NPS Form 10-900-b
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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form

This form is for use in documenting multiple property groups relating to one or several historic contexts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900-a). Type all entries.

A. Name of Multiple Property Listing

Pennsylvania National Guard Armories

B. Associated Historic Contexts

Pennsylvania National Guard, 1777-1940

C. Geographical Data

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

☐ See continuation sheet

D. Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this documentation form meets the National Register documentation standards and sets forth requirements for the listing of related properties consistent with the National Register criteria. This submission meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60 and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Planning and Evaluation.

Signature of certifying official — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

I, hereby, certify that this multiple property documentation form has been approved by the National Register as a basis for evaluating related properties for listing in the National Register.

Signature of the Keeper of the National Register — Date

E. Statement of Historic Contexts

Discuss each historic context listed in Section B.

THE NATIONAL GUARD IN PENNSYLVANIA FROM 1777 TO 1940

The Pennsylvania National Guard armories are all located within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and presently serve or have served a unit or units of the Pennsylvania National Guard. Armories have historically housed volunteer militia organizations, and served as meeting, training and storage places. State Armory Buildings are the property type for this nomination.

The Pennsylvania National Guard has acted as Pennsylvania's defense system since 1777. Although it has existed under many different names, its purpose remains to protect the citizens and property of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania's first genuine militia law was enacted on March 17, 1777. It required that all able white men, aged 18 to 53 were to be enrolled in Pennsylvania's militia. Ministers, college masters and faculty, purchased servants and elected officials were excepted. The men were organized into companies and eight companies within a county formed a battalion, each level having a set of elected officers. Annual training requirements were set up, although each man was required to provide his own weapon, equipment and uniform. Sixty thousand men were enrolled. The required twelve days of training prepared some men for duty with the Continental Army at Brandywine, Germantown, Whitemarsh and Valley Forge.[1]

The Commonwealth then continued to renew the 1777 act, with minor changes, every three years, supplying men to the Continental Army for the duration of the Revolution and for the Indian conflicts arising afterwards. Meanwhile Congress passed the Militia Act of 1792. This law required "that every free, white, able-bodied male citizen between the ages of 18 and 45 would enroll in his state's militia."[2] The men were required to provide their own weapons and equipment. The organizational structure within each State was to consist of companies, battalions, regiments, brigades and divisions.

After the Revolution three calls for Pennsylvania's militia were made. The Whiskey Rebellion in 1794, the riots in Bethlehem due to the 1798 glass tax and the War of 1812, drew varying numbers of Pennsylvania men to military service. It is unclear how many volunteer militia units existed during this period, or how many men served. The War of 1812 pointed out the lack of military training, and consequently the near uselessness of the obligatory militia. Men were encouraged to join volunteer militia units and in 1818 Congress separated the obligatory militia and the volunteer militia. From 1823 to 1833 the number of men in Pennsylvania's volunteer militia units increased from 23,738 to 36,888. The volunteer militia was separated into infantry, light infantry, riflemen, and cavalry units.[3]

Pennsylvania's volunteer militia units were relied upon for ceremonial occasions, such as Lafayette's visit to Philadelphia in 1824, as well as for emergency service. Units were called by the governor for various riots and worker strikes. The volunteer militia was also called

☒ See continuation sheet

F. Associated Property Types

I. **Name of Property Type** State Armory Building

II. **Description**

The State Armory Building property type is based on a group of armories in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that are presently under the control of the State Armory Board. The majority of the armories in this group were constructed after the State Armory Board's creation in 1905. The 4 state armories constructed prior to 1905 were purchased, as in the case of Scranton and Ridgway, or leased as in the case of First Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry, by the State Armory Board. Another group of 17 armories were constructed in 1938 with assistance from the Federal Public Works Administration. - Continued.

III. **Significance**

The Pennsylvania National Guard armories are eligible for the National Register under criteria A and C and are significant in the areas of Military History and Architecture. The armories have been an integral part of National Guard and community life in Pennsylvania. Not only serving for the storage of weapons and equipment, armories served as troop meeting and training places. The armory's community role included sporting and social events, which were often sponsored by the local Pennsylvania National Guard unit. The armories are architecturally significant as examples of a distinctive building type, which despite variations in plan and architectural styles, are clearly expressive of their common function. The armories also represent the work of architectural firms important at the state or local level and reflect architectural styles popular at the time of their construction. - Continued.

IV. **Registration Requirements**

I. Armories eligible under criterion A (Military Significance) must:

   A. have been built for or have served as an armory for a unit of the Pennsylvania National Guard between 1879 and 1940.

II. Armories eligible under criterion C (Architecture Significance) must:

   A. retain majority of functional spaces or standard floor plans typical of Pennsylvania National Guard Armories, 1879 - 1940.

   B. Eligible armories may also have been designed by architects significant at a local, regional or state level and may reflect adaptations of architectural styles popular at the time of their construction. - Continued.

☒ See continuation sheet

☐ See continuation sheet for additional property types

G. Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods

Discuss the methods used in developing the multiple property listing.

In 1988 the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (P.H.M.C.), with the cooperation of the State Armory Board (S.A.B.) of the Pennsylvania Department of Military Affairs, undertook a survey of pre-1941 armory buildings currently administered by the Commonwealth. The State Armory Board provided a list of these armories and their locations as well as furnishing access to Armory Board records in the offices at Fort Indiantown Gap. Each of the 66 armories constructed prior to 1941 was documented using the P.H.M.C.'s historic resource survey form and by researching floor plans, deeds and other information. In 1989 each of these armories was visited to assess historic integrity, for photography and for additional information. The photographs and survey forms were then evaluated by the P.H.M.C. - Bureau For Historic Preservation staff committee which reviews properties for National Register eligibility. The armories were evaluated in relation to each other on the level of statewide significance.

☒ See continuation sheet

H. Major Bibliographical References

The Armory Board of the State of Pennsylvania: Its Work and Its Expenditures to December 31, 1912, Harrisburg: C.E. Aughinbaugh, 1913.

Baron, Randal. Nomination of First Troop, Philadelphia City Cavalry Armory, Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, 1984.

Bazelon, Bruce S. Defending the Commonwealth, Introduction by John B.B. Trussell, Providence,R.I.: Mowbray Co., 1980.

Booth, C.A. The National Guard of Pennsylvania and Its Antecedants, 1893 - 1894.

☒ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional documentation:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository: _____

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upon to quell a State political argument, called the "Buckshot War," in 1838. This minor dispute between the outgoing and incoming political parties lasted for approximately three weeks in December when the many political supporters in Harrisburg seemed to have a potential for violence.

With the Mexican War in 1845, a different way of militia organization was tried. The Federal government asked each state for a specific number of volunteer militia units. These units were kept separate from the regular Army, which could have included drafted members of a state's obligatory militia. In addition, the volunteer militia units were required to serve a year instead of the previous 60 or 90 days. Pennsylvania's units were known as the Pennsylvania Volunteers.

Pennsylvania militia laws in 1849 and 1858 brought the obligatory militia system closer to a draft system. The 1849 law required men aged 18 to 45 to provide a uniform and attend at least four drill days a year. Veterans and members of the volunteer militia were excepted. In 1858 the training for the obligatory militia was replaced by a state military tax. Pennsylvania's volunteer militia units volunteered for service for the duration of the Civil War. Men who wanted to be involved in the war volunteered with their units or as individuals for the Union Army. Meanwhile, the role of the obligatory militia was limited in the Civil War. The first call came from the Federal government to defend Washington against an unexpected Confederate attack. The next calls to duty were only to provide defense at Hagerstown, Chambersburg and Delaware. During the Gettysburg campaign the obligatory militia was assigned to protect Chambersburg, Harrisburg, Carlisle, Wrightsville and Columbia from advancing Confederate troops. In addition the units were called in to quell rioting in Philadelphia and Schuykill County during the war.

After the Civil War, Pennsylvania officially restricted the State's military establishment exclusively to the volunteer militia, which was officially titled the National Guard of Pennsylvania. This Act was passed on April 7, 1870. These units were strictly under control of the Governor of Pennsylvania and had no federal ties.[4]

Following the 1870 Act Pennsylvania officials reorganized the National Guard two times. In 1879 the state's volunteer units were separated into 5 brigades, which were organized and numbered geographically from east to west across the state. In 1881 another

reorganization took place. This time state law divided the state into three brigades, again numbered and organized geographically east to west across the state. This three brigade organization lasted until 1916.

The last three decades of the 19th century were filled with civil unrest and labor disputes in the United States. The National Guard of Pennsylvania was called in on several occasions to quell riots and control mobs associated with such events. The first major event occurred in Scranton where the coal miners struck in 1871. In Williamsport mobs attacked the sawmills in 1872, railroad workers burned property in Pittsburgh in 1877, and at Homestead the steel strikes of 1892 required the Guard to restore order. In 1902 all three brigades of 8,750 men were called out to Luzerne, Schuykill, Carbon, Lackawanna, Susquehanna, Columbia and Northumberland counties to protect property and people in the midst of a violent coal miner's strike. Since the Pennsylvania State Police was not formed until 1905, the Guard was used at the Governor's order for such events.

In addition to state duties a call for active duty came from the Federal government in 1898, when 10,800 Pennsylvania men were requested for duty in the War with Spain. National Guard of Pennsylvania members had to be "mustered in," answering yes or no to active service when their name was called from the roll. National Guard units could volunteer as a unit, by each man answering yes, and these units would retain their organization. Since less than 9000 men reported to the roll call the units returned to their hometowns to recruit the rest of the men needed to fill the quota. In the end 12,000 men reported for active duty. Only four regiments were sent overseas to "battle." Three were sent to Puerto Rico where they captured several towns and fought in a battle near Coamo. One regiment was sent to the Philippines. They engaged in battles at Manila and Malolos. The units not needed overseas were trained at camps in Georgia and Florida. Here the enemy was typhoid fever due to poor drainage and sanitation conditions. Hundreds of Pennsylvania men were afflicted.

Following the Spanish-American War the Federal Government, as well as Pennsylvania, went about improving the National Guard. In 1899 National Guard of Pennsylvania units were re-equipped and re-uniformed and by 1900 the 724 officers and 9,387 enlisted men went to annual camp "in a thoroughly efficient condition."[5] On the federal level Congress held hearings to improve the military system. In 1903 the Dick Act was passed. This law was the result of a study by Colonel William Sanger of New York and Major General Charles Dick, president of the National Guard

Association. This law came with a four million dollar annual appropriation. Under the new law this appropriation was used to equip National Guard units with Regular Army weapons and uniforms, as well as pay National Guard members for active duty. However with the standard equipment came standard regulations. Twenty four drills were required per year along with five days of required summer encampment. In addition, Regular Army officers were assigned to help train the units. New types of units were also formed under this law; medical companies, engineer companies and signal companies. One of the biggest victories for the National Guardsmen was the section of the law which provided that The National Guard was to be called to active duty before any other volunteer forces. A presidential request was all that was needed to bring the National Guard into active duty, however there was nothing in the law allowing the organization of the units to remain intact under federal service.

In the years following the passage of the Dick Act, Pennsylvania and the Federal government passed several more laws affecting the National Guard of Pennsylvania. In 1905 Pennsylvania provided a matching uniform allowance to commissioned officers. In addition, the State Armory Board was created in 1905 to "provide, manage and care for armories, for the use of the National Guard of Pennsylvania."[6] Meanwhile National Guard and Regular Army units trained together at annual camp. In 1908 the P.N.G. travelled to Pine Plains, New York for a joint encampment with the Regular Army. These camps occurred across the United States by order of the War Department. The most monumental act was the National Defense Act passed in 1916. This law established the Reserve Corps, which were free of any state ties. The National Guard was made an integral part of the U.S. Army when in federal service, but at the same time was still part of the organized militia, when activated through individual governors. It gave the President power to draft individual Guardsmen for Federal duty. In addition it increased training to 48 drills per year plus fifteen days of summer camp and provided federal pay for drill duty and camp. Pay for drill had been a desire of Guardsmen since before the turn of the century but it was denied by government thinking that a man owed his country military service.

The Guard units continued their training, both monthly and yearly, by attending various military camps as well as training at individual armories. As the U.S. War Department handed down directives in organization, training, equipment and wartime recruitment, the National Guard of Pennsylvania responded. In 1916 the call for federal duty at the Mexican border during the Mexican Revolution, came to Pennsylvania.

Since the Guardsmen were called through the Governor the organizational structure remained intact. However many Guardsmen were rejected for Federal service because they could not pass the physical exam. The National Guard of Pennsylvania units camped near El Paso, Texas. Some units were sent to Maifa Station while other companies were ordered to Nogales, Arizona. One regiment left behind in Pennsylvania later joined the units in El Paso where the men took part in many training exercises.

Shortly after the units' return to Pennsylvania another call for Federal duty came, this time for the "Great War." After brief service within Pennsylvania by some units against feared German sabotage, all the units in Pennsylvania were activated. After being sent to Camp Hancock, Georgia for training, the regiments, battalions and companies were made a Division and numbered to fit into the U.S. Army. However the spirit of the men still existed and the newly numbered 28th Division took on the nickname "Keystone" and wore a red keystone-shaped shoulder patch. Their journey overseas, which began in April, 1918, took them to France. After training with the British in France the troops' first battle was at the Champagne-Marne offensive in July. After defeating the Germans there the units continued to press the Germans northward. The Division then became part of a major assault team at the Meuse-Argonne offensive. Between the last weeks of fighting in 1918, and the troops return home in May of 1919, the troops reconstructed roads, cleared battlefields and patrolled areas of France. A total of 2,837 Pennsylvania men were killed, 11,120 men were wounded and those who lived received many U.S. and foreign honors.

After the units returned to the United States in 1919 another reorganization took place at the national and state levels. Pennsylvania funded a division staff, supported recruiting and made annual camp at Mount Gretna more educational and enjoyable for the troops. Pennsylvania's strength in 1920 was listed as 7000 men. The Federal government's new structure of 1921 introduced new units such as a Division Special Troops, a Division train, an observation squadron, a medical regiment and a field artillery brigade.[7] Enrollment in the Division increased. "So through "the Roaring '20's" and the depression-ridden '30's between the two World Wars, the Guard thrived. Untold thousands passed through the ranks of the 28th."[8] The P.N.G. units participated in the Governor's inauguration parades, hometown holiday parades and P.N.G. anniversaries, such as the Division's departure for Europe. Along with monthly and yearly military training the local Guard units became recreational. Not only did participating in such sports as basketball provide activity for the unit, it also helped

to boost recruitment as well.

In 1933 another amendment to the National Defense Act was passed, making law what the National Guard Association had been striving for since 1879. This law made the National Guard part of the United States' permanent military force. In addition units had to be called intact to federal service.

With the stock market crash of 1929 and subsequent depression, membership in the Pennsylvania National Guard became even more popular. The unemployed could earn some money by attending drills and the few employed welcomed the extra money earned. Although there was a little money for drill there was even less money for equipment. Units used antiquated war leftovers or borrowed items from local businesses and other units.

Despite this the National Guard was a source of relief during the Depression. "Although pacifism dominated the nation's mood, the National Guard helped maintain the morale of many localities all over depressed America. Its armories became centers for community dances and other indoor festivals. Outside, Guard leaders placed heavy stress on athletic contests, parades, and target shoots. If the local unit had horses, townspeople could make arrangements to ride them on Sundays."[9] In addition to social relief the Pennsylvania National Guard was called for flood relief in Pennsylvania in the spring of 1936. The men helped to find shelter for the displaced, rescued trapped people and took medicine to the sick.

In the late thirties the Guard's equipment situation improved. Aware of the struggles in Europe, the P.N.G. was authorized to boost its strength to 14,500 men in 1939. In 1941 when the 28th Division was called to federal service, 11,318 men were mustered in. The units were assembled and trained at Fort Indiantown Gap and after 18,000 draftees were assigned to the Division, the trained troops were sent to A.P. Hill in Virginia. After returning to Fort Indiantown Gap the 28th Division was kept on call until 1942 when they were sent to Camp Livingston, Louisiana. From there the troops moved to several other camps throughout the U.S. learning different types of military tactics until 1943 when they were sent to Wales. More training ensued, until July of 1944 when the troops landed on Omaha Beach. The 28th Division helped to push the German line southward through France. In Paris the 28th Division had the honor of being the first American Division to parade in Paris. From there the troops were assigned to fight in Germany at the West Wall to

push the German line again. These turned out to be slow and deadly tasks, and the 28th Division was commended for its work. Altogether the men had spent 196 days in combat on the Western Front. Nearly two thousand men were killed and 9,157 men were wounded; nearly five thousand men were listed as missing or captured.[10]

Upon returning to Pennsylvania the 28th Division had to recruit men so the units could list enough members for federal recognition. It was after this status that the unit could participate in summer camp and also receive federal support. In addition the P.N.G. returned to involvement in state related duties such as hometown parades, inauguration parades and emergency service.

In 1950 over nine thousand 28th Division men were activated for duty in Germany during the Korean Conflict. Since that tour of duty the P.N.G. has served the Commonwealth in floods such as 1955, 1972 and 1977. They also helped to control racial rioting in 1968, helped citizens during winter emergencies in 1977 and 1978, as well as helping the State Police during a trucker's strike of 1974. Pennsylvania's National Guard presently consists of 17,529 officers and enlisted personnel at 104 armories throughout the Commonwealth.

ENDNOTES

1 Bruce S. Bazelon, Defending the Commonwealth, Introduction by John B.B. Trussell(Providence, RI: Mowbray Co., 1980)p. 3.

2 ibid. P. 4.

3 ibid. p. 8.

4 ibid. p. 13.

5 The First Century, A History of the 28th Infantry Division, ed. Robert G. Crist (Harrisburg:Stackpole Books,1979)p. 98.

6 Act of Pennsylvania General Assembly, May 11, 1905.

7 First Century, p. 143.

8 ibid. p. 144.

9 John Mahon, The History of the Militia and The National Guard.(New York: Macmillan, 1983)p. 177.

10 First Century, p. 177.

Description - State Armory Buildings (Continued)

State armory buildings built between 1879 and 1940 have a variety of floor plans, architectural styles, materials, construction types and conditions. These buildings were constructed for National Guard units to meet, train and store supplies for combat duty here and abroad. In addition to serving the unit the armory served the community. A popular site for meetings and sporting events the armory also served as an emergency shelter.

Armories were designed using a variety of floor plans, although each armory contained similar spaces. The drill hall or shed was the largest space in the armory. The large open floor space was needed by the units for formation and drilling practice. The drill hall was a necessity in armories located in urban areas, since large outdoor spaces were limited. Other typical rooms in an armory included a classroom, a kitchen, a dining room, a club room, an ammunitions vault, a locker room and offices. Cavalry units posed yet another spatial demand, a stable for the horses. A stable had to contain stall areas, with proper drainage and ventilation, grain and hay storage, tack storage, and a living space for a full-time caretaker.

Standard floor plans were developed for the armories. The most common type found in Pennsylvania is the T plan. At least thirty-seven were built between 1879 and 1938. This plan type consists of an administration "head house," with a drill hall behind. Some examples of this type are found in Scranton, Philadelphia (First City Troop) and Media. The administration section is usually entered through a central entrance on the front of the building which leads to a double loaded corridor entering the drill floor. Entrances are also located on the sides or rear of the drill floor. These armories also commonly have balconies extending from the second floor which overlook the drill floor. The roofs of these armories vary. The administration section usually has a flat roof while the drill halls vary between gable, gambrel, monitor or curved types. Since this plan type has two distinct sections, it was possible to erect the two sections of the building at different times. The drill hall was commonly built first with the basement serving the unit's storage and administrative needs. The administration portion was added later when funds were available. The armories at Kane, Berwick and Indiana were constructed in this manner. These buildings are generally two stories high and average 70 feet by 135 feet. This type of plan is normally found in an urban setting and an entire lot is usually filled.

Nine armories built between 1912 and 1938 have an I plan. This plan

was built for cavalry units and is defined by a drill or riding hall with an administration wing on the front and a stable wing on the rear. Clearfield and Waynesboro armories are two examples of this plan type. Due to the odors and grazing area associated with horses, this type of armory is generally located outside of town. These armories are usually two stories high and the administration and stable wings echo each other in size. The riding halls in these armories are characterized by large doors to the exterior and stable areas for equipment access. The hall is covered with a gable or curved roof type while the stable and administration sections usually have flat roofs. The average size of this plan type is approximately 100 feet by 180 feet. One exception to this plan type is found in Wellsboro where the rear wing was built as a garage, not as a stable, and the building is located in town.

Another plan type catered to cavalry units. This type consists of a square administration building and a separate rectangular stable. Four were built between the years 1928 and 1931. This plan has no drill or riding hall, although riding rings were commonly located outdoors. The administration building varies between one and two stories in height, with a full basement. The average dimensions are 70 feet by 60 feet. The stable is one story high with a grain and hay loft, and measures 100 feet by 30 feet. The buildings usually have matching roof types, gabled or hipped. The site for this armory type was also commonly outside of town, again due to the horses. Examples are found in Bellefonte and Carlisle.

A fourth type of plan is found in seven armories dating from 1904 until 1938. These buildings are rectangular and are one to two stories high with full basements. The characteristic most prominent in these buildings is that the drill hall is located above the office floor. In two story buildings the drill hall is located on the second floor. One story types are located on a sloping site so the basement, as well as the first floor drill hall, are accessible from the outside. Located in town, the average size of these armories is 80 feet by 120 feet. Flat roofs are also common. The armories in Latrobe and Canonsburg are examples of the two story and one story types respectively.

Yet these four plan types do not account for all of the Pennsylvania armories. Armories located in cities such as Pittsburgh, Philadelphia and Wilkes-Barre are much larger than other armories. The drill halls in these buildings are approximately three times the size of other drill halls, and were designed as riding halls. Large stable areas were located within the building. Gymnasiums are a unique room type in these armories. They were built for recreation as well as for drill formation since the riding ring was the primary large space.

The roof types on these armories varies. The large drill halls usually have a gable roof with or without a monitor or clerestories. The stables and administration areas have flat or other roof types.

Five armories in the Commonwealth (Oil City, Harrisburg - 21st St., Philadelphia - Special Troops, Mansfield) do not fit into any particular plan type. The spaces contained within them are the same as other armories, except the later ones may have been designed for a trucking unit, and therefore contain a garage. The construction dates, sizes, roof types, architectural styles and siting vary.

The various floor plans are enclosed behind a variety of architectural styles, reflecting the time period the armory was built in. The Romanesque and Late Gothic Revival styles were used most frequently to create buildings resembling medieval castles. This is associated most commonly with the T plan, such as in Scranton and Philadelphia and was most popular between 1879 and 1915. A mixture of Art Deco (Bethlehem, Gettysburg), Modern (Clearfield, Mansfield) and Colonial Revival (West Chester, East Stroudsburg) buildings appear after 1916 until 1938, the Modern style concentrated towards 1938. The exceptions to these styles include the International Style (Harrisburg, 19th St.), as well as the Classical Revival Style which was used for armories located in Pittsburgh, Philadelphia and Wilkes-Barre.

The most common construction materials found in armories is brick and stone. Brick is often used in combination with stone foundations and detailing. When stone was locally available (Carlisle) or in order to create a more medieval look (Scranton, Oil City), stone was used for the entire building. Concrete (Harrisburg-19th St., Lewisburg) is also used for some armories, most of them dating from the late 1930's.

The drill hall posed the biggest structural challenge, to provide a large open floor space. This challenge was met by using a variety of roof trusses. Steel and iron were the primary truss materials, but wood was also used. Examples of wood trusses can be found at Corry and Blairsville. Truss design varied depending on the size of the space being spanned as well as the roof type. The other portions of the building varied in construction between load bearing masonry and structural steel with a brick or stone veneer. Most commonly steel and masonry were used in combination to provide building support.

The majority of the armories have been altered to some extent to meet changing military needs. The plans have remained fairly intact except when rooms were divided to form more offices or to create storage. Often portions of drill floors have been cluttered with lockers

or storage cages, and in some instances rooms have been added along the edges of the drill floor. The majority of plan alteration occurred in the basement where it was easiest to build partitions and create more space. Dropped ceilings and panelling have often been used in offices. Some drill halls have had dropped ceilings installed for energy conservation. In order for the armories to meet building codes, fire escapes have been added to the exteriors, and some wood entrance doors have been replaced with glass and aluminum doors. Stable areas have been converted to new uses. Walls and new floors have been added to produce storage, offices and classrooms.

The exteriors of the buildings have also remained fairly intact. Decayed windows have been replaced with modern replacements or glass block. Some crenellated parapet walls have been infilled or removed. The majority of decorative stone and brickwork has remained, except where decay or alteration has necessitated its removal.

Some armory sites have received additional structures such as an Organizational Maintenance Shop (O.M.S.) or Motor Vehicle Storage Building (M.V.S.B.). These identical building types were added after 1950, and are rectangular and one story high. There are two or more overhead metal doors on one side and often times metal casement windows on the other three sides. The buildings are generally constructed of concrete block which is painted, although some are constructed of brick. Roof types vary from site to site and are generally flat or gable. Another type of building located on some sites are metal sheds. Added after 1988, these gable roofed, prefabricated metal sheds were placed on concrete pads. They vary in size from site to site. These non-contributing buildings are usually placed behind the original building, are smaller in scale and generally unobtrusive to the site. They detract little from the armory's historic appearance or significance.

Some armories also have additions. Most of these are compatible with existing design, and are smaller than the original building. Although these were added after 1940 they are part of the continuous military use and do not interfere with historic significance.

Significance - State Armory Buildings (Continued)

Armories have not always existed. In the 18th century, militia members provided and stored their own weapons and uniforms. Training for the units occurred in common open areas.

In the 19th century as a unit prospered and gained local support it may have been able to build an armory. However renting part of a building for use as an armory was more often the case. The Pennsylvania Report of the Adjutant General in 1879 listed that 43 armories were rented, 12 armories were owned by individual companies and 1 armory was owned by a regiment. Other unit's members still stored their equipment at home. The report also lists results of a survey asking if the unit intended to build an armory. Of the 35 units responding yes, two armories were being built. The Adjutant General seemed disappointed in the survey results "These reports have not been altogether satisfactory. Some (units) are indefinite, and others, where a desire seemed to be shown to build, developed no fixed or well-matured plans."[1] The General was trying to determine whether individual companies were willing to allot their share of State funds towards the construction of an armory.

The existing State Arsenal was constructed in Harrisburg in 1874. The 1879 Adjutant General's Report lists ammunition, weapons, camping supplies and uniforms among its inventory. Although some supplies such as weapons, ammunition, and uniforms appear to have been stored at individual armories, the majority of such items were stored at the State arsenal at least until 1895. Equipment was transported by train upon the deployment of a unit.

In 1905 the Report of the Adjutant General states, "The committee of the National Guard Association of the State, appointed to secure data and frame legislation to be presented to the General Assembly providing for the erection of armories, prepared and presented a bill having for its purpose the creation of a State Armory Board to supervise the erection of armories and asking for an appropriation therefore of five hundred thousand dollars."[2]

The State Armory Board was created by the Pennsylvania General Assembly in October of 1905. The Board consisted of the Governor, the Adjutant General, and five people appointed by the Governor, three of whom had to be National Guard officers. The Board was given a $250,000 budget for its first year. Cost limits for new armories were set at $20,000 for infantry units and $30,000 for artillery or cavalry units.

The State Armory Board immediately set about erecting new armories and purchasing existing buildings for troop use. In a 1912 expenditure report the State Armory Board records, "Out of one hundred and sixty-one company organizations in the National Guard of Pennsylvania seventy three have been provided with armory quarters owned by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, except in the case of Field Company A, Signal Corps where a building is leased."[3] By 1916 at least thirty nine new armories were constructed, the number being almost equally divided between the eastern and western halves of the State.

Even with all the new armories built in the early part of the century, the armory situation in the early 1920's for most troops was still bleak. "Many ground-bound units were 'disadvantaged' in terms of what euphemistically could be called 'armories.' For a quarter-century they had made do with such expedients as post office basements, upper floors of public halls, and even dance halls and police stations. A 'horrible example' was Latrobe's Company M, 110th Infantry; banned from the floor of a second-story hall for drill because the cadenced feet loosened the ceiling plaster below, it had only a 10-by-20-foot stage available."[3]

Between the years 1917 and 1940 at least forty-one new armories were completed, again being nearly equally split between the east and west. Seventeen of these armories were built in 1938 as the result of federal funds. Armories were a part of the New Deal building program across the United States. "Armories became a way to provide jobs and stimulate building companies. Guard leadership pointed out to legislators that there were 1,740 active Guard units(in the U.S.) but only 866 armories. They argued that every unit deserved a decent place to train, and that the $150,000,000 of government property in Guard hands required to be securely housed. These arguments, blended with the recovery program, produced a 50 percent increase in appropriations for armories, camps and equipment."[4]

Since 1940, twenty six armories have been built in Pennsylvania. These armories have been divided equally between the eastern and western halves of the State. Additions have been added to some of the pre-1940 armories, and separate garages and storage buildings have also been added.

After the State Armory Board's creation in 1905 the Department of Military Affairs appropriations not only included money for equipment and armory rental, but also for new armory construction. In 1927 this

tradition was continued in a grand scale when the Pennsylvania General Assembly voted for a one million dollar appropriation for use by the State Armory Board. These appropriations were assigned to build new armories in 12 Pennsylvania communities, complete one armory, and to alter and repair one other armory. Since it was a time of economic prosperity state military officials tried to get a 5 million dollar bond issue amended to the state constitution in 1928, but the attempt failed.

Pennsylvania's communities responded to this surge of armory building across the Commonwealth. In a show of support for the local Guard unit a community would offer a piece of land if the state would build an armory there. This process would begin by the town approaching the State Armory Board with a proposed site and petitions expressing the need and desire to have an armory for the local Guard unit. The town's interest was not usually just concern for the local unit, new construction in the community was good for the local economy. After the board approved a new armory, a site selection committee, comprised of local National Guard officers, would be appointed by the State Armory Board. These men, along with local townsmen would often become the Local Armory Board, organized after the armory was completed. After the committee chose and approved a site the plans could be commissioned and the construction begun. This process did not go without setbacks however. Often the State Armory Board did not have the money for new construction or the Site Selection Committee determined that the site was not suitable.

The State Armory Board also supervised the design of armories. When the State Armory Board was created in 1905 Pennsylvania's National Guard was organized into three brigades. These brigades correlated geographically to the eastern, central and western portions of the state. Within a year of the State Armory Board's founding a motion was passed authorizing a committee of officers from each brigade to select an architect to design the armories within their brigade. The architects chosen were to base their designs on preliminary plans designed by Colonel William G. Price of the State Armory Board. No specifics about Colonel Price's plans were mentioned in the State Armory Board minutes. Each brigade was then required to submit the plans chosen to the State Armory Board for final approval. No record was found of the three architects chosen by the brigades.

The State Armory Board also initiated a standard plaque to identify all new armories as Commonwealth property. This plaque, executed in bronze, was designed by Joseph M. Huston, the architect of the state capitol.

The architects of the armories vary through time as well as through geographical region. The firm which designed the most armories is the W.G. Wilkins Company of Pittsburgh. The architect in charge of designing the armories at the firm was Joseph F. Kuntz. After 1921 Kuntz went out on his own. Kuntz and the W.G. Wilkins Company are responsible for at least eighteen armories located in the western third of the state. THe Armories designed by Kuntz with and without the W.G. Wilkins Co. span from 1906 until 1930.

Designing at least five armories from 1909 to 1916 was Philip H. Johnson of Philadelphia. The armories Johnson designed were located in the south east corner of the state. Johnson was also the architect for the Philadelphia City Department of Health. His designs include mostly civic, institutional and industrial buildings. He designed several hospitals and prisons in Philadelphia and throughout Pennsylvania such as the Philadelphia Hospital for Contagious Diseases and the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane.

Also designing armories at this time was McCormick and French of Wilkes-Barre. They are responsible for four armories built between 1907 and 1913. These are located in the central part of the state.

It is possible that the W.G. Wilkins Co., Philip H. Johnson, and McCormick and French may have been the original three architects chosen by the three brigades, because of the time period their designs appear.

Thomas H. Atherton, a Wilkes-Barre architect, was also a Colonel in the Pennsylvania National Guard. He designed eight armories located in the eastern half of the state. The armory buildings were constructed between 1930 and 1939.

Other armories throughout the state were designed by various architects. The architects selected were usually local to the armory being built, and the architect's design may or may not have conformed to a plan type.

In addition to serving their military purpose armories also served a social purpose. The drill halls made ideal spaces for dances, and festive occasions such as an armory dedication were often followed by a military ball. During the Depression at the Hunt armory in Pittsburgh twenty three men in the unit were housed and fed in the armory in exchange for twenty-five hours a week of maintenance and reconditioning chores.In addition to the unit's activities the armories could and still can be rented out by organizations for sporting events and other

activities. The armories at Pittsburgh and Wilkes-Barre still host the circus yearly.

The armories in Pennsylvania have a common function, to serve the Pennsylvania National Guard for storage, meeting and training. The communities surrounding the armories supported them financially and socially. The armories have been a part of Pennsylvania's military history.

ENDNOTES

1 Annual Report of the Adjutant General of Pennsylvania, 1879 (Harrisburg:Lane S. Hart, 1880) p.3.

2 Report of the Adjutant General of Pennsylvania for the Year Ending December 31,1905 (Harrisburg:Harrisburg Publishing Co.,1906) p.7.

3 The Armory Board of the State of Pennsylvania: Its Work and Its Expenditures to December 31,1912 (Harrisburg:C.E. Aughinbaugh,1913) p.13.

4 John Mahon, History of the Militia and the National Guard (New York:Macmillan, 1983) p. 178.

5 The First Century, A History of the 28th Infantry Division, ed. by Robert G. Crist (Harrisburg:Stackpole Books, 1979)p. 149.

F.IV. Registration Requirements - State Armory Buildings (Continued).

With respect to integrity, an eligible armory should have no modern additions that obscure the building's original design, such as a large recent addition to a principal elevation. Also, external and internal divisions of space for distinct armory purposes (drill hall, administration wing) must still be discernable.

G. Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods (Continued).

The project was conducted by Kristine M. Wilson, a summer intern under the P.H.M.C.'s college internship program. National Register forms were prepared for representative examples of state armory buildings.

The Multiple Property form involves one historic context, the Pennsylvania National Guard, and one property type, State Armory Buildings.

Seven armories in the group were previously included in the National Register as part of listed historic districts.

1. Columbia Armory - Columbia Historic District, Lancaster County
2. Doylestown Armory - Doylestown Historic District, Bucks County
3. Meadville Armory - Meadville Downtown Historic District, Crawford County
4. Pine Grove Armory - Pine Grove Historic District, Schuykill County
5. Pottstown Armory - Old Pottstown Historic District, Montgomery County
6. Waynesburg Armory - Waynesburg Historic District, Greene County
7. West Chester Armory - West Chester Historic District, Chester County

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INTERVIEWS

Sgt. Cieply, Ford City, PA. June 12, 1989 by Kristine M. Wilson.

Sgt. Decker, Ridgway, PA. June 14, 1989 by Kristine M. Wilson.

Capt. Michael DeMarco, Erie, PA. June 15, 1989 by Kristine M. Wilson.

Sgt. Miller, Bellefonte, PA. June 22, 1989 by Kristine M. Wilson.