

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Old Douglas Armory

other names/site number Douglas Wyoming Army National Guard Armory

2. Location

street & number 400 W. Center Street

N/A

 not for publication

city or town Douglas

N/A

 vicinity

state Wyoming code WY county Converse code 009 zip code 82633

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:
 national statewide local
[Signature] DSHP 2/17/22
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
[Signature]
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:)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Old Douglas Armory

Converse County,
Wyoming
County and State

Name of Property

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
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

Depression Era Federal Projects in Wyoming, 1929 - 1943

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DEFENSE: Military Facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: Fair

RECREATION AND CULTURE: Dance Studio

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Stripped Classicism

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Cement

walls: Brick

roof: Metal Sheeting, Asphalt Shingles

other:

Old Douglas Armory

Converse County,
Wyoming
County and State

Name of Property

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Old Douglas Armory is located off of West Center Street in Douglas, Converse County, Wyoming in an urban, commercial neighborhood. Converse County is located in east central Wyoming. The armory was built in three phases; the drill hall, offices and stables were built in 1931, the riding hall was completed in 1938, and additional offices, classrooms, and storage facilities were built in 1951. The Old Douglas Armory was sold to the Wyoming State Fair Board in 1993 and is currently located on the eastern edge of the Wyoming State Fairgrounds.

The armory is an example of Stripped Classicism. The armory was built in a design typical for the time of its construction; the large rectangular front portion contains the traditional drill hall and administrative offices while two wings (containing bathrooms, offices, classrooms and storage spaces) flank the large, two-story riding hall. The armory was constructed on a raised concrete foundation with a full basement under the administrative/drill hall; the basement does not extend down the wings or under the riding hall. The exterior red brick walls are laid in a running bond. The roof over the administrative front portion of the building is a low pitch gable roof. The roof on the riding hall is a low pitch gambrel roof with four shed dormers spaced equal distance apart along each slope. The two wings of the armory have shed roofs. There are three metal chimneys placed on the eastern slope of the roof. There are also two brick chimneys; the first is placed on the western slope of the roof and the second is located on the eastern slope.

The façade of the Old Douglas Armory faces slightly northwest. There is a grassy lawn immediately in front of the armory. A large pine tree is located near the northeast corner and several smaller trees and shrubs are near the northwest corner. A “Y” shaped sidewalk leads from the building’s front entrance to the closed off portion of West Center Street. The segment of West Center Street that passes in front of the armory has become a pedestrian pathway with Aspen trees, shrubs, and benches; it runs the length of the northern property boundary. At the far northeastern corner of the property, there is a sign reading “Gate 3: Welcome to the Wyoming State Fair & Rodeo” and wooden ticket booth with a shed roof and several signs on it indicating that this is a pedestrian entrance to the Wyoming State Fairgrounds. There is a large cottonwood tree immediately to the east of the ticket book.

There is a mobile home neighborhood to the north of the armory; the two properties are separated by the West Center Street pedestrian pathway, a six-foot tall, wood board fence, an alleyway, and a row of bushes and deciduous trees. To the east of the Old Douglas Armory, there is an alleyway that separates the property from a commercial building and its surrounding parking lot and metal fencing. The alleyway leads to a gravel parking lot immediately adjacent to the southeastern elevation of the armory. To the west, there is a grassy lawn with several deciduous and conifer trees. A six-foot, metal, chain link fence set in concrete is approximately ten feet from the western elevation of the building and runs the length of building. Large portions of the fence are covered in a deciduous vine. There is a Quonset shaped greenhouse located roughly fifteen feet from the southwest corner of the armory.

Old Douglas Armory

Converse County,
Wyoming
County and State

Name of Property

Narrative Description

Exterior

The façade of the Old Douglas Armory has a symmetrical fenestration and faces slightly to the northwest. It has a red brick, two-story, stepped façade with an unadorned stepped parapet and six, simple brick piers. The central projecting entrance addition is flanked by five bays on each side. The windows are identical 6 over 1 double hung, wooden windows. There are three window bays on the second story; each window is an identical 1 over 1 double hung. The second story windows are located directly above a first-floor window or the entrance bay. An unadorned brick pier extends from the foundation to the roof and separates the windows. Additionally, there are five sliding basement windows located along the façade.

There are three entrances located on the façade. The first entrance is the projecting entrance addition; it is also red brick with a symmetrical fenestration. The main entrance bay is centrally located; it contains two white, fiberglass doors without windows. The entrance bay is flanked by a 4 over 1 double hung window. There are two 16-pane windows located on the western elevation and eastern elevation of the entrance addition. A concrete sidewalk surrounds the entire entrance addition. There are two other entrances. On the western side of the façade, there is a ground level, white storm door. On the eastern side of the façade, there is a white storm door entrance located at the top of a six-step concrete staircase and stoop.

The eastern elevation of the armory has sixteen bays. On the administrative portion of the building, there is a door flanked by 6 over 1 double hung windows. The door is at the top of a concrete staircase and concrete stoop. On the wing immediately adjacent to the administrative building, there is an 6 over 1 double hung window next to a large wooden cargo door. There are four sliding windows located high in the wall on the southern side of the cargo door. Near the southern end of the eastern elevation there are six, large fixed windows and a wooden door with four single pane windows located in a square in the upper half; these are not original windows or placed where the original windows were located.

The southern elevation of the armory is covered with blue metal siding. There are five bays. At the southeastern corner, there is a large cargo door; it is located on the eastern wing of the armory. There is also a large cargo door centrally located on the southern elevation. Above this door is a sign that read "Maintenance Shop" with the Wyoming Bucking Horse. A metal door is located to the west of the cargo door. Finally, there is a two-pane sliding window and white fiberglass door with single pane window in its upper half located on the western wing of the armory. A concrete sidewalk runs the length of the elevation. An old, two rail wooden fence runs along this elevation and separates the sidewalk from the parking lot.

There are fifteen bays on the western elevation of the armory. There are two doors and thirteen double hung windows. The doors are located at the top of concrete staircases and concrete stoops; they are metal doors with a single pane window located in the upper half.

Interior

The front doors lead into the entrance addition. There is a wood staircase and a handicapped accessible elevator. At the top of the staircase is a wooden deck and the original entrance to the armory, which is two

Old Douglas Armory

Converse County,
Wyoming
County and State

Name of Property

identical wooden doors with single pane windows beneath a large transom window; the transom window has been filled in. The original brick exterior of the armory is visible.

Following the entrance addition, there is the large drill hall room. It has a wooden ceiling with a ceiling attic access door and several drop florescent lights. There is a small room that has been constructed in the northwestern corner of the drill hall; this serves as a changing space, because the drill hall is currently being used as a dance studio. The floors in the drill hall are wooden.

In the southeastern corner of the drill hall room is a hallway, which accesses the eastern wing of the armory. This wing contains storage rooms as well as two exterior exits. In the southwestern corner of the drill hall room is a hallway, which accesses the western wing of the armory. The western wing contains offices, bathrooms, and storage spaces. These spaces are largely in their original condition. In both wings, doors and window and door surrounds are painted a gray/blue. The floors are ceramic tile or carpet. Many of the rooms have old radiators.

The riding arena is accessed through the western wing. The riding arena has a concrete floor and is currently being used as a mechanical space.

The basement is also accessed through the western wing. The basement is beneath the administrative section of the building. It has concrete floors and walls.

Integrity

There have been a few minor modifications to the exterior of the armory. The most notable modification is the enclosure of the front porch. The addition was constructed of red brick that very nearly matches the original brick; there are matching brick piers. It has a hip on gable roof with gray asphalt shingles; while slightly larger, the roof is designed to mimic the original porch roof. The second notable change is to the windows along the eastern elevation of the building. At the time of construction, there were nine, sliding windows placed high on the wall along the eastern wing of the building; the southernmost five of those windows have been removed and replaced with large fixed windows. It is not known when those windows were replaced.

Finally, at the northernmost end of the eastern elevation, there were four double hung windows at the time of the building's construction; one of those windows (the second from the northern edge of the elevation) was replaced with a door and a concrete staircase with metal railing and stoop were added to provide exterior access to the door. Although this modification cannot be definitively dated, it likely occurred during the period of significance.

Old Douglas Armory

Converse County,
Wyoming
County and State

Name of Property

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Military

Period of Significance

1931-1972

Significant Dates

1931

1937

1951

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Works Progress Administration

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance for the Old Douglas Armory is from its construction in 1931 until 1972, a date chosen to coincide with the property's nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Old Douglas Armory

Converse County,
Wyoming

County and State

Name of Property

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Old Douglas Armory is locally significant under Criterion A, because of its contribution to military history in the state of Wyoming and Douglas, Wyoming. It meets the registration requirements for Wyoming's Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) *Depression Era Federal Projects in Wyoming, 1929-1943*. The armory was completed in three stages. Construction began in 1931 and used funds provided by Hoover Administration economic relief programs. Construction resumed in 1937 with the assistance from the Works Progress Administration. The armory was completed in 1951. The Old Douglas Armory was used continually by the Wyoming Army National Guard until they moved to a new facility in 1993. The Wyoming Army National Guard has a long history in Wyoming and has existed in the state since before it achieved statehood. The Wyoming Guard units deployed out of the Old Douglas Armory to nearly every major military event that occurred during the period of significance.

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

History of the Wyoming National Guard

The United States military has a long history in Wyoming. Prior to statehood, there were several military expeditions throughout the territory, such as Captain Bonneville's journey to South Pass in 1832 ("Chronology" para. 7) and Colonel Stephen Kearny expeditions in 1845 ("Wyoming Historic Military Context" 29). The U.S. Army purchased Fort Laramieⁱ in 1849 and used the post as a base of operations for its campaigns against Native Americans during the Indian Wars. During the Indian Wars Era, the Army built several forts throughout the territory to help ensure the safe passage of migrants on the Bozeman, Overland, Oregon, California, and Mormon trails and to help facilitate the construction of the transcontinental telegraph line and transcontinental railway. Some of the most famous forts include Ft. Bridger, Ft. Reno, Ft. Phil Kearney, and Ft. Fetterman. During this time, the Army was involved in several skirmishes and battles, most involving Native American tribes, but there was also a notable campaign against Mormon settlers in 1857. With the effective cessation of hostilities in 1878, the Army began abandoning its forts and consolidating its assets at larger posts, such as Fort D.A. Russellⁱⁱ near Cheyenne ("Wyoming Historic Military Context" 29-30).

The Wyoming Army National Guard began as a militia during the state's territorial days. On April 4, 1870, General Order 1 initiated the creation of the Wyoming Militia ("Wyoming Military History..." para. 3).

ⁱ Before it was an Army post, Fort Laramie was a fur trading post. For more information, see: *Fort Laramie* at <https://www.wyohistory.org/encyclopedia/fort-laramie>

ⁱⁱ Fort D.A. Russell became Fort Frances E. Warren in 1930 and F.E. Warren Air Force Base in 1947. See: *History of F.E. Warren AFB* at <https://www.warren.af.mil/About-Us/Fact-Sheets/Display/Article/331280/history-of-f-e-warren-afb/>

Old Douglas Armory

Converse County,
Wyoming
County and State

Name of Property

Wyoming Territorial Governor John A. Campbell ordered the creation of three military districts to combat reported Native American attacks on mining districts within the state (Humstone et al. 11). In 1871, Wyoming's Territorial Assembly passed a law authorizing the establishment of volunteer militia companies. (Humstone et al. 11; "Wyoming Army Guard History" para.2). Despite several small, loosely organized militia units forming immediately after legislative authorization, it wasn't until the formation of the "Laramie Grays" in 1888 that a Wyoming militia received federal recognition. The "Laramie Grays" were formally recognized as Company A, First Wyoming Regiment. The "Cheyenne Guards" were federally recognized later that year as Company B, First Wyoming Regiment ("Wyoming Army Guard History" para. 4).

Wyoming officially became a state on July 10, 1890 and the Wyoming State Constitution included a provision about the state militia. Article 17 states:

"Section I: The militia of the State shall consist of all able-bodied male citizens of the state between the ages of eighteen and forty-five years, except such as are exempted by the laws of the United States, or of the state. But all such citizens having scruples of conscience averse to bearing arms shall be excused there from upon such conditions as shall be prescribed by law.

Section II: The Legislature shall provide by law for the enrollment, equipment, and disciplines of the Militia, to conform as nearly as practicable to the regulations for the government of the armies of the United States.

Section III: All Militia officers shall be commissioned by the Governor – the manner of their selection to be provided by law, and may hold their commissions for such period of time as the Legislature may provide.

Section IV: No military organization under the laws of the State, shall carry any banner or flag, representing any sect or society, or the flag of any Nationality, but that of the United States.

Section V: The Governor shall be the commander-in-chief of all the military forces of the State, and shall have power to call out the Militia to preserve the public peace, to execute the laws of the State, to suppress insurrection or repel invasion ("Wyoming State Constitution" art. 17, sec. 1-5).

General Frank A. Stitzer was appointed the first Adjutant General of the State of Wyoming in 1892. He commanded 287 men. By the onset of the Spanish-American War in 1898, the Wyoming Army National Guard had grown substantially. After completing training at Fort D.A. Russell, 1400 Wyoming guardsmen deployed the Philippines where they fought the Spanish and Philippine insurrectionists. Citizen participation in the Wyoming Guard continued to accelerate and "in 1910, Wyoming had the second highest participation among all states based on the number of Guardsmen per the male population aged 18 to 25" (Wyoming Military Historic Context" 134).

As a result of fighting during the Spanish-American War and increasing tension prior to the United States' entrance into World War I, the United States government passed two pieces of legislation which dramatically changed the role of the Guard. The first was the Dick Act of 1903. The Act "brought the National Guard into conformity with regular Army training, provided federal equipment and funding for National Guard operations"

Old Douglas Armory

Converse County,
Wyoming
County and State

Name of Property

(“Wyoming Military Historic Context” 15). The National Defense Act of 1916 further changed the Guard’s national role. Signed by President Woodrow Wilson on June 3, 1916, the National Defense Act expanded the National Guard fourfold, authorized “federal funds to pay for 48 days of drill a year, as well as a 15-day period of annual training” (Williams para. 5). The Act also allowed National Guard Officers to attend military schools. Finally, the National Defense Act gave the U.S. President the power to activate the Guard for federal overseas emergencies and maintain their federal activation status until the emergency had been resolved (Williams, para. 5).ⁱⁱⁱ National Guard soldiers did not activate as a unit; instead, they were individually called into federal service.

Wyoming Guardsmen were activated in response to the United States Declaration of War against the Germany. Wyoming Guardsmen served in France and Germany. They participated in five campaigns over 134 days and sustained approximately 75 casualties (Humstone, et al. 12). Specifically:

“Headquarters Company, Supply Company, and 1st Battalion went with other troops to form the 148th Artillery; the 2nd and 3rd Battalions became the 116th Ammunition Train of the 41st Division. The machine gun company became part of the 146th Machine Gun Battalion, 41st Infantry Division. The 146th Machine Gun Battalion and the 116th Ammunition Train did not see action. The 148th Field Artillery served in defensive sectors in Champagne and participated in the Champagne-Marne, Asne-Marne, St. Mihiel, and Meuse-Argonne operations” (“Wyoming Military History Context” 133).

Following World War I, the United States passed the National Defense Act of 1920, which expanded on the previous National Defense Act. It further enlarged the National Guard as well as decentralized procurement processes for equipment, etc. The National Defense Act of 1920 further codified the relationship between the National Guard and active component. The Wyoming National Guard was reorganized into the First Wyoming Cavalry in 1920. In 1921, the Guard was restructured again and designated the 115th Cavalry, and in 1922, assigned to the 24th Cavalry Division.

As a result of the National Defense Act of 1920, Wyoming became responsible for providing adequate training facilities for Guardsmen. There were only two state-owned National Guard armories in 1924. Throughout the 1920s and 1930s, the Wyoming Adjutant General lobbied the Wyoming State Legislature for increased funding so that the state could build adequate armories. Eventually, the Legislature agreed to fund armory projects, but they chose where armories were to be built and how much was to be spent on each armory. As a result, the construction of armories was based more upon political power than strategic location and some facilities had wholly inadequate funding while others had substantial funding.

During the interwar years, the Wyoming Guard largely dealt with civil disturbances – they were activated as a peace keeping force for mining and railroad related strikes - and natural disasters, such as wildfires and floods. They also starred as extras in several Hollywood movies^{iv}, which were filmed throughout the state (Humstone, et al. 16).

ⁱⁱⁱ Prior to the National Defense Act of 1916, the federal government paid soldiers for five days of training per year, Guard units could only be activated for stateside missions, and they could only be activated for up to 9 months.

^{iv} Wyoming Guardsmen were used in films such as “The End of the Trail” released in 1932 and “Plainsman” released in 1936.

Old Douglas Armory

Converse County,
Wyoming
County and State

Name of Property

From 1910 until 1938, Wyoming Guardsmen completed their annual trainings either at Fort D.A. Russell or the Pole Mountain Military Reservation. Located six miles east of Laramie, Wyoming, Pole Mountain was initially developed as a training facility for active duty Army personnel based at Fort D.A. Russell. President Rutherford B. Hayes set aside the land in 1879 with the intention that lumber could be harvested from the site for the construction and maintenance of Fort D.A. Russell and Fort Sanders. President William McKinley turned the land into a reserve in 1900 and President Theodore Roosevelt transferred it to the War Department in 1903. In 1924, the Wyoming Guard constructed a temporary camp on Pole Mountain and began holding their annual trainings there ever year, except for 1933. By 1931, Wyoming Adjutant General R.L. Esmay had determined that Pole Mountain could not adequately serve as a long-term training site for the Guard. He believed that “Pole Mountain was inadequate because the camp’s high altitude and cold conditions did not meet federal regulations that required mobilization year round” (“Wyoming Military Historic Context” 150). The Guard continued to train at the site until 1938 and Pole Mountain continued to be used by the U.S. military until 1961 when it became a part of the Medicine Bow National Forest.

In 1938, Wyoming Guardsman began training annually at Camp Guernsey State Military Reservation. Guardsmen began training at the camp before any permanent structures were constructed. In April 1938, an appropriations bill was sent to Congress; the bill requested \$500,000 in funding to build permanent facilities at Camp Guernsey (“Camp Guernsey...” para. 5). Camp Guernsey was formally established in 1939 and construction of military facilities began with funding assistance from the National Guard Bureau in Washington, D.C. and the Works Progress Administration (Humstone, et al. 12).

The Wyoming National Guard received substantial New Deal funding for armory maintenance and construction during the Great Depression (Cassity p. 291). WPA records show that the state received money for labor in 1934, 1937, 1938, and 1939 in order to:

“...make improvements at National Guard armories including construction of riding halls, drill halls, shooting galleries, garages, store rooms and target ranges; install partitions, floors and roofs; and perform appurtenant and incidental work in Albany, Big Horn, Converse, Fremont, Laramie, Natrona, Niobrara and Weston Counties” (WPA Projects, Card #40048; Wyoming AG Office, 1936-1938)

On July 29, 1940 President Franklin D. Roosevelt requested Congress that the National Guard be federally activated in anticipation of World War II and a conflict with Germany and Japan. Congress passed Public Resolution No. 96 on August 27, 1940, which it gave President Roosevelt authorization to activate the Guard for 12 months.^v Nationwide, National Guard units began activation, which occurred incrementally with twenty-two separate federal activations occurring between September 16, 1940 and June 23, 1941 (“Wyoming Military Historic Context” 154). The Wyoming Army National Guard State Staff and State Detachment, the 41st Military Police Company, and C Company 116th Quartermaster Regiment were activated and entered federal service on September 16 and October 8, 1940. The 41st Infantry Division was activated and sent to the Pacific theater; they were later joined by the 116th Quartermaster Regiment.^{vi} The 115th Cavalry Regiment was mobilized in February 1941 and deployed to the Fort Lewis, Washington in July 1941. The 115th was stationed

^v Interestingly, when the U.S. entered the war in December 1941, 75% of the U.S. military’s available infantry battalions and 76% of their artillery assets were National Guard. See: *Wyoming Military Historic Context, 1920-1989*.

^{vi} The 41st Infantry Regiment was known as the Sunset Division because it was comprised of National Guardsmen from Western States. See: *Wyoming Military Historic Context, 1920-1989*.

Old Douglas Armory

Converse County,
Wyoming
County and State

Name of Property

in the northwest for the duration of the war patrolling coastal defenses from Washington State to the Mexican/American border (Humstone et al. 25).

The United States again reorganized the U.S. military following World War II; the largest change was the establishment of the U.S. Air Force, which had previously been known as the U.S. Army Air Corp. The National Guard was expanded again and the federal government increased its funding for the construction and maintenance of National Guard armories. Wyoming was the first state to successfully reorganize and, in 1947, Wyoming was allocated additional units as a result of their successful reorganization. In 1949, Wyoming further reorganized their units, which “situated all of the 141st Tank Battalion in the southern part of the state, all of the 115th Mechanized Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron in the central part, and all of the 300th Armored Field Artillery Battalion in the northern part of Wyoming” (“Wyoming Military Historic Context” 162).

The Wyoming Army National Guard 300th Field Artillery Battalion was activated again in 1950 for service in the Korean War. On August 19, 1950, they departed Wyoming for Fort Lewis, Washington. Wyoming Guardsmen departed for Korea on August 29, 1950. The Wyoming Guard was involved in heavy fighting during the Korean War. They entered combat on May 15, 1951 in support of the 2nd Infantry Division in Soyang fighting against twelve Chinese divisions. The battle lasted for over a week. During the battle, the 300th fired over 7,200 rounds in a 24-hour period. In addition to the battle near Soyang, Wyoming Guardsmen fought near Hongchon and participated in “battles named the Punchbowl, Bunker Hill, Bloody Ridge, and Heartbreak Ridge” (“Wyoming Military Historic Context” 24-25). The Battalion fought in Korea for 805 days and fired 514,036 105 mm howitzer rounds (“Wyoming Military Historic Context” 167).

“The soldiers of the 300th earned 12 Silver Stars, 63 Bronze Stars, and numerous other medals. In addition to two Presidential Unit Citations, the battalion earned a Meritorious Unit Citation and two Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citations. Eight soldiers from the 300th were killed in action and another 175 wounded” (“Wyoming Military Historic Context” 167).

The Wyoming Army National Guard was not called into service for the Vietnam War^{vii}. During the Vietnam War Era, many Guard units in the United States were called upon for to assist in domestic law enforcement, as well as assisting with disaster relief, such as wildfires and floods. In December 1967, Wyoming Governor Stanley Hathaway established protocols for Wyoming Guardsmen to activate in situations of civilian unrest; however, these protocols were not necessary in Wyoming.

Following the Vietnam War, the Wyoming Army National Guard continued to train at Camp Guernsey and conduct disaster relief missions throughout the state. Wyoming Guardsmen were activated again in response to the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Wyoming Guardsmen deployed to Iraq in 2004 for Operation Iraqi Freedom and to Kuwait in 2009, which was the largest deployment of Wyoming Guardsmen to date. The Wyoming Army National Guard has continued to deploy periodically in support of missions overseas. They also continue to assist with natural disaster relief.

The Army National Guard in Douglas

^{vii} Several Wyoming citizens did serve during the Vietnam War. The state suffered 135 casualties during the conflict, which is the fifth most of any state. See *Wyoming's Long Tradition of Service* by Patrick Dawson at <https://wyofile.com/wyomings-long-tradition-of-service/>

Old Douglas Armory

Converse County,
Wyoming
County and State

Name of Property

The first National Guard unit organized in Douglas was Company F, First Wyoming Regiment; the unit was created on January 11, 1891. Company F's commander was John D. O'Brien, a Civil War veteran who came to Fort Fetterman in the Army in 1867.

On May 8, 1898, the Company was activated to federal service in the Spanish-American War. Guardsmen shipped to the Philippine Islands on June 27, 1898 and arrived at Manila Bay on July 31. They participated in the advance on Manila and Cavite. After the Spanish-American War ended, the Company F stayed in the Philippine Islands and went through three more campaigns fighting the Philippine Insurrection. Following the cessation of hostilities, they returned to the United States, arriving in San Francisco on July 31, 1899. Three Company F Guardsmen died as result of injuries sustained during combat in the Philippines and three more were injured.

On July 4, 1916, Guardsmen from Company F joined the rest of the First Wyoming Regiment and deployed along the American/Mexican border in response to Mexican revolutionary leader Pancho Villa's attacks in New Mexico ("Pancho Villa Attacks..." para 1). The First Wyoming Regiment was one of many National Guard units that the U.S. Government federalized for service on the southern frontier. Company F spent the summer and winter of 1916 patrolling the border in New Mexico. They returned home and were mustered out at Fort D.A. Russell on the March 9, 1917.

The Wyoming Army National Guard was activated again with the outbreak of World War I. Wyoming Guardsmen were activated on July 15, 1917 and drafted into Federal Service on August 5, 1917. The Wyoming units were broken up and reorganized as elements of the 41st Division. The Douglas unit became part of the 116th Ammunition Train and served through five campaigns in France before being demobilized at Camp Dix, New Jersey in March 1919.

During reorganization following WWI, Company F became F Troop, 115th Cavalry Regiment. The 115th Cavalry Regiment was made a part of the 24th Cavalry Division. In 1929, the unit was redesignated and became K Troop; they remained K Troop until 1940, when they changed back to F Troop.

During this time, according to local history, K Troop became known as the "Black Horse Troop" because First Sergeant Rick Anthony always tried to choose black horses from the remount station. Also during this time, the Douglas unit formed the Douglas Girl's Guard Troop. The Douglas Girl's Guard consisted of local high school girls who were trained by Guardsmen and chaperoned by their mothers. They served as an escort for the Governor of Wyoming on several occasions and participated in dedication ceremonies in the eastern part of Wyoming. Soldiers also participated in many riding competitions and shows all around the state. They also held mounted square dance demonstrations at the Fair Grounds and at the Armory.

On January 17, 1931, construction began on a new armory in Douglas. Funding for the new armory came from President Herbert Hoover's Federal Aid program known as the President's Emergency Committee for Employment (PECE). The program was designed to coordinate federal, state, and local projects to provide relief and create jobs. PECE was a precursor to President Roosevelt's larger and more expansive New Deal Program ("The Great Depression" para.5).

Old Douglas Armory

Converse County,
Wyoming
County and State

Name of Property

The Douglas Armory opened on February 21, 1932; however, the building was not entirely complete. Because of funding concerns, the western wing of the building and the riding arena were not completed. According to the Adjutant General's Biennial Report of 1932, the armory in Douglas was:

“A large brick and wood armory was constructed in 1931 at a cost of \$26,416.78 without riding hall, but with adequate stables, drill hall, and space for the safe storage of federal property. This facility will not be completed until sufficient funds become available for the building of the riding hall, however it is so constructed that this cost will be much lower than the cost of building a riding hall separately” (Esmay 5)

Construction on the riding arena began in 1937, but was not completed until 1939. The riding arena was added using Works Progress Administration Funds (Esmay 5). The WPA's New Deal Armory Program ran from 1933 until 1942 and provided funding to states for the construction and maintenance of National Guard Armories. In 1951, additional classrooms and storage facilities were added to the armory.

Wyoming Guardsmen from Douglas were activated federal service on February 24, 1941 and deployed to Fort Lewis, Washington with soldiers from Newcastle and Glenrock. In all, 96 men and 4 officers went to Fort Lewis, Washington with F Troop. Following the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, Guardsmen patrolled the Washington and Oregon Coasts until the regiment was broken up on January 1, 1944. In a tragic accident, two Douglas Guardsmen perished in a barracks fire in Astoria, Oregon on March of 1941. The unit was reorganized and redesignated as F Troop, 126th Cavalry Squadron and transferred to Fort Jackson, South Carolina. This unit was disbanded on August 15, 1944 and men were placed in other units.

After World War II, the Douglas unit returned to Wyoming. The unit was renamed F Troop in 115th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron in September 1946. In 1950, the unit briefly became Headquarters Company, 117th Tank Battalion. On March 1, 1951, they were redesignated again and became Headquarters, 2nd Battalion, 115th Armored Cavalry Regiment. On January 16, 1953, the Douglas unit became Headquarters Battery, 350th Armored Field Artillery Battalion, one of four artillery battalions in Wyoming. This designation lasted until August 1, 1959 when all four artillery battalions were consolidated into the 49th Field Artillery Regiment and Douglas became Service Battery, 3rd Battalion 49th Field Artillery, a designation it would hold until October 1, 1996.

In 1996, the Douglas unit was designated as Detachment 1, Battery A, 2nd Battalion 300th Field Artillery. Since 9/11/2001, the unit has been activated multiple times. Approximately half of the unit personnel activated in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom on February 14, 2004. They reported to Fort Dix, New Jersey on February 27, 2004 and deployed to Baghdad, Iraq, where they conducted Military Police duties and assisted in the installation of Iraqi interim government. They returned home August 1, 2005. On December 19, 2005, the other half of the unit was mobilized in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and deployed to Fort Lewis, Washington, for training and then on to Kirkuk, Iraq; they worked as military police and trained Iraqi Police Officers. These soldiers returned on June 16, 2007. The Douglas unit was a part of the 2/300th FA until November 1, 2007 when they were reorganized to A Company 960th Brigade Support Battalion (BSB).

A CO 960th BSB was called to duty in support of Operation Iraqi freedom on April 15, 2009. They deployed to Kuwait as part of the largest deployment of Wyoming Army National Guard soldiers to date. For this deployment, A CO soldiers were split into multiple duty assignments and units. Some remained with 960th BSB

Old Douglas Armory

Converse County,
Wyoming
County and State

Name of Property

working with soldiers from Bravo Company 960th Brigade Support Battalion out of Torrington, Wyoming and Headquarters 960th Brigade Support Battalion at Camp Virginia. The remainder of A CO soldiers were assigned to both Alpha Battery and Bravo Battery of the 2/300th Field Artillery Battalion working security missions within Kuwait and Iraq.

Wyoming Army National Guard units have earned Campaign Participation Credit in twenty-three campaigns throughout eight federal mobilizations.

In 1957, Wyoming began replacing all of the National Guard Armories. By the end of the Cold War, they had replaced nearly every armory in Wyoming. A new armory was constructed in Douglas; it was completed in 1993. Guardsmen in Douglas moved to the new armory. The old armory was purchased by the Wyoming State Fair Board and has been used for commercial purposes, mechanical projects related to the functioning of the Wyoming State Fair, and storage.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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Old Douglas Armory

Converse County,
Wyoming
County and State

Name of Property

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Converse County,
Wyoming
County and State

Name of Property

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<https://uwyo.libguides.com/ahcmilitaryhistory/wyomilitaryhistory>. Accessed 22 Dec. 2021.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property _____

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>13N</u>	<u>468146</u>	<u>4734130</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

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

The northern boundary of the Old Douglas Armory runs along a pedestrian pathway converted from the old West Center Street. The northeastern boundary is adjacent to the parking lot of a commercial building to the east of the Old Douglas Armory; there is metal fence between the two properties. The southeastern boundary runs along the same trajectory as

Old Douglas Armory

Converse County,
Wyoming
County and State

Name of Property

the metal fence and dissects the rear parking lot. There is no physical feature to delineate this boundary. There is a chain link metal fence along the southern boundary, which separates the Old Douglas Armory's parking lot from a large equipment lot to the south of the property. The western boundary is delineated by a chain link metal fence which runs along the southwestern boundary about eight feet from the western elevation of the building. There is no physical feature delineating the northwestern boundary, which begins at the end of the fence and runs the same line until it reaches the pedestrian pathway.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries for the Old Douglas Armory form a periphery around the historic site containing the Old Douglas Armory.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Bethany Kelly/National Register Coordinator; MSG Douglas Fenton; Jim Swan

organization Wyoming SHPO; Wyoming Army National Guard date December 23, 2021

street & number 2301 Central Avenue telephone 307-777-7530

city or town Cheyenne state WY zip code 82002

e-mail bethany.kelly@wyo.gov

Additional Documentation

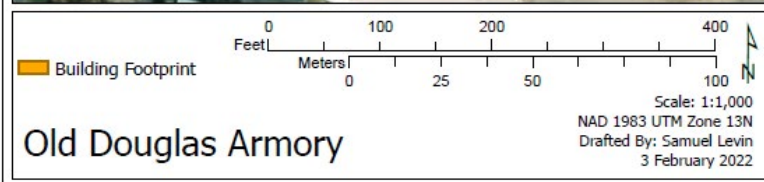
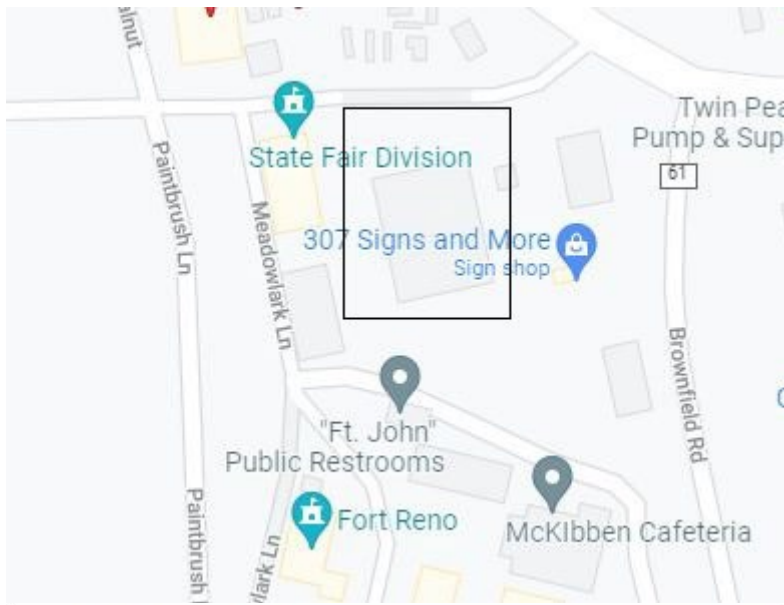
Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

Old Douglas Armory

Converse County,
Wyoming
County and State

Name of Property



Old Douglas Armory

Converse County,
Wyoming

Name of Property

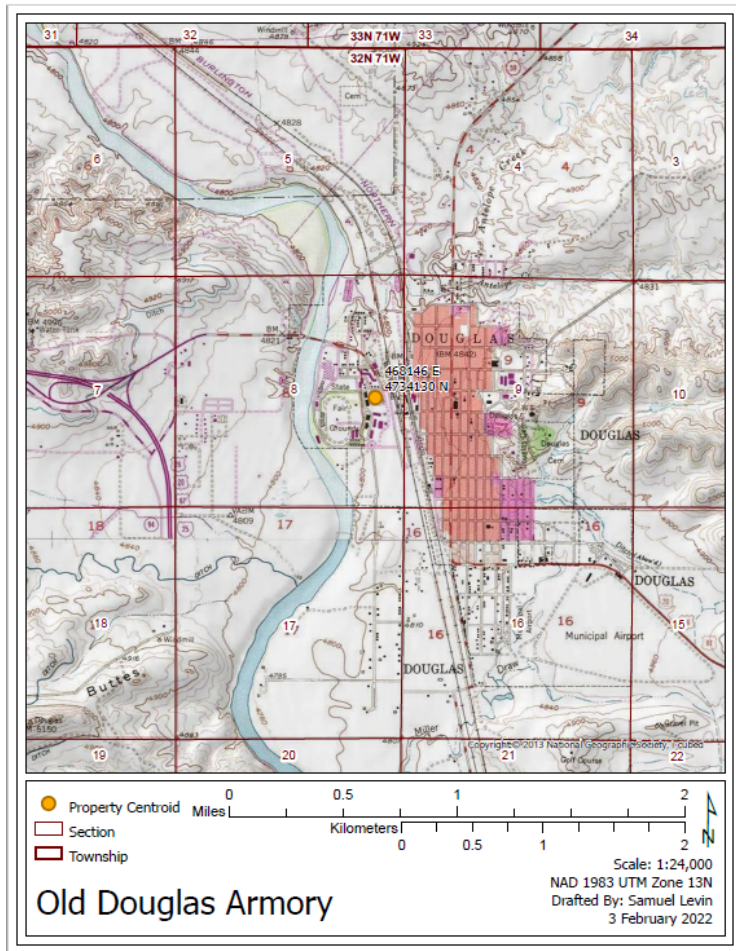


Figure 1: Old Douglas Armory, 2021

Old Douglas Armory

Converse County,
Wyoming

Name of Property

County and State



Figure 2: Old Douglas Armory, 1931



Figure 3: Old Douglas Armory, 1931

Old Douglas Armory

Converse County,
Wyoming
County and State

Name of Property



Figure 4: Old Douglas Armory, 1931



Figure 5: Old Douglas Armory, 1931

Old Douglas Armory

Converse County,
Wyoming

Name of Property

County and State



Figure 6: Old Douglas Armory, circa 1937



Figure 7: Wyoming Army National Guard soldiers in Germany, 1918.

Old Douglas Armory

Converse County,
Wyoming
County and State

Name of Property



Figure 8: Wyoming Army National Guard soldiers at Pole Mountain, 1936.



Figure 9: Wyoming Army National Guard soldiers circa 1950.

Old Douglas Armory

Converse County,
Wyoming

Name of Property

County and State



Figure 10: Wyoming Army National Guard soldiers, date unknown.

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Old Douglas Armory
City or Vicinity: Douglas
County: Converse State: Wyoming
Photographer: Bethany Kelly
Date Photographed: October 18, 2021
Description of Photograph(s) and number:

North façade, photographer facing southeast.
1 of 23

North façade, photographer facing south.
2 of 23

North façade, photographer facing south.
3 of 23

East elevation, photographer facing south.
4 of 23

South elevation, photographer facing northwest.
5 of 23

West elevation, photographer facing north.
6 of 23

Old Douglas Armory

Converse County,
Wyoming
County and State

Name of Property

North façade, photographer facing southeast.
7 of 23

Interior addition, original front door, photographer facing south.
8 of 23

Interior drill hall, photographer facing east.
9 of 23

Interior drill hall, photographer facing south.
10 of 23

Interior drill hall, photographer facing southwest.
11 of 23

Interior drill hall, photographer facing northwest.
12 of 23

Interior drill hall, photographer facing north.
13 of 23

Interior hallway, photographer facing east.
14 of 23

Interior hallway, photographer facing west.
15 of 23

Interior office, photographer facing north.
16 of 23

Interior basement staircase, photographer facing east.
17 of 23

Interior basement, photographer facing east.
18 of 23

Interior hallway, photographer facing south.
19 of 23

Interior office, photographer facing southwest.
20 of 23

Interior storage, photographer facing south.
21 of 23

Interior mechanical room, former riding hall, photographer facing northeast.
22 of 23

Interior mechanical room, former riding hall, photographer facing southeast.
23 of 23

Old Douglas Armory

Converse County,
Wyoming
County and State

Name of Property

Property Owner:

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

name Wyoming State Fair

street & number 400 West Center Street

telephone 307-358-2398

city or town Douglas

state WY

zip code 82633

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 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.