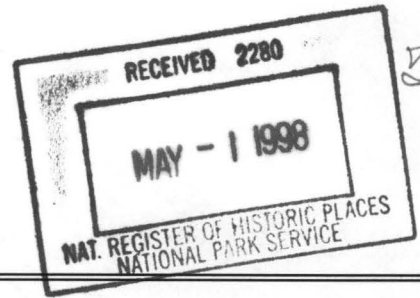


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: National Guard Armory

Other Name/Site Number: INO607

2. Location

Street & Number: 380 South Ninth Street

Not for Publication: N/A

City/Town: Batesville

Vicinity: N/A

State: AR County: Independence

Code: AR063 Zip Code: 72501

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Public-Local

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	Buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	Sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	Structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	Objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

National Guard Armory
Name of Property

Independence County, Arkansas
County and State

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Carlynn A. Slater
Signature of certifying official

4-20-98
Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

Sp R. Payne

5/29/98

_____ determined eligible for the National Register

_____ determined not eligible for the National Register

_____ removed from the National Register

_____ other (explain): _____

h Signature of Keeper Date
Of action

National Guard Armory
Name of Property

Independence County, Arkansas
County and State

6. Function or Use

Historic: Defense Sub: Arms Storage

Current : Recreation/Culture Sub: Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Vernacular Stone

Art Deco

Gothic

Materials: foundation Cast Concrete/Stone
walls Cut Stone

roof Tar

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

Summary

The National Guard Armory in Batesville, Independence County, is an imposing Ozark sandstone structure built in 1936 with Art Deco massing and Gothic Revival influenced detail. It is located at 380 S. 9th Street on the corner of 9th and Vine Streets. The one-story rectangular building was a Works Progress Administration project. The building is lit by a bank of wooden double-hung windows cascading into a triangular configuration over a centered entrance. Fenestration on the rear mirrors the front facade. Prominent sandstone pilaster masses separate rows of windows between a set of truncated towers. A tarpapered roof conceals a domed ceiling supported with steel bowstring trusses within the armory. The building was used by the National Guard Company B until 1976 when new owners purchased the armory and its three surrounding city lots. Since 1976 the building has been used primarily for storage and was suffering from neglect, but in 1995 the property and land was donated to the Old Independence Regional Museum. Renovations are currently underway which will provide exhibit and office space within the National Guard Armory.

Elaboration

The 1936 National Guard Armory in Batesville was constructed in a vernacular Ozark stone style with Gothic Revival influences by local stonemasons hired by the federal government as well as National Guard unit members. The armory was a WPA project designed by Dutch architect Pieter Blaauw and is composed of Batesville sandstone obtained from the Maxfield Quarry on the outskirts of town. Each stone from the local quarry is hand cut. A barreled tarpaper roof

National Guard Armory
Name of Property

Independence County, Arkansas
County and State

is hidden behind varying levels of parapets accented by four pilaster masses on the main section of the building. Parapeted flat-roofed full length wings are featured on the northeast and southwest. Wooden double-hung windows light the interior.

The southeast, or front elevation acuminates at the center of the facade and is fenestrated with double-hung windows. A cornerstone at the southwest junction constructed out of "Batesville marble", or limestone memorializes General Lucien Abraham, the Commanding Officer at the time of construction. The cornerstone was relocated in 1976 at the new armory outside of Batesville but was reinstalled when the Independence Regional Museum began its rehabilitation. From west to east a single six-over-six window with frosted glass is slightly recessed within the center of the southwest wing. A truncated tower contains a paneled double-leaf door with two four-light windows. Both doors are topped with a single eight-light transom. The gabled center contains four pilaster masses and a second-story bank of seven windows over the front entrance which is flanked by four double windows on the first-story. The first-story openings are separated from those above by a thin sandstone span. The second-story openings increase in height, following the line of the parapet. The second-story window banks consist of groups of two, three and two separated by the pilaster masses. The two windows to the west lie between the first and second pilaster masses, the window closest to the center being the largest with eight-over-six lights. The second pilaster mass rises a few feet above the apex of the first to compensate for the rise in the parapet. Centered between the second and third pilaster masses, which are the same height, are three windows. The configuration of these windows completes the arch echoed in the parapet. The center opening is twelve-over-six while the surrounding windows are eleven-over-six. The third group of six-over-six and eight-over-six double windows open to the east of the facade between the third and fourth pilaster masses. The first-story entry is a paneled door with a four-light window between adjoining stationary panels that match the door in design. A line of three four-light hopper windows top the centered door group. A brass plaque above the front door identifies the building as a WPA project. A second thin six-over-six window opens to the east of the door. A truncated tower to the northeast echoes that to the southwest with a similar double-leaf door and transom while the northeast wing matches the southwest. The truncated towers to the northeast and southwest of the front facade historically contained concrete regimental crests which have been placed on the modern armory on Arkansas Highway 25.

The northeast facade is fenestrated by a line of windows broken by three pilaster masses. The parapet runs a straight course on this side of the building. A single window begins the fenestration at the northeast corner. The wall then recesses slightly and two windows are cradled between the tower and a pilaster. Two more windows lead northwest to a second pilaster and a panel that contains a door topped with a modern four-light transom, and a fifth double-hung window. The fourth pilaster creates a niche for two more windows which leads to the northwest corner and a single window.

Turning the corner to proceed to the northwestern, or rear elevation the viewer is confronted with a stepped parapet culminating at a centered point. This facade imitates the line of the front but is not identical. Four sandstone pilasters atop concrete buttresses are placed between the banks of openings. These pilasters do not reach to the roofline but end at the top of

National Guard Armory
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the window casements. The concrete foundation of the armory is exposed by the slope of the lot. Two sets of double windows at the west to a two-story triangular formation of windows like that on the main entrance to the southeast. A pilaster provides a break in the fenestration. Two stories of windows adjoin a second and third pilaster heading east which contain the main two-story group of windows between them. The last group of two-story openings is separated from two sets of double windows by a fourth pilaster. The southwest corner of the building extends to include two six-light hopper windows.

The southwest elevation which faces Vine Street is less detailed than the other elevations. The double-hung windows seen throughout are replaced on this section with six-light hoppers and there is only one pilaster mass. The southwest corner of the building is composed of a four bay garage. Sliding wooden doors have been reconstructed to match the original doors and will be hung on the garage opening. A fifth bay has been enclosed with wooden beaded board siding and is accessed by a single-leaf modern door. The main wall of the building is recessed about five feet and the sandstone wall is fenestrated by a line of four hopper windows. The single pilaster mass on this facade rises above the parapet. Two windows terminate the line of fenestration at the southeast corner of the building which contains a cornerstone reading, "Erected 1936, WPA."

The interior of the armory is under construction at this time for use as future museum space, but it was originally a single large open room with a concrete floor and a barrel ceiling supported by steel bowstring trusses. Interior walls to the north and south are cut stone. The main floor of the building has been divided into many small spaces partitioned off with sheetrock walls for exhibits areas.

8. Statement of Significance

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: C&A

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: Architecture
Social History

Period(s) of Significance: 1936 -1976

Significant Dates: 1936 - 1976

Significant Person(s): N/A

National Guard Armory
Name of Property

Independence County, Arkansas
County and State

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Peter Blaauw

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

Summary

The National Guard Armory, a 1936 military building at 380 South 9th Street in Batesville, Independence County, is an impressive example of the hammer and ring method of stone construction. The building was a Works Progress Administration project implemented at the request of Captain Robert W. Chrisp, 154th Observation Squadron. Local stonemasons engaged by the federal government provided labor beside National Guard unit members who were required to work three days a quarter. The National Guard Armory is being nominated to the National Register under Criteria A and C with local significance for its association with the WPA and its architect-designed Ozark Stone style of construction with Art Deco massing and Gothic Revival influences.

Elaboration

The town of Batesville was established on the site of a circa 1814 trading post in 1821. The town was laid out on the edge of the Ozark escarpment at the confluence of the Southwest Trail and the White River. It's commercial leanings were assisted by the White River as a means of importing Ozark regional products and exporting manufactured goods upriver.

Trade got another boost in 1883 through the introduction of a branch line of the railroad into Batesville. Rail trade allowed cotton to take its place as the leading regional commodity. Lumber was rafted down to Batesville for the manufacture of barrel staves which were shipped out by rail. Local quarries extracted manganese, lime, silica, limestone, marble and zinc.

Sandstone from one of these quarries was used for the construction of the Batesville National Guard Armory in 1936. Beginning in 1924 Company L (reorganized as Company B after World War II) of the National Guard held drill exercises in the Maxfield Building above the Sterling Store on Main Street. This proved inadequate by 1935, but the problem was remedied when Captain Robert W. Chrisp of the 154th Observation Squadron urged that Batesville submit a Works Progress Administration project to Washington.

The site for the new structure was donated by the school board at the request of C.W. Barnett, Jr., president of the school board with the stipulation that the building also function as the high school gymnasium. Pieter Blaauw, a Sulphur Rock architect was selected to design the building and supervise construction. He supervised several local stonemasons and members of the National Guard unit who were required to work three days a quarter on the armory. The building was completed in 1936 and the Company L unit began

National Guard Armory
Name of Property

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moving in their new headquarters by 1937. The armory was renamed the Abraham Armory in 1953 to honor General Lucien Abraham, commanding officer at the time of construction.

Besides its role as a high school gym, the armory also served the community as a meeting hall for dances and special occasions. The armory was home to Company B until 1976 when the unit moved to a new building on Arkansas Highway 25 outside of Batesville. At this time the cornerstone and regimental crests were removed and placed on the modern structure. The new owners who purchased the building and three city lots in 1976 used it for storage and did not maintain it well. After years of neglect, the owners donated the property to the Old Independence Regional Museum for use as a public museum.

The National Guard Armory was one of several state WPA projects initiated in the 1930s. For its link to the Works Progress Administration it is being nominated to the National Register under Criterion A with local significance. The armory is also a noteworthy example of a Vernacular Ozark stone structure displaying Gothic Revival influences and is one of a kind in Batesville. Each stone from a local quarry was carved by hand. The Gothic touch can be seen in acuminated parapets, lancet windows and heavy masonry construction. These architectural factors contribute to its nomination under Criterion C with local significance.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Information submitted by Old Independence Regional Museum, December 1997.

"Batesville to Seek WPA Loan for an Armory," *Batesville Guard*, 4, September 1935, 1.

"Work On National Guard Armory Here Starts Yesterday," *Batesville Guard*, 7, January 1936, 1.

"Equipment of Local Unit of Company L Transferred to New Armory," *Batesville Guard*, 7, September, 1937, 1.

Erp, Johnny, "Formal Dedication of New East Batesville School Will Be Held Friday, Climaxed With Inspection of Grounds," *Batesville Guard*, 5, September 1935, 4.

Information submitted by LouAnn Hance, October, 1997.

Information submitted by Malcolm Moore, October, 1997.

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

National Guard Armory
Name of Property

Independence County, Arkansas
County and State

- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary Location of Additional Data: Old Independence Regional Museum, Batesville, AR

- State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: Less than one acre.

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>622600</u>	<u>3959380</u>	B	_____	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____	_____

Verbal Boundary Description:

Lots 6,7 & 8, Block 30, School Addition to the City of Batesville, Arkansas.

Boundary Justification:

Nomination includes all of the property historically associated with National Guard Armory, Batesville, AR.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Holly Hope/Survey Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 04/07/98

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

City or Town: Little Rock

State: AR ZIP: 72201

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 98000579

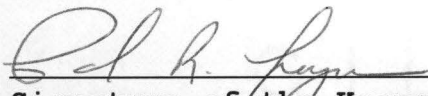
Date Listed: 5/29/98

National Guard Armory
Property Name

Independence AR
County State

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.


Signature of the Keeper

5/29/98
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Period of Significance:

The Period of Significance is revised to read: 1936-37.

[While the building continued to be used as an armory into the less than 50 year period, the nomination fails to document the exceptional nature of that use. Events and activities occurring with the last 50 years must be exceptionally important to be recognized as "historic" and to justify extending the period of significance beyond the limit of 50 years ago. Since the relevant themes addressed in the nomination refer to the building's significance as a work of architecture and WPA construction activity, the proper period of significance should reflect the building's initial construction activity: 1936-37.]

This information was confirmed with the Arkansas SHPO.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY National Guard Armory
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Independence

DATE RECEIVED: 5/01/98 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/13/98
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/29/98 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/15/98
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 98000579

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

 ACCEPT RETURN REJECT DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

The National Guard Armory in Batesville is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criteria A and C in the areas of Architecture and Social History. The building is a fine local example of Ozark sandstone construction, a regionally popular construction form in northern Arkansas during the early twentieth century often associated with Depression-era federal and state construction efforts. Reflecting skilled local craftsmanship, the armory building was erected as part of the Federal Government's WPA relief program and represents a locally significant illustration of the impact of that program on Depression-era Arkansas communities.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept Criteria A+C

REVIEWER PAUL R. LUNIGNAN

DISCIPLINE HISTORIAN

TELEPHONE _____

DATE 5/29/98

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



National Guard Armory

Independence Co. AR

Photo by Amy Bennett

January 27, 1998

Negative on file at AHPP

View from Northwest



National Guard Armory

Independence Co. AR

Photo by Amy Bennett

July 27, 1998

View from Northeast

Negative on file at AHPP



COMING SOON
IN THE BUILDING
The
Independence
Regional
Museum
WATCH OUR
PROGRESS
YOU CAN HELP!
FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL 783-2712

RENAISSANCE & ALT...
The
Old Independence
Regional
Museum

National Guard Armory
Independence Co, AR
Photo by Amy Bennett
January 27, 1998
Negative on file at AHPP
View from southwest



National Guard Armory

Independence Co. AR

Photo by Amy Bennett

January 27, 1998

Negative on file at AHPP

View of interior wall



National Guard Armory

Independence Co. AR

Photo by Amy Bennett

January 27, 1998

view of front entrance from interior

Negative on file at AHPP



National Guard Armory
Independence Co, AR
Photo by Amy Bennett
January 27, 1998
View from Southeast
Negative on file at AHPP



National Guard Armory

Independence Co, AR

Photo by Amy Bennett

January 27, 1998

Interior view

Negative on file at AHAP

7655 I NW
MPT 652977

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

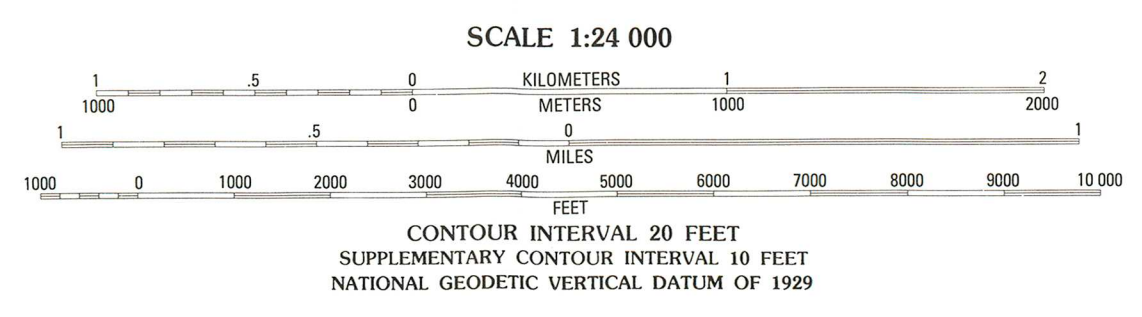
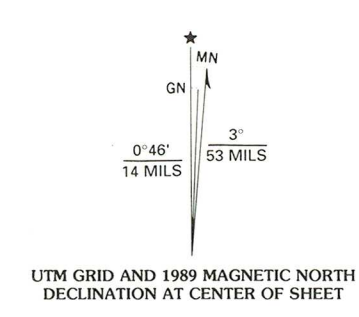
BATESVILLE QUADRANGLE
ARKANSAS-INDEPENDENCE CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

7655 I NW
CAPE CITY



NATIONAL GUARD ARMY
BATESVILLE
INDEPENDENCE CO., AR.
UTM
15/622600/
3959380

Produced by the United States Geological Survey
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1986. Field checked 1987. Map edited 1989
Supersedes Batesville map dated 1943
Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Arkansas coordinate system, north zone (Lambert conformal conic)
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 15
1927 North American Datum
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983, move the projection lines 5 meters south and 13 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks
Gray tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is un-checked

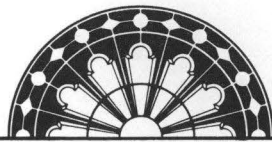


ROAD CLASSIFICATION

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

BATESVILLE, ARK.
35091-G6-TF-024
1989
DMA 7655 I SW-SERIES V884

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



ARKANSAS
HISTORIC
PRESERVATION
PROGRAM

April 20, 1998

Carol D. Shull
Chief of Registration
United State Department of the Interior
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
800 North Capitol Street, Suite 250
Washington, D.C. 20002

RE: National Guard Armory. Batesville, Independence County, Arkansas .

Dear Carol:

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

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathy Buford Slater
State Historic Preservation Officer

CBS:br

Enclosures

