

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NR 9-20-06

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" 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 Arkansas Ordnance Plant Guard House

other names/site number PU2872

2. Location

street & number 100 Veteran's Circle

not for publication

city or town Jacksonville

vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Pulaski code 119 zip code 72076

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 for 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.)

Casare Macchis  
Signature of certifying official/Title

8/4/06  
Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program  
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 the 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

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Arkansas Ordnance Plant Guard House  
Name of Property

Pulaski County, Arkansas  
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 count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

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

N/A

**Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DEFENSE/military facility

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

WORK IN PROGRESS

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER/Plain Traditional

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE and METAL  
walls ASBESTOS  
roof ASBESTOS  
other

**Narrative Description**

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B. removed from its original location.
- C. birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance.
- 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.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

LOCAL

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

MILITARY

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1941-1945

Significant Dates

1941-1945

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

Architect/Builder

Ford, Bacon, and Davis Inc., New York

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

LRAFB Foundation, Inc.; Jacksonville Museum of Military History

Arkansas Ordnance Plant Guard House  
Name of Property

Pulaski County, Arkansas  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than one acre

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u>	<u>570191</u>	<u>3858701</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>

3	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>

See continuation sheet

#### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Not Applicable

#### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Written by Carolyn Yancey Kent; Edited by Sarah A. Jampole/Survey Historian  
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date 5/28/2006  
street & number 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street telephone 501.324.9874  
city or town Little Rock state Arkansas zip code 72201

#### 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 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

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

Little Rock Air Force Base Foundation  
name Jacksonville Museum of Military History  
street & number 100 Veteran's Circle telephone 501.241.1943  
city or town Jacksonville state AR zip code 72076

**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 listing. 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 20303.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

### SUMMARY

The Guard House was completed in 1941 as part of security measures for the Arkansas Ordnance Plant (AOP). At the close of World War II in about 1946, many of the buildings from the AOP that could be moved were sold and removed to other locations. This Guard House was moved to 1112 McArthur Street, Jacksonville, Arkansas, where it remained until May 30, 2006, when it was moved to the site of the Jacksonville Museum of Military History at 100 Veteran's Circle, Jacksonville, Pulaski County, Arkansas. The Guard House has been placed on a concrete slab next to the museum and will be part of the exterior displays of the museum. The 9' x 9' x 12' Guard House has not been altered and is at present in poor condition. The Guard House bears witness to the utilitarian purpose for which it was designed by the use of two 2' x 4' windows on each side of the building.

### ELABORATION

The AOP Guard House was designed by Ford, Bacon and Davis Inc. who had the contract to design, construct and operate the Arkansas Ordnance Plant, a World War II fuse and detonator plant located in Jacksonville, Arkansas. The guard house is square in proportion and measures 9' x 9' x 12'. The foundation consists of two metal skids, used to move the Guard House from location to location, as need dictated. Currently, the building has been placed on a concrete block foundation, with the metal skids still in place, and the skids and concrete block piers rest on top of a concrete slab. The exterior walls are sheathed in 1' x 2' asbestos shingles. The roof is covered in diamond-shaped asbestos shingles. The use of eight 2' x 4' windows, all of which are double-hung, wood-framed, two-over-two, gave a panoramic view to anyone from inside the building.

#### *East Elevation/Front*

The Guard House faces east, and has a door centered on this elevation. Flanking the door on either side are wood-frame, double-hung, two-over-two windows.

#### *North Elevation/Side*

Two wood frame, double-hung, two-over-two windows fenestrate this elevation, with one window located on the northeast corner and one on the northwest corner. A 1' x 3' hole is located on the lower right corner of the elevation to accommodate a kerosene heater. The heater is no longer present.

#### *West Elevation/Back*

This elevation is similar to the north elevation, with its wood-frame, double-hung, two-over-two windows fenestrating the elevation. One of the windows is located at the northeast corner and the other is located at the southeast corner. This elevation is free of any other openings or detail.

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### *South Elevation/Side*

The composition of the south elevation mimics the previous elevation with its two wood-frame, double-hung, two-over-two windows, one of which is located at the southeast corner, and the other at the southwest corner. No other detail or ornamentation is found on this elevation.

### **INTEGRITY**

The Guard House possesses integrity as an example of simplistic utilitarian design to serve the purpose of protection and security for a war time facility. The AOP Guard House is the only known extant guard house out of 60 guard houses built for the AOP. The guard house is an example of war time construction and has not been altered. At the time of construction these buildings had an estimated functional life of only five years. This Guard House has been used for storage and now will be an example of wartime security and construction for patrons of the Jacksonville Military History Museum. Although the property has been recently moved to 100 Veteran's Circle, it now sits on the site of the former AOP's administrative headquarters, where it is believed the Guard House was originally located. Between the time the building was deactivated and used as a storage shed until its recent relocation, the Guard House was located near the site of one of the former AOP employee entrances.

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### SUMMARY

On June 4, 1941, the War Department notified Governor Homer Adkins and Congressman David D. Terry that a \$33,000,000 fuse and detonator plant was approved for immediate construction in Jacksonville, Pulaski County, Arkansas. The plant was the first national defense industry approved for the state and the only one to make detonators, fuses, boosters, and primers. The need for protection from sabotage and for plant security made a guard force and guard houses a necessary part of the plan. Sixty guard houses were built and placed around the 6,895 acre site. Because of the danger from explosives processed at the facility people entering the site were not allowed to bring in matches or any metal. The guard houses, such as the one being nominated, provided a facility for guards to check for unauthorized people and not allow any matches or metal objects to enter the facility. As such, the Arkansas Ordnance Plant (AOP) Guard House is being nominated under **Criteria A** and **C** with **local significance** to the National Register of Historic Places. Because the guard house has been moved from its original location, the AOP Guard House is also eligible under **Criteria Consideration B** as a **moved property**.

### ELABORATION

As the war began to build up in Europe in 1939-40, Arkansas business and political leaders began to point out the natural resources, strategic location, unlimited supplies of gas and coal, and ideal labor conditions that would make Arkansas a good location for defense industries. Their efforts proved fruitful and on June 4, 1941, the announcement was made that the first defense industry was coming to Jacksonville. The plant was named the Arkansas Ordnance Plant and immediately it was announced that the plant would hire 8,000 persons, mostly women. At the AOP's peak of production in November 1942, 14,092 people were employed at the facility.

The 12 production lines that ran in three shifts each, 24 hours per day, seven days a week were as follows: Artillery Booster lines 1 and 2; Percussion Elements Line: Detonator lines 1,2,3,4; Artillery Primer Line; Power Train Fuse Line; Bomb Component Line: and Artillery Fuse Lines 1 and 2. The production lines were spaced far enough apart so that if an accidental explosion occurred in one line it would not spread to other lines. Construction of the plant began in the fall of 1941 after the land was obtained by condemnation proceeding. On March 4, 1942, the first line was deemed to be operational and all lines were in service by May 30, 1942. The contract to design, construct, train key personnel and operate the facility was awarded to Ford, Bacon and Davis Inc., of New York.

At the time the plant was being built, all facilities in the state were segregated. At first there was no segregated place in the employment building at the AOP for Africa-Americans to apply for work, but the Urban League of Greater Little Rock approached the management staff and gained provisions for African-Americans to apply for work at the plant. By 1944, 24% of the employees were African-Americans and four production lines were operated by African-Americans, for a total of 3,085 African-American employees, 55

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of whom were supervisors. The African-American employees could enter and exit through only one specific gate, and all facilities for them were separate from the rest of the facility.

The AOP made Jacksonville a boom town, and as no housing available, workers lived in tents, or in their vehicle, or any where they could. As a result of the lack of housing, a 200-unit trailer park was quickly established, and a housing project was started on July 5, 1942. The houses were prefabricated and each crew could build a house in a day. Six dormitories were built on the site and 25 staff houses were built for key personnel.

All AOP employees had to check in at the guard houses with an on-duty security guard in order to secure ID badges, and verify they were not carrying any matches, lighters or metal objects before they were allowed to enter the facility. Besides manning the guard houses and checking in employees, the guards also manned the guard towers, and patrolled the facility in cars and on horse back. All the guards were sworn into the Civilian Auxiliary Military Police. A unique feature of the plant was the use of a female guard unit. The female guards were not allowed to carry guns; however, they did check in female employees and performed other jobs that allowed male guards to do "more appropriate" duties. All male guards were armed and practiced their marksmanship at the pistol range.

There were 60 guard houses that were stationed throughout the plant site. There was one Guard Headquarters building that was a one-story frame building with two wings. Located inside the Guard HQ building was a two-man jail cell that was used by detainees. This building is extant and is located northwest of the Jacksonville Military History Museum site, and has been significantly altered over the years. It is now used as an apartment complex.

In addition to this AOP Guard House that is being nominated to the National Register, there were 59 other guard houses located on the facility. They include: six guard houses that measured 10' x 10'; 26 guard houses measuring 8' x 10'; 20 guard houses measuring 8' x 8'; six guard houses measuring 8' x 8' that sat on top of 12' towers; and one guard house that measured 8' x 8' that sat on top of a 16' tower. None of these are known to exist. There was only one guard house with 9' x 9' dimensions, and records indicate that this guard house was in the employment and administrative area of the plant. The potential employees would come to the administrative building and then check in at the guard house before they could be allowed to enter the secured areas of the plant. This area is about 500 yards southeast of where the guard house is currently located on the grounds of the museum.

The Jacksonville Museum of Military History sits on the site of where the AOP Administration Building was located. The administration building burned December 15, 1945. The plant was closed to production by then and was in the decontamination phase. By 1946, buildings that could be moved or relocated were offered for sale. At this time, this guard house was moved to 1112 McArthur Drive, Jacksonville, Pulaski County, Arkansas. Even the street pattern in Jacksonville was part of the original street plan for the AOP, and is still in use. The original circular drive that was in front of AOP Administration Building passes in front of the

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museum and now, the guard house. The guard house faces the flag circle that was in place during WW II but has been modified with a bell tower as a memorial to veterans.

### SIGNIFICANCE

The guard hose is unique in that it has survived and is the only known extant guard house from the Arkansas Ordnance Plant. The guard house is significant as a lasting piece of history of the World War II home-front industries. Although the guard house has been moved from its location of over 60 years, it now rests on a part of the former AOP grounds at a location close to its original location. The guard house stands as a reminder of those production soldiers who manned the plants and helped assure that the servicemen fighting the war had the ammunition to defeat the enemies in World War II, 1941-1945. The Arkansas Ordnance Plant Guard House is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criteria A** and **C** with **local significance**, and because the AOP Guard House has been moved from its original location, it is also eligible under **Criteria Consideration B** as a **moved property**.

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### BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Haine, Major E. A. Commanding AOP, *Letter to President's Committee on Fair Employment Practices*, 8 January 1945

Kent, Carolyn Yancey. "World War II Ordnance Plants" [www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net](http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net) 2006.

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Arkansas Ordnance Plant  
Name of Property

Pulaski County, Arkansas  
County and State

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A 15-foot circle centering on the UTM coordinate 15/580191/3858701.

### VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes the AOP Guard House and its immediate surroundings.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

92° 07' 30" SEARCY 37 MI. CABOT 10 MI. 5820000 E 583 5' 584  
34° 52' 30"



JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA CO. AREA  
UTM: 151520A1/3858701



10/10/72

