NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

866

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.

RECEIVED 2280
OCT 23 2015
Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

1. Name of Property

Historic name: The University of Oklahoma Armory

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing:

_____

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing

2. Location

Street & number: 103 West Brooks Street

City or town: Norman State: Oklahoma County: Cleveland

Not For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

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

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

___ **national** ___ **statewide** X **local**

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X **A** ___ **B** ___ **C** ___ **D**

Oct 19, 2015

Signature of certifying official/Title: **Date**

_____

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

_____

Signature of commenting official: **Date**

_____

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:) _____

for Edson H. Beall 12.8.25

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private: ☐

Public – Local ☐

Public – State ☒

Public – Federal ☐

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s) ☒

District ☐

Site ☐

Structure ☐

Object ☐

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
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 0

6. Function or Use
Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Defense: Military Facility/Arms Storage
Education: College
Agriculture/Subsistence: Animal Facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Defense: Military Facility/Arms Storage
Education: College

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)
Late 19th and 20th
Century Revivals:
Late Gothic Revival/
Collegiate Gothic

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The two-story Collegiate Gothic style building is located in the center of the University of Oklahoma campus. Housing both the Navy and Army ROTC Units, the interior of the building is divided equally between the two units. The brick clad building façade faces north and has one-story wings to the east and west. While a majority of the windows have been replaced over time, the building maintains a high degree of integrity including setting, location, design, feeling and association.

Narrative Description

The façade, north elevation, is two stories tall and six bays wide. A one-story, two bay wide wing is located on both the east and west elevation. The first floor of the two story portion has a Gothic arch entry in the center designed with one row of header course brick and one row of soldier course brick. To either side of the entry is a narrow single pane side light. Between the entry and the side light is a historic single lighting fixture. Two decorative rows of header course brick separate the first and second floors. The second floor has four two pane windows above the

entry. A decorative row of soldier course brick separates the second floor from the gable front parapet. Located in the gabled parapet is a Gothic arch opening with historic metal vents. The Gothic arch is comprised of one row of header course brick and one row of soldier course brick. The parapet, along the roof, has dentils composed of bricks. A small square brick detail rises above the peak of the gable end. A brick buttress is located to both the east and west of the entry and extends through the second floor, ending just at the gable end. To either side of these buttresses are two fixed pane windows on both the first and send floors. Each corner of the façade has a single bay wide two-story tower feature. The first floor of each tower has two fixed pane windows. The second floor each has three narrow fixed pane windows. The top of each tower is crenellated and has embrasures below the crenellation. Each corner of the tower has a one-story brick buttress. The one-story wings have two fixed pane windows in the first bay and one fixed pane window in the second, corner, bay. Each of the corner windows has a brick drip cap. The walls of the one-story wing are crenellated. The corner bay of the one-story wing rises slightly above the rest of the wing to give an appearance of a shorter tower. The two-story section of the building has a concrete deck roof with open web steel trusses. The one-story sections have poured concrete roofing.

The east elevation has two narrow fixed pane windows at the northeast corner of the one-story wing. From north to south the remaining windows on the one-story portion included paired two pane fixed windows. There are nine sets of these types of windows. At the southeast corner are two narrow fixed pane windows. The entire length of the one-story wing has a crenellated parapet wall. The second floor has three narrow fixed pane windows in the two-story tower. The tower parapet is crenellated and has embrasures below the crenellation. There are fourteen brick buttresses extending on the second floor of this elevation. Between each buttress are two fixed pane windows. The tower at the southeast corner has one narrow fixed pane window on this elevation. The tower is crenellated and has embrasures below the crenellation.

The south elevation is two stories tall and six bays wide. A one-story, two bay wide wing is located on both the east and west elevation. Two decorative rows of header course brick separate the first and second floors. The first floor has wood covering the existing windows due to the proximity to the alley between the building and Gaylord Stadium. HVAC system piping also is located on the first floor. The second floor has two sets of two pane windows in the center. Located in the gabled parapet, along the roof, are dentils composed of bricks. A small square brick detail rises above the peak of the gable end. A brick buttress is located to both the east and west of the second floor windows, ending just at the gable end. Each corner of the façade has a single bay wide two-story tower feature. The first floor of each tower has two fixed pane windows that are covered with wood. The second floor of the southwest tower has three narrow fixed pane windows. The second floor of the southeast tower has a metal door with a fire escape. The top of each tower is crenellated and has embrasures below the crenellation. Each corner of the tower has a one-story brick buttress. The one-story wings have windows that are covered with wood panels. Each of the corner windows has a brick drip cap. The walls of the one-story wing are crenellated. The corner bay of the one-story wing rises slightly above the rest of the wing to give an appearance of a shorter tower.

The west elevation has a narrow fixed pane window at the northwest corner of the one-story wing. From north to south the remaining windows on the one-story portion included three paired two pane fixed windows, five narrow horizontal fixed pane windows, a wood door with wood paneling set inside a large overhead door opening. Three brick infilled window openings with stone lintels, five narrow horizontal fixed pane window openings, and four window openings that have been covered with wood paneling due to the proximity to the alley and Gaylord Stadium. The entire length of the one-story wing has a crenellated parapet wall. The second floor has three narrow fixed pane windows in the two-story tower at the northwest corner. The tower parapet is crenellated and has embrasures below the crenellation. There are fourteen brick buttresses extending on the second floor of this elevation. Between each buttress are two fixed pane windows. The tower at the southeast corner has one narrow fixed pane window on this elevation. The tower is crenellated and has embrasures below the crenellation.

Interior:

Upon entering the Armory the north end of the building houses the Army ROTC while the south end houses the Navy ROTC. Both units have designed the interior spaces to accommodate their training and educational needs. Historically, the one-story wings on the west and east elevations served as animal stalls and equipment storage. Today, these spaces, still extant, serve as offices and classrooms.

The University of Oklahoma Armory maintains excellent integrity of location, setting, design, workmanship, association and feeling. When constructed, the portion used for animal storage had a dirt floor. Since it is no longer used for that purpose, it has a concrete floor. While some of the windows have been covered with wood paneling, due to the proximity to the alley and the stadium, and the main windows were altered for energy efficiency in the 1970’s, it still maintains the character defining characteristics of the Armory.

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.)

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

Criteria Considerations
(Mark “x” in all the boxes that apply.)

- [ ] A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- [ ] B. Removed from its original location
- [ ] C. A birthplace or 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

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)
Military
Education

Period of Significance
1919-1962

Significant Dates
1919, 1920, 1935
1955-1962

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Jewell Hicks,
architect

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The University of Oklahoma Armory is significant at the local level under Criteria A for its association with Education and Military. The University of Oklahoma initiated its, Student Military Regiment, later to become the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC), in 1917. Two years later in 1919, the university constructed the Armory to house the program. From that time until 1962, when the ROTC took on its current organization, the University of Oklahoma Armory played a central role in the school's Education and Military training.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Student Body President Josh Lee called together a mass meeting of the male student population of the University of Oklahoma. With the declaration of the United States entry into World War I, men on campus, along with the nation in general, decided that they needed to make a contribution to the war effort. They decided that institutions of higher education needed to train students in basic military skills. The University President Stratton D. Brooks approved of student decision and gave approval to form a military training unit.

Exuding patriotism but lacking weapons, equipment and uniforms, the men practiced basic military skills with no professional direction. At the end of the academic year the unit disbanded, ending in less than one month the University of Oklahoma's first experiment in military education. While the academic term ended, the European conflict did not. At this point, the University and the State government recognized the need to provide a general military education. The War Department requested that courses with direct military skill applications be offered at the University of Oklahoma. At that same time, the State Board of Regents for Education mandated that all male students enrolled in the 1917-1918 academic year participate in a two-year military training program, which would remain a requirement at the university for almost 50 years.

With that decision, the first formal military training organization, the Student Military Regiment, was organized at the beginning of that academic year. That year, cadets were trained in military drills using rifles carved from wood by the instructors. A May inspection by the War Department resulted in official recognition of the Student Military Regiment however, it was brought under the banner of the Student Army Training Corps (SATC), a program designed to train students for immediate service in the Army.

With over 1,000 students enrolled in the SATC program, the program was short lived. With the Armistice signed, the war over, SATC disbanded, and normalcy returned to the University of Oklahoma. The military classes were dropped from the curriculum and the soldier housing was converted to dormitories and fraternity housing.

As the War Department no longer needed masses of quickly-trained enlisted soldiers, the request to form an ROTC unit was finally approved. In September of 1919, the wooden rifles were replaced by real arms and uniforms. In addition, the ROTC program was given 60 horses, nine artillery pieces, tractors, trucks, observation cars and a wireless telegraph set. Within the year, a captain, his staff of three officers and 33 enlisted soldiers occupied the newly completed Armory building, forming the first true ROTC program at the University of Oklahoma where the cadets drilled and trained in military skills. The Armory was of such a dimension that it could accommodate the livestock, artillery pieces and other equipment along with interior drill space.

As originally organized, the unit at the University of Oklahoma taught its students basic drills and military skills but the 1920s and 1930s saw a radically different education role. In 1920, a battalion of artillery was added to the infantry battalion. By 1925, the infantry battalion was non-extant. The regiment was strictly artillery, training their cadets to become artillery officers upon graduation. As photographs and newspaper articles dating to the period indicate, live fires were a regular component of the training.

The establishment of the ordnance unit in 1935, followed by the establishment of quartermaster and engineering units, brought the ROTC a greater diversity in the training offered to its cadets. While the artillery unit with its horse-drawn cannons remained the program's primary concern, cadets could, and did, receive their commissions in other technical specialties, something that was needed by the Army at a time where they were transitioning to tanks and bombers.

With the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the ROTC program at the University of Oklahoma changed drastically. Because the War Department had a desperate need for new officers and could not wait for underclassmen to finish the full program, the ROTC was suspended in the summer of 1943. It was replaced by the Army Specialized Training Program which was designed to provide critically needed technical training to soldiers on active duty. This period during World War II is the only time the ROTC was suspended on the University of Oklahoma campus.

In the spring of 1946, ROTC returned to campus, incorporating an Army Air Corps unit that would later give rise to the Air Force ROTC when the Air Force was created in 1948. Between 1955 and 1962, several critical changes were made to organize the program into the format of the current organization. Gone were the specialist branches and technical skill training that served as a hallmark of the program throughout much of its history. The ROTC was reorganized as a single unit that taught a general curriculum suitable to prepare cadets for service in any part of the Army.

Established at the University of Oklahoma in 1917 as a successor to the short-lived Student Army Training Corp, the ROTC program served to develop cadets mentally, physically and scholastically to serve in the military. The courses focused on basic soldier skills, leadership qualities, physical fitness and officership. The intent was to prepare college-age men and women to lead American soldiers in armed conflict while receiving a higher education. The Armory at the University of Oklahoma is the best representation of the role the ROTC program has played in Education and Military of men and women on campus.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

O-Dell, Larry. "Norman," Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture, http://www.okhistory.org/publications/encyclopediaonline (Accessed May 11, 2015).

White, Thurman. *My Journey on the Learning Frontier*. University of Oklahoma Outreach. (2005).

University of Oklahoma Army ROTC. *Home of the Sooner Battalion*. www.SoonerStrong.com. 11 May 2015.

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
__X_ University
__X_ Other
Name of repository: _University of Oklahoma Armory_____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property _less than 1 acre_____

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84:_____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 35.206932 Longitude: -97.443805
2. Latitude: Longitude:
3. Latitude: Longitude:
4. Latitude: Longitude:

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

From the latitude 35.207333, longitude -97.444018 proceed east approximately 112 feet to the latitude 35.2073330, longitude -97.443614. Travel south for approximately 305 feet to latitude 35.206460, longitude -97.443578. Proceed west approximately 112 feet to latitude 35.206460, longitude -97.444004 then proceed north for approximately 305 feet to the starting point. The boundaries of the nominated area encompass the extant of the University of Oklahoma Armory.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes just the Armory in addition to a five-foot wide buffer zone around the building.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: _CDR Shannon Corkill, United States Navy w/ edits by Lynda S. Ozan_
organization: _University of Oklahoma Naval ROTC/ Oklahoma SHPO_____
street & number: _103 W Brooks Street, Room 12_____
city or town:_Norman_____ state: _Oklahoma__ zip code:_73019_____
e-mail_shannon.corkill@ou.edu/lozan@okhistory.org_____
telephone:_405/325-2021 & 405/522-4478_____
date:_10 April 2015_____

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

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: The University of Oklahoma Armory

City or Vicinity: Norman

County: Cleveland State: Oklahoma

Photographer: Lynda S. Ozan

Date Photographed:

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

Photograph Number	**Subject**	**Direction**
0001	Façade	South
0002	East Elevation	Southwest
0003	South Elevation	Northeast
0004	West Elevation	Northeast
0005	Drill Space	Interior
0006	Horse Stall/Office	Interior
0007	Drill Space	Inteiror

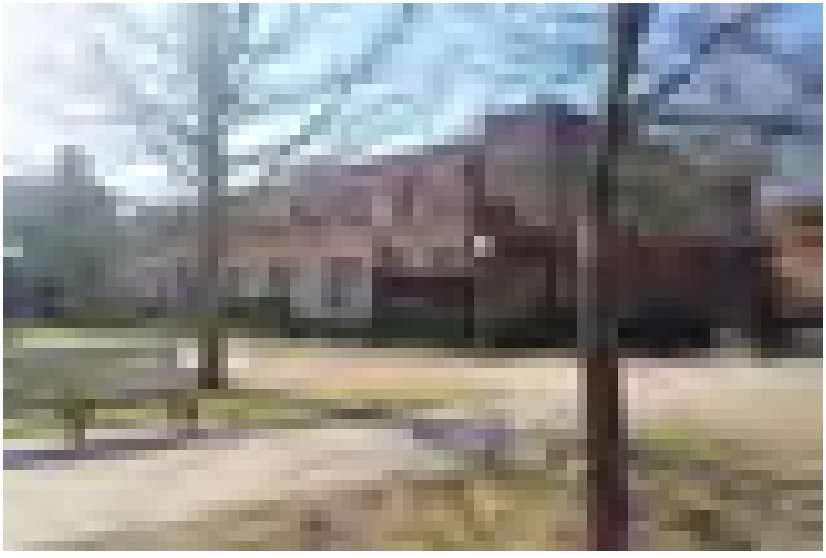
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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.

The University of Oklahoma Armory
103 West Brooks Street
Norman, Cleveland County, Oklahoma

0 0.025 0.05 0.1 Miles

ARMORY
NAVAL ROTC
ARMY ROTC

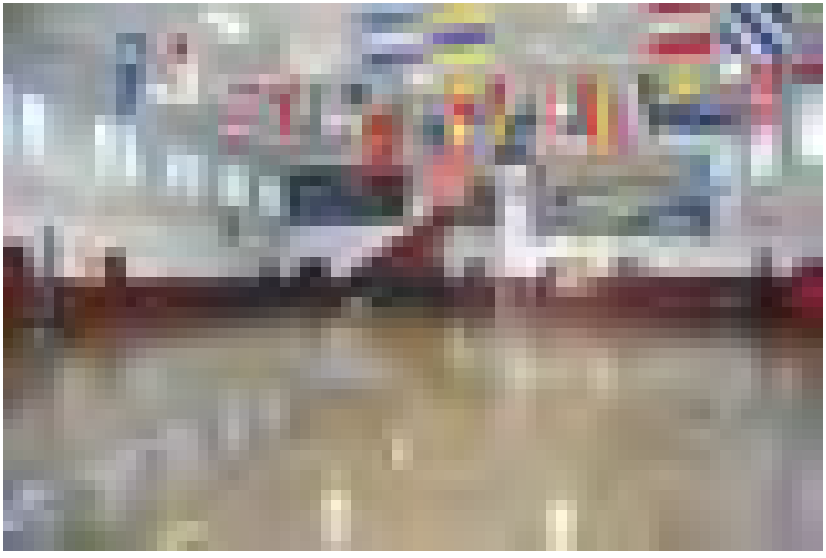
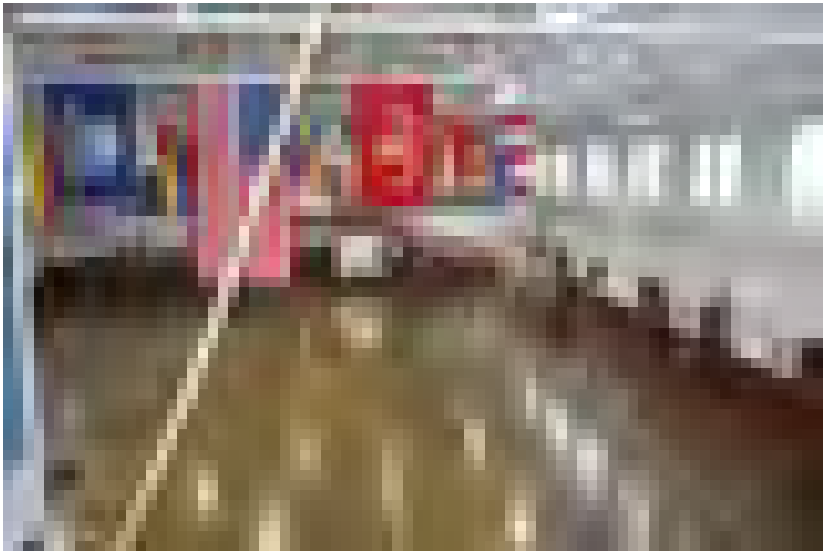
ARMY ROTC
ARMORY



HAHA

THE ARMORY
Home to the University of Oklahoma's Army and Navy Reserve Officers Training Corps, the Armory accommodates the training of military cadets and midshipmen. Military training programs at OU were born during the last days of World War I in April 1917 when Student Body President Josh Lee, who later served as a U.S. Senator, called a meeting of all male students for the purpose of determining the University's role in contributing to the national defense. With the help of the University's third President, Stratton D. Brooks, the precursor to OU's ROTC program was created, known as the Student Volunteer Regiment. Later in that year, the newly formed Board of Regents for Higher Education passed a resolution requiring all male students to participate in a year-long military training program, which remained a requirement of University students for nearly 30 years.
Heading the formally organized Student Volunteer Regiment were Captain C. D. Dudley, a retired Army officer, and Major R.C. Terrell, a professor of engineering. The cadets drilled for an entire year with wooden rifles carved by these two faculty advisors to prepare for recognition by the War Department as an official ROTC unit. The Army ROTC unit at OU has twice been awarded the Hackemann Award which honors the top university units in the nations.
(Continued on other side)

Razor-sharp perfection.
Marines
THE ROAD TO SUCCESS ISN'T ALWAYS A ROAD
NAVY



UNITED STATES NAVY
NAVY
WOMEN OF THE U.S. NAVY.