-NPS Form 10-900
Oct. 1990

OMB No. 10024-0018 MPS-Brown Co

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 *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 10-9000a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Kingman National Guard Armory

Other name/site number 095-2850-0010

2. Location

Street & number 111 S. Main Street ☐ not for publication

City or town Kingman ☐ vicinity

State Kansas Code KS County Kingman Code 095 Zip code 67068-2271

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 X statewide ☐ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Richard D. Pankratz DSHPO 5-24-04

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Kansas State Historical Society Kansas State Historical Society

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 commenting official /Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I herby certify that the property is Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

☐ 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:)

Kingman National Guard Armory
Name of Property

Kingman Co., Kansas
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☐ private
- ☐ public-local
- X public-State
- ☐ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- X building(s)
- ☐ district
- ☐ site
- ☐ structure
- ☐ object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		total

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

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
SOCIAL / meeting hall

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DEFENSE / arms storage
SOCIAL / meeting hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Moderne

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE
walls BRICK

roof METAL/steel

other GLASS

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

Kingman National Guard Armory
Name of Property

Kingman Co., Kansas
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for Natonal Register

X **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history

☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

X **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 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 it 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

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

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

MILITARY

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Period of Significance

1937-1951

Significant Dates

1937, 1942

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

National Guard - Architect

Thissen Bros. - Builder

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 lising (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:
X State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other

Name of repository:

Kansas State Historical Society

Kingman National Guard Armory
Name of Property

Kingman Co., Kansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property : Less than 1 acre

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	14	578210	4166100
2			
3			
4			

☐ See continuation sheet

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

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

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title: Susan Jezak Ford

Organization: Citysearch Preservation Date: February 22, 2002

Street & number: 3628 Holmes Street Telephone: 816-531-2489

City or town: Kansas City State: MO Zip code: 64109

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 SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

name: State of Kansas, Adjutant General's Dept.

street & number: 2800 SW Topeka Blvd. telephone: 785-274-1000

city or town: Topeka state: KS zip code: 66611-1287

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

Section 7—Overview

The Kingman armory is a brick building located on the south side of the south fork of the Ninnescah River, just south of the downtown business district on the west side of Main Street (Highway K-14). The building faces east and measures approximately 140 feet long by 100 feet wide. The main portion of the building is a gabled, two-story-tall building and houses the assembly hall (or drill floor.) One-story additions are attached to the north and south sides of the building, housing offices and garage space. The west side of the building contains a rectangular two-story addition for offices and storage. The building contains a gabled metal roof (added in 1994) visible above the assembly hall. All cornices are metal and flat roofs are capped with metal trim. The building has continuous soldier coursing at ground level.

The main (east) façade of the armory faces Kingman's Main Street and narrow strips of lawn grass cover ground on the north and south sides of the building. A fenced vehicle storage area is located at the rear of the building and is bordered on the west by a cinder block workshop/storeroom. The south side of the armory is adjacent to a large parking lot and county fairgrounds. Further evidence of the building's martial identity is found in the two Civil War 32-pounder naval cannon situated in front of the east entrance doors. The cannons were placed there for the building's dedication in 1937. A Sherman tank is located near the northeast corner of the building. The tank represents the Tank Battalion that served as the local Guard unit in the Korean War era.

East Façade

The building's main façade and main entrance are in the east side of the Kingman armory, although most visitors today enter through the south side of the building. The central portion of the east façade is dominated by a gable with a stepped parapet. This parapet is capped by soldier-laid brick and a metal cap. Three sets of modern double glass doors are placed in the center of the gable, fronted by a wide, common sidewalk; these doors lead directly into the assembly hall. Four brick piers rise on either side and between these entrance doors, extending above the roofline to create a crenellated effect. A metal overhang is located directly above the entrance doors and glass block windows rise above the overhang between the brick piers. The tops of these windows follow the line of the gable and the window areas are topped by soldier-laid brick. Single wood doors are located on either side of the main entrance. A line of soldier-laid brick runs horizontally across the façade, located approximately at the middle of the glass block windows. Metal letters located left of the far left pier read "KANSAS NATIONAL GUARD". A cornerstone is located on the far right corner of this main portion of the building that reads KINGMAN MEMORIAL/ ARMORY/ CO.L.137 INFANTRY/ K.N.G./1937. This cornerstone also contains a time capsule and was added to the building some time after World War II.

One-story extensions are located on either side of the assembly hall, slightly recessed from the main façade. These extensions are parapetted, topped by a line of soldier-laid brick and a metal cap that slopes

away from the main building before continuing on a flat run. The north extension contains a single door in the left portion and two modern double hung windows in the center of the extension. These windows contain soldier-laid brick lintels and header bricks for the sills. This layout and ornamentation is reversed for the south extension, but metal grilles cover the south windows and the single door is the building's last remaining original multipaned wood door.

South Façade

The south side of the armory contains a one-story garage addition on the east end, the two-story gabled roof of the assembly hall and a two-story office/storage area on the west end. Moving from east to west (front to back), the right side of the south façade contains a one-story garage with three metal garage doors separated by brick sections. This section is pulled forward from the plane of the south façade and is topped by a metal strip of roofing. The next portion of this façade consists of five bays. The first, third and fourth bays of this section each contain a multipaned metal window with a brick sill. The second bay contains a doorway that serves as the building's primary entrance, consisting of a double set of modern metal and glass doors topped with a square metal overhang. A brick buttress with a stone cap is located to the left of bays one through four. Bay five contains a metal garage door. The new metal roof, installed in 1994, rises above this façade and wraps over the cornice line. A plain two-story rear addition is located on the far west portion of this façade. It contains no ornamentation and is topped by a flat roof.

West Façade

Most of the west façade of the armory is filled with a two-story brick wall with a flat roof, topped by a metal cornice. This addition is placed in front of the gable roof of the assembly hall. Two metal downspouts extend from the roofline on either side of the building to the ground. A short sloped gable extends from the south side of this section. A parapet atop the building's north façade extends from the north side of the two-story section. A square metal window is placed in the center of the one-story portion of this façade.

North Façade

The north façade of the Kingman armory consists of a one-story extension of offices and utility rooms that begins with the front (east) façade and ends just before the west two-story portion. This one-story section is topped by metal trim at the cornice. Metal double hung windows are irregularly spaced across this façade, with spacing of one single square window, a group of three rectangular windows, and three widely spaced single square windows. The eastern portion of this extension contains a single metal security door and two additional single square windows. Four irregularly spaced metal downspouts extend from the roofline to the ground. The westernmost section of the north side of the building

consists of a plain one-story wall with a metal cornice placed directly in front of the two-story addition at the rear of the building.

Interior

Most of the armory's interior is filled by the assembly hall/drill floor, which has an east-west axis. This space measures approximately 59 feet by 121 feet and is covered with a maple floor over poured concrete, added in 1942 to cover the original dirt floor. The interior walls are brick and basketball goals hang on the north and south walls. The ceiling contains the original wood struts over metal beams. Asbestos tiles were once nailed to these rafters but have since been removed. The north side of the building is lined with offices, utility space and a kitchen, accessed by six single irregularly spaced metal doors. The two-story addition was added to the west side of the building in 1942 to hold a stage area, adjacent dressing rooms on either side, a rear storage area and a basement. This area was remodeled and closed off in the 1970s to accommodate additional office space on the first story and storage in the attic area. The basement was also filled in at that time.

Alterations

The armory has received several alterations over the years to accommodate its changing needs. A stage area was built on the west side of the assembly hall in 1942. This was removed in the early 1970s when the facility was used primarily as a gymnasium space. The roof has been replaced at least once, most recently in 1994 when a metal roof and insulation were added.

Section 8—Overview

The Kingman National Guard Armory meets Criterion A for the National Register of Historic Places in the categories of Community Planning and Development and Military. The armory is significant as the first armory built in Kansas by a municipality and for its use as an armory and community center. The Armory also meets Criterion C as a well-preserved example of the PWA Moderne Style of architecture, a Moderne sub-type listed in the Multiple Property Document, "Kansas National Guard Armories." PWA Moderne was a style commonly used for large, institutional buildings built between 1933 and 1944. The style was used in Kansas primarily on buildings erected by the Works Progress Administration, but the style was also used for the city-financed Kingman armory. This armory is an example of the style and retains a high degree of architectural integrity. Features on the armory that characterize the building as PWA Moderne include its overall form, Art Deco-inspired main façade and the use of large expanses of glass block.

Pre-1951 Kansas Armories

The Kingman armory is one of only three armories in the state constructed prior to World War II.[1] Following anti-war sentiment during the 1920s and 1930s, the Kansas National Guard arrived at full unit strength during the Depression. Financial support from the federal government provided paychecks for the men in local units, encouraging enlistment. Built in 1937, the Kingman armory reflected a growing national trend by serving as a dual-purpose facility—as a National Guard facility and a community center.

History of the Kingman Armory

In early 1937, the Kingman unit of the Kansas National Guard, Company L of the 137th Infantry Regiment, was given orders by the government to vacate the building that it had been renting for use as an armory. *The Kingman Journal* accurately summarized the dilemma:

> The present quarters in the Fowler building on Ave. A west has been severely criticized by the higher military authorities as lacking in many of the requirements that a first class military unit should have. Moreover, the owner of the building is not satisfied with the amount of the rent he is receiving and has signified his willingness to grant a long time lease only on condition that the rental be materially increased. This, the government has positively refused to do, asserting that the present rental is all that can be paid for quarters of this sort. Hence, it appears that sooner or later, Kingman must provide better, and if

[1] Randall M. Thies, *Kansas Army National Guard Cultural Resources Survey*, 1 January 2001.

possible, permanent quarters, or run the risk of having this company transferred to some other town.[2]

A solution had to be found. The idea was proposed that a memorial armory building could be used to house National Guard activities, as well as community events. The city was anxious to retain the local unit, and the need for a building to house county fairs, dances and events was quite appealing. Company L actively campaigned for the bond vote that would bring the funds for armory construction. Large advertisements placed in *The Kingman Journal* noted the need for an armory by the unit, the economic value of renting an armory out to the community, the overall usefulness of a larger armory and the support of the plan by all major commercial and civic clubs in the town.

The bond proposition passed and construction began. A site was chosen on Main Street south of the town across the Ninnescah River. The overall dimensions of the chosen design were 104 by 140 feet and contained a drill room that measured 58 by 122 feet. The design also included a kitchen, dressing rooms, lockers, officers' quarters, supply rooms and a garage. The building contract was awarded to Thissen Brothers (of Kingman) for $17,272; the plumbing contract of $615 was awarded to Reynolds Plumbing (Kingman) and the $526 contract for electric wiring was awarded to the Shelley Electric Company (Wichita.) The site was purchased by the city from Charles Fowler for $3000.[3]

Construction progressed rapidly—the cornerstone of the armory was laid on Armistice Day, November 11, 1937. Kingman stores were closed for the event and schools dismissed students at noon. The day culminated with a parade from the high school to the armory, a brief concert by the high school band, benedictions by the Rev. D.D. Swinney, an address by C.C. Calkin and flag raising.

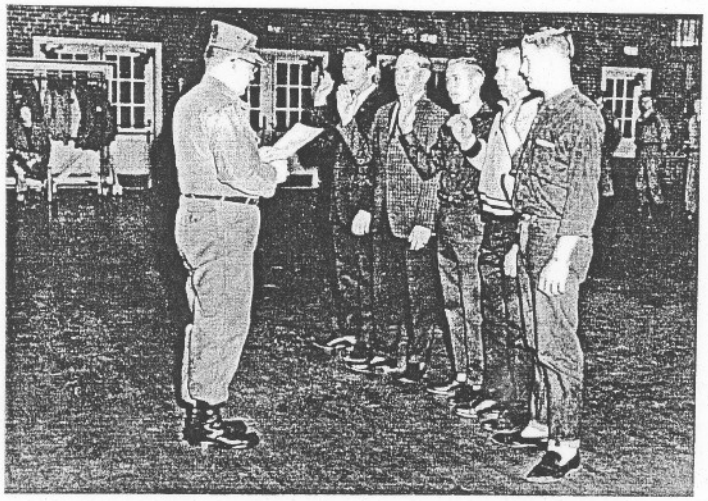
Kingman was justifiably proud of its status as the first municipality in Kansas to build its own armory. Upon inspecting the building in April of 1938, regimental commander Col. Charles Browne stated, "For fifteen years I visited this company; it had the poorest accommodations of any company in the state. Now it has this fine building and it has the distinction of being the only company in the state to have an armory built by the city in which it is located."[4] Besides housing National Guard activities, the building served as a site to celebrate elections and holidays and accommodated wrestling and boxing tournaments, although it still lacked a laid floor, a stage and adequate heating. Improvements that would allow the building to be used for dances, speeches and other forms of entertainment were proposed. However badly needed, the additions failed to get bond support in an April 1939 election.

As U.S. activity in Europe seemed increasingly inevitable, membership in the Kingman National Guard increased and in December 1940, Company L became part of the regular Army. Six officers and 144

[2] "Making Dollars Do Double Duty," *The Kingman Journal*, 19 March 1937.
[3] "Commissioners Let Contract on New Armory," *The Kingman Journal*, 11 June 1937.
[4] "National Guards Have Inspection," *The Kingman Journal*, 22 April 1938.

men received physical examinations and preliminary training before being sent to Camp Robinson in Arkansas for one year of full training.

The state's lease of the armory ended when the local unit left. In the absence of the Kingman Guard, city attorney C.C. Calkin successfully asked the state to give Kingman the power to transfer money from the light and water fund for completion of the armory. The resulting 1942 improvements included a maple floor laid on a concrete base and marked for basketball courts, along with modern toilet facilities, a larger heating plant and a stage. The stage was located at the west end of the building, measured 25 feet by 50 feet and contained a basement under the entire area.



Interior of Kingman armory in the 1960s

The Kingman armory has received a number of alterations. Plans were announced in 1977 that $100,000 would be spent to update the building. At this time, the stage was removed and the basement under it was filled in. The first story of the west addition was converted to offices and the attic is now used for storage. The building received a new roof in 1982 and the present metal roof was installed in 1994. The armory continues to be frequently used for basketball practices and games, as well as meetings and community events.

Style

The PWA Moderne Style evolved from the mid-1930s until the mid-1940s, bridging Art Deco and Moderne styles, while also incorporating the traditionalism of the Beaux Arts style. The Kingman armory is an excellent independent example of this style, presenting a building that relies primarily on its geometric form for ornamental relief. The all-brick walls give a somewhat conservative appearance, but the main façade is decidedly influenced by the Art Deco movement. The central engaged brick piers

pierce the roofline in a silhouette rarely seen in Kansas. The extensive fill areas of glass brick and the rounded corners of the metal overhang on the east façade contribute a contemporary flavor indicative of the PWA Moderne style.

The design of the Kingman armory followed the contemporary idea—born undoubtedly of the Depression—that large, public buildings should be simple of form. This trend resulted in many interpretations of the Modernistic styles across the country for institutional buildings. The Kingman armory is a fairly straightforward product of this school of thought. The result is a fashionable yet basic structure that houses the local National Guard unit but also invites community involvement.

The Kingman Armory is a superb example of the PWA Moderne Style and retains much of its integrity in design, materials, workmanship and in its location. It is therefore eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C.

Section 9

Bibliography

Ford, Susan Jezak. *National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation—National Guard Armories of Kansas*.

Thies, Randall M. *Kansas Army National Guard Cultural Resources Survey*. Report submitted to the National Guard of Kansas, Adjutant General's Department, Director of Facilities Engineering, 1 January 2001. Ms. On file with the Archeology Office, Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka.

Thies, Randall M. *Guarding the Guard's Cultural Resources: An Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan for the Kansas Army National Guard, 2001-2006*. Report submitted to the National Guard of Kansas, Adjutant General's Department, Director of Facilities Engineering, 20 June 2002. Ms. on file with the Archeology Office, Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka.

The Kingman Journal:

"Two Propositions Coming Up" 5 March 1937.
"A Memorial Armory—To Be or Not to Be"; "Petition Is Filed for Bond Election"; "Support and Boost the Memorial Building (advertisement)" 12 March 1937.
"Making Dollars Do Double Duty" 19 March 1937.
"What Is Company L Worth to Kingman? (advertisement)" 26 March 1937.
"National Guards Present Plans for Proposed Armory Building"; "Moving Forward"; "A $20,000 Memorial Building (advertisement)" 2 April 1937.
"George Curry Is Mayor by Twelve Votes" 9 April 1937.
"Officers Inspect National Guards" 16 April 1937.
"National Guards Have Inspection" 23 April 1937.
"Bond Ordinances Pass This Week" 7 May 1937.
New Addition to Riverside Park"; "Commissioners Let Contracts on New Armory" 11 June 1937.
"Lay Cornerstone" 15 October 1937.
"Armory Ceremony on Armistice Day" 22 October 1937.
"Program Arranged for Armistice Day" 5 November 1937.
"Crowd Hears Armistice Day Speech and Views Cornerstone Laying" 19 November 1937.
"National Guards Have Inspection" 22 April 1938.
"Two County Committees Get Election Returns at Armory" 4 November 1938.
"All-Day Program on Armistice Day" 11 November 1938.

"Ten Boxing Bouts Given at Armory" 27 January 1939.
"City Will Vote on $10000 Bond Issue" 10 February 1939.
"School and Armory Projects Explained" 3 March 1939.
"Election Is Called to Vote on Bonds" 10 March 1939.
"Let's Complete the Kingman Memorial Armory Building! (advertisement)" 24 March 1939.
"City Commission OK's Bond Issue"; "No New Tax Levy Will Be Necessary for the Armory Improvement Bonds (advertisement)" 31 March 1939.
"Election Tuesday Is Quiet Affair" 7 April 1939.
"Kingman National Guard Unit Will Add Twenty More Men to Company" 29 September 1939.
"Company L, 137th Infantry, Made Part of Regular Army" 27 December 1940.
"World War Scene Re-Enacted When National Guards Leave" 10 January 1941.
"Plan Proposed to Improve Armory" 7 February 1941.
"Contract Is Let For Armory Floor" 18 April 1941.

The Leader Courier: "New roof for armory" 1 July 1982.

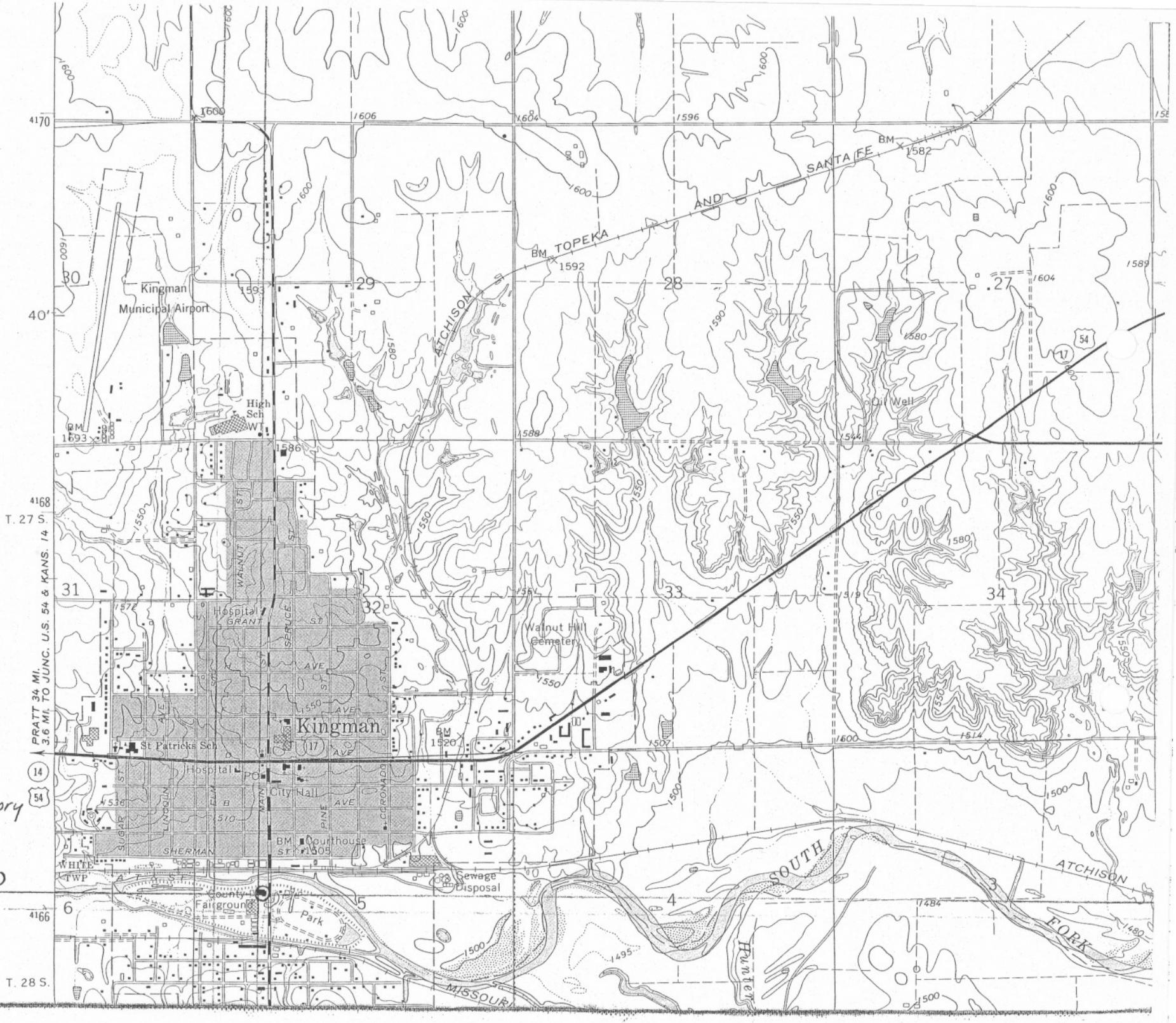
Section 10

Verbal Boundary Description:

Commencing at a market in the middle of the present intersection of Main Street and Sherman Street in the City of Kingman, thence West to the west line of Main Street; thence South along the west line of Main Street a distance of 695 feet to the point of beginning; thence West at a right angle a distance of 280 feet; thence North at a right angle a distance of 280 feet to the west line of Main Street; thence South along the west line of Main Street a distance of 208 feet to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification:

The boundaries include all of the land historically associated with the armory built for the Kingman National Guard in 1937.



Kingman Armory
Coordinates
14 578210
4166100