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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

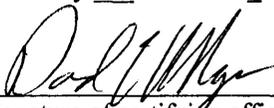
historic name **Springfield Armory**  
other names/site number **Ws-S-94**

2. Location

street & number **126 Armory Hill Rd.** not for publication **N/A**  
city or town **Springfield** vicinity **N/A**  
state **Kentucky** code **KY** county **Washington** code **229** zip **40069**

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

  
Signature of certifying official **David L. Morgan, SHPO / Excutive Director** **2-11-2000**  
Date

State Historic Peservation Office/ Kentucky Heritage Council

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

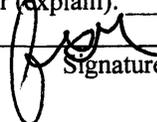
Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

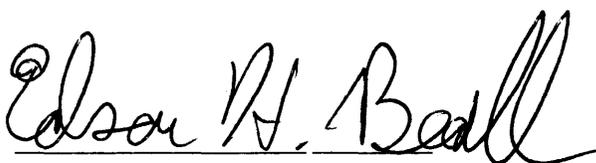
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register  
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 Keeper \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
of Action

 **3/24/00**



8. Statement of Significance

**SPRINGFIELD ARMORY**  
WS-S-94; Washington 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 **1942-1949**

Significant Dates **1942**

Significant Person **N/A**

Cultural Affiliation **N/A**

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

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

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

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

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

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

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

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

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

10. Geographical Data  
Acreage of Property 2 acres

**SPRINGFIELD ARMORY**  
WS-S-94; Washington County, KY

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

|   | Zone Easting | Northing       | Zone Easting | Northing   |
|---|--------------|----------------|--------------|------------|
| 1 | <u>16</u>    | <u>656 920</u> | <u>4172</u>  | <u>320</u> |
| 3 | <u>  </u>    | <u>  </u>      | <u>  </u>    | <u>  </u>  |
| 2 | <u>  </u>    | <u>  </u>      | <u>  </u>    | <u>  </u>  |
| 4 | <u>  </u>    | <u>  </u>      | <u>  </u>    | <u>  </u>  |

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 Washington County

street & number P.O. Box 126 telephone (606) 336-5410

city or town Springfield state KY zip code 40069

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet****SPRINGFIELD ARMORY**  
WS-S-94; Washington County, KY

Kentucky's National Guard Facilities: 1931-1951 MPS

Section number 788 Page 1**Narrative Description**

The former Springfield Armory (WS-S-94) was funded, in part, by the Works Progress Administration (WPA), and is located right outside of downtown on top of a hill. The armory is located at 126 Armory Hill Rd, and is similar in appearance to the five other poured-concrete armories designed by Louisville architect Edd R. Gregg and completed between 1941-1942. The Springfield Armory is a two-story poured concrete building with Art Deco detailing around the entrance, and slightly rounded sides, lending it a Moderne appearance. A few steps lead up to the entry, which has double glass doors in place of the original wooden doors. Unlike the armories in Harrodsburg and St. Matthews, this armory has not been painted. The seven-bay facade contains most of the original windows, but two of the first-floor windows have been replaced with modern, double-hung sash windows. On all four elevations of the building, most of the original features are intact, including all of the drill hall windows. The building is topped by a flat, rolled asphalt roof.

The old armory maintains a very high degree of integrity, with most of its original materials intact. The building is now owned by Washington County, who uses it as offices for the Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Services Department. The first- and second floors of the building serve as office space and storage. The second-floor drill hall is used by the community for basketball games and other large events. The first-floor former maintenance garage now serves as garage space for ambulances and other emergency vehicles. Most of the original doors, radiators, and other interior features are intact, although one of the large upstairs rooms has been divided into smaller offices with plywood partitions. The original bronze dedication plaque is intact in the hallway, and a framed document lists the names of the people and businesses that donated money for the land on which the armory was built.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

The former Springfield Armory (WS-S-94) meets eligibility criterion A (historic association), and criterion C (type of construction) of the National Register of Historic Places. The armory served as both a military and community center during the period of significance, and fits into the context of "Kentucky's National Guard Armories: 1931-1951." The armory meets the registration requirements established for the armory property type because it possesses integrity of location, setting, materials, and design. The armory is in the same place, and the residential/commercial setting is the same. Most of the original materials are intact, and the design of the building is the same - very few exterior and interior alterations have taken place.

The former Springfield Armory was owned by the National Guard until 1981, when a new facility was completed on the outskirts of town on Highway 555. At that time, the old armory was donated to the county, which uses it as offices and a garage for the fire, rescue, and emergency services. The former drill hall serves as a community gymnasium.

United States Department of the Interior  
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Continuation SheetSPRINGFIELD ARMORY  
WS-S-94; Washington County, KY

Kentucky's National Guard Facilities: 1931-1951 MPS

8, 9, &amp; 10 2

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

A military unit of some sort has been in Springfield since 1846, when a unit there was mustered into service for the Mexican War. During the Civil War, some men from Washington County served with General John Hunt Morgan on the Confederate side, although there was not a formally recognized unit in Springfield at that time. Men from Springfield served in both the Spanish-American War and World War I. A cavalry unit was federally recognized in Springfield in 1921, and since that time, there has been a machine-gun unit, an anti-aircraft artillery unit, and a field artillery unit in Springfield.

Most recently, the Service Battery of the 1/623rd Field Artillery unit served in Desert Storm, along with the entire 1/623rd Field Artillery Battalion, made up of units from Campbellsville, Glasgow, Monticello, and Tompkinsville. Prior to that, men from Washington County were involved in Vietnam, and the Springfield unit was involved in both Korea and World War II. The National Guard in Springfield has played an important role in our nation's defense, and the armory stands as a symbol of the importance of this organization. In addition to its role as a home for the military, the armory has been a community gathering place, with basketball games, church functions, dances and parties all taking place there.

The former Springfield Armory was the first armory built in the city, and it has played an important role in the community. It is one of six poured-concrete armories in Kentucky, and is the result of New Deal policies and the states efforts to undertake military preparation for World War II.

**Verbal Boundary Description** - The parcel designated by the Washington County PVA as tax map/parcel #18-L-052.

**Verbal Boundary Justification** - The chosen boundary encompasses the lot historically associated with the Springfield WPA Armory, including the land on which the building sits and the surrounding side and back yards, for a total of approximately 2 acres.

**Bibliography**

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

Interview with Armory manager and SFC Fowler.

Interview with retired Guard member and former Springfield resident Leon Strange, April 16, 1998.