

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

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1. Name of Property

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historic name: Pottsville Armory

other name/site number: N/A

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2. Location

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street & number: 502 N. Centre Street

city/town: Pottsville

not for publication: N/A  
vicinity: N/A

state: PA county: Schuykill code: 107 zip code: 17901

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3. Classification

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Ownership of Property: public-state

Category of Property: building(s)

Number of Resources within Property:

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: Pennsylvania

National Guard Armories

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Brent D. Glass Brent D. Glass 10/7/91
Signature of certifying official Date

Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

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

Signature of Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: Defense Sub: Arms Storage
Current: Defense Sub: Arms Storage

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other (explain):

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: Defense

Sub: Arms Storage

Current: Defense

Sub: Arms Storage

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Romanesque

Late Gothic Revival

Materials:

foundation concrete

walls brick

roof unknown

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

X See continuation sheet.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: statewide

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions):

Areas of Significance: Military

Architecture

Period of Significance: 1913-1940

Significant Dates: 1913

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Significant Person: N/A

Architect/Builder: McCormick and French -- architect

Wertley, Walter, Sons -- builder

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

X See continuation sheet.

9. Major Bibliographical References

X See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- X State historic preservation office.
- Other state agency.
- Federal agency.
- Local government.
- University.
- Other -- Specify Repository: \_\_\_\_\_.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: .333

UTM References:

A	<u>18</u>	<u>398740</u>	<u>4504960</u>	B	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>	D	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description:

X See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification:

The legal boundaries which are historically associated with the property.

         See continuation sheet.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Krisine Wilson, Joseph Burke, III -- Interns  
 Organization: PHMC -- BHP Date: 7/20/90  
 Street & Number: Box 1026 Telephone: (717) 783-8946  
 City or Town: Harrisburg State: PA Zip Code: 171018-1026

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7. Description.

Located on a lot within the Borough of Pottsville, the Pottsville armory consists of a brick building, displaying elements of the Romanesque and Late Gothic Revival styles. Measuring an estimated 82 x 110 feet, the armory is laid out on a T plan with a two-story, front administrative section connected to a narrower, one-and-one-half-story, rear drill hall section. The site of the armory slopes from west to east, exposing the basement on the rear and side elevations. Constructed in 1913, with a flat roof covering the administrative section and an arched roof covering the drill hall, the armory retains very good integrity.

Exterior features of the administrative section include a large brick tower, battlements, stone coping, second-story brick window hoods, first-story brick lintels, stone window sills, and brick soldier courses between first and second stories and atop the concrete foundation. Both the administrative and drill hall sections have six over six windows. The drill hall has a concrete foundation and stone window sills.

The front (east) elevation of the administrative section is divided into five parts--a center, three-story tower pierced on the second and third stories by paired windows; two flanking recessed panels pierced on the first and second stories by two sets of paired windows; and two projecting end panels pierced by triplets of windows on the first and second stories. The center tower contains a first-story, entrance framed by a brick arch with a stepped reveal and a stone keystone. The entrance has glass double doors and a sixteen-light, arched transom. Thick brick buttresses with triangular caps punctuate the front corners of the tower on the first story. A bronze plaque is located above the second story windows of the tower. Above the third-story windows, a brick belt course stretches across the tower beneath narrow, recessed rectangular strips that ascend to the battlement. Rectangular brick turrets rise from the battlement on the front and sides of the tower. To either side of the tower the facade steps back to the recessed panels. The projecting end panels have battlements with brick turrets resembling those on the center tower.

The side elevations of the administrative section consist of two panels each, with the panel toward the rear stepped back from the panel toward the front. Each panel is pierced on the first and second stories by four windows, and by several smaller windows at foundation level.

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In contrast, the side (north and south) elevations of the drill hall section are opened by five sets of two windows spaced evenly across the elevation at the first story, with matching windows located at the foundation level. The north side of the drill hall has a first-story entrance with descending metal stairs at the center bay. Immediately to the right of the entrance, at ground level, is a garage door. Brick corbelling accents the roof line.

The rear (west) elevation of the drill hall has an arched roof line with brick corbelling above five windows (the center one of which has been bricked in) in the gable, and four sets of two windows on the first story. Two windows are located at the left corner of the foundation, while to the right, a small door with a nine-light transom provides access to the drill hall basement.

In the interior, the drill hall basement has a large vehicle storage area with a boiler room, coal room, property room, supply room, and closets located toward the south side of the drill hall section. A hall, containing two staircases, connects the vehicle storage area to storage areas, kitchen, and toiler room under the administrative section. All of the basement rooms have concrete floors and interior brick walls. On the first floor, offices, having wood floors and walls are connected by a central hall to the rear drill hall. Measuring approximately 60 x 80 feet, the drill hall has a ceiling that is supported by riveted, steel Warren trussed arches with gusset plates. A balcony, containing a day room and locker room, overlooks the drill hall on the second floor. Other second floor rooms in the administrative section include a coat room and a company room.

The armory contains much of the original woodwork, doors, and windows; however, several ceilings are new. With such minor changes, the armory has very good integrity.

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8. Significance.

The Pottsville Armory is significant under criteria A and C. It is a member of the State Armory Building Property type under the multiple property nomination: Pennsylvania National Guard Armories. The armory was built in 1913 for Company H, 8th Infantry of the Pennsylvania National Guard. It is one of thirty-seven armories in Pennsylvania having a T plan. The armory was designed by McCormick and French of Wilkes-Barre, who are responsible for the design of four armories built in the central part of Pennsylvania, between 1907 and 1913. The armory contains such typical spaces as a drill hall, kitchen, boiler room, locker room, class room, company room, offices, and storage. The Pottsville Armory represents the common function of armories to serve the Pennsylvania National Guard for storage, meeting, and training. As such it is significant in the context of Pennsylvania's military history as well as representing a distinctive building type.

Bibliography.

See section H in Multiple Resource Nomination: Pennsylvania National Guard Armories.

10. Verbal Boundary Description.

See Schuylkill County Deed Book, Volume 359, page 103.



POTTSVILLE ARMORY  
POTTSVILLE QUAD  
ZONE 18  
3918740 E  
4504960 N

*Selzer Hill Camp*

