

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

Historic name Kansas City National Guard Armory

Other names/site number N/A

Name of related Multiple Property Listing N/A

2. Location

Street & number 3620 Main Street

N/A	not for publication
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City or town Kansas City

N/A	vicinity
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State Missouri Code MO County Jackson Code 095 Zip code 64111

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:


national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria: A B C D

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

 _____ 1/16/20
Signature of commenting official _____ Date _____

Director - Missouri State Parks / Deputy SHPO
Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register

other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

Kansas City Armory
Name of Property

Jackson County, Missouri
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Defense: Armory

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: Storage

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: Castellated

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Concrete
walls: Brick
roof: Asphalt
other: _____

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION ON CONTINUATION PAGES

Kansas City Armory
Name of Property

Jackson County, Missouri
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE ON CONTINUATION PAGES

Areas of Significance

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1923

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

none

Architect/Builder

Plans: Colonel EM Strayton

Builder: Seested, Frank

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

Kansas City National Guard Armory
Name of Property

Jackson County, Missouri
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than one acre

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1 39.061188 -94.586230 3 _____
Latitude: Longitude: Latitude: Longitude:

2 _____ 4 _____
Latitude: Longitude: Latitude: Longitude:

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

_____ NAD 1927 or _____ NAD 1983

1 _____ 3 _____
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

2 _____ 4 _____
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (On continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (On continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cynthia Ammerman, Principal Historian & Preservation Strategist

organization Polis: Cultural Planning, Llc. date _____

street & number 3900 Booth Street telephone 816.529.2681

city or town Kansas City state KS zip code 66103

e-mail Polis.preservation@gmail.com or cynthia.ammerman@gmail.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:**
 - A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
 - A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Photographs**
- **Owner Name and Contact Information**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

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.460 et seq.).

Kansas City National Guard Armory
Name of Property

Jackson County, Missouri
County and State

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered, and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log:

Name of Property: **Kansas City National Guard Armory**

City or Vicinity: **Kansas City**

County: **Jackson County** State: **MO**

Photographer: **F-Stop Photography, & C. Ammerman Polis: Cultural Planning**

Date Photographed: **June/September 2018 All photos verified as accurate 6/21/2019 by Cynthia Ammerman June 22, 2019 Cynthia Ammerman**

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of #:

- 1 of 19:** Exterior, East elevation looking west, C. Ammerman 2019
- 2 of 19:** Exterior, Northeast corner looking south original window openings, C. Ammerman 2019
- 3 of 19:** Exterior, East elevation fenestration, C. Ammerman 2019
- 4 of 19:** Exterior, East elevation second-floor fenestration looking west, C. Ammerman 2019
- 5 of 19:** Exterior, East elevation second-floor historic fenestration looking southwest, C. Ammerman 2019
- 6 of 19:** Exterior, Southeast castellated tower looking west, C. Ammerman 2019
- 7 of 19:** Exterior, Northeast castellated tower looking west, C. Ammerman 2019
- 8 of 19:** Exterior, South elevation looking north (one-story building not part of parcel), C. Ammerman 2019
- 9 of 19:** Exterior, North elevation looking south (one-story building not part of parcel), C. Ammerman 2019
- 10 of 19:** Exterior, West and south elevations from distance looking northeast, C. Ammerman 2019
- 11 of 19:** Interior, Foyer looking Northeast, F-Stop Brad Finch
- 12 of 19:** Interior, First-floor drill space looking Southwest, F-Stop Brad Finch
- 13 of 19:** Interior, Second-Floor historic fixtures & drop ceiling grid along north wall, C. Ammerman
- 14 of 19:** Interior, Second-Floor historic fixtures & drop ceiling grid along north wall Interior, C. Ammerman
- 15 of 19:** Interior, Second-Floor drill space/mezzanine with historic floors, Cynthia Ammerman
- 16 of 19:** Interior, Second-Floor drill space with room partition, Cynthia Ammerman
- 17 of 19:** Interior, View from Southwest corner Second-Floor drill space looking southeast. Original First-Floor drill floor below, Cynthia Ammerman
- 18 of 19:** Interior, Historic Basement facilities that still display designated use of space, Cynthia Ammerman
- 19 of 19:** Interior, Historic Basement staircase that leads to the main foyer located at the east end of the building, Cynthia Ammerman

Figure Log:

Include figures on continuation pages at the end of the nomination.

Figure 1. 3620 Main Street, Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri. Source: Google Earth 2018.

Kansas City National Guard Armory

Jackson County, Missouri

Name of Property

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- Figure 2.** Historic photograph. East elevation, view west. Source: "Armory Sold," *The Kansas City Star*, June 24, 1928.
- Figure 3.** Historic photograph. East elevation, view west, date unknown. Wieggers.
- Figure 4.** East elevation, view west, 1997. Wieggers.
- Figure 5.** Subject Property 3620 Main Street, circa 1940. Jackson County Tax Assessor.
- Figure 6.** Subject Property 3620 Main Street drawing from 1955/56 renovation.
- Figure 7.** Pierce City Armory (2015) 104 West Main Street.
- Figure 8.** Pierce City Armory (1939) 104 West Main Street.
- Figure 9.** Nevada Armory (1909) 402 East Cherry Street
- Figure 10.** St. Louis Armory, non-extant (1899) 1221 South Grand Avenue.
- Figure 11.** Source: *The Kansas City Times*, Saturday September 23, 1967 Royallettes
- Figure 12.** *The Kansas City Times*. Saturday, July 17, 1954.
- Figure 13.** 1940 Street view of 3620 Main Street with adjacent building located to the north (non-extant).
- Figure 14.** 3620 Main Street Kansas City National Guard Armory Existing Plan & Photo Map Floor 1
- Figure 15.** 3620 Main Street Kansas City National Guard Armory Existing Plan & Photo Map Floor 2
- Figure 16.** 3620 Main Street Kansas City National Guard Armory Existing Plan & Photo Map Basement
- Figure 17.** Castellated Armory Stylistic Features as defined by literature review and demonstrated on nominated property

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Kansas City National Guard Armory

Name of Property

Jackson County MO

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section 7.

Summary

This single site nomination is for the Kansas City National Guard Armory located at 3620 Main Street in Jackson County, Kansas City, Missouri. The building was constructed in 1923 and was the headquarters for the 110th Engineers Battalion from 1923 to 1973. The building is being nominated for significance under CRITERIA C for ARCHITECTURE as an excellent local example of the castellated armory style. The Kansas City National Guard Armory is the only castellated style armory building located in Kansas City, Missouri. As a castellated architectural style, the Kansas City National Guard Armory retains the exterior character defining features that mimic and borrow from medieval castles. Castle-like features that create the castellated style of the Kansas City National Guard Amory include the 'fortress like' towers, crenellation and battlements, imposing massing, and masonry walls. Three main alteration dates have taken place during the building's lifespan: 1956, circa 1987, and circa 2000. In 1956 the building underwent interior and exterior changes that included the creation of offices, storage rooms, and the installation of glass block infill at the east elevation. In 1987, the interior was modified to accommodate commercial use. The current finishes of the building reflect the minor interior alterations from circa 2000. These modifications do not diminish the overall integrity of materials or design. The exterior retains integrity when comparing the existing condition and current appearance to historic photos of the Kansas City National Guard Armory; establishing this building eligible as an excellent local example of castellated armory and was found to be an eligible building due to unique castellated architectural style in a 1997 Missouri Department of Natural Resources survey.¹

Setting

The two-story Kansas City National Guard Armory building (3620 Main Street) is in Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri. Located along the central-city commercial corridor in the Hanover Place neighborhood, the armory is surrounded by one-story commercial properties and surface parking lots at the north and south elevations (Figure 1). Single-family and multi-family residential properties adjoin the west property boundary. Directly across Main Street to the east, are commercial buildings and a surface parking lot. The armory is in a prioritized transit corridor of Kansas City that distributes the flow of traffic from the Central Business District to toward the Country Club Plaza retail and University districts.

An urban-core property, the Kansas City Armory parcel boundaries encompass the perimeter of the building and abuts a pedestrian sidewalk at the east-facing primary elevation. Adjacent to the Armory building at the north elevation is a one-story commercial building with surface parking lot that creates a deep setback of the low-rise building. A one-story commercial building adjacent at the south east corner. Also located at the adjacent south parcel is a one-story, non-historic commercial building with deep setback and surface parking lot.

¹Wiegiers, Robert P. *Missouri Armories: The Guard's Home in Architecture and History*. Truman State Unit Press, 2012. Accessed September 1, 2018.

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Kansas City National Guard Armory

Name of Property

Jackson County MO

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Exterior

East Elevation

Constructed in 1923, the two-story Kansas City National Guard Armory features a red brick exterior and a bowstring truss roof that has eight skylights. The building is rectangular in plan with an east facing primary elevation that exhibits a symmetrical castellated architectural style (Photo 1, Figures 2, 3, 4). Defining castellated features that remain and include limestone masonry patterns, a majority fenestration openings, dual towers, parapet, embrasures, and crenellated roofline (Photos 1, 6, 7). At street level, the building is divided by five bays, in which the windows retain the historic openings and stone sills, despite the window replacement from the 1956 remodel. Replacement glass block was added in a 1956 upgrade of the building (Photo 2) at bays one, two, four, and five. Bay three, consists of the centrally located entrance door that has a pull-down, metal security door that protects the replacement commercial glass doors. The original wood entry doors have been removed (Figure 3) but the opening has been retained. Bays one and five, are square openings, bays two and four, rectangular with horizontal orientation, and bays two and four are narrow rectangular openings with vertical orientation. The second level of fenestration consists of seven openings, with historic wood windows, that has single-pane upper and lower sashes (Photo 5). The third fenestration level consists of wood framed windows that are situated at each corner tower and a Palladian window at the center of the building. The Palladian window openings have been covered with wood panels and painted red to match the brick (Photo 3 & 4). Historic images show that this used to be a row of six single pane windows with transoms and two single panes in the upper arch (Figures 2-5). However, it is currently framed for three openings with the top arch divided into three parts. A limestone dentil belt course is located above the third fenestration level and follows the form of the bowstring roofline with limestone coping. Above it is decorative brick and rectangular limestone details (Figure 4). A decorative inverted star is located above the Palladian window, which is also flanked by limestone medallions (Photos 1 & 3). The castellated towers are accented by limestone crenellated tops with an open arched central "window" that evoke and complete the castle design, where historic flagpoles extend from the rooftop (Photos 6 & 7).

South

The south elevation serves as the primary working/service entrance with a centrally located vehicular garage door at the first level (Photo 8), and a second story garage door that is accessed by a vehicular ramp (Photo 10). Located at the first story beneath the vehicular ramp is an access door and garage door that is sealed and currently blocked by pillars (Photo 10). The first story is visibly blocked by the adjacent parcel building (Photo 10). Nine, twelve-paned windows, with square openings are placed at the third level. The first and second stories are painted red. The only part of the first story that is visible is a garage opening with non-historic metal door. Fenestration at the second level consists of nine window openings. One second story and one first-story window opening has been filled in (Photo 10). The remaining windows are boarded but appear to be divided as a larger pane over a smaller pane.

West

The rear elevation's primary feature is the stepped parapet that outlines the bowstrung roofline (Photo 10). Fenestration has been filled with brick and much of the brick exterior is covered by vegetation.

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Kansas City National Guard Armory

Name of Property

Jackson County MO

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

North

The north elevation is similar in appearance and pattern to the south elevation. Nine window openings span the third story (Photo 9, Figure 14). Three of the third story openings have been boarded and painted red. The first and second story fenestration have been blocked in (Photo 9, Figure 14). Located at approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ of the building's length the neighboring, low-rise commercial building is adjacent. As with the south elevation, the first and second stories are painted red (Photo 9).

Interior

First Floor

The first-floor plan of the building has been altered over time. Historically, the central corridor and drill space led to the kitchen that was located at the west end of the building (Figure 15). Office space and secondary rooms were located on the north and south walls. A concrete staircase has been retained leading to the second floor along the west wall. Historically, the first floor has been open to the second-floor mezzanine; this feature has been retained, yet altered over time, as previous owners have expanded the opening. The former drill space flooring consists of the original granite floors with a laminate strip installed at the center of the floor (Photo 12). At the west end of the building are the remnants of the historic kitchen are located at the south corner (Figure 15). Historic plaster walls remain along the north and south walls of the foyer and former kitchen. The historic stairwell is located centrally and retains the historic railing. In the north corner the historic basement access has been retained. Skylights remain in use throughout the building.

The foyer is located at the east end of the building and has replacement tile and carpet; and spans the width of the building (Figure 15, Photo 11). Historically, the foyer had an open stair access to the basement level. Currently, this basement access point is hidden by the floor coverings (Photo 19). Historic mezzanines are located along the north and south walls of the foyer. Located along the north and south walls are open rooms. Non-historic air ducts are suspended from the non-historic drop ceiling, with angled mirrors located just below the mezzanine balconies. Heading west from the foyer, a partial wall divides the foyer from the historic first-floor drill space, the wall terminates at the first-floor level leaving the space open to the second floor (Figure 15, Photo 11). In the main drill space, a non-historic metal and concrete staircase leads to a north-south oriented catwalk that spans overhead between the mezzanines. A non-historic small steel and glass stage has been added.

Second Floor

Historically, the second-floor plan featured a mezzanine with metal railing that encompassed the perimeter of the space, an open ceiling, and the west end drill space that is rectangular in plan and oriented along the width of the building (Figure 16, Photo 17). Historic features that remain at the second floor include maple wood floors throughout, baseboard and chair rail at the south and north walls, plaster walls, and historic light fixtures which are currently covered by the drop ceiling (Photos 15 & 16). At the south end of the building, a north-south oriented a non-historic catwalk connects the mezzanine and former second-floor drill space (Figure 16, Photo 16). Alterations also include the addition of sliding glass partition that divides the drill space into two separate spaces at the west end, and drop ceiling, ventilation ducting along the west mezzanine. Along the north wall, approximately eight feet out from the wall, a partition has been

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Kansas City National Guard Armory
Name of Property
Jackson County MO
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

added, leaving the historic brick and plaster exposed. Historic ventilation fans are still present along the upper level of the wall north wall (Photos 13 & 14). The west portion of the former drill space has impeccable maple wood floors, and modified ventilation system (Figure 16, Photo 16). A non-historic plaster ceiling has lowered the elevation of part of the drill space; however, this modification is not structural and can be reversed. All skylights have been retained adding to the historic expanse and open feeling of the space (Photo 15).

Basement

The basement level of 3620 Main Street remains virtually untouched and retains historic floor plan and modifications from the 1956 renovation (Figure 17). Spanning the entire footprint of the building the basement is divided into two main corridors by a central east to west running hallway. As detailed in the 1956 upgrade plans, the north side of the basement was utilized primarily for medical, social and administrative purposes. The basement retains integrity of design and materials and convey the functionality of social spaces that served the multi-purpose function of the armory building. These spaces (referred to as attributes by Naval Facilities Engineering Command [NAVFAC]) include the men's locker room/showers (Figure 12), and presumably a second lunch (mess) hall. Other primary spaces necessary to the military training function of the armory building include the artillery/shooting range and ammunition storage (Photo 18). The basement also retains its original stairwell access that leads to the main foyer located at the east entrance of the building (Figure 17, Photo 19). Another indication of the primacy of the basement is the location of the original staircase coming from first floor foyer at the east end of the building footprint. With the previous alterations the staircase opening has been covered but could easily be restored (Photo 19). Further accenting the original integrity and authenticity of the basement is the color scheme used on the flooring and walls. The use of red paint as a delineation of space along the hallways and various rooms.

Since the National Guard ceased operations at 3620 Main Street the basement appears to have been used primarily as a storage space by the subsequent owners. Many of the rooms were not accessible due to the ruins of rotted doors and windows. The lack of lighting, ventilation and the single-access point limited viewing of the basement at the time of the nomination. However, the basement spans the entire footprint of the building.

In summary, the basement exists as a historic space that conveys the original intended use of the design through the existing design and features. These attributes include original doors, color scheme, a presumably unmodified floor plan, showers/locker room, staircase, ammunition closet and shooting range, all contributing to the historic integrity of the design and function of the building as an intentionally designed military facility.

Alterations

Since 1923, the Kansas City National Guard Armory has been altered at three main periods, 1956, circa 1987 and circa 2000. The 1956 renovation of the Kansas City National Guard Armory included the primary elevation block glass window installation, this modification did not alter the historic window openings. Other building modifications included in the 1956 renovation plans include interior window and

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Kansas City National Guard Armory

Name of Property

Jackson County MO

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N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

door installations and relocation (Figure 6). In 1987, the interior was altered for commercial use. The modifications included the removal of partition walls to create an open sale floor, and the closure of the east foyer staircase. Additional alterations including the mezzanine reduction and drywall installation was most likely completed post the 1987 renovations (Figure 4). Over time, despite the modifications, the drop ceilings and drywall have helped to preserve the original brick walls and lighting features; additionally, the original character of the expansive open drill floor areas beneath the mezzanine, as well as the second floor has preserved as seen in the level of historic materials. The original stairwell leading from the foyer into the basement level is extant but has been covered.

Integrity

The Kansas City National Guard Armory, 3620 Main Street Kansas City, Missouri, retains integrity of design through the existing stylistic features that make the building a unique local example of the castellated architectural style (Figures 2, 3 & 18, Photo 1). The building retains integrity of design as a castellated armory style, with features include masonry patterns, dual towers, parapet, embrasures, crenelated roofline, and symmetrical fenestration (Figure 17). Designed as a military purpose building the Kansas City National Guard Armory represents aesthetics and functional attributes as outlined by NAVFAC standards for National Guard Armories.² As military buildings are multipurpose; the human scale of the social gathering spaces plays an important role in the function of armory facilities. The functional and social attributes are retained in the integrity of the exterior and interior spaces of the Kansas City Armory; including the first and second-floor drill, original granite and maple wood floors, light fixtures, open mezzanine. The former drill space located on the second floor retains the feeling of volume and openness of the uninterrupted span associated with its historic use (Photo 16). Of special note is the integrity of the basement attributes that have been virtually unaltered since the 1956 renovation. Original features that contribute to the functionally and social design include original shower/locker rooms, coordinated painted floors (delineating special functions), the firing range, firing range wall, ammunition storage, and mechanical rooms--all essential spaces for armory purposes. While modifications to the building have occurred over time the Kansas City National Guard Armory exists in its original location and retains its original castellated features. While the interior has been altered, the primary spaces continue to invoke the mass of space common to armory drill spaces of the 110th Battalion (Photo 17). This is demonstrated through the comparison of interior floor plans of other Missouri armories that no longer retain even this major functional element. The Kansas City National Guard Armory is an excellent and unique example of a castellated armory style that conveys is a unique example of the style by invoking the early distinct castle elements, (fenestration openings, dual towers, parapet, embrasures, and crenellated roofline [Figure 17]) while also honoring the modernism of 1920s commercial simplicity as exhibited in the bowstring truss roof, decorative limestone details, fenestration, and urban streetscape setting.

² NAVFAC Engineering Criteria and Programs Office (CIENG) "Spaces within Armory Buildings", <https://www.wbdg.org/building-types/armories>. Owen L. Hewitt. Updated March 20, 2017. Accessed September 1, 2018.

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Kansas City National Guard Armory
Name of Property
Jackson County Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section 8.

Statement of Significance

The Kansas City National Guard Armory (The Armory) located at 3620 Main Street, Kansas City, Missouri is significant at the local level under Criterion C for ARCHITECTURE as an excellent example of a castellated armory style building located in Kansas City, Missouri. The building was completed in 1923 for the 110th Engineers Battalion. The period of significance, 1923, corresponds to the date of construction. The castellated style was built only five times in Missouri and the nominated property is the sole example located in Kansas City, Missouri.³ The Kansas City National Guard Armory retains integrity, conveys the design, feeling, and association of the castellated style and is a unique local example as conveyed by the prominent original exterior features (Photo 1, Figure 17). The primary façade fenestration was altered in 1956, yet these modifications have not diminished the defining castellated features that remain including: limestone masonry patterns, original fenestration openings, dual towers, parapet, embrasures, and crenellated roofline (Photo 1, Figure 17). The interior of the Kansas City National Guard Armory has been modified over time yet continues to convey the sense of openness that was originally intended with the drill spaces. Original architectural features include the large open drill floors, high ceilings, light fixtures, granite floors, open mezzanine, maple wood floors, and an intact basement that retains original floor plan. In the 1997 survey of National Guard Armories in the state of Missouri, the Kansas City National Guard Armory, 3620 Main Street, was recommended as individually eligible for the National Register as an example of the castellated armory property type and architectural style.⁴

Elaboration

National Guard Armory Building Uses

Guidelines for the design of military architecture were first drafted by the Secretary of the Army in the 1860s; these guidelines emphasize the considerations of efficient and economic use of resources, while also honoring the local architectural aesthetics.⁵ Military needs include the administrative offices, large open spaces that could be utilized for drills and accommodate conversion to sleep quarters, social spaces such as kitchens, mess halls and shower facilities. Armory buildings historically have functioned both as spaces of institutional practices in addition to serving as a civic spaces for the guardsmen, their families, and the community at large as expressed in the Militia Act of 1903.⁶ National Guard Armory buildings after the 1903 Act were increasingly “sited at the center of neighborhoods, woven into the fabric of streets, armories

³ Wiegers 1997, Pg. 27.

⁴ Ibid., Pg. IV A literature review and explanation of Wiegers survey approach is provided in the elaboration.

⁵ The Architecture of the Department of Defense, Pg. 3 This is important to note as the National Guard is under the umbrella of the Secretary of the Army. The research for this nomination did not uncover the exact guidelines for the nominated property, however the documentation is ample on the importance of combining the social and functional needs of military design while honoring local architectural practices. Department of Defense. “The Architecture of the Department of Defense A Military Style Guide.”

Michelle Michael, Adam Smith, with Jennifer Sin. December 2011. Department of Defense. “The Architecture of the Department of Defense A Military Style Guide”. Accessed June 20, 2019.

⁶ 32 [Stat. 775](#)

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Kansas City National Guard Armory

Name of Property

Jackson County Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

reminded passersby that the government and the military were a present and permanent part of their communities.”⁷ The nominated property is recognized as having served the National Guard for training (Figure 13) with the ability to house up to 400 persons; and as a community space for the residents of the surrounding neighborhood. The large spaces could be transformed from a training and drill site to a space available for the public, not only as a marketplace but also has a rehearsal venue for the dance/drill team the “Royalties” in the 1960s (Figure 11). The importance of armory buildings as social spaces is also emphasized in *Still Serving Reusing America’s Historic National Guard Armories*” (2000):

“Armories across the nation, especially in major cities, became showpiece buildings. They served not only as the headquarters for a locally based military unit but also as an informal community center that housed a growing array of social and civic functions.” Pg. 4

The Kansas City National Guard Armory from its opening served as a community space as is documented by the various news clippings that mention athletic nights, dances and flea markets. This civic engagement of the 110th Battalion was recognized by Kansas City Mayor H. Roe Bartle’s office in 1960.⁸

History

The Kansas City National Guard Armory was home to the 110th Engineers Battalion, a regiment of the Missouri National Guard that was founded in 1917. The building was commissioned in 1921, at the behest of the Chamber of Commerce and the Missouri National Guard to specifically serve the needs of the 110th Engineers Battalion. Builder Frank Seested was hired to complete the project which began in 1922 and was completed in 1923 at a total cost of \$150,000. The project was funded by the state of Missouri and overseen by the National Guard.⁹ Five years later in 1928, Seested sold the building to Albert R. Jones, partially due to rumors that the Battalion were planning to vacate the building; however these rumors of relocation were never realized.¹⁰ Moving into the Interwar, World-War and Cold-War eras, the building remained under private ownership, leased by the Missouri National Guard and was utilized by multiple Battalions on a rotating basis; largely due to the design of the building which could accommodate up to 400 persons.¹¹ As seen in the 1956 renovation plans¹², offices and storage rooms are designated for various companies. Also noted in the 1956 plans, is the one primary façade change that remains to this day, the glass block infill to the street level windows (Figure 8). The 110th Engineers Battalion utilized the 3620 Main Street until 1973 when the Battalion moved to the Ozark Road location

⁷ Shepard, Cassim. *The Armory and the City: Civic Spaces of the National Guard*.

<https://urbanomnibus.net/2013/09/the-armory-and-the-city-civic-spaces-of-the-national-guard/#footnote>.

⁸ The Kansas City Times, Monday, June 13, 1960. Page 14.

⁹ Wiegers 1997 Survey Form Pg. 307), Kanas City Times, April 29, 1921.

¹⁰ *Armory Sold*,” *The Kansas City Star*, June 24, 1928.

¹¹ Wiegers 1997 Survey Form Pg. 307

¹² Robert B. Bloomgarten and Frohwerk, D. Kent. “Alteration and Remodeling of the Armory Building, 3620 Main Street, Kansas City, Missouri.” Plans on file, State Historical Society of Missouri, 1956-1958.

¹² It cannot be confirmed if the interior alterations documented in the Bloomgarten-Frohwerk plans were implemented due to subsequent alterations.

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The Castellated Armory and its Stylistic Features

In understanding the specific characteristics of the castellated armory style, three comprehensive architectural studies of the history and development of National Guard armories identify the stylistic features that are common to castellated style armories. First of these works is *America's Armories: Architecture, Society, and Public Order*.¹³ Fogelson's study encompasses the 19th and 20th Century, including biographical sketches of architects who designed armory buildings, the social lives of guardsmen, and the socio-economic policies that influenced armory design types and site location. This work is significant because Fogelson establishes direct links between design, class warfare and the role of military spaces. In the 1993 *Historic National Guard Armories: A Brief, Illustrated Review of the Past Two Centuries*¹⁴ a visual reference is compiled to establish and define the specific architectural features of armory buildings. Fogelson and Everett serve as prime resources and are referenced in NRHP documentation and National Guard documentation such as the third main resource, *Final Historic Context Study for the Army National Guard*.¹⁵ Design attributes presented by Everett compare the evolution of castellated armory design, profiling the the essential characteristics that are common features. This document, commissioned by the Army National Guard (ARNG), provides the historic context and geographic study of armory buildings across the United States. Building on the previous documents, in addition to case study and ARNG briefs, the historic context study reviews the span of ARNG history from the colonial era to the 20th Century. This comprehensive history categorizes and describes the trend of ARNG architecture via geographic regions.

Wiegiers 1997 Missouri National Guard Armory Survey relies on categories, styles and types to classify the armory buildings across Missouri. The first category conveys to which "logical grouping, such as ornamentation, size, and shape" that a building belongs.¹⁶ Missouri armory buildings have six categories: Vernacular, Castellated, Art Deco, Cold War, Traditional, and Eccentric. These categories are evaluated and defined by the buildings' 'style' or otherwise, the "known reproduced form of a building that has certain required elements to qualify as a member of the group."¹⁷ For the castellated style, the features or elements, have been defined in the earlier paragraphs of this section. Lastly, Wiegiers, defines building type to provide a solid classification of Missouri armories at the time of survey in relation to the original, or intended purpose of the building, while focusing on aesthetics to guide the classification.¹⁸

¹³ Fogelson, Robert M, *America's Armories: Architecture, Society, and Public Order*. Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 1989

¹⁴ Everett, Dianna, *Historic National Guard Armories: A Brief, Illustrated Review of the Past Two Centuries*. National Guard Bureau, Washington, D.C. 1993.

¹⁵ *Final Armory Historic Context*. Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company, Inc. and Architectural and Historical Research, LLC. Prepared for Army National Guard, Washington D.C. June 2008.

¹⁶ Wiegiers, 23. While there is some inconsistency in Wiegiers use of categories versus style, versus building type, he is consistent in coming back to the aesthetic appearance and overall architectural style to categorize the armories.

¹⁷ Missouri armories have been largely itemized as belonging to the Arts, French Eclectic, and Greek Revival. Ibid., 24.

¹⁸ Type A Armories were built as armories despite later uses. Type B armories were constructed to serve commercial needs, and Type C buildings consists of irregular floorplans and Type D classified buildings have significant alterations. Ibid., 24.

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Within the framework of Wiegiers classifications the Kansas City National Guard Armory is classified as a Category II-castellated armory; "the smallest group...but also the most unique architecturally and historically."¹⁹

Everett, Fogelson, Wiegiers and the ARNG are clear to point out that the castellated style borrows from Romanesque, Medieval Gothic, Italianate and Second Empire styles.²⁰ Selected features from each of these styles established the evocation of security and might as symbolized in castles and fortresses. The style was first constructed in New England, becoming a national style after its appearance in the Midwest during the 1890s.²¹ As the popularity of the style waned after 1910, its appearance became simplified as construction costs were reduced, coinciding with a shift to prominence given to form over ornamentation.²² These borrowed features include the use of stone, large walls, and the mimic of fortress towers (or turrets), as lookout posts as seen in Medieval castles. Defining features include battlements or crenellation (Figure 7 & 8),²³ turrets and towers (Figure 9), "thick masonry walls, limited yet imposing entrances, sparse number of inaccessible narrow fenestrations, sally ports, turrets, towers, battlements, and machicolations (Figure 10)."²⁴

Fogelson establishes the social context for the design rationale and symbolism of castellated design, noting:

*"The conditions are practically identical with those, which caused the building of medieval castles, and the design being thus cause by analogous conditions, is strongly suggestive of a fortress."*²⁵

The agreed upon characteristics that define the castellated style as put forth by the *Army National Guard Historic Context*, Fogelson, Everett and Wiegiers include imposing masonry exterior, turrets, towers, battlements/crenellation, and narrow windows (that may mimic embrasures). These elements are pointed out on Figure 17 to provide a clear demonstration of the features and how they correlate to the nominated property. The seminal works of Fogelson and Everett are used to establish the overall historic context of armory buildings throughout the United States, using specific sites as case studies and identifying excellent examples in the *Army National Guard Historic Context*.

The castellated armory style was a style intended to resemble a castle or fortress "as a symbol of the dedication of the citizen-soldier in providing protection to both state and nation."²⁶ It was one of the first armory styles to incorporate deliberate symbolism in form borrowing from other architectural styles.²⁷ The Kansas City National Guard Armory embodies these stylistic features and has been recognized as such

¹⁹ Wiegiers, 26.

²⁰ Everett, 6. *Army National Guard*, 4-5.

²¹ Burns & McDonnell, *Army National Guard*, 4-1

²² Wiegiers, *Missouri Armories*, 62.

²³ *Army National Guard*, 4-7,

²⁴ Fogelson, 158.

²⁵ Fogelson, 158

²⁶ Burns & McDonnell, 4-1.

²⁷ Wiegiers, *Missouri Armories*, 62, Burns & McDonnell, 4-5.

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under previous evaluation by Wiegers and as a clear example when comparing previous literature on the castellated architectural style as defined by the Army National Guard.

Conclusion

The Kansas City National Guard Armory at 3620 Main Street is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under CRITERIA C for ARCHITECTURE. The building is the former home of the 110th Engineers Battalion and has local significance as the only local example of the castellated armory style in Kansas City, Missouri. As the sole local example of a unique architectural style, the nominated property retains integrity of design through the existing castellated features such as limestone masonry patterns, original fenestration openings, dual towers, parapet, embrasures, and crenellated roofline (Figures 2, 4, 5 & 17). In 1997, the property was included in a statewide survey of armory buildings and was found to be an eligible and unique example of castellated architectural style. The period of significance, 1923, corresponds to the date of construction.

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- The Kansas City Times. "Guard Engineers Show Arms and Equipment." Monday, June 13, 1960. Pg. 14.

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The Kansas City Times. "National Guardsmen of the 110th armory readied their equipment..." Saturday July 17, 1954.
Pg. 8.

The Kansas City Times. "Guard Engineers Show Arms and Equipment." Monday, June 13, 1960. Pg. 14.

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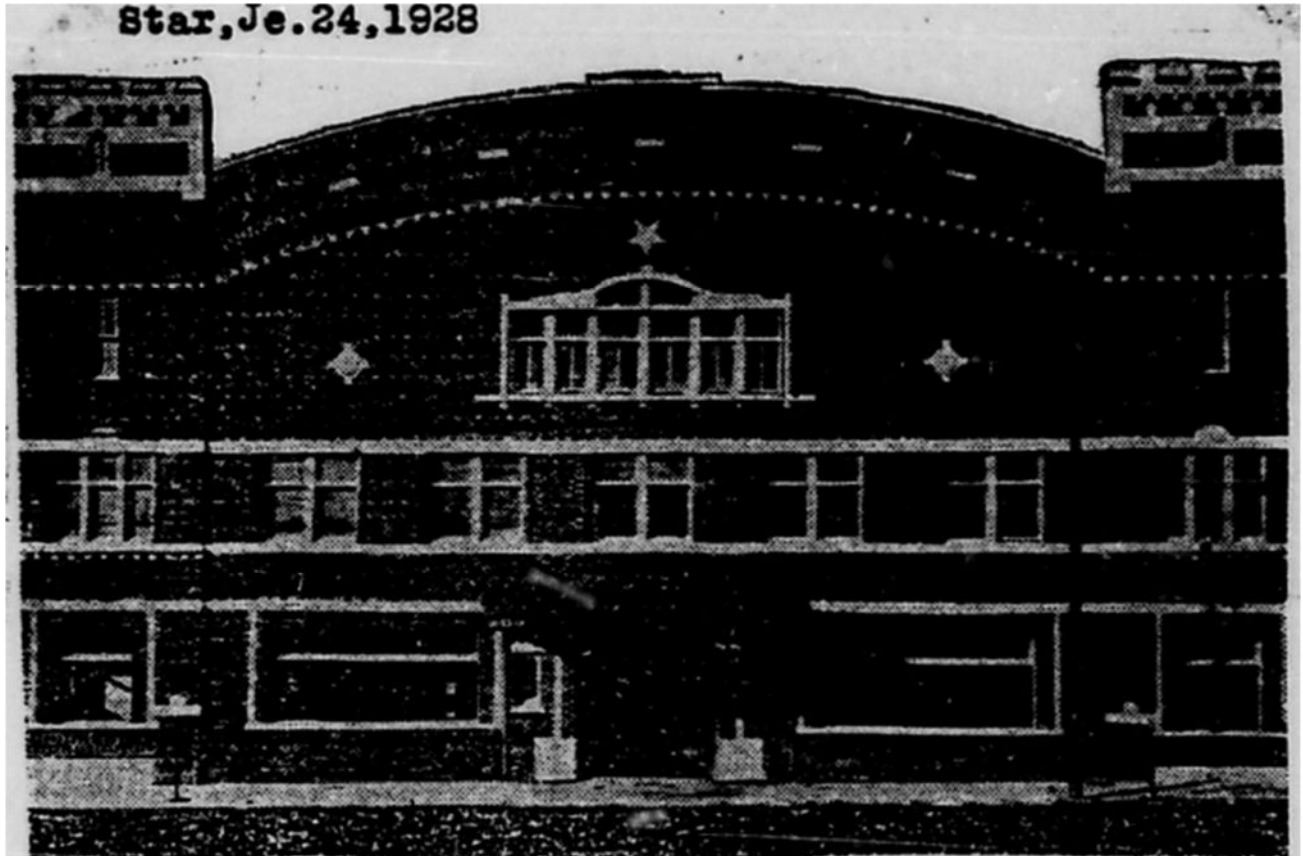
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Figure 2. Historic photograph. East elevation, view west. Source: "Armory Sold," *The Kansas City Star*, June 24, 1928.

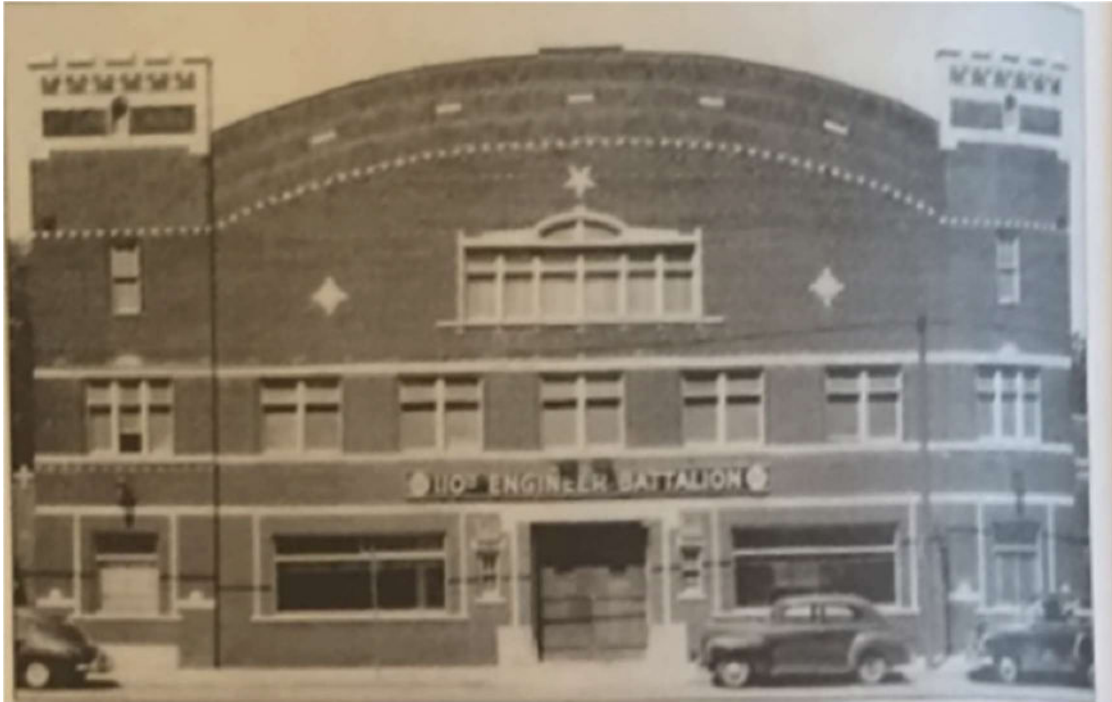


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Figure 3. Historic photograph. East elevation, view west, date unknown. Source: Wieggers, Robert P. *Missouri Armories: The Guard's Home in Architecture and History*. Kirksville, MO: Truman University Press, 2012.



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Figure 4. East elevation, view west, 1997. Source: Wiegers, Robert. "Kansas City National Guard Armory, 3620 Main Street." Missouri Historic Property Inventory Form, 1997.



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Figure 5. Subject Property 3620 Main Street, circa 1940. Photo: Missouri Digital Heritage, Jackson County Assessor Tax Photos.



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Figure 7. Pierce City Armory (1939) 104 West Main Street. Photo: Google Streetview 2016.
Captured Google Maps November 2018.
Pierce City Armory (Extant)

Constructed as a WPA project, the Pierce City Armory (1939) demonstrates castellated and art deco elements, sharing with the Kansas City Armory building. These buildings share the distinctive characteristics of crenellated parapets to form corner towers, narrow windows (Figures 7 & 8).



Figure 8. Pierce City Armory (1939) 104 West Main Street. Photo: Wieggers, Robert P. *The Missouri National Guard Armory Survey*. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources. 1997. Pg. 404-410.



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Figure 9. Nevada Armory (1909) 402 East Cherry Street. Photo: Google Streetview 2014. Captured GoogleMaps November 2018.

Constructed in 1909/1910 the Nevada Armory demonstrates the towers, crenellation, and imposing form of the castellated style.



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Figure 10. St. Louis Armory, non-extant (1899) 1221 South Grand Avenue. Photo: Wieggers, Robert P. *The Missouri National Guard Armory Survey*. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources. 1997. Pg. 571-576.

The St. Louis Armory (non-extant) was the earliest example of castellated armory style in the state of Missouri. As a building that was constructed just before the 1900, the design displays the most quintessential castle-like features with crenulation, turrets, 'lookout windows, central entrance and imposing massing.



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Figure 11. Source: The Kansas City Times, Saturday September 23, 1967 Royallettes Newspaper clipping from 1967.

The Royallettes were a Kansas City dance and acrobatic company that performed yearly for the American Royal Parade and later at Kauffman Stadium for the Royals baseball franchise. During the 1960s the Royallettes rehearsed at the 3620 Main Street.

Notice the interior views from 1967 with the original maple floors and views of the mezzanine office space. This news clipping has been the only historic interior photograph obtained to date.



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Figure 12. The Kansas City Times. Saturday, July 17, 1954.
Guardsmen prepare in the locker room of 3620 Main Street.



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Figure 13. 1940 Street view of 3620 Main Street with adjacent building located to the north (non-extant). Arrow indicates north elevation of Kansas City Armory. Photo: Missouri Digital Heritage, Jackson County Assessor Tax Photos.

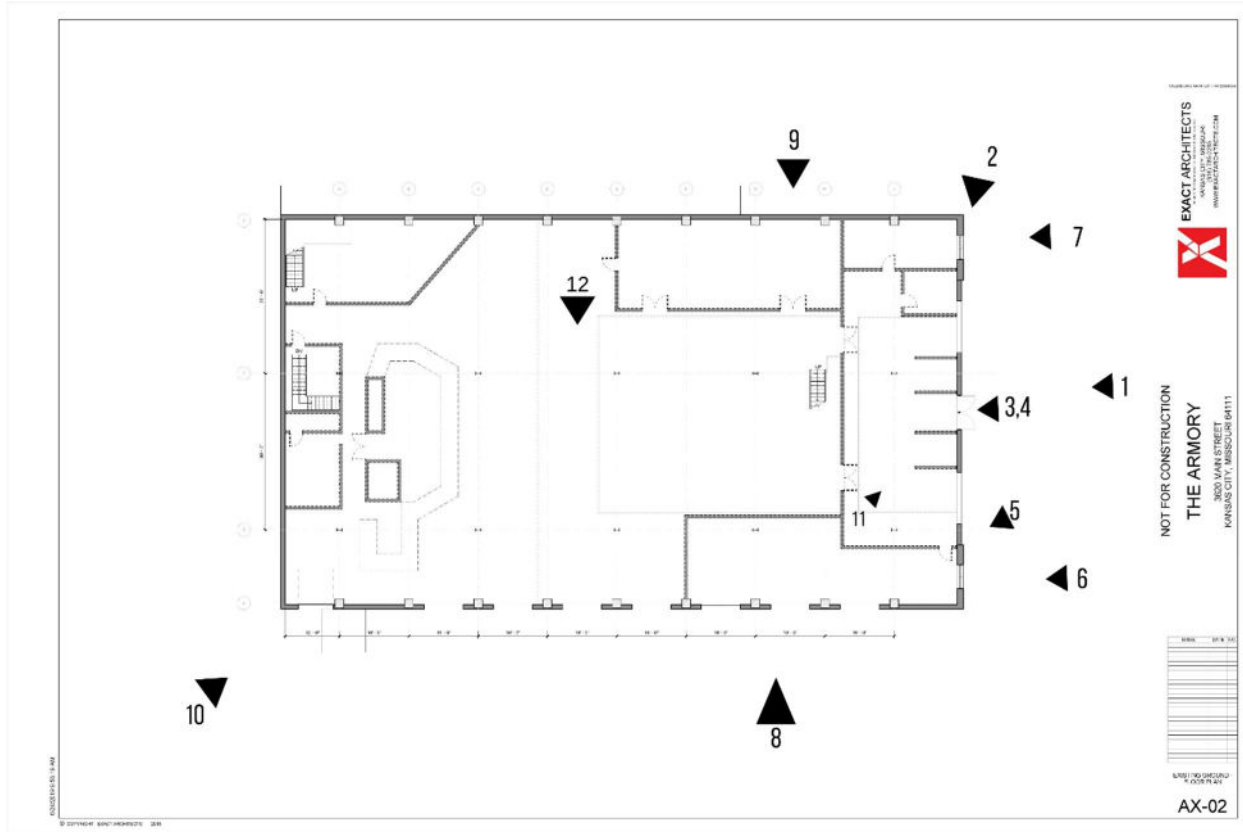


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Figure 14. 3620 Main Street Kansas City National Guard Armory Existing Plan & Photo Map Floor 1



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Figure 17. Castellated Armory Stylistic Features as defined by literature review and demonstrated on nominated property.
Castellated Armory Stylistic Features as defined by literature review and demonstrated on a recent photo of the nominated property.







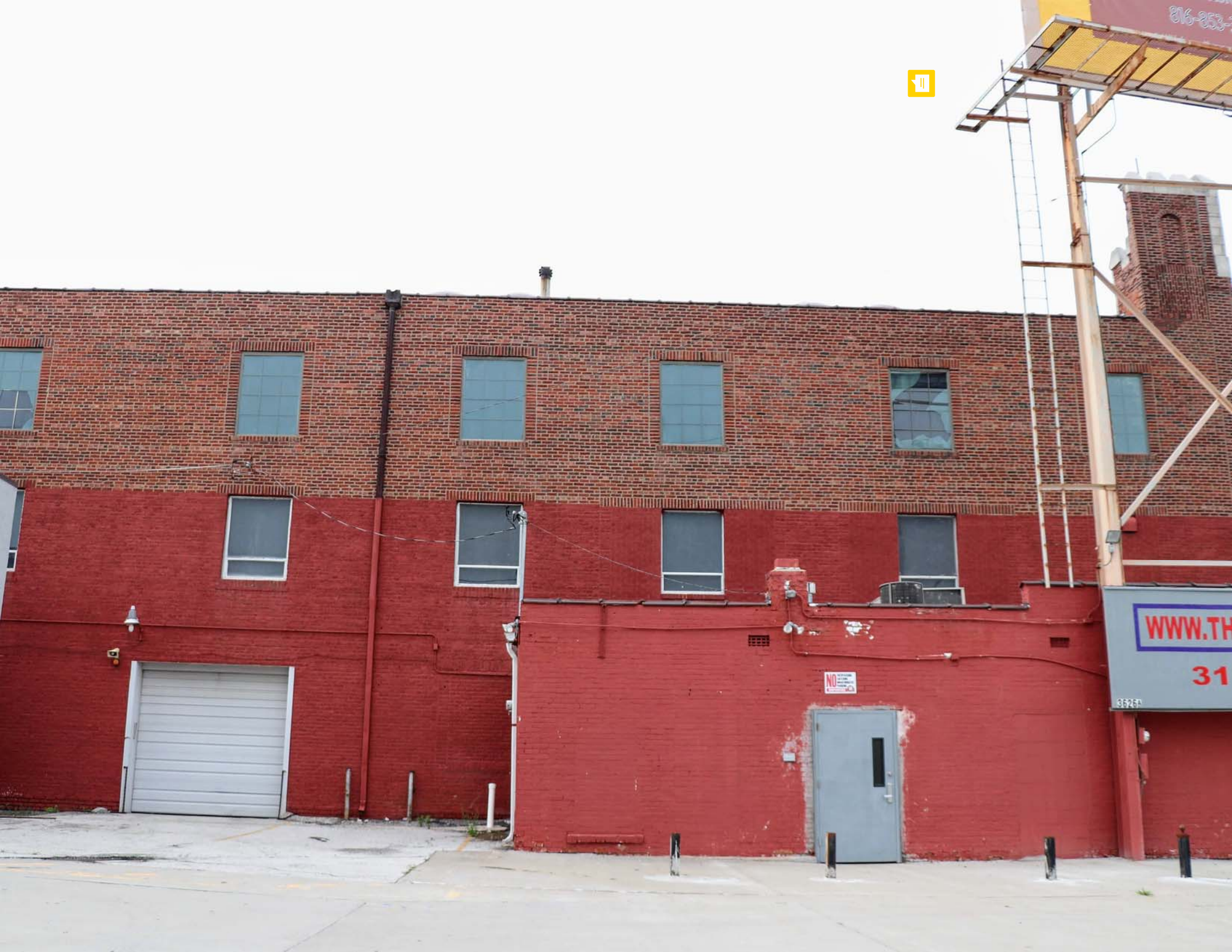












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