

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: New Castle Armory

other name/site number: N/A

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2. Location

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street & number: 820 Frank Avenue

city/town: Shenango Township not for publication: N/A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

state: PA county: Lawrence code: 073 zip code: 16101

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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>2</u> | buildings |
| <u> </u> | <u> </u> | sites |
| <u> </u> | <u> </u> | structures |
| <u> </u> | <u> </u> | objects |
| <u>1</u> | <u>2</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

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Art Deco

Materials:

foundation concrete

walls stone

roof unknown/not visible

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: 1938-1939

Significant Dates: 1938

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Significant Person: N/A

Architect/Builder: Thayer Company -- architect

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: 6.0

UTM References:

| | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| A | <u>17</u> | <u>556780</u> | <u>4536460</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:

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: Joseph Burke, III/Christine Wilson -- Interns

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

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

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

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7. Description.

Surrounded by pavement on three sides, the New Castle Armory is located on a spacious lot in Shenango Township, on the outskirts of the City of New Castle. Designed in the Art Deco style, the armory consists of a contributing ashlar stone main building, constructed in 1938, and noncontributing metal storage building and brick vehicle maintenance/storage building, with unknown dates of construction. Laid out on an I plan, the main building consists of a one-story riding hall connected to a one-story, front, administrative section with two-story wings (including exposed basement), and a two-story, rear, former stable with one-story wings. Constructed as a public works project, the armory has very good integrity.

Covering an estimated area of 22,953 square feet, the main armory building rests on a stone foundation. A Bowstring roof covers the riding hall, while flat roofs cover the other sections of the armory. Exterior features of the armory include a stone chimney, a parapet with stone coping, and multi-light casement and double hung sash windows.

The main (North) elevation of the administrative section is divided in half by a slightly projecting central entrance bay accented by a parapet higher than the rest of the facade. The entrance bay has wooden double doors with a stone lintel and keystone flanked by stepped piers. Steps lead down to the pavement, with lampposts standing on the lower end of the steps. Immediately to the left and right, three sash windows pierce the facade in slightly recessed panels of smooth stone, with slightly projecting piers just beyond. The end wings of the administrative section each have a recessed panel of four sash windows on the first story and two casement windows opening the exposed basement.

The side elevations of the administrative wings contain sash windows on the exposed basement and first stories, with the right (West) elevation containing a stone chimney and the left (East) elevation containing a buttress-like stone structure. The side elevations of the riding hall have panels of three casement windows on the first story, divided by stone piers.

The rear elevation of the former stable section has casement windows on both stories of the two story portion. A first floor entrance and second story entrance with metal stairs descending to

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the ground provide access to the two story portion. The one story stable wings to either side of the two story portion are pierced by casement windows on the rear elevation, and by a garage door and small casement windows on the side elevation. Above the wings casement windows open the sides of the two story portion of the stable section above the wings.

On the interior, the main armory building has plaster ceilings and walls in the administrative and former stable sections. Located at the basement level of the administrative section, the riding hall has stone walls and a concrete floor. Measuring 66 x 145 feet, it has a roof that is supported by riveted, steel Warren Bowstring trusses. The basement floor of the administrative section has a stage opening on the drill hall, an office, boiler room, fuel room, class rooms, and two vaults. The first floor of the administrative section has a central entrance foyer and a perpendicular hallway, which connects a series of administrative offices. The two-story center stable portion also houses offices on the second floor. On the first floor, this section contains a kitchen, storage room, toilet room, shower and offices. The one-story stable wings include a locker room, radio room, class room, and communications room.

The noncontributing, one-story, metal storage shed was erected in front of the drill hall on the right (West) side elevation, between the administrative section and a stable wing.

Located directly behind the armory, the one-and-one-half-story, noncontributing, brick vehicle maintenance/storage building has large overhead garage doors. Covered by a gable roof, this building occupies an estimated area of 9,000 square feet.

Apart from the renovation of the stable and the creation of administrative rooms there, no other major changes have occurred to the armory. The armory retains very good integrity, including original windows.

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8. Significance.

The New Castle 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, as a federal public works project, for Troop K, 103rd Cavalry of the Pennsylvania National Guard. Designed by the Thayer Company of New Castle, the New Castle Armory is one of nine armories built in Pennsylvania, between 1912 and 1938, consisting of an I plan. I plan-type armories were typically constructed for cavalry units, the stable being located in the rear wing. Usually, due to odors associated with stables and the need for grazing land, these particular armories were built on the outskirts of towns.

9. Bibliography.

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

10. Verbal Boundary Description.

See Lawrence County Deed Book, Volume 297, page 267.

NEW CASTLE ARMORY
NEW CASTLE SOUTH QUAD
ZONE 17
556730E
4536460N

STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS
TOPOGRAPHIC AND GEOLOGIC SURVEY

MARLANSBURG 4966 III SE
U.S. 913 MI.
556 20'

557

4966 III SE
(NEW CASTLE NORTH)

559

