

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

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FOR DUPLICATING

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1. Name of Property

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historic name: 32nd St. and Lancaster Ave. Philadelphia Armory

other name/site number: N/A

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2. Location

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street & number: 32nd St. and Lancaster Ave.

city/town: Philadelphia

not for publication: N/A  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

state: PA county: Philadelphia code: 101 zip code: 19104

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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

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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

=====  
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:

Classical Revival

Materials:

foundation stone

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: 1916-1939

Significant Dates: 1916

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Significant Person: N/A

Architect/Builder: Johnson, Philip H. -- architect
Fidelity Construction Company -- builder
Poroling, George P. and Compnay -- 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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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Philadelphia Armory

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7. Description.

Located in the vicinity of the 30th Street Station, the 32nd Street and Lancaster Avenue, Philadelphia Armory was built in 1916 in the Classical Revival style. It was built in the shape of a trapezoid in order to conform to a trapezoidal block bounded by Thirty-Second, Thirty-Third and Cuthbert Streets and Lancaster Avenue, and to include a parking lot between the rear elevation and Cuthbert Street. The three-story building (including exposed basement) has an irregular floor plan, with administrative offices, a gymnasium and other spaces located toward the front of the building on Lancaster Avenue, and a drill hall located at the rear of the building. The edifice has good integrity.

The building features brick walls accented by a plain stone entablature and parapet on top, and stone water table and foundation pierced by basement window openings. The first and second story windows on the south (Lancaster Avenue) elevation have flat stone lintels with keystones and stone sills. The windows on the west (Thirty-Third Street) elevation are accented by stone arched lintels with keystones above semi-circular multipane transom windows, and stone sills. The windows on the north elevation facing Cuthbert Street have brick arched lintels with keystones above similar semi-circular windows and stone sills. Corners of the building are highlighted by stone work similar to rusticated quoins. The front portion of the building with administrative offices, gymnasium and other spaces has a flat roof; the rear drill hall portion has a gable roof.

The south (Lancaster Avenue) facade which is over 300 feet long has a central entrance composed of a two story stone arch flanked by paired Roman Doric stone columns on either side. The columns support an enriched stone entablature and balustrade. A panel incised with the words "State Armory" spans the frieze above the arch and a large eagle sits on a scroll bracket projecting from the top of the arch. The arch contains two glass panel doors flanked and separated by sidelights, with similar glass panels above. Paired glass panels with transom pane above flank the doors and sidelights. An entablature spans the arch above this glazing, and vertically ribbed infill fills the arch above the entablature. Stone steps descend from the doors to a sidewalk.

Four wide casement windows alternating with three narrow casement windows pierce the first and second floors to either side

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7. Description.

of the entrance. Paired and single basement window openings that have been infilled with brick punctuate the foundation. The ends of the facade project with central wide casement windows and flanking narrow casement windows on the first and second stories. The second story center window features a stone arched lintel with keystone. The entablature and parapet also arch over this second story center window. A small balcony also projects from the bottom of the second story center window. The basement of the end sections is punctuated by window openings that have been infilled with brick.

The east (Thirty-Second Street) elevation has ten bays of casement windows with flat stone lintels and keystones and stone sills stretching north from the southeast corner of the building. Single wide windows alternate with two narrow windows in these bays. Bricked in basement window openings pierce the foundations below these bays. Further north on the elevation are nine bays of casement windows piercing the rear drill hall section of the building. The first story windows are rectangular with stone sills, and with an entrance opening the middle bay. The second story features windows with stone arched lintels and keystones and stone sills. The gable end of the drill hall roof rises above the parapet of these nine bays. The middle of the gable is pierced by multipane glazing.

The west (Thirty-Third Street) elevation has four bays of arched lintel window openings flanking each side of a center entrance. The window openings beneath the transoms have been bricked in. The slightly projecting center entrance has stone work flanking an arch with semicircular transom above doors. The entablature and a peaked parapet also project slightly above the entrance. The end bays project slightly and have double metal doors beneath the window openings. The gable end of the drill hall rises above the parapet, and has multipane glazing piercing the middle of the gable.

The north (rear) elevation has thirteen window openings which have been bricked in below the transoms. Doors surmounted by a semi-circular multipane transom and brick arch with stone keystone pierce the elevation towards the northwest corner of the building. Double doors in a former window opening with a fire escape

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Philadelphia Armory

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7. Description.

descending to ground level occupy the second bay from the northeast corner.

The interior of the front portion of the building has offices, kitchen, locker rooms, classrooms, and storage rooms arranged along double loaded corridors paralleling Lancaster Avenue on the basement, first and second stories. A two story gymnasium occupies the first and second stories. The basement walls are brick with concrete floors and ceilings. Most first and second story rooms have plaster walls and ceilings. The drill hall is a large open space with gable roof supported by arched trusses.

The building has good integrity with few major changes. Window openings have been bricked in as noted above. Some basement spaces have been partitioned. Exterior doors have been replaced, and the front center entrance has been altered with the addition of ribbed infill in the upper part of the arch.

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Philadelphia Armory      Page 2

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8. Significance.

The 32nd Street and Lancaster Avenue, Philadelphia 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 1916 for the Squadron Calvary at a cost of approximately \$150,000. It was designed by Philip H. Johnson of Philadelphia, who designed at least five armories located in the southeast corner of the state, between 1909 and 1916. Having an irregular rectangular plan, resembling a trapezoid, the armory contains a gymnasium and a museum in addition to such typical rooms as a drill hall, kitchen, locker rooms, storage rooms, and offices. It represents the common function of armories to serve the Pennsylvania National Guard for storage, meeting and training as well as serving community uses.

9. Bibliography.

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

10. Verbal Boundary Description.

See Philadelphia County Deed Book E.L.T., Volume 475, page 445.

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: 1.46

UTM References:

A	<u>18</u>	<u>483750</u>	<u>4422790</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: Kristine Wilson/Joseph Burke, III -- Interns/  
William Sisson/BHP Staff

Organization: PHMC -- BHP Date: 8/9/90

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

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



32nd St. and Lancaster  
Ave. Philadelphia Armony  
Zone 18 - Philadelphia  
Philadelphia County  
E 483750 N14422780



WESTCHESTER 21 MI.  
4423  
57'30"  
4422  
4421  
5963 IV NE (LANS-DOWNE)  
GTON, DEL. 21 MI.  
27 8 MI.