at the Military Records and Research Branch, Frankfort.

Interview with retired First Sergeant Billy Wood, August, 1998.

Interview with armory manager SGT Jim Riggs, January 28, 1998.