

The Missouri National Guard Armory Survey

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ABSTRACT

This report outlines the results of a state-wide survey of Missouri militia and National Guard armories. A total of 221 armories were recorded during the survey and 100 are included with this report. In addition to historical and architectural descriptions of the armories included in the report are a classification scheme. The scheme divides the armories into six categories (Vernacular, Castellated, Art Deco, Cold War, Traditional and Eccentric), styles where applicable, and types based on specific criteria. A discussion of Missouri Guard development, Missouri Armory development, and the armory as a social institution are included.

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100 ARMORIES

1. Albany
2. Anderson
3. Aurora-1991
4. Aurora
5. Bernie
6. Boonville-1927
7. Boonville-1914
8. Boonville-1983
9. Boonville-1981
10. Boonville-1989
11. Boonville-1948
12. Boonville-1860
13. Boonville-1880
14. Boonville-1915
15. Boonville-1847
16. Boonville-1923
17. Cape Girardeau
18. Cape Girardeau-1940
19. Carrollton
20. Carthage-1957
21. Caruthersville
22. Centertown
23. Charleston
24. Chillicothe
25. Clinton
26. Columbia-1955
27. Columbia-1910
28. Columbia-1924
29. Columbia-1940
30. Columbia-1930
31. Columbia-1920
32. Columbia-1913
33. De Soto
34. Dexter
35. Doniphan
36. Farmington-1950
37. Farmington-1961
38. Farmington
39. Festus-1991
40. Festus-1941
41. Fredericktown
42. Ft. Leonard Wood
43. Fulton
44. Hannibal-1977
45. Hannibal-1911
46. Hannibal-1939
47. Harrisonville
48. Independence
49. Jackson
50. Jefferson City-1994
51. Jefferson City-1958
52. Joplin
53. Kansas City-1972
54. Kansas City-1923
55. Kennett-1985
56. Kennett-1940
57. Kirksville-1940
58. Kirksville-1911
59. Lamar
60. Lebanon
61. Lexington
62. Macon
63. Marshall
64. Marston
65. Maryville
66. Mexico-1954
67. Mexico-1930
68. Moberly
69. Monett
70. Mountain Grove
71. Neosho
72. Nevada-1956
73. Nevada-1910
74. Ozark
75. Perryville
76. Pierce City-1940
77. Pierce City-1890
78. Pierce City-1900
79. Poplar Bluff-1997
80. Poplar Bluff-1942
81. Portageville
82. Richmond
83. Rolla
84. Salem
85. Savannah
86. Sedalia
87. Sikeston
88. Springfield
89. St. Louis-1937
90. St. Louis-1899
91. St. Louis
92. St. Clair
93. St. Joseph-1988
94. St. Joseph
95. Trenton
96. Warrensburg
97. Warrenton
98. Webb City
99. West Plains
100. Whiteman

TOTAL ARMORIES

(As of November 25, 1997)

* These armories were included in the list of one hundred armories.

Albany*	Chaffee Missouri Utilities Building
Anderson*	Charleston*
Anderson Tatum Building	Chillicothe*
Aurora*	Chillicothe 1911
Aurora 1991*	Chillicothe 1930
Aurora 1911-1912	Clinton 1937
Aurora 1932-1933	Clinton*
Bernie*	Columbia 1858
Bernie	Columbia 1922
Bertrand	Columbia Owl's Room 1914
Bevier 1911	Columbia 1916-1920
Bloomfield	Columbia 1910*
Boonville 1860*	Columbia 1913*
Boonville 1880*	Columbia 1920*
Boonville 1915*	Columbia 1923*
Boonville 1847*	Columbia 1924*
Boonville 1923*	Columbia 1940*
Boonville 1927*	Columbia 1995*
Boonville 1948*	De Soto*
Boonville 1914*	De Soto
Boonville 1983*	Dexter*
Boonville 1981*	Dexter 1920-1930
Boonville 1989*	Doniphan*
Burlington 1939	Doniphan
Butler 1911-1912	Eldon 1977
California 1911	Farmington 1941
Cape Girardeau 1940*	Farmington 1941-1946
Cape Girardeau*	Farmington 1946
Carrollton*	Farmington 1941
Carthage 1957*	Farmington*
Carthage Professional Building	Farmington 1950*
Carthage 1920	Farmington 1961*
Carthage 1952-1957	Fayette 1886
Carthage 1876	Festus
Carthage 1911	Festus 1941*
Carthage 1948	Festus 1991*
Carthage 1952	Fort Leonard Wood*
Caruthersville *	Fort Leonard Wood
Centertown*	Fredericktown Sheet's Motor

Fredericktown*
Fulton*
Fulton 1954-1957
Fulton 1950
Glasgow
Hannibal
Hannibal 1924
Hannibal 1927
Hannibal Scyoc's Hall
Hannibal 1911*
Hannibal 1939*
Hannibal 1977*
Harrisonville*
Hayti
Houston 1991-1993
Independence*
Independence
Jackson
Jackson*
Jefferson City 1911
Jefferson City 1869
Jefferson City Arsenal Complex
Jefferson City 1950
Jefferson City McCarty Street
Jefferson City Tanner Bridge Road
Jefferson City Broom Factory
Jefferson City 1958*
Jefferson City 1994*
Joplin
Joplin*
Joplin 1911
Kansas City 1929
Kansas City 1911
Kansas City 1911 3rd Infantry
Kansas City 1911
Kansas City unknown
Kansas City 1923*
Kansas City 1972*
Kennett 1940*
Kennett 1985*
Kirksville 1911*
Kirksville 1940*
Lamar*
Lamar 1930

Lebanon*
Lebanon High School Site
Lebanon VFW Hall
Lexington*
Lone Jack
Macon*
Marshall*
Marshall 1950
Marshall 1940
Marston 1940
Maryville*
Maryville 1930*
Maryville 1910
Maryville 1947
Maryville 1954
Mexico 1950
Mexico 1901
Mexico 1930*
Mexico 1954*
Moberly*
Moberly 1939
Monett*
Monett 1911
Monett 1941
Mountain Grove*
Neosho*
Neosho 1911
Neosho 1920
Nevada Warehouse
Nevada 1910*
Nevada 1956*
Ozark*
Perryville*
Perryville 1947
Perryville 1910
Perryville
Pierce City 1901
Pierce City 1911
Pierce City
Pierce City 1883
Pierce City 1890*
Pierce City 1900*
Pierce City 1940*
Poplar Bluff 1942*

Poplar Bluff 1997*
Portageville*
Portageville Huffman Street
Richmond*
Richmond 1954
Richmond 1949
Rolla*
Rolla 1950
Rolla 1949
Salem
Salem*
Sarcoxié 1924
Savannah*
Sedalia*
Sikeston*
Springfield*
Springfield 1911
Springfield 1939
St. Clair*
St. Genevieve 1910
St. Joseph 1910
St. Joseph 1950
St. Joseph 1949
St. Joseph 1910
St. Joseph*
St. Joseph 1988*
St. Louis 1899*
St. Louis 1937*
St. Louis*
St. Louis 1880
St. Louis 1882
St. Louis 1897
St. Louis 1877
St. Louis 1877
St. Louis 1927
St. Louis 1927
Tarkio 1910
Trenton*
Trenton 1911
Trenton
Trenton
Union
Unionville 1910
Warrensburg 1927

Warrensburg 1955
Warrensburg*
Warrenton*
Warrenton
Webb City*
Webb City 1911
Wentzville
Wentzville 1980
West Plains*
West Plains 1911
Whiteman*

ARMORIES ELIGIBLE FOR NOMINATION TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

The following armories are considered eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places based upon associated criteria.

I. Based on unique castellated architectural style and association with the development of the Missouri National Guard during the 1920s, the 1923 Kansas City Armory is believed eligible.

II. Based on distinctive Art Deco architectural style, and unique engineering techniques (lamellar ceilings and monolithic cement construction) and association with Depression Era Missouri, the following armories are believed eligible for the National Register of Historic Places:

Aurora 1940; Bernie 1940; Cape Girardeau 1940; Caruthersville 1938; Charleston 1942; Chillicothe 1940; Dexter 1941; Festus 1941; Kirksville 1940; Sedalia 1941

III. Based on a generally consistent design, association with the Cold War period and the development of the Missouri National Guard the following armories are believed eligible for the National Register of Historic Places:

Anderson 1955; Cape Girardeau 1957; Carthage 1957; Clinton 1959; De Soto 1965; Farmington 1961; Fredericktown 1961; Fulton 1960; Independence 1955; Jackson 1954; Kansas City 1972; Lamar 1958; Lexington 1960; Marshall 1955; Maryville 1953; Moberly 1958; Perryville 1957; Portageville 1957; Richmond 1964; Rolla 1963; Salem 1960; St. Clair 1957; Warrensburg 1958; Warrenton 1963; Webb City 1965

IV. Based on length of time, distinct style and association with the development of the Missouri National Guard the following properties are believed eligible for Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places:

Doniphan 1938; Neosho 1941; Poplar Bluff 1942; West Plains 1941; Carrollton 1937; Mexico 1926

Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

What is the value of a building? Is its worth limited to the function within, or to the value of the product leaving its front door? Some buildings are strictly functional with dollar value only, whereas others have additional societal value that money alone cannot measure. The Missouri Governor's home has value as a residence, as an architectural style, and as the official home of the state's highest elected official. Other state buildings, like the governor's mansion, have functional and societal value. The National Guard Armory is such a state building that has great symbolism and functional value in home town Missouri.

The ancient Greeks used official or state buildings to reinforce their concept of the "polis" by using architectural styles that communicated the permanence of their institutions and the value of the service government provided (Robinson 1983). Public buildings today continue to convey to citizens a "psychological security" due to their size and numbers. Unfortunately capital city public buildings, be it Washington, D.C. or Jefferson City, Missouri, are often not readily accessible to the out-state citizen. Therefore, the task of representing the national or state government falls to offices and buildings at the local level. A Federal post office is found in every town and city; A county courthouse is found in every county seat, reminders to even the most remotely located residents that the civil authority of government is also accessible to them. Local government buildings then represent, through the use of decorations and symbols,

the permanence of society, of government and institutions. Citizens learn the symbols and feel comforted by their incorporation in public architecture. A government building of solid construction reminds us of continuity; Greek columns at the entrance communicate the splendor of the government; and the tower or dome on top reminds us of the technical accomplishments of society. The physical setting of the government building is also important in this communication. A good example is the town square where Missourians are accustomed to finding the court house, the focal point of government activity in their county.

This report is about one category of official buildings, Missouri Army National Guard Armories. These buildings tend to be undervalued by the society that builds them and underappreciated by the organization that utilizes them. Such a double negative does not resolve itself into a positive image for the armories in question; instead it leads both society and the National Guard to view armories as a type of discard architecture with little dollar value and no social value worth preserving. But a reconsideration of the armory demonstrates its significance to the development of American society and the heritage of the National Guard.

An armory can be defined as a place where militia have traditionally gathered. It can be located in any type of building as long as it has office space, secure storage for unit weapons, and sufficient room for a company of men to drill indoors. Not all armories, though, are owned by the state or federal government. Indeed, most armories, up to recent decades, have been rented commercial buildings. It was not until after the Civil War that the term "armory" became associated with the militia. The fact that the

armory, militias, and the National Guard have become almost synonymous, possibly explains why the Army Reserve chose to call its homes "Centers."

The purpose of this study is to collect information from photographs, oral history, and archival sources, on all extant armories in Missouri before they are removed from our cities and towns. A simultaneous goal is to locate data on armories already razed. The heritage of the Missouri Army National Guard and, in part, the evolution of small town America can be traced in the development of the state's armories. These armories represent a variety of architectural categories and historical styles, that mirror the growth of the guard from a loose militia organization to a modern reserve component. But little research has been conducted on armories even though they are the most visible and enduring monument to the guard. As the century closes out, many examples of early armory architecture are being retired for new construction. Without proper documentation of the existing armories and known past armories, the historian's task in the future becomes even more difficult.

As cultural artifacts, armories have many aspects of interest to researchers in addition to the traditional historical investigations. The fields of anthropology, sociology, psychology, and political science can contribute perspectives by having easy access to an organized data base to review.

In order to achieve this goal, a state-wide survey was conducted to record, document and preserve armory information and images. Important information about each armory was collected from various archives and local and private collections. This data now

constitutes an information file for future researchers investigating the development of the Missouri guard and guard history.

The data base for this study consists of categories of armories, descriptions of styles, and a type system based on armory use or floor plan. Relevant information and descriptions are recorded in a taxonomic system that is purposefully open ended. The basic system that is created for Missouri can be copied by other states so that all armory categories, styles, and types in the nation can be surveyed and recorded in a standardized fashion. Additional categories may be devised as needed, but the basic concept will remain the same--to organize all armories for easier access by researchers in the future.

Other surveys of armories have included architectural descriptions and a historical treatment of each armory construction project. But these studies fall short of a survey that attempts to organize the armories into categories (other than obvious stylistic groupings) and place the categories into a historical context that includes sociological and psychological aspects.

With the present study, researchers from a variety of fields can now contribute to guard history and developmental studies in a diachronic fashion instead of the isolated synchronic spotlight. The institution of the National Guard can now be more fully analyzed by studying the armory and the guard's place in American events, such as the Depression era or the Cold War period. Had such a survey been accomplished previously, much of this information would now be available and other types would not already be lost to history.

Chapter 2

MISSOURI GUARD DEVELOPMENT

Missouri's militia concept originated in Europe, specifically in the Anglo Saxon **Fyrd**, but it was changed dramatically when it was applied to the frontier (Mahon 1983:6-9). In the vastness of America's continent, colonial militias found few invading neighbors to repel, but did find an often hostile native population to control.

Prior to the writing of the U.S. Constitution, the concept of the militia may have appeared the same as it was in Europe, but the nature of the institution had changed. Control of the militia had shifted from a central government to the colonial government, and then to the individual states. Local control of militia reflected the English colonial viewpoint that a large standing army was a danger to democracy.

The popular perception of service in the militia as a necessary civic duty for every male was perceived differently on the frontier where defense was a local issue. Regulations calling for militia training were strong on intent but seldom backed up with civic action. The compulsory militia, and the requirement that they equip themselves with a weapon and clothing, and congregate several times a year for training or face fines or punishment, was unenforceable and few states pursued the issue.

The clause in the U.S. Constitution that calls for a militia is in Article I, Sec. 8. **Powers of Congress.** "The Congress shall have power:

To raise and support armies, but no appropriation of money to that use shall be for a longer term than two years;

To make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces;

To provide for calling forth the militia to execute the laws of the Union, suppress insurrections and repel invasions;

To provide for organizing, arming and disciplining the militia, and for governing such part of them as may be employed in the service of the United States, reserving to the states respectively the appointment of the officers and the authority of training the militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress"

Important details relevant to the development of the guard include the control of the militia and election of officers which is given to the states. Neither Congress nor the President appoints militia officers. The individual governors do that, and they initially controlled their respective state militias. If those two stipulations did not curtail standardization throughout the militia system, then the authority of Congress to raise money by two-year appropriations certainly limits the influence of the federal government or the regular army on militia matters.

The Missouri Constitution also contains a militia clause. Under Article III, Legislative Department, Section 46. **Militia.** - "The general assembly shall provide for the organization, equipment, regulations and functions of an adequate militia, and shall conform the same as nearly as practicable to the regulations for the government of the armed forces of the United States."

In the following Article IV, the Executive Department, Section 6. **Commander in chief of militia - authority.** - "The governor shall be the commander in chief of the militia, except when it is called into the service of the United States, and may call out

the militia to execute the laws, suppress actual and prevent threatened insurrection, and repel invasion."

The state constitution acknowledges that the authority to organize and train a militia rests with the state. Such organization and training is to mirror that which is done for the regular army. The state document clearly places the governor in charge of the state militia, except when it is called into federal service, at which time the governor relinquishes control to federal authority. As will be seen, that which appears to be a clear line of distinction between state and federal authority is no longer.

The Militia Act of 1792, which became the legal basis for the militia organization for the next 170 years, was tailored to fit the state as the cornerstone of defense instead of a truly national defense system built around a professional army. It is noteworthy that this legislation allowed individual citizens to belong to volunteer groups, thereby fulfilling their compulsory militia obligation. In 1843, St. Louis counted at least three volunteer militia companies composed of citizens--the St. Louis Greys, the Montgomery Guards, and the Morgan Rifleman.

Steadily, a civic movement gained momentum that replaced the unwanted militia obligation--the volunteer militia. In various states, including Missouri, where the compulsory militia organization failed to live up to expectations, certain civic leaders took charge and established local volunteer organizations, also called uniformed militia because members often bought their own uniforms.

Varying in quality of leadership, numbers, equipment, and desire to serve in an emergency, the volunteer militia filled the role of the compulsory militia when crises

emerged such as the Civil War. Volunteers were typically equipped by an organization of citizens that sponsored them. A city or group of leaders within a city, or a specific group of tradesmen, could undertake to raise a company or regiment of militia at their own expense. Volunteers may have been furnished with a uniform, or parts thereof, a weapon, and a place to drill. Their time devoted to the unit was gratis and they were generally expected to respond to calls for assembly at any time. Service outside their area was not expected. Local examples of uniformed or volunteer militia are the St. Louis Greys or the Light Guard of Carthage.

The popularity of the volunteer militia over the compulsory militia may be explained in a number of ways. It may have been a reaction to the dismal failure of the states to train and equip the required militia. In this respect the volunteer militia filled a void with ready and trained men to deal with a potential emergency. Or, it may be viewed as a means whereby powerful commercial interests in large cities sought to magnify the police powers available to deal with riots and theft. Or, it may be viewed as a social movement that originated within the middle and upper classes to join an organization with a civic purpose that required group structure and practice.

In an era prior to leisure activities and widespread organized sports, the volunteer militia was a form of social club, primarily for men but with a strong women's auxiliary. At one time, marching, known as Drill and Ceremony today, was an honorable sport, and membership was usually by invitation only. Although most volunteer militias had a military structure and practiced military drill movements this did not mean that all were strongly committed to defending their cities. Many were organized strictly as ceremonial

units that practiced complicated formations for the annual city parade, installation of elected officials, or special contests between similar units. For example, the Light Guard of Carthage, formed in 1876, became very active in public appearances and events where they participated in precision drills. And the Waddill Guard and the Boonville Guard of Boonville competed against each other for town honors.

Many volunteer militias offered their services to the state for official recognition. Sanction by the state brought with it several benefits and responsibilities. Although they remained volunteers, electing their own officers and supplying their own equipment, with official sanction they could petition to receive arms and equipment from the state arsenal and were available for service anywhere in the state.

Most states did not encourage this apparent competition with the compulsory militia, and were not required to recognize any volunteer groups that petitioned for official status. For the few states that actually maintained current rosters of militia-age men who were called out for training several times a year, the volunteer movement was an inexpensive addition to state resources. The majority of the states did not attempt to maintain an adequate compulsory militia, so the volunteer movement was a cost effective alternative.

By the mid-1800s the volunteer militia movement had replaced the compulsory militia in most states and cities but not in the Constitution (Cantor 1961:12). In Missouri, the compulsory peace time state militia ended in 1847 (35th Division Story). Therefore, when President Abraham Lincoln put out a call to state governors in 1861 for 75,000 militia, he meant the compulsory and volunteer state militia (Cantor 1961:19).

Few actual state militia units ever fought in the Civil War. Most state units that did, however, were volunteer units taken directly into federal service.

The Civil War was a terrible blow to the volunteer militia system in Missouri. The official Missouri State Guard militia was called out by the pro-Southern governor, Claiborne Fox Jackson. Pro-Union forces were formed into a Missouri State Home Guard militia. How long such units stayed together in the face of guerilla warfare and short term enlistments is hard to trace. What is certain is the overall result of the Civil War on the institution of the militia. The war killed the militia in Missouri and the nation. Only a skeleton organization remained in Missouri after the war and this did not enjoy much state support. In 1887 the Missouri National Guard was disbanded except for one regiment in Kansas City and smaller companies around the state (Mahon 1983).

Time alone did not heal the ill feeling toward the military in the post-Civil War nation. The resurgence of the nation's militia and volunteer militia movement can be correlated closely with the rise of labor unrest in major cities. The period beginning in the 1870s and ending roughly at 1900 was one of economic disparity between rich and poor, labor vs. owner and railroad vs farmer. Economic antagonisms fueled labor riots and instilled great fear into the middle and upper classes of a general labor revolt.

Rising tensions, culminating in the Great Railroad Strike of 1877, and the need for additional police forces gave the guard a new reason for existence--preserving peace. The job could have gone to the regular army, but politically astute guard leaders involved

the states in this new mission (Cantor 1961:27). Again, the Light Guard of Carthage, formed in 1876, was part of this movement to control labor unrest.

The guard enjoyed this new role for only a short time before restrictions were placed upon it. Called in time of emergency by the governor, between the Civil War and 1900 the guard was called out a total of 481 times, the guard was authorized to act in accordance with local police forces (Mahon 1983). But local authorities could also call the local guard unit to act as a posse. Referred to as **posse comitatus**, to volunteer to search for and apprehend suspects, the practice was prohibited in 1878. The guard is no longer authorized to participate in police duties except when called out by the governor in emergencies (Dupuy 1971:76).

The renewed need for protection of person and property reawakened the militia spirit in civic leaders and persons of wealth. The middle class responded whole-heartedly to the allure of joining a unit that would help to insure safety against rioters and destruction of property. Civic leaders, wishing to encourage enlistment by every means available, found the resources to pay for uniforms and equipment, as well as a new source of pride, the unit-owned armory. In 1881, merchants in St. Louis initiated a project to build an armory for the First Regiment, National Guard, billed as the first of its kind (Encyclopedia of St. Louis 1900). This movement went far in initiating a new business in armory construction and a new category of armory style, the Castellated armory (Cantor 1961:30).

The state of militia organization and purpose might have remained unchanged to the present day if it were not for the interaction of several factors, namely politics and

national defense. In the political realm, the benefit of successful service in the militia had long been recognized as a sure step to elected office, locally or nationally. Following the lead of various militia leaders such as George Washington and Andrew Jackson, the ambitious were attracted to serve in the militia and, in an effort to promote themselves, an organization was formed to promote militia issues in Congress.

The National Guard Association, founded in 1879, was and is a very powerful political player in defense matters. Its political clout is drawn from several sources, beginning with the cherished position of the militia in the Constitution. In addition, it is a very public institution, not private or part of the national government, with a very public purpose--defense. This power is magnified because of the highly organized nationwide coverage of the militia, which in most states is connected to state party organizations (Derthick 1965).

These goals have changed over time, but from the turn of the century they have included enlarging the role of the militia in national defense, especially as riot duty declined. In the best of political haggling, the two opponents, the Guard Association and the Regular Army, warred with each other over defense funds and their roles in the event of a declared war. Typically, the Guard Association extracted concessions from the regulars by trading up for a more active role in national defense, giving the guard a new lease on life and more federal money to fund guard operations.

The money did not come without strings, and through the purse of the federal government and regular army, the militia was transformed into a national defense entity known as the National Guard. Several milestones along the way include legislation that

changed the original militia law that had governed the state and federal concept of defense

The National Defense Act of 1903, typically known as the Dick Act, after its sponsor, Major General Charles Dick of the Ohio National Guard, State Senator and President of the National Guard Association, and its amendments of 1908, initiated the development of the guard into a modern establishment (Dupuy 1971:92). It was the Dick Act that finally replaced the Militia Act of 1792. In accordance with this and later legislation, the guard can be called out for more than 9 months service, can serve outside the United States, must conduct training camps yearly, and be paid for time served. In exchange for this and the money to support it, the guard is now subject to regular army inspections before federal funds are granted, thus signaling the army's first control over the guard (Sligh 1992:25).

The changed nature of the militia can be summed up by tracing the origins of the designation, National Guard. The LaFayette story that accounts for the title being used on a visit in 1824, and subsequently adapted for all militia units, is not accurate. Although LaFayette may have used the term National Guard to describe the militia he reviewed the name was in use prior to this occasion. The Civil War witnessed widespread use of the title and it earned recognition along with such names as "State volunteers" and "Organized Militia" (Hill 1964:74). In 1902 Congress passed an authorization which officially christened the militia organization "the National Guard of the States and Territories." In the 1916 National Defense Act, the designation of National Guard replaces terms such as organized militia and volunteer militia. In 1933,

Congress passed the National Defense Act which shortened the name to the "National Guard of the United States."

The name changes can be viewed as a minor departure from previous use but it is significant in the elimination of the term militia from the title. (It was not until 1933, when the agency in charge of the National Guard in the War Department had a name change from the Militia Bureau to the National Guard Bureau.) Technically, the modern guard is no longer the militia, although the term is often found in popular and legal usage.

A traditional element of the militia concept, now National Guard, is the premise of state control. As established by the Constitution, the states control the militias, not the President, who was required to request the militia be federalized in an emergency. This situation was part of the concept of dual control, where the bulk of America's land forces were kept under the control of the state governors, safely away from the federal government.

Legally, a state governor could refuse a call from the President for militia/National Guard forces. This situation remained the working arrangement until just prior to World War II. In the Defense Act of 1933, the guard finally gets an active defense role. Although promoted by the National Guard Association, the Defense Act of 1933 effectively took the guard out of the state governors' control and placed it under complete federal control. This is reflected in the amount of state support given to the guard. In 1933 the states' contributed 33% toward the cost of the guard. But, by 1963 this percentage had shrunk to a mere 6% (Mahon 1983). Presidential leadership of the guard

has subsequently been confirmed by the Supreme Court as late as 1989 (Sligh 1992:27; Cantor 1961). In the period since Korea, the element of control has been re-written so that the President now controls the state organizations and technically is not required to request the state governors' cooperation.

Chapter 3

MISSOURI ARMORY DEVELOPMENT

"Form follows function," as the saying goes, but there is no reason to believe function must dictate form as it did for a period in the post-World War II Western world. Form, especially in buildings, reflects a mental template of socially acceptable architecture in addition to functional aspects. The ancient Greeks understood this and used architecture to communicate social stability and to reflect favorably on the function going on within the building (Robinson 1983).

The armory, as it is known today, evolved alongside the term "arsenal" in 19th century America. The colonial militia did not have an armory. Most militias congregated on the appropriate day on the town commons, where they practiced infantry maneuvers. Slowly the militia began to concern itself with a meeting place, and some units acquired their own unit homes without state financing.

In the Army and Navy Chronicle for September 15, 1836, an article under Congressional reports is titled "Armory on the Western Waters." The heading appears to be about an armory as we know it. But the report is actually about the need for a national armory, or arsenal, to be located somewhere in the West for the manufacture of muskets.

Arsenals are places of manufacture, assembly of arms, and storage of complete weapons. Two local arsenals are the St. Louis Arsenal and the Rock Island Arsenal in Illinois. Within an arsenal, an area would be designated as the armory where the

finished product was stored for immediate issue. As compulsory militias without dedicated facilities gave way to the volunteer militias with separate and dedicated facilities for drill and weapons storage, the term armory was adapted to its present meaning.

The New Jersey and Virginia state guard can trace their heritage to the colonial militia. By comparison, Missouri statehood came late, in 1821. But there were settlers here before that and they banded together in militia-like form for protection. The five Boonslick forts in Howard County are a good example of frontier protection during the War of 1812. In some ways these simple palisaded homes, or small-scale forts, are the predecessors of Missouri's armories.

The St. Louis area has the earliest known militia meeting place--Yosti's Tavern. Functionally, it was a tavern or public house. In the first half of the 19th century, as the compulsory militia in Missouri was declining and being replaced by volunteer militia, many types of structures were called "home" by the guard. As long as the structures provided drill hall space, offices, and storage area, they could be rented by the state or by volunteer groups. Either way, a variety of buildings, often in stark contrast to the concept of the militia, became guard homes, such as Arnot's Stable, Thornton's Stable, and later a Turner Hall used by the St. Louis Greys, or Lee and Rucker's Stable used by the St. Louis Light Guards, or the Veranda Hall of the Jackson Guards of St. Louis.

The atypical nature of the early structures is illustrated by a church-like structure utilized by a Columbia, Missouri, unit in 1910. Stained glass cathedral windows and a

short, brick bell tower contrast noticeably with the sign over the door proclaiming it to be the home of Co. G, 4th Infantry, N.G.Mo. (National Guard of Missouri).

Another armory structure, this one located in Fayette, began its career as a town "opera house." In the years between the world wars the Missouri Guard sought out small towns with available future recruits. Fayette, empowered with the male population of Central College, attracted a guard company of the 138th Infantry Regiment. The rented armory space for Co. H, later Co. M, Heavy Machine Gun Company was situated on the second and third floors of a large brick building, with several businesses on the ground floor. The stage space became the drill floor and the balcony area was converted into quartermaster storage, with offices on the third floor lobby. Entrance was through a wide staircase on the north face of the building.

Just as guard homes are to be found in non-military looking structures due to changing circumstances, so the function of the armory also changed. Early militias are a product of the community and stay a part of the community by participating in military and social functions, often simultaneously. Small towns lacking large social space area were drawn closer to the militia once the unit rented or bought an armory suitable for civic activities. The dual function of guard armories became commonplace during the '30s and '40s when the community and guard co-owned the structure (e.g. Columbia, Kirksville).

Acquiring an armory is not a science and does not have a firm set of procedures. A "how-to-get" an armory developed to fit the times and the circumstances of each case. In 1890, a town had two probable courses of action available to house its volunteer

guards. They could build with local subscriptions and fund raisers or let the state rent a store front or room for them. Most volunteer units preferred to own their own home as an expression of pride.

A 1910 article in National Guard Magazine claims the cornerstone of armory fund-raising is the cooperation of the whole community. Pledges of support were taken from merchants, banks, enlisted men, officers, former guard members, and civic groups. City support could be demonstrated with a donated piece of land or active promotion of a special armory bond issue. Planning the armory carefully would eliminate costly upkeep in the future. Ball courts, meeting rooms, and a hall available for social events provided pay-back to the unit. Note that in the volunteer units all ranks had the option to contribute to the financial soundness of the armory. Contemporary guard units do not encourage, much less require, their members to donate money to any cause.

Alongside the rebirth of the volunteer militia movement in the late 1800s and early 1900s was the first wave of armory construction. Beginning on the East coast where large states, such as New York, felt the need to house their state guard in purposefully built structures, a style developed called **Castellated**. In every respect, these imposing armories were castles, meant to serve the function of a castle in times of labor unrest. The famous Seventh Regiment Armory (1878) and the Eighth Regiment Armory (1890), both in New York, are striking in their resemblance to a castle. As the **Castellated** movement spread east it influenced armory design in successive Western states. Its legacy is found in Missouri in only a few instances, the most notable being the former Nevada armory.

When the **castellated** style of armory fell out of favor just prior to World War I, it was replaced by a totally new movement in architecture, **Art Deco**. Art Deco armories are scattered throughout the state in part because of their connection to the PWA and WPA programs (Sligh 1992). During the 1930s Depression, ownership of the armory dramatically changed as the federal government entered the construction business to put America back to work. The Works Progress Administration funneled money to state projects on a cost-share basis. In this manner, Joplin, Kirksville, and other cities initiated armory construction on land donated by the city or a citizens group. Federal involvement in armory construction initiated a precedent that is followed today as government becomes almost dictatorial as the financier of new construction.

In the post-World War II era the **Art Deco** trend was quickly replaced by a new theory in architecture that reflected national defense and expense concerns as much as design theory. The **Cold War** category of armories are easily identifiable and are numerous in Missouri. Often this category of architecture is referred to as 1950s Modernism or American Imperial Modern. It is characterized by a lack of ornamentation, flat roofs, brick walls and disregard for the effect of the architecture on the public (Gowans 1992).

The present state of Missouri Armory design is in a post-Cold War movement. Labeled **Traditional**, this category is a combination of accepted design elements that is not as stark as the previous style. Ornamentation, contrasting materials and varied roof lines reappear in the **Traditional** category.

Keeping an armory is as much a challenge as attracting one. Aside from the military requirements for a unit, the decision to eliminate an armory is part political and financial, and reflects the level of community involvement. A community with a tradition of supporting and manning a unit is more likely to keep one than a unit alienated from its community. Some towns of relatively small population today host substantial armories, such as Pierce City or Anderson, simply because it is a tradition in those towns. The reverse explains why some towns had guard units and now have them no longer.

Community involvement can be handsomely rewarded with civic pride, patriotism, and the unit payroll. Regardless of the community size, money entering from outside the area will benefit the town economy, especially if the guard members are locals rather than commuters. In 1933, the small town armory of Co. M in Fayette brought into the community an annual payroll of \$13,424.64. This was money the farm community would not have attracted without the guard armory. Did it make a difference for some farmers, students, store owners? Yes. This was similarly demonstrated by the 1989 opening of a new unit in Savannah. Press statements announcing the new Savannah facility note an annual boost to the local economy of between \$450,000 and \$522,000 (Savannah Reporter: Oct 20, 1988; Dec 21, 1989). Certainly a worthy return for community interest in the guard.

But towns like Fayette were not the only beneficiaries of the guard's payroll. The state of Missouri contributed only \$1,790.07 to maintain Co. M in Fayette in 1933, whereas the federal government paid \$11,634.57 for its welfare. In fact, the entire state guard of Missouri cost \$625,000 in the '30s, the bulk of which came from Washington

(Fayette Advertiser: Feb. 21, 1933). Presently, it is harder to determine how much a unit means to the local economy. An estimate of average pay times the number of men in the unit gives one a sum, but less of it stays in the community, so the guard's local impact is less today than yesterday.

Most armories today are available for rent for sporting events, expositions, and circuses. Some might believe the armory is the last place of choice for a social event, wedding reception, formal dance, high school prom, or graduation ceremony to be held, but the opposite is the case. Primarily due to the low price of renting armories, they are highly sought after even in the largest cities.

In a trend that continues to this day, the federal government contributes substantial funding to state armories, and, in turn, has increased control over them. The greatest determinant of armory construction today is the need for federal dollars. As recipients of the federal money, the states have been influenced to build post-Cold War armories with striking similarities in construction, material and design.

Chapter 4

ARMORY DESCRIPTIONS AND CLASSIFICATION SCHEME

Two hundred and twenty-one armories have been identified in Missouri by location and varying amounts of descriptive data. Such a data base is valuable for several reasons. First, it is a foundation on which to build more information about other armories and future guard homes. Second, it can be utilized in this form by various scholars and planners for historic surveys and studies and by guard personnel for unit morale and new member orientation. Third, the classification scheme can be repeated and enlarged in other states.

Of the 221 armories recorded in the statewide survey, 100 are included in this report. The rest are of armories with less available information. The reported 100 have been consolidated into categories based on architectural similarities, which are in turn incorporated into a descriptive classification scheme. The scheme is purposefully open-ended, without a beginning or a terminal category, in order to facilitate its use by other states.

The descriptive element of this report utilizes the terms category, style and type. Category is intended to refer to a large number of buildings with architectural similarities that form a logical grouping, including such elements as ornamentation, size and shape. All Missouri armories have been grouped into six arbitrary categories. They are:

1. Vernacular
2. Castellated
3. Art Deco
4. Cold War
5. Traditional
6. Eccentric

"Style" is used in the acknowledged sense of a known reproduced form of building that has certain required elements to qualify as a member of the group. Unlike armories in some states, Missouri armories reflect only a few recognized styles such as Beaux Arts, French Eclectic, and Greek Revival.

"Type" in this classification scheme refers to a subdivision of the category based on the original purpose of the building or some aspect of the floor plan or roof line. Depending on the category, Type A armories include those armories that were originally built as armories, regardless of later uses, or have a standardized floor plan. Type B describes those armories built primarily with a commercial purpose and those with an irregular roof line. Type C describes an irregular floor plan, and Type D indicates a remodeled or altered armory.

Using the data collected on Missouri armories, the following classification scheme has been constructed with explanations of the six categories of Missouri armories to demonstrate how the Missouri scheme can be of use for easy reference and how it can be applied to other states.

Armory Classification System

Category I - Vernacular

This is the largest grouping of armories found in Missouri and the most widely dispersed throughout the state. Buildings in this category cover the longest time span, from the frontier period to the present day, and are predominately rented buildings. Generally, **Vernacular** buildings are a heterogeneous group with a variety of

architectural details incorporated into each sample. Characterizing this group involves generalities such as Americana, Native American, commercial, and storefront.

Typically, a single style of architecture will not predominate in this category. Instead, a single building may incorporate several accepted style elements creating a genuinely unique finished product.

The original function of **Vernacular** category buildings in this survey was as commercial fronts, rarely a house front. Another aspect of the **Vernacular** category of armories is that they are buildings rented by private groups, or local or state governments.

Armories located in the state that fit into the **Vernacular** category are divided into two types.

Type A consists of those buildings designed to be armories. An example is the CoCoMo theater in Boonville, a rectangular, tile block building constructed by the local American Legion with the sole intent of renting it to the Missouri National Guard to house a guard unit. Another example is the Admiral Coontz Armory in Hannibal. This large, rectangular cut stone armory was built expressly as an armory and community center.

Type B are those built originally as storefronts, then rented by the guard and converted into armories. The largest category of any armory group, Type B, is found throughout the state, from Neosho, where present day McGinty's clothing was once an armory, to Tarkio, where a vacant storefront in 1911 was rented by the Missouri guard.

Missouri Armories in Category I - Vernacular

TYPE A: Primary Use

Albany/1941
Hannibal/1939
Kennett/1938
Sikeston/1939
St. Louis/1937

TYPE B: Secondary Use

Boonville/Stephens/1894
Boonville/Stone/1896
Boonville/Turn Hall/1847
Boonville/Abstract/1860
Boonville/Stables/1870
Boonville/Brownfield/1927
Boonville/Hittner/1914
Boonville/IOOF/1915
Boonville/Cocomo/1948
Centertown/1924
Columbia/Boone/1913
Columbia/O'Rear/1920
Columbia/White Eagle/1923
Columbia/Accent Press/1924
Farmington/1949
Farmington/1950
Hannibal/1911
Kirksville/1911
Marston/1940
Mountain Grove/1960
Ozark/1997
Pierce City/1890
Pierce City/1900
Savannah/1989
St. Joseph/1908
St. Louis/Mess Hall/1890

Category II - Castellated

This is the smallest group of armories in Missouri, but also the most unique architecturally and historically. As the name implies, these armories were designed to resemble castles with all the embellishments and ornamentation. This includes crenellations, bartizans, parapets, towers, narrow windows, keeps, and embrasures.

All Castellated armories were designed to serve as fortresses in time of labor strife. The armory most resembling a castle in Missouri is found at Nevada. It is unique also

as the remaining castellated armory built with private funds, in essence owned by its members. This was common practice when the style was in favor with the renewed interest in armory building. Many large East coast armories originated as private regimental armories; the Nevada armory may be the farthest west extant example of this trend.

Missouri Armories in Category II - Castellated

Kansas City/1923
Macon/1900
Nevada/1910

Pierce City/1939
St. Louis/1899

Category III - Art Deco

This style originated in a movement just prior to World War I, then had its greatest florescence in the inter-war years, only to die out in the post-World War II era. As such, it is easy to identify, has a specific time frame, and, due to its popularity through the Depression years, it is often associated with the Works Progress Administration (WPA) construction projects.

Art Deco is identified primarily by the types of material used in construction, as well as with design and ornamentation features. Monolithic concrete construction, or iron reinforced concrete, was the preferred medium, in part because it was new and nontraditional. Windows were arranged symmetrically, often in rows; entrances were flanked by piers or columns; and geometric concrete ornaments were used to frame

borders, corners, and incised lines along wall edges. Off-white to beige color was used exclusively to allow the texture of the concrete to be accentuated by sunlight and shadow.

All Art Deco armories are singular in purpose, built as armories, but are unique because they reflect the times and the movement to make public buildings serve more than one function. Hence, most Art Deco armories, and WPA armories in general, also serve as community centers. This is vividly illustrated at the Dexter, Missouri, armory. Here, inscribed in the concrete is the name National Guard over the west entrance of the front facade, while over the east side entrance is inscribed the words "City Hall," and spanning the distance in between is the wording, "City of Dexter."

Missouri Armories in Category III - Art Deco

Aurora/1940
Bernie/1940
Cape Girardeau/1940
Caruthersville/1938
Charleston/1942
Chillicothe/1940

Columbia/1940
Dexter/1941
Festus/1941
Kirksville/1940
Sedalia/1941

Category IV - Cold War

This group of armories is as unique as any and easily bracketed in time. They owe their existence to the post-World War II period and fade from popularity with architects by the end of the Soviet Union, in the late 1980s to 1990.

Strikingly similar in design, and totally committed to providing the most functional space for the money, the Cold War category armories are rigidly symmetrical, flat-roof,

right angle, rectangular boxes with a half-story box layered on top to provide height and light through sidewall windows. The drill hall is surrounded by U-shaped, flat-roof, single story wings. The wing endwalls, front and rear, are blank, and the main entry is between the front facade wings. The entry is typically a double door with a continuous flat roof with wings and a continuous porch projection provided by an I-beam that supports a brick masonry spandrel. Ubiquitous brick veneer varies in this category only in the color, buff yellow to red brown. Ornamentation is severely limited to metal frame window arrangements, some use of enameled brick, and flag poles placed directly to the side of the structure, usually near the main entrance.

Many Cold War armories have partial basements to house the heating plant which is most often unused due to dampness or limited space. Most have rifle ranges, a cost saving feature that eliminated traveling great distances to a range. Unfortunately, none is in use today. Environmental concerns over lead poisoning have caused all to be discontinued and converted to storage space.

Unfortunately, Cold War buildings have not weathered well. The buff brick color tends to soil and take on a dingy appearance; the interior drill hall space is insufficiently lighted and appears dark and depressing.

Category IV is subdivided into four types of Cold War armories.

Type A armories all have a standard floor plan, the main feature of which is the drill hall floor with one side open to the exterior via a large vehicle door. The surrounding three sides house offices, mess area, lavatories/showers, arms vault, rifle range, and

classroom space. In the standard floor plan, the main entrance is aligned on the side opposite the vehicle entrance.

Type B armories are identified by an unusual roof feature--a front-facing, three-gabled drill hall roof with flipped eaves. In most respects, Type B is similar to the standard floor plan Type A except for the drill hall roof which allows a greater quantity of light than possible with the Type A flat roof line. Aesthetically, the roof line looks interesting enough to warrant another glance.

Type C armories have non-standardized floor plans. Often this may indicate that the armory building was designed to house more than just one company of men. For instance, in Joplin and Cape Girardeau the armories also house a headquarters and a battalion or brigade staff. Therefore, the space requirement for offices was greater. Or, the non-standard plan may be the result of an add-on, as in the Springfield armory, or the one-of-a-kind Rolla armory which is actually a Reserve Forces Center, housing on one half the National Guard Armory and on the other half the Army Reserve Center.

Type D armories are for remodeled or altered buildings that would fit into one of the prior types, but, due to some change in exterior or expansion, warrant a dedicated position.

Missouri Armories in Category IV - Cold War

Type A - Standard Floor Plan

Anderson/1955
Carthage/1957
Clinton/1959
Farmington/1961
Fredericktown/1961

Independence/1955
Jackson/1954
Lamar/1958
Marshall/1955
Maryville/1953

Moberly/1958
Perryville/1957
Portageville/1957
Richmond/1964
Salem/1960

St. Clair/1957
Warrensburg/1958
Warrenton/1963
Webb City/1965

Type B - Gabled Drill Hall Roof

Fulton/1960

Lexington/1960

Type C - Non-Standardized Floor Plan

Cape Girardeau/1957
De Soto/1965

Kansas City/Ozark Road/1972
Rolla/1963

Type D - Remodeled/Altered

Jefferson City/Big Blue/1958
Mexico/1954

Nevada/1957
Springfield/1957

Category V - Traditional

This post-World War II category is labeled Traditional to indicate that buildings in this group are a return to socially accepted style elements starkly missing in the Cold War armories. In contrast to the previous category, Traditional armories display peaked and gabled roofs, asymmetrical window arrangements, a formal main entrance and multiple types of construction materials, resulting in modern yet aesthetically pleasing buildings. Often an element of ornamentation such as a turret, roofless gable, a lone window, or circle is used to emphasize the center of the structure and bring the ground floor and second floor together. Windows are often used to frame a door, add detail to a wall, or be grouped together in a massive glass frame accentuating the outline of the total wall.

Color combinations are predominately dark brown or yellow brick with metal surfaces in light or dark pastel depending on the overall blending of building materials. A color may be used to denote a horizontal line across the face of the building or emphasize a joint between one material and another, presenting the viewer with a traditional outline or image that is easily recognizable.

Internally the drill hall floor follows the standard pattern for all new armories, a rectangular drill hall with three sides flanked by offices. Basements, full or partial, and theater stages centered on the drill hall, both common in earlier periods, are no longer built. Some Traditional buildings have indoor rifle ranges but none are in active use due to environmental concerns.

A classic expression of the Traditional category is the new Festus Armory. The two story structure is imposing. The front facade is dominated by a two story pillar that is flanked by glass doors and transoms. To accentuate the width of the entrance the same color of the pillar continues to each side of the entryway until it ends in a series of descending squares to the first floor level. This building has an entrance with flair and an overall appeal that is modern yet comfortably traditional.

The Harrisonville Armory is a combination of four large areas of glass with two wide vertical bands of color that give a relatively small front facade distinctness. The main entrance is offset to one side of the structure in a set of doors that are a repeat color of the four massive window areas. Attention is drawn to the entry by a concrete column, flag pole and black sloping roof line. This is an appealing building that is obviously an office complex that invites the viewer to investigate further

The Boonville Armory is a very successful Traditional National Guard Home. It incorporates a sloping roof line that joins a second story vertical glassed wall topped by a gabled metal roof. Few vent and utility pipes clutter the clean roof line which is clearly visible as the armory is approached. The sloping eaves extend out to join with the exterior wall, where two square windows interrupt the brown and beige horizontal bands of brick, accentuated by spaced double rows of glass blocks. The viewer is reminded of a fortress due to the recessed, notched roof entryway, centrally placed flagpole, and low building profile. Traditional category buildings begin to appear in the late 1980s and predominate today. New design elements and the use of varied building materials may cost more, but the product is more appealing to the observer.

Missouri Armories in Category V - Traditional

Aurora/1991	Joplin/1975
Boonville/1990	Kennett/1985
Columbia/1995	Lebanon/1989
Festus/1991	Monet/1990
Ft. Leonard Wood/1997	Poplar Bluff/1997
Hannibal/1977	St. Joseph/1988
Harrisonville/1988	Whiteman/1997
Jefferson City/HQ/1994	

Category VI - Eccentrics

This group comprises those distinctive buildings that are the only examples of a style in Missouri or are unique in some respect. Included in this category are Beaux Arts, Greek Revival and French Eclectic styles.

**Missouri Armories in
Category VI - Eccentrics**

Type A - Primary Use

Doniphan/1938
Neosho/1941

Poplar Bluff/1942
West Plains/1941

Type B - Secondary Use

Boonville/Thesbian/1880
Carrollton/1937
Columbia/Methodist Church/1910

Mexico/Presser Hall/1926
Trenton/1985

Scheme Versatility

Although the system explained here is structured for Missouri armories, the same system can be expanded for use by any state in the Union. States with a earlier history than Missouri, generally the East coast states, will have categories of armories not found in Missouri prior to 1820. A category for colonial may be found in Virginia or Dutch Colonial in New York State. But after 1820, one would expect to find similar categories to the Missouri armories, especially in later time frames. The opposite is true for states west of Missouri. States such as Colorado will not have armories as early as Missouri but will have armories in similar categories in later years.

A standardized system, which is open-ended for versatility, can be used to promote the study of National Guard Armories by the guard itself and by researchers interested in a variety of questions related to the guard or national defense.

Chapter 5

THE ARMORY AS A SOCIAL INSTITUTION

The armory, when viewed as an institution, can be studied in a number of ways that allow society and social change to be investigated both diachronically and synchronically; covered here are the military and civilian aspects of the armory. Each subject offers a different perspective of how the armory reflects society and is changed by society.

One aspect of the armory is the military unit. In an earlier time, one would be correct to call it a military club. The social organization in the guard unit is a hierarchy of leadership from private/citizen to the commanding officer. The personnel in this unit are of a common background, probably from the same town if not neighborhood, and share a common culture with other units in other towns and cities. St. Louis, for example, had a succession of units such as the St. Louis Greys, Montgomery Guard, Washington Guards, St. Louis Light Guard, the National Guard, Home Guards, The Missouri Guards, Young American Greys, Washington Blues, Mound City Guards, Jackson Guards and the First Regiment of National Guards.

The members of the unit are there for a purpose, most commonly defense of the community, state and nation. In pursuit of this goal the members practice the skills necessary to provide that service when needed. They receive individual training from the state or federal government which serves to increase their value to the unit and the community. Because of their membership in the local unit of a larger organization, they

and the armory they man are often the most visible arm of the state or federal government in their towns. And, the armory is their military center of operation.

In many respects the local National Guard unit should be viewed in the same light as the Rotary Club, Elks, or Shriners. This is especially the case when units have active social agendas such as a Toys-for-Tots program, Red Cross assistance, or Boy or Girl Scout association. Some units also have active auxiliary wives club organizations such as the Ladies Military Association in 1881 St. Louis (Encyclopedia of St. Louis, 1900). In this capacity, National Guard units serve as an element of social cohesion, binding various subgroups of a community together for a totally distinct but important purpose.

An indication of how viable the military role is in the armory is to realize that armories are still being built for guard units. If this role was not as important today as earlier, one would expect armory construction to have ceased after the last war. But construction programs are as active today as yesterday. The underlying reason is also the same--to house the citizen soldier. The most recent armories to be constructed and dedicated in Missouri are found at Ft. Leonard Wood (1997), Whiteman Air Force Base (1997), and Poplar Bluff (1997). The Macon Armory is soon to be replaced by a new battalion size building. Nationally, there are an estimated 3,000 armories in active use by the National Guard.

The social aspect of the armory most appropriately concerns the building itself and the activities held within. It is the availability of a hall for rent, open to all (depending upon where and when historically) that attracts the citizenry to the armory. Historically, the local armory may have been the only large hall affordable or available in a town.

This role, the armory as a rented hall, is still part of the service the National Guard provides to the local community. Most armories in the later half of the 19th century and early 20th century built rooms and halls into their buildings for the express purpose of renting. The proceeds from the rent went to paying off loans and general upkeep of the building.

The St. Joseph, Mayes Memorial Armory, is a good example of a current armory that rents the drill hall space for civic activities. The cost is quoted in a memorandum dated June 1989.

Assembly hall, foyer, and rest rooms:

1. Full day and evening - \$93.50
2. Day or evening only - \$46.75
3. Half day - \$33.00

Classrooms:

1. Full day and evening - \$44.00
2. Day or evening only - \$27.50
3. Half day - \$22.00

Kitchen: - \$55.00

Equipment:

1. Folding Chairs (ea) - \$ 2.20
2. Folding tables (ea) - \$ 2.20

Daily Operational Fee as of June 1990 - \$42.20

Typically, an Armory Control Board is established to handle money derived from the rental income. The Armory Control Board in the "Old" Columbia Armory consisted of several members appointed by the City of Columbia and several appointed by the local guard unit.

The types of events that book armory halls are wide ranging. Touring professional fighters, wrestlers, dog and cat shows, high school proms, college graduations, noon-time basketball leagues, and sales meetings. An earlier generation would have attended a variety of entertainments at the local armory. Little known singers, Frank Sinatra and Elvis Presley, toured the small town armories waiting for their big break and contributed to the social utility of the armory.

One may judge how important the social aspect of the armory was to earlier American towns by the demand for more armories and the development of a new type of armory. In the 1920s and 1930s, local communities appreciated the value of the armory as a public meeting hall and worked to insure its availability by entering into joint partnerships with the National Guard. Dual ownership was the goal, and by contributing the land or advancing a bond issue, a community could insure its stake in a new armory which included a community center. Examples of this dual ownership include the Old Columbia Armory, the Kirksville Armory and the Caruthersville Armory. As a place to meet, the armory building itself now served to promote social cohesion in the community.

Once an armory does not mean always an armory. As units are moved around or rented properties are let go, or an armory building is sold at public sale, armories move from military control to civilian control and new roles. There is an after life to armory buildings and many examples are to be found. The recently retired Columbia Armory is now owned by the City of Columbia and is to be a Parks and Recreation Department Community Center. The Old Aurora Armory is now the local school district office

building, and the Old Cape Girardeau Armory is now a community center and convention center. Most Vernacular category armories revert back to commercial use after the departure of the guard. The Fayette Armory of Co. M, 138th Infantry Regiment, was not reoccupied by the National Guard unit after World War II. It returned to store fronts on the first floor and a variety of businesses on the old drill hall floor, including a garment factory.

Chapter 6

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Although a statewide survey of Missouri was completed and a total of 221 armories were found, it is more than likely that many more armories are yet to be discovered. Many buildings are still standing that once served this purpose and many others are no longer standing, but their addresses preserve their place in history. This report includes a description of the development of the Missouri National Guard, a description of the development of the armory in Missouri, an explanation of a novel scheme for the classification of armories, and a discussion of the role of the armory in the social fabric of America.

The original scheme for the classification of armories in Missouri, and the entire United States, includes six armory categories that have been isolated for Missouri (Vernacular, Castellated, Art Deco, Cold War, Traditional and Eccentric), which include styles connected with each category and a system of typing based on the original intent of the building (primary use and secondary use), floor plan or roof line. This scheme can accommodate those states with armories dating after to Missouri's, and those states farther east where architecturally distinct, but earlier, styles may have been used in construction. The scheme has no terminal point and can therefore be utilized as far into the future as armories are built.

This study and the classification system apply to research in defense matters concerning the National Guard, and research of American social history concerned with

factors that shape local, state and federal government policy. The armory and its development is an unexplored field of study for American historians. Because it is so little understood, policy makers take little notice of the importance of the armory in society and its importance to the integrity of the Guard.

A positive factor of this study is that it provides a base and a framework for further research and additional details. Had a search like this been accomplished earlier, when several now-razed structures were still standing, more would be known and a clearer picture would be available for researchers. With the passing of each year, the guard continues to add new armories or locations and deletes current armories, some with long standing guard association. The loss of this information is disastrous to future research and the collective memory of the National Guard. In Missouri, the loss of history is happening at a rapid pace. It can only be assumed the loss is occurring as rapidly in every state of the Union.

The most positive factor in this study, that can influence the effectiveness of the National Guard as a state and federal force, is the attention it draws to the most enduring monument to the National Guard, the armories, the Guard's Homes. At present, few individuals in the guard organization are aware of the immense history incorporated in the armory, which, if known and utilized by the guard, would serve to reinforce the attachment of the community and state to the organization.

The relevance of this emphasis on history is especially important today in a time of constant change for the guard. Deemphasizing history in the best of times may not directly affect unit retention and morale, but in periods of stress it will. Reductions in

personnel, reorganization, and doubt about the guard mission in the '90s are stressful changes which the guard must counter to maintain efficiency. Unit history is one binding influence that serves to counteract the negative consequences of change. But, if army middle management is unable to communicate to its newest members a firm sense of its past, the guard will become just a job with all short term goals and few, if any, long term goals. Inevitably, without the historical understanding and passion associated with the mission it will be treated as just a job: money first, please.

With this survey, the Missouri National Guard now has a body of data with which to anchor other aspects of the typical guardsman's training. The armory should be viewed by society and the guard as more than just a meeting place: it stands alone as a monument to guard traditions. It is one of the few "constants" in the guard world. Since basic traditions do not change they are of utmost importance to the guard when all else seems to be changing. The guard mission has changed with the end of the Cold War. The promotion policy fluctuates, and new smoking and drinking regulations, new weapons, and new doctrines abound. But the armory, the Guard's Home, is always there. It may adapt to new uses on the inside, but the physical appearance on the outside remains the same.

Most guardsmen and citizens have never taken the time to stand in front of an armory and look at the main facade. The exterior you see probably has not changed much since construction, although the unit inside may have changed frequently. If the armory is a 1950s to 1970s vintage, the greatest change may be that the town has grown up around it or the neighborhood has changed.

If one were to search out the older armories in town they would find them adapted to new uses. Memorials once outside old armories might be moved from old locations to new sites. Often left behind are the mounts, bases, or stands that remain as a clue to what was once there. The old armory remains part of the community memory and never really ceases to be an armory. It remains a symbol of the citizen soldier as long as it is remembered as such. This is how this report can be of value to the National Guard. If the typical guardsman is reacquainted with a sense of guard history, through the memory of retired armories, then commitment to the goals of that organization should be reinforced.

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