

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: Williamsport Armory

other name/site number: N/A

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2. Location

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street & number: 1300 Penn Street

city/town: Williamsport

not for publication: N/A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

state: PA county: Lycoming code: 081 zip code: 17701

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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>2</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>2</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

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Art Deco

Materials:

foundation Concrete

walls brick

roof asphalt

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: 1927-1940

Significant Dates: 1927 1930 1937

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Significant Person: N/A

Architect/Builder: Johnson, Philip H. -- architect
Davis and Rice -- architects
Dresser Company -- builder
Bastress, E. R. Company -- builder

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

X See continuation sheet.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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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:

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

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreeage of Property: 15.9

UTM References:

A	<u>18</u>	<u>333190</u>	<u>4568750</u>	B	<u>18</u>	<u>333190</u>	<u>4568590</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u>18</u>	<u>332880</u>	<u>4568580</u>	D	<u>18</u>	<u>332900</u>	<u>4568730</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description:

See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification:

The legal boundaries which are historically associated with the property.

See continuation sheet.

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11. Form Prepared By

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Name/Title: Kristine Wilson/Joseph Burke, III -- Interns

Organization: PHMC -- BHP Date: 7/9/90

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 sizable lot within the City of Williamsport, the Williamsport Armory consists of a contributing, main armory building and a contributing, older auxiliary building. Designed in the Art Deco style, the two-story, brick, main building covers a roughly estimated area of 7,000 square feet. A drill hall section was added on transverse axis to the north side or rear of the administrative section in 1937, resulting in a T-shaped plan. Directly east of the main armory building, and covering an area of similar size, the brick auxiliary building consists of a one-and-one-half-story stable facing west and a one-story gun shed attached at the rear or east side of the stable. The auxiliary building was constructed in 1927. Overall, the buildings retain good integrity.

The main armory building rests on a concrete foundation. A flat roof covers the administrative section, while a gable roof covers the drill hall. Exterior features of the administrative section include a limestone basement, a parapet with stone coping, and brick buttresses with decorative stone caps that divide the front (south) facade into three bays and the side (east and west) elevations into two bays. The bays contain eight-light casement windows flanking a sixteen light casement window on both floors. Alberene stone panels separate the windows horizontally between floors. Thin white strips also separate the casements and panels vertically. The second-story windows share a common brick lintel, while the first-story windows share a common brick sill.

The south facade of the administrative section features a stepped parapet with a stone plaque centered above the middle bay. This bay also contains first-story glass double doors and a transom, framed in a limestone block with stepped reveals. Granite steps lead from the entrance down to a concrete sidewalk and a paved drive. Two small casement windows pierce the basement to either side of the steps.

The side elevations of the administrative section have the same casement windows and stone panels as the front facade. The basement is pierced by four small windows on the west side, and a door in a well with steps rising to ground level on the east side.

In contrast to the administrative section, the drill hall section features twelve-light casement windows, paneled brick wall surfaces, and a corbelled cornice.

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The drill hall's west elevation is dominated by a projecting, stone, central entrance bay that envelopes an alcove containing double doors at the rear. The stone is enriched with Art Deco geometric designs and incised with the words "State Armory," "Pennsylvania National Guard." Two casement windows flank the stone entrance bay, with projecting brick wall surfaces located just beyond, at the corners.

The drill hall's east elevation is three bays wide and has a central, overhead garage door entrance surmounted by three small casement windows, all of which are set in recessed decorative brick between brick buttresses with stone bases and triangular tops. Twelve light casement windows appear in each flanking bay. A concrete ramp leads from the entrance down to the paved drive. To the left, there is a basement window and a door set in a well with stairs leading up to a concrete walk.

The north side of the drill hall contains five recessed panels of paired windows. The south side of the drill hall is joined to the administrative section but has exposed elevations to the right and left of this section. These elevations each contain a recessed panel with a narrow, ten-light casement window above double doors framed in stone with stone steps. The entrances open into the drill hall and into a narrow hallway which provides transition between the two sections of the building.

The interior of the main armory building contains gypsum walls and composition floors. In the basement, the administrative section contains a boiler room, kitchen, coal bin, toilet, shower, and storage space. Behind these rooms there is a crawl space, and in back of that is the rifle range located under the south portion of the drill hall; the remainder of the drill hall is unexcavated. On the first floor, the administrative area contains mainly offices, connected to the drill hall by the above-referenced hallway. On the second floor, a supply room, locker room, and offices are arranged around a hallway that leads to the drill hall balcony. Covering an area of 5,400 square feet, the drill hall has a roof that is supported by riveted, steel Pratt trusses.

The stable section of the auxiliary building has a gable-roofed portion with gable end facing front (west), rising above two wings with salt box roofs stretching to either side. First- and second-story doors pierce the middle of the front gable, with a

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metal stairs leading down to the left from the second story door. A small window pierces the gable to the right of the first-story door. The front elevation of the wings has rows of bricked-in window openings. The ends of these wings have an overhead garage door flanked by a smaller door. Historic photos show a cupola on the roof of the gabled section which no longer exists. The interior of the stable section contains a classroom, maintenance area, kitchen, storage areas, and office on the first floor, and a dayroom and storage room on the second floor.

The gun shed section of the auxiliary building adjoins the east side of the stable section and has seven bays beneath a brick parapet on its east elevation. The parapet rises higher in steps above three overhead garage doors that pierce the middle bays. Narrow doors pierce bricked-in garage openings in the far left two bays, and a bricked in garage opening and smaller garage door appear in the far right two bays. Brick buttresses and piers divide the bays. The interior of the gun shed contains a maintenance area, storage room, and battery shop.

The armory building and auxiliary building have experienced few major changes. Window openings on the auxiliary building have been bricked in and garage doors replaced. The front entrance doors on the armory building have been replaced.

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8. Significance.

The Williamsport Armory is significant under criteria A and C. It has been an integral part of the Pennsylvania National Guard, and it is representative of the T plan armories built in Pennsylvania. It is a member of the State Armory Building Property type under the multiple property nomination: Pennsylvania National Guard Armories. The armory was constructed for Company D, 107th Field Artillery of the Pennsylvania National Guard. The administrative section and the auxiliary building were designed by Philip H. Johnson of Philadelphia, who is responsible for designing at least five armories in southeastern Pennsylvania, between 1909 and 1916. The drill hall was designed by Davis and Rice of Sunbury. Being one of thirty-seven armories in Pennsylvania having a T plan, the Williamsport armory was constructed in three phases. Initially, the stable and gun shed were built in 1927. Three years later, in 1930, the administrative section of the main armory building was constructed. Added to this, in 1937 (Public Works Administration Project 1822-D), was the rear, drill hall section. Typical spaces of the armory include the drill hall, rifle range, kitchen, boiler room, locker room, toilet room, offices, class rooms, and storage.

9. Bibliography.

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

10. Verbal Boundary Description.

The boundaries as described in Lycoming County Deed Book, Volume 258, page 375.

WILLIAMSPORT ARMORY
 MONTOURSVILLE NORTH
 ZONE 18 - Lycoming Co.

A
 333 190 E
 4568 750 N

B
 333 190 E
 4568 590 N

C
 332 880 E
 4568 580 N

D
 332 900 E
 4568 730 N



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
 Control by USGS and USC&GS
 Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1963. Field checked 1965
 Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum. 10,000-foot grid based on Pennsylvania coordinate system, north zone 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 18, shown in blue
 To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983, move the projection lines 5 meters south and 27 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks
 There may be private intollidings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map
 Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

