

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

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1. Name of Property

historic name: Altoona Armory

other name/site number: N/A

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2. Location

street & number: 327 Frankstown Road

city/town: Logan Township not for publication: N/A
vicinity: N/A

state: PA county: Blair code: 013 zip code: 16602

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3. Classification

Ownership of Property: public-state

Category of Property: building(s)

Number of Resources within Property:

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

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

Name of related multiple property listing: Pennsylvania
National Guard Armories

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4. State/Federal Agency Certification

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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

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5. National Park Service Certification

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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

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6. Function or Use

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Historic: Defense

Sub: Arms Storage

Current: Defense

Sub: Arms Storage

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7. Description
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Architectural Classification:

Moderne

Materials:

foundation concrete

walls brick

roof unknown/not visible

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

X See continuation sheet.

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8. Statement of Significance
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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: 1938-1939

Significant Dates: 1938

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Significant Person: N/A

Architect/Builder: Hersh, Frank Austin

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

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: _____.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 10

UTM References:

A 17 721560 4484380 B 17 721460 4484110
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

C 17 721320 4484170 D 17 721410 4484440
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.

11. Form Prepared By

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

Organization: PHMC -- BHP Date: 8/3/90

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

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

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Altoona Armory

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A noncontributing maintenance/vehicle storage building is located immediately to the south of the former stable across a narrow parking area. This building is approximately 150 feet long, 50 feet wide, and two stories high. This building is noncontributing because its date is unknown.

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7. Description.

Located on a spacious ten acre lot in Logan Township, just outside of Altoona, the Altoona Armory consists of a contributing, one-story, brick, main armory building attached to a two-story stable and a noncontributing maintenance/vehicle storage building. The main building was constructed in 1938, while the construction date of the storage building remains unknown. Designed in the Moderne style, and fronted by a sloping lawn, the main armory building is laid out on an I plan, with a riding hall located between the rear, former, stable area and the front, administrative area. Covering an area of approximately 25,726 square feet, the armory retains very good integrity.

The armory has a concrete foundation. A round arched roof covers the riding hall, while flat roofs cover the administrative and stable wings. Exterior features of the armory include multi-light casement windows with brick sills and lintels, brick belt courses, and rain gutters with drain pipes that accent the riding hall sides and stable rear.

The main (South) elevation, overlooking the lawn, contains a slightly projecting central entrance bay of double doors set in an alcove, under a brick segmental arch. Light fixtures are mounted on the brick at the sides of the arch, while lettering above the arch reads: "ARMORY PENNSYLVANIA NATIONAL GUARD." Concrete steps, edged by brick and with stone tops, lead down to the sidewalk. Six multi-light casement windows flank each side of the entrance bay on the first story with matching smaller windows on the basement. A stone belt course forms the lintels of the basement windows of the facade.

The left, side elevation of the administrative section consists of three bays; an entrance bay flanked on each side by a bay with two casement windows, one over the other. The right side elevation has a submerged basement entrance with concrete stairs

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beneath four casement windows. A first-story entrance with concrete steps and iron railing opens the rear of the right end of the administrative section. A brick chimney is also located at this entrance.

In contrast, the side elevations of the riding hall consist of a center overhead garage door set in a recessed panel with seven bays of recessed casement windows separated by brick piers located on each side. The door of the right side faces a large, paved parking lot, while the door of the left side opens onto a driveway, beyond which is a grassy hill with stairs leading down to a parking area at the bottom.

Rising noticeably higher than the riding hall, the side elevations of the stable have parapets with stone coping. Divided by brick piers into three bays, the side bays have casement windows on the first and second stories. At the center bay, each side has a ground-level entrance, with the right side having a two-panel hayloft door above it.

The rear elevation consists of a center bay containing an entrance at ground level and double casement windows on the second story. Flanking each side of the center bay are three panels of two casement windows on both the first and second stories. The panels are separated by brick piers.

In the interior, the armory basement remains unexcavated except in the administrative section. Having red tile walls and concrete floors, a rifle range, locker room, quarter master room, and boiler room are in the basement of the administrative section. On the first floor, the administrative section contains a kitchen, troop room, class room, radio room, and offices. All have tile walls and floors of concrete, maple, or tile. A hall leads back to a lobby, which opens into the riding hall. Measuring 90 x 140 feet, the riding hall has a concrete floor. Two small rooms were built in the riding hall. Connected to the riding hall by a hallway, the former stable contains a locker room, vault, maintenance room, boiler room, and storage rooms. Created from the former hayloft, the second floor of the former stable contains a locker room, commissioned officer room, non-commissioned officer room, and storage space. The former stable has brick interior walls, the first floor has concrete floors, and the second floor has wood flooring.

Even though the stable was converted into a storage/work area, and the earth floor of the riding hall was concreted, the armory as a whole retains very good integrity.

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8. Significance.

The Altoona 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. It was built in 1938 for a Pennsylvania National Guard cavalry unit. Designed by Frank Austin Hersh of Altoona, the Altoona Armory is one of nine armories built in Pennsylvania between 1912 and 1938. I plan-type armories such as the Altoona Armory were typically constructed for cavalry units, with the stable being usually located in the rear wing. Other areas of I plan-type armories generally include a riding hall, rifle range, locker room, storage space, and offices.

Bibliography.

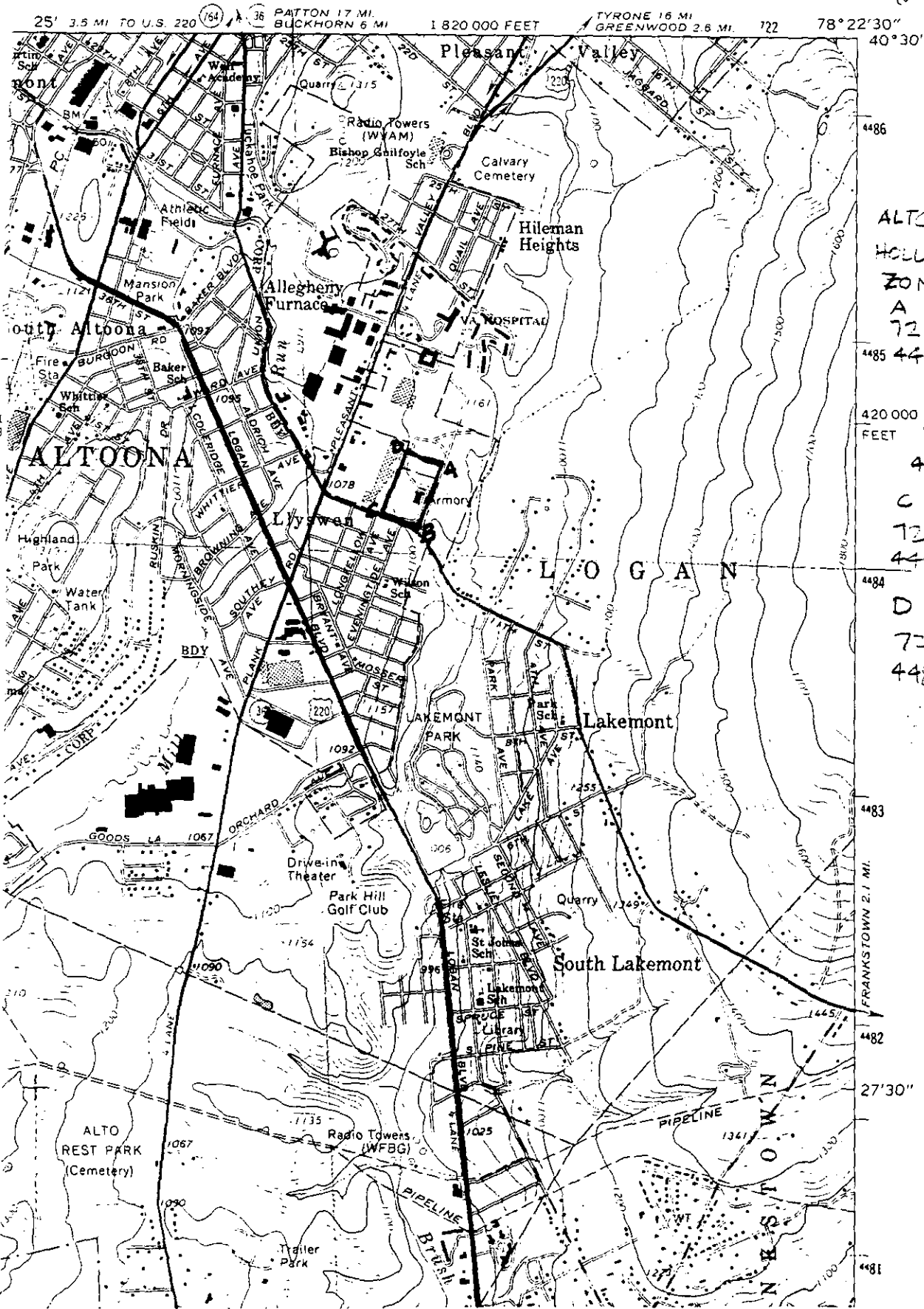
See section H in Multiple Resource Nomination: Pennsylvania National Guard Armories.

10. Verbal Boundary Description.

See Blair County Deed Book, Volume 439, page 243.

HOLLIDAYSBURG QUADRANGLE
 PENNSYLVANIA—BLAIR CO
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

5365 III SE
 (BELLWOOD)



ALTOONA ARMORY
 HOLLIDAYSBURG G.M.
 ZONE 17
 A
 721560 E
 4484350 N
 B
 721460 E
 4484110 N
 C
 721320 E
 4484170 N
 D
 721410 E
 4484440 N

FRANKSTOWN 2.1 MI.

27'30"

4481