

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: Special Troops Armory

other name/site number: Philadelphia Armory

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2. Location

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street & number: 5350 Ogontz Avenue

city/town: Philadelphia

not for publication: N/A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

state: PA county: Philadelphia code: 101 zip code: 19141

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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>1</u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	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
=====

Historic: Defense

Sub: Arms Storage

Current: Defense

Sub: Arms Storage

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7. Description
=====

Architectural Classification:

Moderne

Materials:

foundation unknown

walls brick

roof unknown

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: unknown

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: 2.75

UTM References:

Table with 4 columns: A, B, C, D. Each column contains Zone, Easting, and Northing values.

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.
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

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7. Description.

Located near Wister Woods Park and Wakefield Park, the Special Troops Armory sets back from Ogontz Avenue on a flat lot, in the City of Philadelphia. Fronted by a spacious lawn, the armory consists of a contributing brick main armory building, constructed in 1938, and behind the armory a noncontributing cinder block organizational maintenance shop, constructed in 1950. Designed in the Moderne style, the main building is laid out on an I plan variation, with the drill hall, appearing as two stories, sandwiched between a slightly lower two-story, front wing, and a one-story, rear wing. Overall, the armory retains good integrity:

Covering an estimated area of 12,600 feet, the main building is covered by flat roofs. Exterior features include a parapet with stone coping, brick chimney, sixteen-light casement windows with stone sills and stone belt courses at lintel height on the second stories.

The seven-bay facade of the front section projects slightly in the middle five bays. A recessed, slightly-above-ground double door entrance is located in the central bay and is surrounded by stone. Concrete steps lead from the entrance down to a sidewalk. The top of the stone entrance bay forms the sill of a second-story window. Casement windows pierce all seven bays on the second story, and the two bays to either side of the entrance on the first story. The first-story windows are separated from the second-story windows by metal panels and have metal lattices. The first-story end bays have stone tablets in place of windows on the first story inset with a metal scroll.

The side elevations of the front section are pierced by four bays of casement windows separated between stories by metal panels.

The drill hall section is joined to the rear of the front section and is one bay wider on either side. It continues design features of the front section including stone coping and belt courses. It has three-bay side elevations pierced on the first story at the center by an overhead garage door, while the outer bays contain a double door entrance toward the rear and a bricked-in entrance toward the front. On the second story each bay has two, narrow, multi-light casement windows, separated by brick.

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In contrast to the front and drill hall section, the one-story, four-bay deep rear section of the building is plainer and lacks stone detailing. The side elevations have large, multi-light casement windows with brick sills and lintels. On the right side elevation, there is an overhead garage door.

The rear elevation of the rear section has a projecting middle with a brick chimney at the center. This elevation had seven bays of windows that were bricked up in 1979.

On the interior, the basement contains an assortment of rooms, including a firing range, storage room and boiler room under the drill hall, rest rooms and storage rooms along a double-loaded corridor in the front section, and two locker rooms and a storage room in the rear section. On the first floor, the front section contains a kitchen, storage room, and offices, with additional offices located on the second floor. An entrance hall leads back to the drill hall. Covering an area of 5,757 square feet, the drill hall has a wood floor and brick walls. A drop ceiling conceals the roof supports. The first floor of the rear section has storage rooms and a garage area.

Located directly behind the main building, the noncontributing, two-story, organizational maintenance shop covers an area of approximately 3,848 square feet. Covered by a gable roof, it contains two, large, overhead garage doors on its right gable end, with windows piercing the first and second stories on the remainder of the building.

The armory has under gone a number of changes, including the bricking up of the rear elevation windows and a drill hall entrance on each side elevation, and the replacement of several exterior and interior doors. Despite these changes, the armory retains good integrity.

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8. Significance.

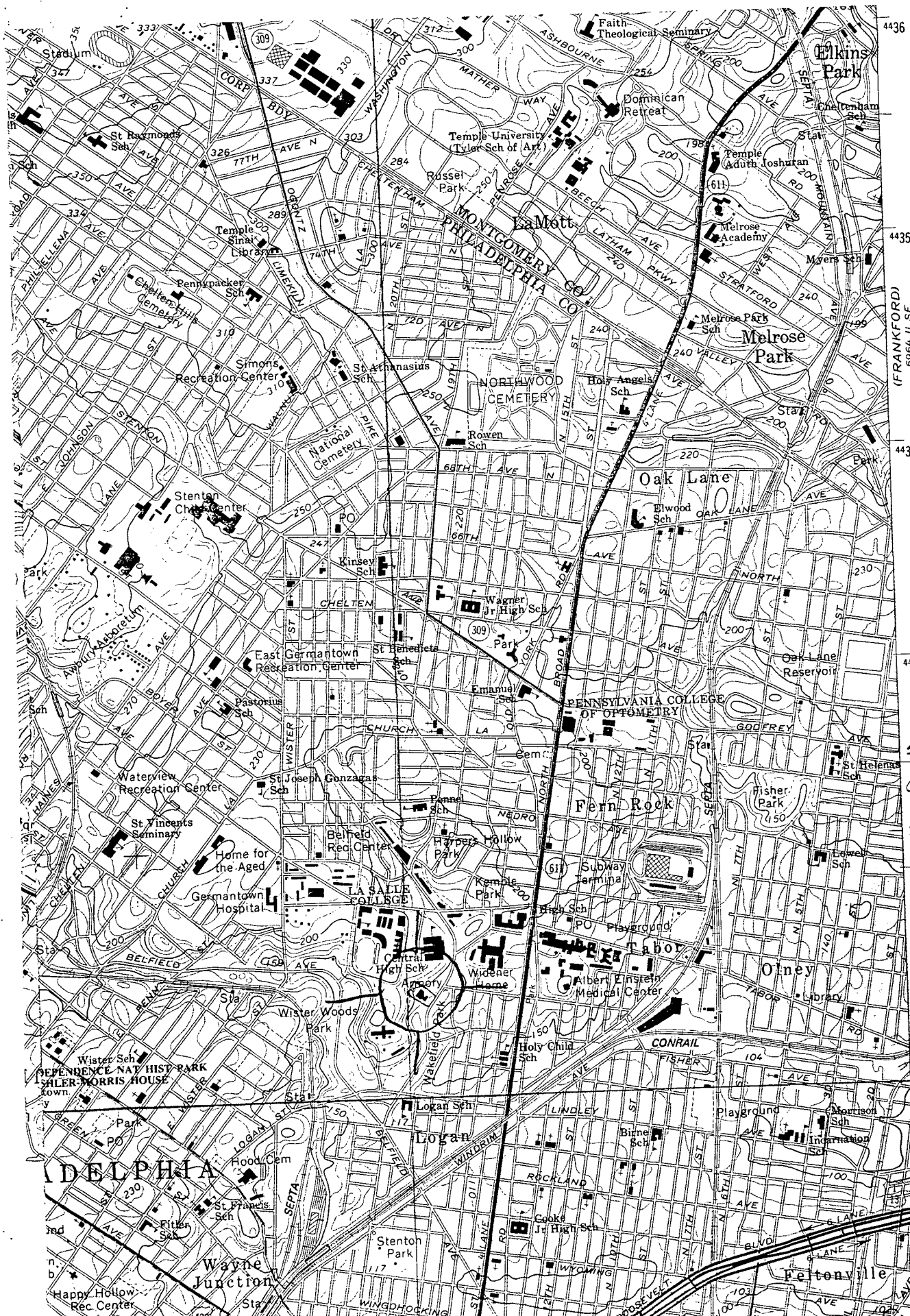
The Special Troops Armory in Philadelphia is significant under criteria A and C. It is a member of the State Armory Building Property type under the multiple property nomination: Pennsylvania National Guard Armories. As its name implies, the Special Troop Armory was built for the Philadelphia Special Troops of the Pennsylvania National Guard. (The term "special troops" applies to medical units, engineering battalions, cavalry troops, etc.) The Special Troops Armory is one of seventeen armories built in Pennsylvania in 1938 and represents the common function of armories to serve the Pennsylvania National Guard for storage, meeting, and training. The identity of the armory's designer remains unknown. Having a drill hall perpendicularly located between a two-story front administrative section and a one story rear storage section, the armory plan appears as an I type variation. I plan-type armories were typically constructed for cavalry units, with the stable being located in the rear wing. Typical spaces of this armory include a drill hall, firing range, kitchen, locker rooms, storage rooms, and offices.

9. Bibliography.

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

10. Verbal Boundary Description.

See Philadelphia County Deed Book DWH, Volume 526, page 81.y]



4436
4435
4434
4433
4432
4430

(FRANKFORD) 5964 II SE

PHILADELPHIA
SPECIAL TROOPS
ARMORY
GERMANTOWN
QUAD
2'30" ZONE 18
487080
4431480

2.3 MI TO PA 232
TRENTON, N.J. 25 MI