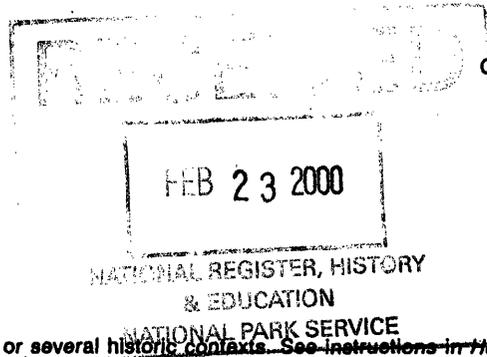


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places  
Multiple Property Documentation Form

This form is used for documenting multiple property groups relating to one or several historic contexts. See instructions in How to Complete the Multiple Property Documentation Form (National Register Bulletin 16B). Complete each item by entering the requested information. For additional space, use continuation sheets (Form 10-900-a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

New Submission     Amended Submission

**A. Name of Multiple Property Listing**

KENTUCKY'S NATIONAL GUARD FACILITIES: 1931-1951

**B. Associated Historic Contexts**

(Name each associated historic context, identifying theme, geographical area, and chronological period for each.)

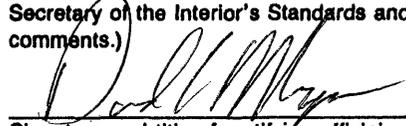
ACTIVITIES AND BUILDINGS OF THE KENTUCKY NATIONAL GUARD: 1931-1951

**C. Form Prepared by**

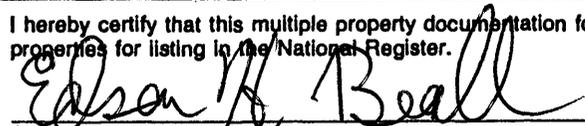
name/title Kate Carothers  
organization University of Kentucky, Kentucky Heritage Council date 4-15-99  
street & number 300 Washington Street telephone (502) 564-7005  
city or town Frankfort state KY zip code 40601

**D. Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this documentation form meets the National Register documentation standards and sets forth requirements for the listing of related properties consistent with the National Register criteria. This submission meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60 and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

 David L. Morgan, SHPO & Executive Director      Date 2-11-2000  
Signature and title of certifying official  
State Historic Preservation Office/Kentucky Heritage Council  
State or Federal agency and bureau

I hereby certify that this multiple property documentation form has been approved by the National Register as a basis for evaluating related properties for listing in the National Register.

 Edson H. Beall      Date of Action 3/24/00  
Signature of the Keeper

**Table of Contents for Written Narrative**

Provide the following information on continuation sheets. Cite the letter and the title before each section of the narrative. Assign page numbers according to the instructions for continuation sheets in *How to Complete the Multiple Property Documentation Form* (National Register Bulletin 16B). Fill in page numbers for each section in the space below.

	<b>Page Numbers</b>
<b>E. Statement of Historic Contexts</b> (If more than one historic context is documented, present them in sequential order.)	E-1 -- E-10
<b>F. Associated Property Types</b> (Provide description, significance, and registration requirements.)	F-1 -- F-6
<b>G. Geographical Data</b>	G-1
<b>H. Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods</b> (Discuss the methods used in developing the multiple property listing.)	H-1 -- H-2
<b>I. Major Bibliographical References</b> (List major written works and primary location of additional documentation: State Historic Preservation Office, other State agency, Federal agency, local government, university, or other, specifying repository.)	I-1 -- I-5

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**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.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 120 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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1931-1951State: KentuckySection number E Page 1**E. HISTORIC CONTEXT: "KENTUCKY'S NATIONAL GUARD FACILITIES:  
1931-1951"**

The National Guard buildings in the state of Kentucky are being nominated under the heading of "Kentucky's National Guard Facilities: 1931-1951." The National Guard buildings meet National Register Criteria A and C for their contributions to state and federal defense, and as a distinctive and recognizable type of construction. The period of significance reflects the time when the armories were built and historically functioned as both military and civic centers in their communities. The armories and their related buildings reflect the growth of the National Guard in the State of Kentucky and the availability of state and federal funds to complete such projects. The buildings from the 1941-42 period reflect the state and nation's commitment to the military preparations for World War II. The armories of the late-1940s signify the increase in spending on national defense after World War II, which signals the beginning of the Cold War.

**History of the Kentucky National Guard**

The Kentucky National Guard has been in existence since the American Revolution, and although it has changed names over the years, its goal has remained the same: to protect the citizens of the state and country against danger, whether from abroad or at home. The present-day organization began as part of the Virginia militia in 1775, when citizens began moving into the western frontier of the colony. The early militia was primarily involved in protecting citizens of the western lands from Indian attacks. When Kentucky became a state in 1792, provisions were made at that time to maintain a militia force. The Kentucky National Guard Historical Annual of 1938 stated that between the years of statehood and the War of 1812, the militia responded to many Indian attacks, which were the greatest threat to early settlers in the area.

In 1812, the new nation of the United States went to war with Britain again. Kentuckians were called to arms, and participated in several campaigns during the war, including the Battle of Lake Erie, the Battle of the Thames, and the Battle of New Orleans, where Kentucky Militiamen made up one-fourth of Andrew Jackson's troops. The Kentuckians helped to defeat the British forces, and became well-known for their skill as riflemen.

After the War of 1812, Kentuckians were next involved in the Mexican War (1846-48), with more men volunteering than were actually needed. The Kentucky Militia served with General Zachary Taylor at Buena Vista and Monterrey, as well as General Winfield Scott at Cerro Gordo and Chapultepec. Many Kentuckians who fought in the Civil War gained their military experience in Mexico.

When the Civil War began in 1861, the Kentucky militia was known as the State Guard, and its duty was to enforce Kentucky's policy of neutrality. This policy commanded them to repel both Union and Confederate troops that attempted to enter the state. Kentuckians were split between

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loyalty to the South and the North, and consequently, many men left the State Guard to join up with either the Union or Confederate armies. The men who remained in Kentucky were known as the Home Guard, and generally supported the Union cause. During the war, both armies occupied strategic positions within the state; the western part of the state was pro-South, with Bowling Green briefly serving as the capital of the clandestine Confederate State of Kentucky. The eastern part of the state had leanings towards the Union cause. The reasons why people were divided had to do with their own personal beliefs or views on issues such as slavery and states' rights.

During the war, the Home Guards were kept busy protecting federal supply lines, including railroads, bridges, and supply centers. Many Kentuckians who served with the Confederacy during the Civil War were part of the South's First Kentucky Brigade or "Orphan" Brigade. Some of the men who fought with the "Orphan" Brigade started as members of the Home Guard before joining the Confederacy. Many Kentucky National Guard companies can trace their roots back to the Orphan Brigade, including Bowling Green's Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 2nd Battalion, 123rd Armor Company (2/123rd Armor). Campbellsville, Glasgow, Monticello, Springfield, and Tompkinsville, all companies of the 1st Battalion, 623rd Field Artillery, are known as "Morgan's Men," for famed cavalryman General John Hunt Morgan. The current National Guard companies which were part of the Orphan Brigade most likely fought for the South because of their support of the Southern cause, i.e., states' rights, or because of their proximity to Confederate Tennessee, and/or because they were slave owners and wanted to protect their property. Today, the "Lost Cause" is romanticized as a time of chivalry and honor, and the National Guard units which were part of the "Orphan Brigade" are proud of their association with that part of Southern heritage.

The Kentucky State Guards served during the Spanish-American War of 1898. The men were mobilized and divided into three regiments, consisting of men from the Louisville area (First Regiment), the Lexington/Bluegrass Area (Second Regiment), and the Pennyryle and Purchase areas (Third Regiment). These three regiments were assembled in Lexington, and mustered into service in late May. The troops were sent to Chickamauga, where the First and Third Regiments were attached to the First Army Corps, and the Second Regiment was attached to the third Army Corps. From Chickamauga, part of the First Regiment proceeded to Puerto Rico via Newport News, Virginia, in late July. The Third and Second Regiments did not join the First on account of several illnesses (measles, mumps, and typhoid fever) which had stricken the men.

"The Third Regiment was left behind (in Virginia) on account of an epidemic of measles and mumps, and the Second Regiment was still sweltering at Chickamauga where typhoid fever raged, taking a heavy toll from the Kentucky troops." (Historical Annual, 16)

The First Regiment continued on to Puerto Rico where they were assigned to garrison duty at Guyama. While there, they did not encounter any disturbances. Meanwhile, in early July, the 4th Regiment was organized and mustered in, but was never sent on active duty because a peace treaty was drawn up on August 12, 1898. The First Regiment remained in Puerto Rico on guard duty until they were mustered out in February 1899. The 2nd and 3rd never made it to Puerto Rico on

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account of their combined illnesses. After Chickamauga, the Second Regiment went to Anniston, Alabama, while the Third was sent back to camp in Lexington. After the companies were mustered out in February, there was no organized militia for a time. In late summer of 1899, the Guard was organized again, and in 1903, the State Guards were federalized, meaning that standards of uniformity were developed and federal monies became available to train and arm the men.

By the turn of the century, the only building constructed in Kentucky exclusively for military use was the State Arsenal in Frankfort, built in 1850. After 1900, more buildings were constructed to train men and store arms throughout the state, but it was not until the 1940s that a large-scale building program for the National Guard was implemented. By the time the Guard was summoned for World War I, there was only one formal armory in the state, located in Louisville. During the interim period between the two world wars, several more armories were constructed, including the construction of eight Works Progress Administration-financed armories. The decade of the 1940s saw the greatest number of armories built in the state. Money for defense spending was readily available in this decade due to the beginning of World War II, followed by the beginnings of the Cold War and the nuclear arms race between the United States and Russia. A total of thirteen armories were built, with roughly half of them still under National Guard ownership. All of these buildings are still in use today, either as armories or for another purpose.

#### The Armory as a Distinctive Building

The armory as a specific building type developed nationally during the post - Civil War period, even though a variety of military storage facilities for munitions were common during the earliest years of the Colonial Period (Todd, 19). The State Arsenal in Frankfort is a good example of what military buildings were like before the advent of armories. Some offices were housed in the Arsenal, but its main function was as a storage place for weapons and ammunition. Although the State Arsenal was the first military building in the state, plans for an armory began as early as 1818, when the Twenty-Sixth General Assembly passed a resolution to pay Benjamin Henry Latrobe three hundred dollars to draw up plans for an armory in Louisville. The plans were never realized, and most likely there was little public support for an armory at that early date.

The first military building was constructed in 1850 in Kentucky, and it was not until 1905 that the first armory was built. Kentucky, like the rest of the South, lagged behind the North in terms of building programs.

In the later years of the nineteenth century, the first wave of armory building occurred in the Northeast. Once armory construction began, these structures replaced the earlier, pre-Civil War buildings as the most recognizable building of the National Guard. The new armories had a characteristic design and form that distinguished them from earlier military facilities such as arsenals. Although the outward appearance of armories differed somewhat, their interior plan and layout was a variation on the same theme.

“Three primary features distinguish the armory as a specific building type. First, in terms

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of function, the armory served not only as a military facility, but also as a clubhouse for the guardsmen and as a civic monument designed to convey power, pride, and patriotism. Second, in terms of form and plan, the armory consists of an administration building with an attached drill shed at ground level. The third feature was the exterior design of the building, in that the armories (late 19th and early 20th century ones) were designed to resemble impenetrable fortresses." (Fogelson, 159).

Late nineteenth century armories, especially those found in the Northeast, were designed to look like castles (Medieval Gothic architecture), with high, thick walls, towers and battlements, narrow windows, and an overall forbidding appearance. Other hallmarks of these armories were their large size and construction materials - they were usually built of brick or stone. They had large drill halls attached at the rear of the building, and were at least two stories tall. The State Arsenal in Frankfort, though not an armory, resembles some of the earlier armories in its architectural style. In Kentucky, the first armory was not completed until 1905. Before that time, the National Guardsmen met at people's homes or rented space above commercial establishments in the downtown area of their respective cities. There were no formal armories in the state before 1900, unlike the Northeast, where armories were constructed beginning in the late 1860s.

In the late nineteenth century, the larger cities often had problems with class warfare, due to the large numbers of immigrants living together in tight quarters. These larger and more diverse populations made the possibility of conflict a real concern. Soldiers lived at the armories, which were often built in the inner city to act as a deterrent to those groups who might think of starting trouble. State governments were persuaded to allocate money for armories, as they would provide a home for the soldiers and act as a warning/deterrent to those who might think of starting any civil unrest. Later on, as threats of class warfare diminished, armories were viewed as a place for soldiers to drill, and as a storage place for weapons and vehicles. The local governments hoped that the presence of the armories and the Guardsmen would act as a deterrent to those groups who might start trouble.

**Early Armories (1900-1939) in Kentucky**

While most Kentucky armories were constructed in the 1940s, several were built between 1905-1939. The first one was constructed in 1905 in downtown Louisville, located on what is now Muhammad Ali Blvd. Some of the earlier armories found in Kentucky, especially the Louisville Armory, have the same elements as the late nineteenth century armories in the Northeast. The Louisville Armory is built of brick and stone, and is a large three-story building with attached drill shed. It has a pool in the basement, and exterior ornament such as eagles perched on the roof line. The building's large size (a city block long), was akin to the size of the largest northeastern armories.

Plans for the Louisville Armory actually began in 1893, when the state legislators passed a law that required every city of 1st or 2nd class to provide an armory with a drill hall and ammunition repository for the local branch of the state militia. However, it was not until 1904 that city leaders

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began looking for a suitable spot on which to build an armory. In 1st and 2nd class cities, such as Lexington, Frankfort, Ashland, Glasgow, and Paducah, the Guard was generally housed in leased buildings that provided enough space for the troops to drill, and was a storage facility for weapons and other equipment. Often the Guard used the second floor of a grocery, shoe store, hardware store, or other dry goods store.

In 1904, the state legislature ordered Jefferson County Fiscal Court to erect an armory in Louisville, so one was finally built. The county appropriated \$450,000 for the project. The armory is three-stories tall, and was designed by Louisville architect Brinton B. Davis. The armory, currently known as Louisville Gardens, serves as an auditorium for concerts and other events.

After the Louisville Armory was completed, other cities in the state began clamoring for federal and state funds to build armories in their home towns. However, with the beginning of World War I in 1914, money was once again tight, and the funds to build more armories was not available. Men from Kentucky were stationed in France during World War I, where they served as reserve troops for the regular Army. They did not go overseas until 1917, when the United States entered the war. When they went overseas, the National Guard was not a formal organization. In fact, the National Guard did not become formally recognized until 1920, when all of the state guards came under federal control, and standards of uniformity were enforced. Even after the men returned in 1918, it was not until 1926 that the acquisition of suitable buildings and the construction of armories began in earnest.

On March 3, 1924, the state legislature appropriated \$60,000 to provide armories in all counties of the state where National Guard home stations were located. Later on, other funds subsequently became available, and by 1938, approximately 12 buildings had either been purchased or built by the state for use by the National Guard.

One of the larger armories constructed during this time was the Bowling Green Armory (1927). It was an impressive building designed by Louisville architect Brinton B. Davis, and featured a three-story limestone facade with elements of the Beaux Arts architectural style. A large three-story brick drill hall was located on the back of the administrative section. The interior of the drill hall was unusual in that it featured a large stage at one end of the room; this was to allow the room to serve as both a military and civilian center. Although not as large as the Louisville Armory, the Bowling Green Armory was an impressive structure in the downtown area of the city.

The Louisville and Bowling Green armories, along with a two-story, brick armory in Monticello (1926), were the first formal armories built in the state. In the 1930s, as more money became available, more armories were built and other buildings were obtained by the state for use as armories. However, it was not until the 1940s that a large-scale building program would begin. Until that time, most National Guard companies continued the practice of meeting in rented buildings.

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As it was not always possible to build a new armory, some of the towns adapted existing buildings which were adequate to meet the needs of the National Guard. An example of this can be found in Glasgow, where the city purchased the old Glasgow Auditorium building in 1931. This building featured offices and an auditorium that was large enough to serve as a drill hall. In Henderson, a small commercial building on Fourth Street was adapted and used as an armory until one was built in 1950-51. Besides the fore-mentioned armories in Bowling Green and Monticello, several other armories were built around the state between 1924-1938.

The armories built in the 1930s included buildings on Maryland Avenue in Frankfort (1931), which is now a storage warehouse, armories in Campbellsville (1932) (vacant), Ravenna (1934), now a community center, and Russellville (1934), also a community center. The armory in Bardstown (1938), now serves as the home of the American Legion, and has been altered quite heavily. The building resembles a white weatherboard, two-story house from the exterior. The armory in Frankfort (1931) consisted of a complex of buildings. One of these was a large wooden barrel-vaulted structure used by the cavalry unit stationed there. Another smaller building served as an armory, but it was demolished to make way for a new road. A stable on Maryland Avenue was built in 1931 and torn down in the 1980s. A brick armory was built in Monticello in 1926, but was demolished in the 1980s due to neglect. The armories in Ravenna and Russellville are two-story brick buildings with attached drill halls. Both of these maintain their original exterior form, but the old Ravenna Armory has undergone many interior changes. Some of the windows have been closed up, the wood floor is gone, and many of the interior rooms have been divided up, all of which make it ineligible for the National Register. The armory at Russellville has also undergone some changes, but maintains its original hardwood drill hall floor and drill hall windows. The windows in the administrative part of the building have been replaced with in-kind windows. Today both of these buildings function as community centers.

In keeping with the changing armory designs (armories began to look more like other public buildings rather than castles) all of these buildings look like public/commercial buildings from the front. They are not easily distinguishable as an armory from the street, until one sees the rear drill halls or notices the word "ARMORY" on the building.

**Building for War - World War II and the Cold War**

The Kentucky National Guard was called up again for active duty during World War II. As in World War I, every organized National Guard unit saw active duty during the war. Unlike earlier wars the Guard had been involved in, such as World War I and the Spanish-American War, the beginning of World War II was accompanied by a building boom in armories. Armories were not constructed in large numbers before the other wars, partly because funds were not available, and the Guard was not yet a centralized organization. Construction of the armories began in 1941, and they were completed in late 1941 or early 1942. In most cases, the men had already left the city before the armories were completed. During their absence, the armories were occupied by other groups, such as the Home Guards in Carlisle, or were simply left vacant until the Guard returned.

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Men from Company D of the 192nd Tank Battalion out of Harrodsburg entered the war in 1940, before the United States had officially entered the war. The men from Harrodsburg were part of the Provisional Tank Group, and were stationed in the Phillippines in 1941. While there, the Kentuckians helped defend Bataan along with the regular Army, but they were forced to surrender and were taken captive by the Japanese. Some men escaped, but most were forced to endure the infamous Bataan Death March, during which their Japanese captors routinely beat them and forced them to march without rest in the hot sun, denying them food and water. The men were marched to Camp O'Donnell on the island of Corregidor, where they were held as prisoners until 1942. In 1944, National Guard troops from Kentucky went to the Phillippines again, where they were part of the 38th Division.

Men from Kentucky also fought in parts of Europe, where they earned streamers for their gallantry in such places as Ardennes- Alsace, Central Europe, the Rhineland, and Sicily. However, the majority of Kentucky National Guardsmen fought in the Pacific Theater, in Leyte, Luzon, New Guinea, and the Phillippines. The men who fought in the Pacific earned the nickname "Avengers of Bataan" after their earlier comrades.

Beginning with the military action that occurred in the early 1940s, a comprehensive large-scale building program began in 1941-42. Eight new armories were built by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) during this time period, in anticipation of the start of the war. The building of these new armories was a way to provide employment for people of the state, as they were labor-intensive projects. The National Guard requested that the federal government earmark \$480 million dollars for the construction of new armories, but this request was turned down. "Later on, the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and the Public Works Administration (PWA) were prevailed upon to include armories in the types of public buildings eligible for Federal grants." (Fogelson, 194)

The eight new armories were located in Carlisle, Harlan, Harrodsburg, Lexington, Richmond, Springfield, St. Matthews (Louisville), and Williamsburg. The building of these armories followed the pattern of most WPA construction: it was labor-intensive and used local materials, whenever possible. The goal was to provide economic relief in the form of work, not hand-outs. Six of the eight armories were concrete structures, while the other two were built of brick. Most of the armories were utilitarian structures, with only limited ornamentation, reflecting the administration's desire to stay within a budget and reflecting the architects' increased willingness to use concrete as an exterior finish material. Many cities wanted armories built in their community, as they functioned as much more than just a military center.

National Guard leaders appealed to Congress to fund armory construction, emphasizing that armories would not only house the troops, but also serve as community centers. This position was adopted by the WPA, which based its construction program on the assumption that the buildings would be used approximately 75% as a community center, and 25% for military purposes. (Fogelson, 197)

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In many communities people donated land, or it was bought by several businesses and donated to the city in order to have an armory built. At the Springfield WPA Armory, a small framed document acknowledging the businesses that helped supply funds for the armory hangs in the hallway. In the town of Williamsburg, Sergeant Tony Jones remembers "...the Lane family donated a portion of their land so that an armory could be built." (Interview, June, 1998).

Most of the WPA armories were completed in late 1941 or 1942 after the soldiers left for war, so they were not actually used by the Guard until after World War II. In some communities, such as Carlisle, the local Home Guards used the armory for meetings while the National Guard was overseas fighting.

Six of the eight armories were designed by Louisville architect Edd R. Gregg, who used poured concrete as the material of choice. The concrete was mixed on site by portable mixers, and wooden framing was put up before the concrete was poured. (Interview with Leon Strange, April, 1998) Walls were poured to be 10"-12" thick, and had steel rod reinforcements in the middle. The combination of concrete and steel makes these buildings very solid structures. In many communities they were (and still are) referred to as the "strongest buildings in town." (Interview in Carlisle, August, 1998). The armories were all designed in the same fashion, although they had varying square footage. The buildings are two stories tall, with a seven bay facade, Art Deco detailing around the entrance, rounded corners, and an attached drill hall/maintenance garage at the rear. The armory at Carlisle was the exception; it was a one-story building located on a fall-away lot with a basement garage under the drill hall.

The other two armories, located in Lexington and Richmond, were designed by the firm of Weber & Weber out of Lexington. These armories are two-story brick structures with a central block and two wings on either side. They are eleven-bay structures with horizontal Art Deco ornamentation on the second story and ornamentation around the entrance. In Richmond, a garage was located in the basement level, while in Lexington, a separate maintenance garage was located behind the armory.

When the National Guard returned home from World War II, the new armories were waiting for their occupation. Subsequently, the armories functioned as both a home for the soldiers and a meeting place for the towns in which they were located. In Carlisle, a New Years Eve dance was held every year at the armory for roughly twenty-five years. In Williamsburg, a local resident remembers that "...church group meetings, square dances, and basketball games..." all took place in the armory while it was still occupied by the National Guard. (Interview with Edward Freeman, July, 1998) The eight new armories were a welcome addition to the communities and the National Guard units, but there was still a need for more armories in the state.

**History of Armories: Cold War Era**

Between 1947-1948, five new armories were completed in Ashland, Elizabethtown, Madisonville, Owensboro, and Somerset. These five new brick armories were large imposing structures,

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hearkening back to late nineteenth-century designs, when armories were often grand, sprawling buildings. The buildings were an expression of the United States' military strength after helping the Allies win World War II, and as a response to the growing Cold War. Unlike the WPA armories, which were relatively small buildings located in or right outside the downtown area, these new armories were very large, and were located in suburban areas of the cities where they were built.

As the National Guard began to receive more military vehicles and equipment in the late 1940s, there was a greater need for outside and inside storage space. Whereas the smaller, WPA armories were built for one-company units, the larger, late-1940s armories often housed more than one company, or served as a Headquarters unit for other companies. These armories had larger maintenance garages and more interior storage rooms in which to keep equipment and weapons. Hence, they were located on the outskirts of town, in the suburbs.

In the early 1950s, as other armories and related buildings were constructed, they continued to locate in residential areas, including buildings in Henderson, London, and Paducah. The armory in Henderson, although built ten year later, was modeled after the WPA armories of 1941-42, and was built by the same architect, Edd R. Gregg. The two buildings in London are brick structures located in a rural area with plenty of room around them for storage of vehicles, reflecting the national trend of obtaining top-notch equipment for all National Guard and Reserve Armed Forces, a trend which began in the 1950s.

A change in armory design occurred in the 1950s. The armories, which had previously featured separate maintenance areas and drill hall areas, now combined them into one large room. The money to build expansive gyms was no longer available as more money was spent on buildings, vehicles, and equipment. The armories from the early 1950s to the present reflect the trend of building smaller facilities, like those of the early 1940s. The armories built in the late 1940s reflect the Cold War hostilities which were building up around the world, as countries split into Communist vs. Democratic nations. A few more buildings were constructed in the early 1950s, until the building came to a halt.

In the late 1950s and early 1960s, ten new armories were constructed, and an existing OMS shop was converted into an armory. Speaking at the dedication of the new Bardstown Armory on June 23, 1962, Major General Arthur Y. Lloyd praised the state's armory program. "Under Governor Combs' administration, and his progressive fiscal policy, we have launched the greatest program of armory construction this state has ever seen..."

A big change from armories of the 1940s and earlier was the site location. This location changed after the 1950s when armories began to receive more equipment and vehicles; much of which could be stored outside in the motor pool. Earlier armories had very limited outdoor room, if any, in which to store vehicles. Newer armories featured motor pools and acreage in which to spread out. Older armories were not adaptable for new National Guard uses because of their materials (concrete) or location (small downtown lot), which were inflexible. Due to these reasons, new

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armories were built in different locations outside downtown, and were built after a different plan - the interior layout of these buildings was different from before.

The older armories, therefore, are distinctive National Guard facilities, in that they differ from the newer ones in location, materials, interior arrangement, and acreage. The older armories were representative of an earlier building period and reflective of the era in which they were built - World War II and the Cold War. These armories were solid masonry buildings, generally two stories tall, with separate maintenance garages/ shops built as part of the armory itself. Changes in armory design began in the 1950s, as buildings evolved into one-story rectangular structures without separate maintenance garages. The armories built after 1960 often featured one large room which could be used as a meeting room, or divided into three smaller rooms with fold-away partitions. Old armories did not have this flexibility in room usage. Of course, some of the older armories did contain large rooms to begin with - Ashland and Owensboro, for example. The WPA armories, however, featured several small rooms, with only the drill hall big enough to accommodate a large group.

The sixteen armories and related buildings proposed for nomination are significant to the growth and development of the Kentucky National Guard from 1931-1951. This time period reflects the evolution of the armory from a small, one-company facility to a much larger building. The changes in the buildings themselves mirror the changes in the National Guard during this period, as it went from a strictly part-time military organization to one which had more full-time responsibilities and training, and hence, needed more room in which to accommodate new weapons and vehicles.

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State: Kentucky**F. ASSOCIATED PROPERTY TYPES****NAME: Armories, Motor Vehicle Storage Buildings, Organizational Maintenance Shops****B. DESCRIPTION****Physical Characteristics:**

1) **The Armory.** The armory served a dual purpose - it functioned as a place for the Guardsmen to meet, work, and drill, while also serving as a community gathering place, where events such as parties, dances, and festivals occurred. The armory served as the storage place for the National Guard's weapons and vehicles. Armories in Kentucky range in size from small one-story facilities, e.g., the Carlisle Armory, to large two-story or taller buildings, e.g. Ashland and Owensboro, with attached drill halls. The armories are usually located either in downtown or residential areas of their respective cities. The older armories (1920-1945) are located downtown, while the armories built from 1947-1951 are frequently located in residential areas.

The majority of the armories built before 1951 are masonry buildings with an attached drill hall at the rear, and sit on a concrete slab or raised concrete foundation. Most often, the buildings are flat roofed and covered with rolled tar roofing, and they have metal casement or metal light windows. In some cases, the original metal casement windows have been replaced by glass block, e.g., on the Owensboro Armory. All ten of the proposed buildings are located in residential areas, and represent the Cold War period. All ten of the buildings proposed for National Register listing are state-owned, while many of the other armories mentioned in the text are publicly or privately-owned.

The interior of the armory was composed of smaller offices and classrooms, a large drill hall, and in some cases, a maintenance shop. Small rooms such as the boiler room, janitor's closet, storage rooms and vault were located off the drill hall. Before 1950, armories were designed with a large, two-story administrative building in a square shape. After 1950, the design of the armory changed, and the administrative building became a one-story rectangular building containing offices, classrooms, and storage rooms. The interior arrangement of the armories remained the same, despite the fact that the outward design of the administrative building changed. One feature which some of the older armories had, which they no longer do, is a large shower/changing room for the men. Smaller bathrooms were more the norm after the 1950s.

Armories built after the mid-1960s generally did not have wood floors because of the higher cost to install them, so wood floors are distinctive to the earlier buildings. Many of the earlier armories also have metal casement and multi-light windows of a type which are no longer used on buildings today. The armories may have wooden or metal doors with original hardware, dating to the 1950s and earlier, and some of the buildings have wooden floors in classrooms, bleachers, or balconies

2) **Motor Vehicle Storage Buildings.** There are four motor vehicle storage buildings, (MVSB's), in the State of Kentucky. One of the buildings was located next door to an existing armory, while the

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other three were located away from the existing armory, or actually served as a temporary armory until other buildings were constructed. As with armories, these buildings could be located in either downtown or residential areas - they are evenly split. All four of the buildings are one-and-a-half stories tall, and have a gable front roof, usually covered with tin or metal. A large central garage door is located at either end of the building, and is flanked by smaller windows and a door on either side. Above the garage door are two small air vents. Three of the MVSB's are made up of concrete block, while the one in Ravenna is built of brick. The interior of these buildings are generally open, allowing for the storage of vehicles. Lining either side of the building's interior are rooms and offices made up of concrete blocks. These buildings functioned either as armories or as motor vehicle storage buildings. All four of these buildings were erected between 1949-1950, and due to their ownership or date of construction, they are not being nominated.

**3) Organizational Maintenance Shops.** There are several of these across the state, with two of them old enough to be listed on the National Register. Some of these buildings are located next to the armory; others are located away from the armory. The two shops old enough for listing on the National Register are located next to the Glasgow and away from the Bowling Green and London armories. These two OMS shops were built between 1947-1948. Both of these buildings had two garage doors - one on either end. At the Bowling Green OMS, a third garage door was added later on the north side. The function of the OMS buildings was vehicle storage and maintenance purposes only.

The Bowling Green and Glasgow OMS shops look alike, but the Bowling Green building is larger. Both of these buildings are about one-and-a-half stories tall with a large garage door in the center, and are flanked on either side by two windows and a door.

These buildings are generally wide open on the interior, with a few offices on either side or at the center of the building. These two buildings are made up of concrete blocks with flat, built-up tar or metal roofs. The Bowling Green and Glasgow buildings have always been used for vehicle maintenance purposes, and would have played an important role in the storage of larger vehicles after World War II, as the earlier maintenance shops were not large enough to accommodate the size of the new vehicles.

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### C. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Kentucky's National Guard facilities (including armories, Motor Vehicle Storage buildings, and Organizational Maintenance Shops) are locally significant and meet National Register eligibility Criterion A as examples of the important National Guard activity in Kentucky. The buildings also meet National Register Criterion C and are significant as a type of construction, i.e., an armory and related structures. The old Louisville armory, (now Louisville Gardens) built in 1905; is not included among the properties in this submission because it has already been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The buildings being nominated in this study were built with state and federal funds, and in the case of armories, functioned as both military and community centers. The period of significance for the buildings is 1931-1951.

The buildings proposed for nomination are significant to the history of the National Guard because of the role they have played, serving as the home of the soldiers, as well as a storage place for arms, ammunition, and other war materiel. Armories have served as the home of the soldiers through World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and the Gulf War. During peacetime, the armories have served as community centers, hosting a variety of sporting and social events. The armory is a distinctive building type because of its specialized use as a storage and training facility for the soldiers of the Kentucky Army National Guard. Every armory is designed and built with the same features, and they all have a similar plan. The National Guard is the only branch of the armed forces to have such a building linked to them - armories are synonymous with the National Guard, and are instantly recognizable as being the home of that organization. Armories are important for their use and their design - they are recognized as being the home of the National Guard, and no other military branch possesses such a building.

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## D. REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

In order to qualify for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, an armory must (a) be at least fifty years old (b) have integrity, and (c) contribute to local history and architecture. Most of the buildings nominated for the National Register are fifty years old or more. Some of the National Guard buildings discussed in this text are not quite fifty years old, but they are important to National Guard history, and are therefore included in this document. National Guard buildings no longer owned by the Guard, as well as buildings not yet eligible are included in a chart at the end of this text for future reference.

All of the armories proposed for nomination had been altered somewhat, but they have been evaluated to possess the requisite integrity factors. Many of the armories have replacement windows, but the majority of the original ones are intact. In addition, some floors had been replaced, some rooms were divided up to make two smaller ones, and cosmetic changes had been made, such as adding paneling to walls. Armories at Ashland, Madisonville, and Owensboro were altered so that they were handicapped-accessible to the public. None of the changes to the armories proposed for nomination were severe enough to keep them from being nominated. All of the buildings are recognizable as armories, and they all maintain their integrity of design, setting, and a relatively high degree of materials. All of the nominated armories are in their original settings and locations.

For a building to be evaluated to retain its integrity, it must possess integrity of location, setting, materials, design, feeling, and association. In order to be eligible, the buildings must have most of their original features and materials intact. Since this property type is based on function, the integrity of materials and look (design) of the building requires that a person be able to discern what the original function of the building was, especially if it now serves a function different from its original one.

The armories and related buildings must have integrity of **location** and **setting**. Due to their function as a military and community center, the armories were located in areas of town where they were easily accessible to the Guardsmen and the community. The early armories were located downtown, where they were highly visible. Even after moving to residential areas away from the center of the towns, the large size and unique look of the armories made them stand out among the houses of the neighborhood. All of the nominated armories and related buildings are in their original locations. The setting in which the armories were built - whether it be residential, commercial, or industrial - has also remained the same.

Integrity of **materials** and **design** exists when a building has maintained its overall plan and interior and exterior materials. All of the nominated armories and related buildings have maintained a high degree of integrity in materials and design. For instance, many of the early armories have retained their original wooden drill hall floors. All of these features make the buildings stand out from their modern-day counterparts. In the case of the WPA and Henderson armories, the method of

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construction (poured concrete), and design of the buildings makes them distinctive, as no other armories were built of concrete or designed in the same fashion after 1951.

In order to be evaluated as possessing integrity of materials and design, an armory must maintain: original drill hall floors or in-kind replacement, original doors and windows, the same or similar plan of the original design, and be recognizable as an armory building from the exterior and interior. The 1942 Harlan WPA Armory did not meet these criteria because of the extensive changes to the interior and exterior of the building. The interior drill hall has been divided up into offices, and windows have been replaced or closed up. In the same instance, the 1942 St. Matthews Armory is not eligible because of extensive interior and exterior changes - the old maintenance bay was divided up into several rooms, garage doors were removed, and most of the original windows were removed. The 1934 Ravenna Armory has lost its integrity of materials because its original wooden floor was pulled up and replaced with a concrete floor, windows were taken out, and openings closed up. The armory lost its integrity of design when its rooms were divided up and changed.

Integrity of **association** exists when a nominated building was constructed for, or used by, the National Guard of Kentucky, and if integrity of materials, location, and setting also exists. All of the National Guard facilities were constructed with funds provided by the federal government and the state. The National Guard has always served a dual purpose: as both a state military organization that can be activated by the Governor, and in times of war or national emergencies, as a federal agency that can be activated by the President.

#### Recommendations:

#### 1. Buildings eligible and being nominated:

1948 Ashland Armory  
1947 Bowling Green OMS  
1941 Carlisle WPA Armory  
1948 Elizabethtown Armory  
1931 Frankfort Armory  
1947 Glasgow OMS  
1942 Harrodsburg WPA Armory  
1950 Henderson Armory  
1947 Madisonville Armory  
1948 Owensboro Armory  
1949 Ravenna MVSB  
1941 Richmond WPA Armory  
1934 Russellville Armory  
1948 Somerset Armory  
1942 Springfield WPA Armory  
1941 Williamsburg WPA Armory

#### 2. May be Eligible - Not Being Nominated

1932 Campbellsville Armory  
1949 Monticello MVSB

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3. Buildings over 50 but not Eligible Due to Extensive Changes and Alterations:
- 1938 Bardstown Armory
  - 1941 Lexington WPA Armory
  - 1934 Ravenna Armory
  - 1942 St. Matthews WPA Armory

4. Not Eligible - Less than 50 Years Old:
- 1952 London OMS buildings
  - 1950 Middlesboro MVSB
  - 1950 Tompkinsville MVSB

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## SECTION G: GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

In a statewide study of the historic context, extant armories and related buildings are located in forty-three counties in western, central, and eastern sections of the State of Kentucky. The historic (pre-1951) armories and related buildings being nominated are located in the following fifteen counties, from west to east: Logan, Henderson, Hopkins, Daviess, Warren, Barren, Hardin, Franklin, Mercer, Washington, Nicholas, Pulaski, Estill, Whitley, and Boyd Counties.

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### SECTION H: METHODOLOGY

This survey of the properties historically and currently associated with the National Guard was conducted by Ms. Kate Carothers, an independent consultant working for the Department of Military Affairs, Kentucky Heritage Council, and the University of Kentucky. Each National Guard facility was visited by Ms. Carothers, photographed, and inventoried. The project began in November of 1997 and a draft was submitted to the Department of Military Affairs in September, 1998.

The initial list of National Guard buildings was supplied to the consultant by the University of Kentucky's Archaeological Survey. Further research at the Military Records and Research Branch in Frankfort, as well as the Facilities Division at Boone Center in Frankfort revealed other armories which were no longer owned by the State of Kentucky. A file drawer at the Military Records and Research Branch contained various documents (papers, correspondence, brochures) on the armories in Kentucky. A photographic record of old armories located at Facilities Division on Boone Center provided a great deal of help in locating and documenting the older armories in the state. County histories located at the Kentucky Historical Society in Frankfort were also inspected for information on old armories. The Master List of Kentucky Survey sites located at Kentucky Heritage Council was referenced in order to see which armories may already have been listed on the National Register.

The historic context was developed after a cursory consideration of the history of the National Guard in Kentucky from Revolutionary times to the present. The context of the buildings was initiated by looking at the buildings' date of construction, the time period in which these were built, and who built them. The researcher was interested in how much of the original materials the buildings maintained, how similar the buildings were to their original designs, and how the buildings were used in their communities, in order to determine their architectural and historical significance with regards to listing on the National Register. The researcher hypothesized that the buildings were important community centers. After an initial survey of the buildings, the author compiled a list of key elements she felt would distinguish the historic buildings from the modern ones, such as wooden drill hall floors, and multi-paned windows. The presence or absence of these historic elements would determine whether or not the buildings met eligibility criteria A of the National Register. After coming up with this list, each building was compared to the key elements, and those that met most of the requirements were considered eligible, while those not meeting most requirements were considered ineligible. Most of the historic armories had a distinctive design which made them recognizable as armories; this made them eligible for criteria C, type of construction. However, if the armories did not meet both requirements to a satisfactory degree, they were not considered for listing on the National Register.

The researcher was able to discern patterns of armory constructions, such as period design, location, and the unity among the WPA-era armories built in 1941-1942. Prior to the construction of the armory in these towns; those units drilled and operated out of existing buildings. New armory buildings were constructed in those towns when funding became available. Each new armory design tended to be conservative stylistically, and did not differ radically from its contemporaries statewide.

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In view of the relation between history and design, a Multiple Property-format nomination was prepared, evaluating the armories to meet both criteria A and C. The property type, "Armories and related structures," was selected to group these structures due to the similarity in their physical characteristics, function, date of construction, and setting. The requirements for listing were based on the examination of the extant armories and related buildings. Integrity evaluations determined which physical parts of the building conveyed the important historic associations and corresponding design. The alterations of each building were assessed according to this view of integrity. The armories and related buildings are grouped under the heading "Kentucky's National Guard Facilities: 1931-1951."

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Lineage and Honors of 2/123rd Armor.

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Blanton, Luther, Harlan, February 25, 1998

Bond, SGT H. Scott, Walton, November 1997

Brown, SFC Bobby, Hazard, February 25, 1998

Brewer, SSG Barry, Shelbyville, November 1997

Burns, SFC Kenneth, Carrollton, November 1997

Capps, SFC Ottis, Harlan, February 25, 1998

Casey, Darrell, Frankfort, (AASF), January 8, 1998

Conover, MAJ Donald, Buechel, November 1997

Coy, SGT David, Cynthiana, December 1997

Davidson, Carson G. (ret.), Marion, January 22, 1998

Davis, SSG John, Madisonville, January 29, 1998

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Fa'amuli, SFC Afenoa, Leitchfield, January 27, 1998  
Fitzpatrick, SFC Edsel B., Jr., Ashland, December 1997  
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Freeman, Edward, Williamsburg, July 29, 1998  
Frodge, SSG Steven, Marion, January 22, 1998  
Flynn, SGT, Ravenna, February 20, 1998.  
Galbreath, SSG James, Carlisle, December 8, 1997  
Gee, Ed (ret.), Olive Hill, December 9, 1997  
Gerals, SFC Bobby, Tompkinsville, April 15, 1998  
Griffin, SFC Ray, Danville, February 18, 1998  
Graves, W01 Kenny, Bowling Green, June 4, 1998  
Gum, Elmo, Richmond, May 15, 1998 (by phone)  
Hammons, Larry, Barbourville, March 17, 1998  
Haslam, SFC Frederic, Brandenburg, December 1997  
Hollan, SGT Granville, Frankfort, June 2, 1998 (re: Walton)  
Holland, Romer, (ret.) Bowling Green, June 4, 1998 (by phone)  
Holt, Jerry, Monticello, March 19, 1998  
James, SGM. Mike, Buechel, May 26, 1998  
Jones, SSG Tony, Williamsburg, July 1, 1998 (by phone)  
Kinder, CPT Dwight, Greenville, January 29, 1998  
Lanham, SFC Douglas, Elizabethtown, November 1998  
Mahan, Mike, Williamsburg, March 18, 1998  
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Richmond, SSG Junior, Olive Hill, December 1997  
Roy, SFC Jim, Frankfort (Maryland Ave.), January 8, 1998  
Searcy, CW3 Stanley, Greenville, January 29, 1998  
Sewell, SGM, Somerset, March 19, 1998  
Sikes, SSG Roger, Henderson, January 28, 1998  
Southern, MAJ James, Bowling Green, June 4, 1998  
Strange, Leon (ret.), Glasgow, April 16, 1998  
Stinson, SFC John, Monticello, March 19, 1998

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Sumpter, SGT Earl, Prestonsburg, February 26, 1998  
Supplee, (ret.), SGM James, Carrollton, December 1997  
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Vanover, SFC Homer, Middlesboro, March 26, 1998  
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Westerfield, SSG Ray, Owensboro, January 28, 1998  
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