

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name: General Thomas J. Stewart Memorial Armory

other name/site number: Norristown Armory

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number: 340 Harding Boulevard

city/town: Norristown

not for publication: N/A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

state: PA county: Montgomery code: 091 zip code: 19401

=====

3. Classification

=====

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

6/6/91

Signature of certifying official

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:

Classical Revival

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: 1927-1939

Significant Dates: 1927-28

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Significant Person: N/A

Architect/Builder: Johnson, Philip H. -- architect
Herong, Frank R. -- 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: .60

UTM References:

A 18 470620 4441430 B Zone Easting Northing

C Zone Easting Northing D 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: Joseph Burke, III/Christine Wilson -- Interns

Organization: PHMC -- BHP Date: 8/7/90

Street & Number: Box 1026 Telephone: (717) 783-8946

City or Town: Harrisburg State: PA Zip Code: 171018-1026

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

General Thomas J. Stewart Memorial Armory
(Norristown)

Section number: 7

Page 2

=====

7. Description.

Consisting of a yellow brick building designed in the Classical Revival style, the General Thomas J. Stewart Memorial Armory is located on a sloping lot within the Borough of Norristown. Laid out on a T plan, the building has a two story, front administrative section, connected to a larger, two story (with exposed basement) rear drill hall section. Constructed in 1928, the armory has very good integrity.

Exterior features of the armory include a concrete foundation, a parapet, and decorative stonework, including a cornice, coping, front entrance arch, belt courses, sills, and quoins. Fenestration of the administrative section consists of two-over-two sash windows, while the drill hall contains small casement windows divided into pairs on basement level, and large casement windows divided into fours on the first floor level.

The administrative section is surrounded on the front and sides by a stone masonry platform, with stone retaining walls topped with balustrades to the left and right sides. The front (East) elevation of the armory is organized around a decorative, first story stone arch, enclosing a glass double door entrance and semicircular plaque. A concrete slab and steps lead from the entrance down to Harding Boulevard. Light fixtures are mounted on the stone to each side of the entrance. Flanking each side of the entrance bay are two first-story windows. Five windows punctuate the second story, while four windows in window wells open the basement. A stepped parapet rises above a stone belt course inscribed "General Thomas J. Stewart Memorial Armory."

The side elevations are similar in appearance to the facade. Each elevation is pierced by two windows on the first and second stories, and submerged windows on the stone basement.

Where the drill hall connects to the administrative section, a metal double door entrance and fanlight open the exposed east wall of the drill hall section. At the top of the wall above the entrance, there is a decorative terra-cotta coat of arms, while quoins appear at the corner.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

General Thomas J. Stewart Memorial Armory
(Norristown)

Section number: 7

Page 3

=====
Each of the side elevations of the drill hall consists of a stepped parapet, corner quoins, three first story windows, two basement windows, and a center, basement, double door entrance.

In contrast, the rear elevation of the drill hall is divided into five bays by brick buttresses with stone caps. Each bay contains a first story and basement window. Quoins accent the corners.

On the interior, the basement of the drill hall and administrative sections has a concrete floor, and contains a storage room, boiler room, locker room, coal bin, kitchen, office, shower, toilet room, and transformer room. On the first floor, the administrative area has an officers' room, non-commissioned officers' room, waiting room, office, and rest rooms along both sides of an entry hallway leading back to the drill hall. Measuring 87 x 57, the drill hall has brick walls and a wood floor. The roof is supported by steel I-beams with purlins. Overlooking the drill hall, the balcony was closed in to create three small offices on the second floor of the administrative section. Also contained on the second floor are a company room, library, and closet.

Apart from the closing in of the drill hall balcony, and the bricking up of a basement window on the left side elevation of the drill hall, few changes have been made to the armory.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

General Thomas J. Stewart Memorial Armory
(Norristown)

Section number: 8, 9, 10

Page 2

=====
8. Significance.

The General Thomas J. Stewart Memorial 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 1928 for the Norris City Rifles of the Pennsylvania National Guard. It was designed by Philip H. Johnson of Philadelphia, who designed at least five armories located in the southeast section of the state, between 1909 and 1916. Being one of at least thirty-seven armories in Pennsylvania laid out on a T plan, the armory contains such typical spaces as a drill hall, library, kitchen, locker room, boiler room, class room, and offices.

9. Bibliography.

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

10. Verbal Boundary Description.

See Montgomery County Deed Book, Volume 1021, page 155.

5984 (11 NW)
(COLLEGEVILLE)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

NORRISTOWN ROAD
ZONE 15
470020 E
4441430 N

75° 22' 30" 469000m. E 470 471 20'

