

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



BELINDA HENRY DAVIS
Historic Sites Registrar

Idaho State Historical Society
State Historic Preservation Office
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Boise, Idaho 83702

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This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. Complete each item by marking in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Idaho National Guard Armory

other names/site number Boise Armory

2. Location

street & number 801 Reserve Street N/A not for publication
city or town Boise N/A vicinity
state Idaho code ID county Ada code 001 zip code 83702

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Robert M. Yohe, II 10/7/98
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
ROBERT M. YOHE, II, State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Idaho National Guard Armory
Name of Property

Boise, Ada County, Idaho
City, County, and State

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

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Tourtellotte & Hummel Architecture in Idaho TR

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DEFENSE: arms storage
DEFENSE: military facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT: government office

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

MODERN MOVEMENT: Art Deco

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE
walls CONCRETE

roof ASPHALT
other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

Idaho National Guard Armory
Name of Property

Boise, Ada County, Idaho
City, County, and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" on all that apply.)

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

MILITARY

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1931-1948

Significant Dates

1931, 1936, 1937

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Tourtelotte & Hummel, Boise, Architects

J.O. Jordan, Boise, Contractor

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Idaho National Guard Museum, Boise, ID

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

Idaho National Guard Armory
Name of Property

Boise, Ada County, Idaho
City, County, and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of property less than one acre

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

A 1/1 5/6/5/8/6/0 4/8/2/9/1/2/0
Zone Easting Northing

B / / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

C / / / / / / / / / / /

D / / / / / / / / / / /

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

Blocks 21, 22, 23 and 24, 3rd Krall Addition, Boise, Ada County, Idaho.
See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The above described property incorporates all the land traditionally associated with the Idaho National Guard Armory.
See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Heidi Ingram, Intern
organization Idaho State Historic Preservation Office date 6/11/97
street & number 210 Main Street telephone 208-334-3861
city or town Boise state ID zip code 83702

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- Continuation Sheets
- Maps: A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A Sketch map for historic districts and/or properties having large acreage or numerous resources.
- Photographs: Representative black and white photographs of the property.
- Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

name City of Boise, c/o Boise Parks & Recreation Department
street & number 1104 Royal Blvd. telephone _____
city or town Boise state ID zip code 83706

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1 Name of Property Idaho National Guard Armory
County and State Ada County, Idaho

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Idaho National Guard Armory is located at 801 Reserve Street in Boise, Ada County, Idaho. The building sits on a large lot on the south side of the street directly opposite the parade grounds of the old Boise Military Reserve. The Armory is a large rectangular building with foundations and walls of form-poured, unreinforced concrete. The roof is flat on both the front and rear of the building and has a high arch in the central section. This arch is supported by large metal arch trusses which offer a clear span for the central drill hall. The entire roof is clad in roll asphalt.

The building consists of three distinct sections: front (containing office space), center (containing the drill hall), and rear (originally containing the stables--now a garage and maintenance shop). While the entire building was designed as a single unit, it was built in several stages. The rear section was built in 1931. The central drill hall and the first floor of the front section were built in 1936-37. The central portion of the front unit's second floor was also built in 1936 while the east and west ends of the second floor were built in 1956. Despite the relatively late date for these last additions, they are structurally compatible and completely in keeping with the earlier construction and the initial concept for the building.

The main elevation of the Armory faces north onto Reserve Street. It is two stories in height and is 17 bays across. All of the bays are of equal width save for those flanking the central entry, which are slightly narrower. Each bay is separated on the first floor by a decorative concrete pilaster which projects slightly from the principal wall plain. Each bay is capped by a series of stepped, concrete bands, the uppermost of which features an art deco zig-zag motif. Access doors are located in the center of this elevation and at periodic intervals along the facade. The center entry is flanked by two smaller, fixed, metal frame windows of eight lights. The entry is framed by projecting concrete pilasters and cornice similar to those present in the main body of the building. The second-floor window immediately above the entry features a simple, banded surround. The second floor cornice consists of a simple, concrete frieze band with an additional molding on the center section of this elevation. A metal plaque reading, "Built by the Works Progress Administration 1937" is located at ground level immediately to the west of the entry.

The east and west side elevations are identical. They consist of three sections. From front to rear (north to south) they are: a two-story continuation of the front facade, five bays in width; a tall, arched roof section, seven bays in width; and a one-story rear section, six bays in width. Decorative treatments are identical to those on the main facade with the exception of the central garage doors located in the center of the middle sections of each side of the building. These consist of large garage-type doors which provide access to the main drill hall. These openings are topped by a series of five narrow openings with fixed glazing; each opening is bracketed by a narrow, decorative, concrete pilaster similar to those described above.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2 Name of Property Idaho National Guard Armory
County and State Ada County, Idaho

The rear section of the building is one story in height with a small guard house located on the second floor of its eastern end. The rear elevation of the building is devoid of decorative features. It provides several large door openings to the garage and shops interspersed with windows similar to those on the older portions of the front section.

Windows are generally uniform throughout the building. They are metal-frame, fixed windows with a center pivot panel for ventilation. First-floor windows feature twelve lights while second-floor windows contain nine lights. The windows in the 1956 additions are aluminum framed and contain four horizontal lights each. There are also five narrow 12-light, fixed, metal-frame windows located above the large drill hall doors located on the east and west ends of the building. All windows feature a plain concrete sill and no decorative surround.

The areas immediately in front of the Armory building has been covered in asphalt for parking. There is a landscaped area featuring a large lawn which separates the building and parking area from Reserve Street. The central feature of this area is a tall flag pole with a decorative concrete base.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1 Name of Property Idaho National Guard Armory

County and State Ada County, Idaho

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Idaho National Guard Armory in Boise, Idaho is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with the reorganization and professionalization of the Idaho National Guard during the period between the two World Wars. It is also eligible under Criterion C. The building was designed by the prominent firm of Tourtelotte & Hummel and represents one of their more significant commissions from the 1930s. It is associated with the *Tourtelotte & Hummel Architecture in Idaho* Thematic Group Submission previously listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Criterion A: Historical Significance

Units comprising the Idaho Territorial Militia were organized in 1878 during a conflict with eastern Idaho Indian tribes.¹ These citizen militia groups were generally organized in response to local conditions with little support from the Territorial government. This changed somewhat with statehood and the organization of the Idaho National Guard in the early 1890s. Despite official state recognition and organization, the Guard received little in the way of funding from the legislature. Guard members were expected to provide most of their own equipment, and there were no appropriations for the construction of armories.²

Guard activities remained sporadic and inconsistent through the remainder of the 19th century. Guard units were called up to help quell the mining strikes in the Coeur d'Alenes during 1891 and 1892. Idaho also supplied a volunteer regiment, somewhat ill equipped, during the Spanish-American War. They saw active service during the Philippine Insurrection of 1899.³

Due to a lack of proper equipment, training and integration with regular Army troops during the Spanish-American War, a concentrated effort began to professionalize and equip National Guard units across the country. In order to stabilize and reorganize the state militia according to strict Army standards, Congress passed the Dick Act of 1903. The goal of the Dick Act was to create a reserve military force capable of working effectively along side the Army in times of crisis. The Dick Act provided Idaho with much needed Federal funds and required that the states equip and train Guard members at specified standards. Joint training exercises between the Guard and the regular Army were also mandated.⁴ The Mexican Border Crisis of 1914, the Red Scare of the mid-1910s, and the outbreak of a European war in 1914 brought about additional legislation concerning state militia. The National Defense Act of 1916 recognized both the organized and unorganized militia by reasserting the role and importance of the Guard. It also compensated Guard officers at a fixed annual rate and enlisted men at 25 percent of Army pay.⁵

With American entry into the First World War, National Guard units were again called upon to integrate with the regular Army to fight in France. Many of the equipment and organizational

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2Name of Property Idaho National Guard ArmoryCounty and State Ada County, Idaho

problems encountered during the Spanish-American War returned to haunt the American Expeditionary Forces in Europe. Following World War I, The National Defense Act of 1920 amended the 1916 legislation by paying National Guard officers and enlisted men the equivalent to that of men in similar Army positions. The 1920 act also continued the integration of the regular Army and the National Guard. This legislation kept the traditional concept of a small, peace-time regular Army, but decreed that a war-time military force remain organized during peace time, ready for immediate activation. For the first time, the law assigned specific troop allotments to the National Guard. The Guard was now required to field eighteen infantry divisions, compared to nine for the Army and twenty seven for the organized Reserves.⁶

Despite the reforms incorporated into the National Defense Acts of 1916 and 1920, the Idaho National Guard remained underfunded and ill equipped for much of the 1920s. It was not until 1927 that state legislation was passed authorizing reorganization and regulation of the National Guard of Idaho. The new legislation increased the Guard's funding substantially and provided guidelines for making the Guard a true professional military organization for the first time. The Guard entered a new period of growth and development.⁷

Plans for new armories were a prominent feature of the late 1920s. Unfortunately, development of expanded facilities were severely hampered by the onset of the Great Depression in 1929. Plans for the new Armory in Boise, designed to be the Guard's state headquarters and the largest of the proposed new armories, were completed in 1931. Due to severely depleted state funding, however, it was only feasible to build the rear third of the building. Construction of this section was begun in 1931 and completed in 1932; it originally housed cavalry stables and equipment storage (later converted to the garage and maintenance shop).⁸

No new construction was undertaken at the Boise Armory until the advent of Federal relief programs in the mid-1930s. In the 1935-36 biennium, Works Progress Administration (WPA) funds, matched by monies from the City of Boise, were obtained to continue construction of the Armory. This new construction was begun in 1936 and completed in 1937. It included the construction of the drill hall, the entire first floor of the front unit and the central section of the second floor of the front unit. The building was dedicated in the summer of 1937 and was headquarters for the Idaho National Guard throughout the historic period. It was, when completed, the largest and best-equipped armory in Idaho.⁹

The building was expanded again in 1956 due to an increased need for Guard office space.¹⁰ These additions, located on the second story of the front elevation, completed the original scheme designed in 1930. The additions are completely compatible in materials, scale and general appearance with the older portions and do not detract from its ability to convey its historical significance. The building remained in use by the National Guard through the 1970s. At that time the building was

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3 Name of Property Idaho National Guard Armory
County and State Ada County, Idaho

purchased by the State of Idaho for use as a storage facility. In 1996 the building was acquired by the City of Boise.

Given its historical association with an important period of growth and expansion for the Idaho National Guard, the Idaho National Guard Armory as Boise is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A.

Criterion C: Architectural Significance

The Idaho National Guard Armory is also eligible for listing under Criterion C. This structure was designed by and constructed under the supervision of Tourtellotte & Hummel, Architects of Boise. The work of this seminal Idaho architectural firm has been previously documented in the *Tourtellotte & Hummel Architecture in Idaho* Thematic Group nomination which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1982. This nomination examined the known work of this firm from 1890 to 1945. A comprehensive index of known Tourtellotte & Hummel commissions was included in that document. The Idaho National Guard Armory was identified in this list and classified as ineligible for listing in the National Register due to its age--having yet to become 50 years old at the time of that listing. The thematic nomination goes on to state that re-evaluation is recommended for post-1931 structures at some later date.

The architectural merits of this structure have been re-examined as part of this nomination. The thematic nomination established very broad evaluation criteria for inclusion. It identified the major trends in the career of this firm up through 1945. It left specific analysis of architectural merit to the individual nominations.

There is little doubt that the Idaho National Guard Armory in Boise is one of the most important architectural commissions secured by Tourtellotte & Hummel during the 1930s. It represents the first and largest of four armory commissions secured during this decade. It is also one of the largest state institutional buildings designed by Tourtellotte & Hummel during this period and one of the most substantial New Deal relief projects with which they were involved.

Work for the Idaho National Guard was particularly important to Frederick C. Hummel, managing partner of the firm during the 1930s. Hummel was a Colonel in the Guard and the commander of the 116th Engineers Regiment based in Boise. He was also very active in the Idaho National Guard Association--the key lobbying group responsible for obtaining the funds and support to build this building and other armories in Idaho.¹¹

From an architectural perspective, this building is an excellent representative example of the firm's depression-era design work. Following the 1929 crash, a new emphasis was placed on simplicity in design and inexpensive construction techniques. Indeed, these characteristics are very closely

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4 Name of Property Idaho National Guard Armory
County and State Ada County, Idaho

associated with the buildings constructed by the WPA and other New Deal agencies. The Armory clearly demonstrates this emphasis with its stripped down, almost undecorated, design. The use of form-poured concrete construction is also typical of the inexpensive construction methods employed in public construction during the Great Depression.

As such, the Idaho National Guard Armory meets the evaluation criteria established by the Tourtellotte & Hummel Architecture in Idaho Thematic Group nomination and is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5 Name of Property Idaho National Guard Armory
County and State Ada County, Idaho

ENDNOTES

1. Beal, Merrill D., and Merle W. Wells. History of Idaho. New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, Inc., 1959, vol 1., p. 487.
2. Svingen, Orlan J., ed.: The History of the Idaho National Guard. Boise, Idaho Military Division, 1995, p. 19-20.
3. *Ibid.*, p. 27-33.
4. *Ibid.*, p. 46-47.
5. *Ibid.*, p. 27-33.
6. *Ibid.*, p. 63-67.
7. *Ibid.*
8. *Biennial Report of the Adjutant General 1931-1932*, Idaho National Guard, p. 22.
9. *Biennial Report of the Adjutant General 1935-1936*, Idaho National Guard, p. 31.
10. *Biennial Report of the Adjutant General 1956-1957*, Idaho National Guard, p. 27.
11. Interview of Charles Hummel by author 4/23/97.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1 Name of Property Idaho National Guard Armory
County and State Ada County, Idaho

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Beal, Merrill D., and Merle W. Wells. History of Idaho, New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, Inc., 1959.

Svingen, Orlan J., ed.: The History of the Idaho National Guard. Boise: Idaho Military Division, 1995.

Biennial Report of the Adjutant General 1931-1932, Idaho National Guard.

Biennial Report of the Adjutant General 1935-1936, Idaho National Guard.

Biennial Report of the Adjutant General 1956-1957, Idaho National Guard.

Interview of Charles Hummel by author 4/23/97.