

Name of Property

County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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.

See continuation sheet.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain.):

by Barbara Wygal
Signature of the Keeper

1-31-19
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	contributing	noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	district	1	0 buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	structure	0	0 sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	site	0	0 structures
	object	0	0 objects
		1	0 total

Name of related multiple property listing:
(Enter "N/A" if property not part of a multiple property listing.)
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION & CULTURE/auditorium

RECREATION & CULTURE/sports facility

DEFENSE/arms storage

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

MODERN MOVEMENT/ Moderne

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls CONCRETE

roof METAL

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for the National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Entertainment & Recreation (A)
- Architecture (C)
-
-
-

Period of Significance

- 1942-1968 (A)
- 1942 (C)
-

Significant Dates

- N/A
-
-

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

- N/A
-

Cultural Affiliation

- N/A
-
-

Architect/Builder

- Stubenrauch, Edgar A.
-

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographic References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous Documentation on File (National Park Service):

- 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
- Name of repository:
 Wisconsin Historical Society Archives
 Sheboygan County Historical Research Center

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.8 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>16N</u>	<u>443223.6</u>	<u>4844371.6</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

See Continuation Sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Rowan Davidson, Associate AIA & Jennifer Lehrke, AIA, LEED AP, NCARB	date	May 14, 2018
organization	Legacy Architecture, Inc.	telephone	(920) 783-6303
street & number	605 Erie Avenue, Suite 101	zip code	53081
city or town	Sheboygan	state	WI

Name of Property

County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.

name/title	Darrell Hofland, City Administrator	date	May 14, 2018
organization	City of Sheboygan	telephone	(920) 459-3383
street & number	City Hall, 828 Center Avenue	zip code	53081
city or town	Sheboygan	state	WI

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Section 7 Page 1

Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory
City of Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, WI

Narrative Description

The Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory is an Moderne style building constructed in 1941 and completed in 1942. The massive building, completed with an exposed concrete exterior, steel bow-string truss roof, and plaster and wood-detailed interiors, is significant as the site of much of the cultural and recreational life of Sheboygan since its opening in 1942 until the city stopped utilizing the building in 2006. Funded by the Works Progress Administration, the building was constructed to serve as a home for the Wisconsin Army National Guard's 32nd Division and a professional basketball team, the Sheboygan Red Skins. The building quickly took on additional roles as the site of a variety of public attractions including, but not limited to, meetings, rallies, concerts, fairs, and other spectator sporting events. The building is also significant as a fine and largely intact local example of the Art Moderne style, popular during the 1930s and 1940s for civic architecture and closely associated with the work of the Works Progress Administration.

The period of significance of the building extends from the year it opened to the public in 1942 to 1968, fifty years ago from the present and during the time when the building was still used frequently as a locally prominent recreational and entertainment center in Sheboygan. The building maintains a high degree of architectural integrity with all its original elements and materials still present. Very little has been done to the building since its construction. There are no other buildings on the site, which also remains largely unchanged since the Auditorium and Armory was constructed. The Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory is located near the mouth of the Sheboygan River at Lake Michigan in the center of the city of Sheboygan along the lakefront and is set in the center of a flat and largely open site.

Site

The Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory sits on land that was once a part of the mouth of the Sheboygan River where it flowed into Lake Michigan. In the late nineteenth century, the area was filled to divert the flow of the Sheboygan River to the south. Before the building was constructed, the area was occupied by the C.B. Freyberg Lumber Company and its storage yards. To the north and west of the site are residential neighborhoods largely developed before the Auditorium and Armory was constructed. Further to the west is the downtown commercial and institutional core of Sheboygan. To the south is the Sheboygan River and a lifesaving station and a modern condominium building. To the east is the Sheboygan Yacht Club, constructed in 1955, and Lake Michigan. On the site the landscaping is simple and while the plantings may be informal, the front is a planned space that creates a formal entry sequence, with a series of rectilinear concrete sidewalks leading to each entry point of the building. Between these paths are a grass lawn and assorted trees and overgrown shrubs. To the east of the entry plaza is a round concrete planting bed with a tall flagpole mounted at the center. To

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the west of the building are ramps leading to basement level garages, one at each of the north and south ends of the building. These sloped drives lead to a concrete alley.

Building Description

The Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory is located at 516 Broughton Drive in the city of Sheboygan. The area, previously occupied by the C.B. Freyberg Lumber Company, was cleared by the city of Sheboygan in the 1930s for building the Auditorium and Armory. The property is nearly an entire city block with the building at the center, which is arranged formally along an east-west axis.

Exterior

The Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory is a reinforced cast-in-place concrete building with massive concrete foundations and exterior walls, along with concrete masonry unit and concrete interior walls and floors, and a steel bow-string truss and joist roof system. The original windows, doors, and trim are of wood.

Primary (East) Façade

The main entrance is located along the east façade of the two-and-one-half story building. This classical entry is set on a wide concrete plaza extending the length of the entry, terraced with two sets of three concrete steps. There is a concrete accessible ramp at the north end of the plaza which was added after the period of significance. This façade is arranged symmetrically with 7 of its 11 bays centered on the façade forming a recessed colonnade with fluted concrete pilasters extending up two stories. Within each entry bay at the first floor is a pair of non-historic metal doors and a transom window. There is a cantilevered concrete canopy extending out over the three central openings. At the second-floor level in each bay is a tall wood two-over-two double-hung window flanked on either side by a tall fixed wood four-light window. Each window grouping has a concrete sill and a darted concrete spandrel panel below. On either side of the portico is a small recessed niche that likely once contained a light, but now contains electrical conduit that extends directly up the face of the exterior to a non-historic modern projecting light similar to an overhead street light. Above the main entry is a horizontal band that has a set of six chevron pattern imprints in the concrete above each of the seven bays. Above this is a large set of text in the concrete exterior that reads: "Municipal Auditorium and Armory." The central section of this façade is capped with a darted concrete pattern along the top of the parapet with metal coping above. Ornamentation on the building is generally minimal and geometric as it was cast directly into the concrete. On either side of the central section of the east façade is a smaller wing (stepped down and back) with two window openings on the first floor and two aligned above on the second floor. Each opening has a pair of double-hung wood windows with a concrete sill. The lower pair of windows is shorter than the upper pair, and there is a narrow reeding

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Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory
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pattern in the concrete between the upper and lower window openings. The upper windows have a similar chevron pattern as found elsewhere on the building with eight imprints along the lintel. Each wing is capped with three recessed horizontal bands and metal coping at the parapet wall. The main block of the auditorium is behind the east façade, set further back and visible above the wings. There is a large glass block window, on each side, in this wall. There is a keystone with the text: "A.D. 1941" at the southeast corner of the building. The roofing surface has been altered and repaired since the building's construction. While the roofing was originally a simple tar over the concrete decking on both the arched and flat sections, it has since been repaired with non-historic multi-ply tar rolls on the flat front sections and built-up asphalt elsewhere with an additional paint coating.

Side (South) Façade

The south façade has the same concrete exterior walls as elsewhere on the building. Along this façade, the arch of the bow-string truss roof is clearly visible. Like the east façade, the south façade is also composed of 7 bays, divided into three sections with a larger middle portion and with two smaller wings positioned lower, and slightly set-back. The basement level of the building is partially visible along this façade, and there are short, wood, double-hung windows arranged symmetrically in pairs in five bays. At the first floor, there is a taller pair of wood double-hung windows with concrete sills in each bay. Considerably narrower and shorter wood double-hung windows are arranged directly above at the second-floor. Above these are five large glass block windows set under the arch of the auditorium. Like the east façade, the concrete exterior is smooth and unadorned. The wings on either side are set back slightly from the central section. The western wing has a set of concrete stairs leading up to a non-historic metal door at the first-floor level, and a pair of individual double-hung wood windows at the second floor. Above these is a set of three recessed, horizontal bands in the concrete and a parapet wall capped with metal coping. To the west of this wing is a wide set of concrete steps that lead to a rear exit along the west façade. The eastern wing has a pair of double-hung wood windows aligned at the first and second-floors with the same triple banding above and coping.

Rear (West) Façade

The west façade is the rear of the building with a more utilitarian appearance and service elements visible. Like the other façades, the overall composition is symmetrical and divided into three distinct sections, but the division of bays, windows, doors, and other entrances, is not. The middle portion extends up two-and-one-half stories and has little fenestration. The vertical fluting found on the pilasters on the east façade are present to the north and south ends of this section. At the basement level, at the bottom of each fluted segment, is a small window with six lights. The recessed horizontal banding of the wings is carried around this section of the building with four bands instead of three as well as a higher parapet wall with metal coping. The wing to the south of the west façade has a driveway sloping down to an overhead door at the basement level at the far southern end. Above this is a low concrete wall and metal railing. There is also an overhead door at the north end of this wing

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section with a drive sloped gently up to the first floor. There is a set of three non-historic metal doors and transoms at the southern end of the first floor and a single double-hung window approximately in the center of this façade. At the second-floor level of this wing are seven, wood double-hung windows with concrete sills spaced in a pattern of three – one - three symmetrically along the concrete façade. Above these are three recessed horizontal bands and the parapet wall. The wing section to the north is similar, though not identical. This northern wing section also has the sloped drive to a basement level overhead door at the northern end. The basement level to the south of this vehicle entry has four windows with six lights each. The first-floor level has a set of three non-historic metal doors and transoms at the northern end and a set of three double-hung windows with concrete sills spaced evenly at the southern end of this section. Above, the second floor also has similar wood double-hung windows with concrete sills symmetrically arranged in a pattern of three-two-three in the concrete façade. Above these are three recessed horizontal bands and the parapet wall. Like elsewhere, the exposed concrete exterior wall is largely unadorned and smooth in appearance. Exhaust turbines, vents, and a concrete chimney are visible along the roof of the western façade.

Side (North) Façade

The north façade has the same concrete exterior walls as elsewhere on the building. Along this façade, the arch of the bow-string truss roof is clearly visible. Like the east façade, the south façade is also divided into three sections with a larger middle portion flanked by two wings that are smaller, lower, and slightly set-back. The north façade is nearly identical to the south façade with the only exception of the basement windows, which are short, wood, awning or hopper windows. At the first floor, there is a taller pair of wood double-hung windows with concrete sills in each bay. Considerably narrower and shorter wood double-hung windows are arranged directly above at the second-floor. Above these are five large glass block windows set under the arch of the auditorium. Like the east façade, the concrete exterior is smooth and unadorned. The wings on either side are set back slightly from the central section. The western wing has a set of concrete stairs leading up to a non-historic metal door at the first-floor level, and a pair of individual double-hung wood windows at the second floor. Above these is a set of three recessed, horizontal bands in the concrete and a parapet wall capped with metal coping. To the west of this wing is a wide set of concrete steps that lead to a rear exit along the west façade. The eastern wing has a pair of double-hung wood windows aligned at the first and second-floors with the same triple banding and coping above.

Interior

The interior of the Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory continues the discreet application of Moderne style elements, decorations, and details in a structurally expressive concrete building with steel trusses and concrete floors and walls. The layout of the building remains much the same presently as it did when it was constructed, and the interior finishes have been maintained. The

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basement, which originally contained a rifle range, smoking room, toilets, storage garages, boiler room, fan room, and coal room, has concrete floors throughout. While some of the functions of these rooms have changed their layout in plan and section has not and they are historically intact as no walls have been moved or altered. Most of the walls are painted concrete with wood trim around wood doors and windows. The ceiling is the exposed underside of the concrete and steel structure above. In plan, the basement is arranged with stairs at the northern and southern ends of the eastern block with a men's toilet room to the south, women's toilet room to the north, and a concessions space in-between. The northern and southern sides of the building are large storage garages accessed by doors to the west, and the boiler room, with its original boiler present, coal room, fan room, and transformer vault are along the western block. The central portion below the drill hall or auditorium space is unexcavated. The front block of the building, facing east, is actually four feet higher at its foundation than the rest of the building and is not connected internally at the basement level.

The first floor originally contained a drill hall, stage, kitchen, storage rooms, locker rooms, National Guard offices, coat check rooms, and a lobby. The walls are painted plaster with wood windows, doors, and trim. The railings of the stairs are also of wood. Over the proscenium of the stage, the concrete has 26 stamped chevron patterns and a central piece with an 'S' for Sheboygan. The floor is typically exposed concrete, though terrazzo is present in the lobby, which features a colored US Army Air Corps roundel in the center and cannons to the north and south. The floor of the drill hall or auditorium is of wood with basketball court markings, 90 feet by 50 feet. The flooring in the National Guard spaces is occasionally historic painted concrete, but there are rooms where it has been covered with non-historic carpeting and VCT tiles. The ceiling is plaster throughout the first floor with the notable exception of the drill hall or auditorium space which rises two-and-one-half stories to the exposed underside of the steel bow-string truss and joist roof structure.

The building is organized simply as a quadrangle, with blocks of smaller spaces and uses around the large auditorium and arena area. In plan, the first floor is arranged with the lobby and public stairs at the eastern end of the building. The north and south sides are essentially symmetrical, with a long hallway access a row of rooms on the exterior side only. These spaces were originally used as offices, storage spaces, and locker rooms for the National Guard. The western side of the building is also symmetrical in plan with large stairs at each corner, the main stage centrally located, and a kitchen and storage area on either side. One of the few changes to the building, the coat check rooms were converted into men's and women's toilet rooms in the 1990s. The northern and southern blocks of the building have long corridors with National Guard offices and custodial spaces arranged along each side. The western end of the building is occupied by the stage, kitchen, with a reconfigured layout, and supporting rooms and circulation spaces. The center of the building is the large drill hall or auditorium. Most of the historic flush wood doors remain in their original locations and often feature two panel configurations with one-third, or one-half, glass lights with a single horizontal muntin.

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There are only a few replacement doors throughout the building.

The second floor originally contained additional National Guard offices, dressing rooms, aisles and bleachers, storage rooms, committee rooms, and a lounge. The walls are painted plaster with wood trim, doors, and windows. The floor is exposed concrete. The ceiling is generally painted plaster or the exposed concrete structure in smaller spaces below the bleachers. The ceiling of the drill hall or auditorium space is comprised of steel bow-string trusses, oriented east-west, supporting a series of smaller perpendicular steel joists. In plan, the second floor is arranged with a lounge and public stairs at the eastern end. Along both the northern and southern sides of the building are the bleachers and corridors, committee rooms, and storage beneath them. The western end contains the upper portions of the stage below and dressing rooms to the north and National Guard offices and locker room to the south. These offices and locker rooms have been changed at both the northwest and southwest corners of the building. Some the rooms have been reconfigured to change showers and storage rooms into non-historic office spaces. This is the only part of the entire building where the interior has been reconfigured. Elsewhere, the original 1942 plans match the present layout consistently.

Integrity

There has been little change to the exterior of the Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory since its construction in 1942. The only notable changes are re-roofing, non-historic light fixtures on the main eastern façade, and all exterior doors have been replaced with modern aluminum doors all the way around the building. The interior has experienced some change; however, most of these have been to finishes accompanying changes in use rather than the organization of spaces. Some historic interior doors, though far from all, have been removed and replaced. Carpet and VCT flooring have been added in some of the former National Guard areas on the first floor, particularly on the south side of the building. Check rooms on the first floor have been converted into toilet rooms and wardrobe/locker rooms have been stripped of their lockers. A small wardrobe/locker room on the second floor has been changed into an office. On the second floor a small office has been subdivided and converted into a toilet room, and a toilet and shower room into a storage room. Besides these, the interior historic integrity remains intact. The result is a large building with exceptional historic integrity to its period of significance, and the auditorium and armory looks much as it did the day it was completed in 1942.

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Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory
City of Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, WI

Statement of Significance

The Moderne style Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory was begun in 1941 and completed in 1942. The building is constructed with a steel bow-string truss roof and massive concrete frame with plastered walls and limited wood such as doors, windows, and trim. The building is locally significant under Criterion C for architecture as an example of the Art Moderne style, popular during the 1930s and 1940s for civic projects and closely associated with the Works Progress Administration. The Auditorium and Armory, designed by local architect Edgar A. Stubenrauch, exhibits defining features of the Moderne style including its concrete and steel structure, flat roof, geometric designs and banding, spare exterior walls with decoration focused at openings, monumental scale, and blending of traditional and classical architectural elements with modern architectural design and materials.

The Auditorium and Armory is also locally significant under Criterion A for the history of entertainment and recreation as a cultural center and auditorium venue. While it was constructed with the assistance of the Works Progress Administration with the purpose of providing a space for the Wisconsin Army National Guard's 32nd Division, the building also took on the role of the primary venue for a variety of events in Sheboygan including meetings, rallies, concerts, and fairs. The building was also home to an early professional basketball team, the Sheboygan Red Skins. One of sixteen inaugural teams of the National Basketball Association (NBA), Sheboygan holds the record for the NBA's smallest market, and the Auditorium and Armory holds the record for the NBA's smallest arena. The armory's use of the building was only secondary to its uses as a social gathering space and entertainment venue and the National Guard only occupied a fraction of the building. Its military history is limited in comparison to its local contribution to recreation and entertainment and its architectural significance. The Auditorium and Armory maintains a very high degree of architectural integrity on both its exterior and interior and reflects the cultural and recreational life of Sheboygan during its period of significance from 1942, when the building opened, to 1968, fifty years ago from the present when the Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory was still frequently used for its recreational purpose. While the Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory housed a unit of the National Guard, its primary function, and local significance, was as a public auditorium and arena.

Historic Context

Sheboygan

Sheboygan traces its origins to 1834, when two log cabins were constructed along the Sheboygan River near an existing Native American village. In 1836 a dam and sawmill were constructed at the site, and the land was surveyed and platted. The settlement grew the same year with hotels, mills, and docks constructed and a population of 500 inhabitants. However, poor conditions led the settlement to

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Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory
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be almost completely abandoned in 1838. The site still served as a transportation hub at the mouth of the Sheboygan River, and an influx of German and Dutch immigrants in the 1840s repopulated the area. Sheboygan was incorporated as a village in 1846. By the 1850s, Sheboygan was growing rapidly. A plank road to Fond du Lac was completed in 1852. The first bridge over the river and an improved harbor were completed in 1853, the same year Sheboygan incorporated as a city. Many of Sheboygan's industrial ventures, such as chair manufacturing, and governmental functions, such as the county courthouse, were introduced in the 1860s. The Sheboygan and Fond du Lac Railroad Company was established in 1869, and the population of the city reached 4,271 by 1870. During the last three decades of the nineteenth century, Sheboygan became a leading manufacturing center in Wisconsin as a center of furniture-making and enameling. By the turn of the century, with a population of 22,962, Sheboygan had as many as 19 dry goods stores, mostly located along North 8th Street in the city's downtown, reflecting the commercial growth of the community.¹

Sheboygan continued to grow as the city introduced more municipal services, libraries, parks, and an expanded harbor during the first decade of the twentieth century. By 1910, Sheboygan ranked fourth in the state for the size of its workforce and commercial production with large docks for shipping. Salt and coal was imported to support its local industries, fuel its power plants, and also for regional distribution. During the 1920s, an interurban street-car system was constructed connecting the growing city of over 30,000 residents to nearby communities in Sheboygan County, and the commercial core of Sheboygan along North 8th Street became a regional destination with many department stores, small retailers, and theaters. When the Great Depression came in the 1930s, Sheboygan did not suffer to the extent that other small cities did due to its variety of businesses and essential industries such as Kohler, a large and influential manufacturer of plumbing products, and Vollrath, a significant company in the enamel cookware industry, helping the city grow to over 40,000 residents by 1940.²

After the end of the depression and the onset of World War II, Sheboygan, like much of the country, experienced an economic revitalization. Local industries flourished, and the downtown area remained the center of commerce in Sheboygan County. However, the 1960s and 1970s were a time of stagnation for small industrial cities across the country, and Sheboygan was no different. The commercial core suffered as the city and its businesses spread out into surrounding suburbs. Population growth slowed significantly, declined in the 1980s and 2010s, with a peak of 50,792 in

¹ Zillier, Carl, Ed. *History of Sheboygan County Wisconsin: Past and Present*. Chicago, IL: S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1912; & Hildebrand, Janice. *Sheboygan County: 150 Years of Progress*. Northridge, CA: Windsor Publications, 1988.

² *Sheboygan Centennial Celebration, 1853-1953: Official Souvenir Program and Historic Booklet*. Sheboygan, WI: Sheboygan Centennial Committee, 1953; & Sheboygan County Historical Research Center. *Sheboygan, Images of America*. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2012.

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Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory
City of Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, WI

2000.³

Auditorium and Armory

On August 19th, 1940 the Sheboygan Common Council approved plans to build an Auditorium and Armory building conceived as an amenity for the community with the assistance of the Works Progress Administration. Mayor Herman Runge of Sheboygan and Mark Muth, the WPA project administrator for Wisconsin, oversaw the initiation of the project. Total costs for the building were projected at \$204,000, with \$154,000 coming from grants through the WPA. A site for the Auditorium and Armory building was selected by city leaders in September 1940 on land that was already clear. The area had previously been the lumberyard of the Freyberg Lumber Company. The massive 52,000 square-foot reinforced concrete structure, designed by local architect Edgar A. Stubenrauch, featured a bow-string truss roof and seating for 3,974 people at maximum capacity, considerably more than other venues in Sheboygan. Construction of the project was begun in the spring of 1941 (the cornerstone was laid on June 1st of that year) and completed the following year with the grand public opening on May 22, 1942. The Auditorium and Armory project was completed late in the life of the Works Progress Administration and was the last Works Progress Administration project in Sheboygan County.⁴

The Works Progress Administration (WPA 1935-1943) was the largest agency associated with Franklin D. Roosevelt's administration during the 1930s, responsible for the funding and management of public works projects across the country. The initial funding of the WPA totaled \$4.9 billion dollars, an enormous sum in 1935. Headed by Harry Hopkins as a major branch of the Roosevelt administration, the WPA provided employment during the depression, and at its peak in 1938, it provided paid labor for over three million unemployed men and women. The WPA aided the construction of infrastructure such as roads, bridges, schools, courthouses, hospitals, waterworks, and post offices as well as more specific projects such as museums, swimming pools, parks, playgrounds, coliseums, markets, fairgrounds, zoos, botanical gardens, auditoriums, city halls, gymnasiums, university unions, and armories. In addition, the WPA also directly supported cultural work through the Federal Art Project, the Federal Music Project, the Federal Theatre Project, the Federal Writers Project, and the Historical Records Survey. In 1939, the WPA was renamed the Work Projects Administration, though it kept the well-known abbreviation. By the end of 1942, the national relief programs of the New Deal, and the Works Progress Administration in particular, were curtailed as

³ Buchen, Gustave. *Historic Sheboygan County*. Sheboygan, WI: Sheboygan County Historical Society, 1976.

⁴ "Sheboygan Armory Project Is Assured," *Milwaukee Journal*, May 27, 1940; & City of Sheboygan Directories, 1890-1994, on file at the Wisconsin Historical Society Archives; & *Fire Insurance Maps of Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, Wisconsin*. Sanborn Map Company, 1891, 1903, 1949, 1955, and 1967; & "Sheboygan gets Armory," *Sheboygan Press*, December 1, 1940; & "Armory to Open doors for first time to public here," *Sheboygan Press*, May 21, 1942.

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such programs were deemed no longer necessary in the face of the war effort and full employment. The Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory was among many WPA projects. There were approximately 116,000 WPA funded projects in the United States and over 1,200 in Wisconsin alone. Among these are other notable Sheboygan resources such as the Farnsworth Junior High School completed in 1931, the Sheboygan County Courthouse completed in 1934 (NRHP #82000713), and the Post Office and its murals completed in 1937 (NRHP # 00001261) (all extant).⁵

Charles Broughton, the editor of the Sheboygan Press newspaper and owner of a local radio station, along with P.H. Davis and Edwin Imig, incorporated the Sheboygan Red Skins basketball team in 1938. Broughton is credited with contacting the Roosevelt Administration, using his prominent position within the Wisconsin Democratic Party, and vigorously encouraging the WPA to support the Sheboygan Auditorium and Armory project. A prominent Sheboyganite during the first half of the twentieth century, the street along the east side of the Auditorium and Armory site is named after him.⁶

The original purpose of the Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory project, under the auspice of the WPA, was to build a local home for the Wisconsin Army National Guard's 32nd Division. The building was equipped with offices, storage areas, ammunition lockers, and vaults for guns and other military equipment. Like armories built during the period elsewhere in the country, these uses were the rationale for constructing the building in such robust materials and structural methods and at such a large scale. The armory building was one of many homes for the 32nd Infantry Division that was formed from Army National Guard units from Wisconsin and Michigan with roots dating back to the Civil War. Serving prominently in France during World War I, the division acquired the nickname 'Les Terribles' from the French in reference to their success and fortitude. During World War II, the division continued its notable success and logged 654 days of combat during the war, the longest of any United States Army division. There is little documentation of the building's military use, in part because they were limited. After the end of World War II, the auditorium and armory was used by the National Guard as office space and storage for drill equipment. One of many armories across the state used by the National Guard, the Sheboygan location did not serve a function beyond as a regional office in one of Wisconsin's larger cities. The building's military use, by the 1960s it was no more than a few offices, was deemed to be no longer needed. In 1967, the unit was reorganized as the 32nd Infantry Brigade, consisting of units exclusively from Wisconsin. Around this date the number of armories used by the former Division was limited, and it is likely, given the lack of recorded events related to the National Guard at the Auditorium and Armory after this time, that all National Guard and

⁵ Smith, Jason Scott. *Building New Deal Liberalism: The Political Economy of Public Works, 1933–1956*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 2009; & Musher, Sharon Ann. *Democratic Art: The New Deal's Influence on American Culture*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2015.

⁶ Charles E. Broughton Papers, 1916-1953. On file at the Wisconsin Historical Society Archives; & Hildebrand, Janice. *Sheboygan County: 150 Years of Progress*. Northridge, CA: Windsor Publications, 1988.

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other military presence at the building came to an end. The 32nd Division adopted the insignia of a crossed red arrow and used the emblem often. The division became known as the “Red Arrow,” a moniker which lasted through the twentieth century. State Highway 32 also features the red arrow emblem in honor of the Division, the only highway that has an associated image. Some of the painted red chevrons and angular designs throughout the Sheboygan armory may refer to this symbolism.⁷

The Sheboygan Red Skins basketball team has its origins as an informal club established in 1933, which played at the Eagle Auditorium at 711 New York Avenue in downtown Sheboygan (non-extant). In 1938, the team officially incorporated and joined the National Basketball League (NBL), a professional men’s basketball league that formed in 1937. They played in the NBL from 1938 to 1949, appearing in five championship series during that time. The Sheboygan Red Skins won the league title during the 1942-43 season, the same year they moved into the Auditorium and Armory building. On November 25, 1942 the Red Skins defeated the Chicago Studebakers 53 to 45. The all-white National Basketball League began to racially integrate in 1942 with two teams: the Toledo Jim White Chevrolets and the Chicago Studebakers. Six of the Studebaker’s players were African American, marking this as a game from the early period of integrated professional basketball. Six teams from the NBL merged with ten teams from the Basketball Association of America (BAA) to form the National Basketball Association (NBA) in 1949. These sixteen teams played in the NBA’s inaugural 1949-1950 season including Sheboygan, which was in the Western Division. To this day, Sheboygan holds the NBA record for the smallest market in league history and the smallest arena. The team was encouraged to leave the fledgling professional league the following year due to the size of its market and a perception that its competitiveness was unsustainable. During the 1950-1951 season, the Red Skins joined the short-lived National Professional Basketball League. After attempts by Magnus Brinkman, the Red Skins president, to establish another rival league in 1951 failed, the Red Skins played the 1951-1952 season as an independent team. They disbanded the following year. The NBA, which had consolidated to eleven franchises that year, shrunk again to eight franchises in 1953, all remain active today. The Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory is one of only six original NBA arenas that are extant, including the Butler Fieldhouse in Indianapolis and the Uline Arena in Washington D.C., both of which are listed in the National Register of Historic Places, as well as the McElroy Auditorium in Waterloo, Iowa; the Wharton Fieldhouse in Moline, Illinois; the State Fair Coliseum in Syracuse, New York; and the Sheboygan Auditorium and Armory itself.⁸ The integrity of

⁷ ‘Brief History of the ‘Red Arrow,’ The 32 ‘Red Arrow’ Veteran Association Website. <www.32nd-division.org/history/32hist.htm> accessed May 6, 2018.

⁸ *Sheboygan Red Skins, 1950-1951 Season*. Pamphlet. 1950; & ‘Sheboygan Red Skins: A fading memory of the NBA’s origins,’ CNN News website. <<https://edition.cnn.com/2015/10/26/sport/sheboygan-red-skins-nba/index.html>> accessed May 6, 2018; & “National Fame Brought to City by Redskins Basketball Team,” *Sheboygan Press*, July 31, 1942; & “Redskins, All Stars Had Great Rivalry,” *Sheboygan Press*, January 31, 1960; & “Red Skins: Sheboygan Basketball Tea part of NBA’s History,” *Sheboygan Press*, December 30, 1999.

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these later three is generally poor and subsequent uses and alterations have changed them significantly.

Entertainment & Recreation

The Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory is locally significant in the area of Entertainment and Recreation as an example of a mixed-use social venue that served the city of Sheboygan and its area. The building's history as the site of early professional basketball games, as well as a large variety of public entertainment and gathering from the 1940s to the 1990s is remarkable. The period of significance for the building extends from its date of completion in 1942 to 1968, fifty years ago from the present, when the building continued to be utilized frequently for a variety of recreational and entertainment purposes in Sheboygan.

During the 1940s, when the Auditorium and Armory was still relatively new, the building hosted Sheboygan North, Central, and South High School graduation ceremonies, basketball games, and dances. It was also the site of public balls, lectures, popular music concert tours, amateur boxing, circuses, revivals and religious meetings, National Guard recruitment drives, blood drives, war-bond fundraising efforts, and notable entertainers such as Victor Borge, Lawrence Welk, and Tommy Dorsey. By the 1950s the war effort was long over, and the local economy was booming, though the Sheboygan Red Skins basketball team had folded. Many of the uses of the building reflect this period, including car shows, trade shows, talent shows, Northeast Wisconsin Education Association conventions, square dances, band concerts, political rallies from both major parties for national and state elections, and Gene Autry. In 1952, The United Auto Workers successfully organized Kohler Company employees after holding a series of meetings and rallies at the Auditorium and Armory. Later, during the strike of 1954 led by the union, the building continued to be used by the union. In 1957, the Sheboygan Common Council allowed for the free use of the Auditorium and Armory to organizations for non-spectator events, which began a decades-long local debate over the use of the space as a self-supporting entity or a publicly available resource. During the 1960s, the building hosted public basketball, Lakeland College basketball team games, professional wrestling, fraternal organization's conventions and banquets, National Guard open houses, Boy Scouts meetings, country music dances, teen dances, USO benefit dances, local music reviews and local rock bands such as the Ventures and Dick and the Destinations, Bob Hope, Johnny Cash, and then former-Vice President Richard Nixon. The space continued to be used frequently in the 1970s and 1980s for city-wide public meetings, polka festivals, circuses, roller derby, professional wrestling, snowmobile shows, Jehovah Witnesses conventions, Hmong New Year celebrations, and hosted entertainers such as Guy Lombardo, Hank Williams, Jr., Hulk Hogan, Andre the Giant, Alice Cooper, Johnny Carson, Tammy Wynette, and REO Speedwagon. Use of the building decreased considerably during the 1990s and

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discussions about what to do with the building and its maintenance mounted in the 2000s leading up to the building's eventual closure in 2006.⁹

From the 1940s to the 1990s, public events were held at the Auditorium and Armory nearly every week, often drawing crowds of 3,000 people or more. While many of these events were local in their origin, the location also drew notable acts, speeches, and performances including notable people such as Bob Hope, Alice Cooper, Danny Davis, Crystal Gayle, the Harlem Globetrotters, Jessie Jackson, Hubert Humphrey and Richard Nixon. It is not an exaggeration to state that most of the people of Sheboygan County during this period have memories of attending events at the building.¹⁰

The Auditorium and Armory building maintains a high degree of physical integrity, in part due to the construction methods and materials of the large concrete building, The continuous ownership by the city of Sheboygan, and its use as an armory and cultural venue encouraged a continuous degree of upkeep. More recently, the high costs associated with making changes to the building prevented alterations, which in turn, preserved its integrity. There are no exterior additions, no significant alterations to the interior layout, circulation, or arena floor, and no large-scale changes to the fundamental construction of the building.

In Sheboygan, the Auditorium and Armory building is the only existing example of an armory building. There was likely a nineteenth century armory as well; however, no evidence of it exists. The Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory was conceived and constructed as a large civic project, with additional features far beyond its military functions. In the state of Wisconsin, only a few similar buildings are presently listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The Whitefish Bay Armory served multiple community purposes, but has been demolished. The Janesville Memorial Armory (NRHP # 78000130), constructed in 1930, is listed locally for its military history; likewise, the Oconomowoc National Guard Armory (NRHP # 84000709), constructed in 1921, is also listed for its military history. The La Crosse Armory (NRHP # 16000206), built in 1902 as a brewery stable and later adapted to an armory, is also listed for its military history. In each of these cases, the smaller buildings were used primarily for their military purposes and lack the public and recreational aspects of the Sheboygan building. The two large gymnasiums on the University of Wisconsin, Madison campus are also listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The University of Wisconsin Armory and Gymnasium (NRHP # 93001618), also known as the Red Gym and constructed in 1904, is listed nationally for its architecture and political history. The University of Wisconsin Fieldhouse (NRHP # 98000820), completed in 1930, is listed locally for its architecture and recreational history. While these two buildings do share the scale and recreational aspects of the Sheboygan building, they

⁹ Sheboygan County Historical Research Center. *Sheboygan, Images of America*. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2012; & General Files, on file with the Sheboygan County Historical Research Center.

¹⁰ "Found document details Armory's origins," *Sheboygan Press*, February 6, 2015.

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do not have the military or public entertainment components. The Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory is unique among these surviving armories as serving a variety of hybrid purposes as a basketball fieldhouse, a functioning National Guard armory, and as a cultural public gathering place; it is best known in Sheboygan as a civic and recreational space.¹¹

Among the fieldhouses used during the 1940s for the professional National Basketball League, leading up to the formation of the National Basketball Association in 1949, only a few remain. Of the original 19 sites, 11 have been demolished; two have lost historic integrity; and three, the New York 69th Regiment Armory, the Bulter (Hinkie) Fieldhouse in Indianapolis, and the Uline Arena in Washington D.C., are already listed in the National Register of Historic Places; leaving only 3 other sites including the Syracuse State Fair Coliseum in New York State, the Wharton Fieldhouse in Moline, Illinois, and the Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory, the subject building.¹²

The Auditorium and Armory has also hosted a wide variety of public and community events and shows since its construction including meetings, concerts, dances, sporting events, and exhibitions. Discussions of what to do with the Auditorium and Armory building began in the late 1980s as the city of Sheboygan found that maintenance and upkeep of the facility consistently exceeded the income brought in through leases and ticketing. After a few possible redevelopment plans were discussed, the building was officially closed in 2006. In 2007 or 2008, the building was leased by the Great Lakes Aerospace Science & Education Center, or Spaceport Sheboygan, which relocated in 2014. The building has remained vacant since that time.¹³

The Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory continues to serve as a local landmark and monument in Sheboygan for a variety of reasons including its associations with early professional basketball, the National Guard's 32nd Division, and personal recollections of various public dances, sporting events, concerts, and meetings. As a basketball fieldhouse and cultural gathering place of recreation and entertainment, the Auditorium and Armory continues to be locally significant, as demonstrated by recent public efforts to preserve the building.

¹¹ 'Wisconsin Architecture and History Inventory,' Wisconsin Historical Society website.

<www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Article/CS2834> accessed May 6, 2018; & 'National Register of Historic Places Digital Archive on NP Gallery,' National Park Service website. <npgallery.nps.gov/nrhp> accessed May 6, 2018.

¹² 'National Register of Historic Places Digital Archive on NP Gallery,' National Park Service website. <npgallery.nps.gov/nrhp> accessed May 6, 2018.

¹³ "Spaceport proposed for armory," *Sheboygan Press*, August 18, 2005; & "Waterfront development brings Sheboygan new life," *Milwaukee Sentinel*, August 28, 1989; & "City may shut down Armory," *Sheboygan Press*, September 20, 2006.

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Architecture

The Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory is locally significant in the area of Architecture as an example of the Art Moderne style commonly used on civic building during the 1930s and 1940s. The building was designed by local Sheboygan architect Edgar Stubenrauch, who was experienced in applying the style to a variety of public projects in Sheboygan, and worked on other projects funded by the Works Progress Administration. The building maintains a remarkable level of architectural integrity with its original form, materials, and interior largely unchanged since its completion. The period of significance in relation to the architecture of the Auditorium and Armory is limited to its date of construction in 1942.

The Auditorium and Armory features a prominent arched bowstring truss roof structure. The bowstring form was first patented in 1841 by the British engineer Squire Whipple. Bottom arched variations of the bowstring truss form, created from triangular stick-built wood or metal members, can be traced to the work of the French engineer Gustave Eiffel in his bridge designs of the 1870s across Europe. Named for their shape, bowstring trusses were first used for arched truss bridges, and are similar in design to the common Pratt truss design and are well suited to long and narrow spans. The design was common in the United States from the 1840s to the early twentieth century in the construction of railway bridges. Such trusses include vertical members and diagonals that slope down to the center. The interior diagonals are under tension while the vertical elements are under compression. The bowstring truss found new life during World War II in the production of aircraft hangers and other large-scale buildings because it was an effective way to span large distances while still preserving a large volume underneath them.¹⁴ In the example of the Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory the four bow-string trusses are obviously large in scale and constructed of steel to support the low concrete arch roof spanning the open auditorium area as the primary volume of the building's space. The truss structure is exposed, partly out of necessity and partly as an expression of the impressive structure above. Other ornamentation on the building is limited and in keeping with the building's overall design to highlight the trusses.

The Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory was designed in the Art Moderne style, uncommon in Sheboygan, though not necessarily uncommon for large public buildings constructed during the period. Related to Art Deco, Art Moderne was of a futuristic movement celebrating the advancement of technology and industrialism, however, more volumetric, streamlined, and totally devoid of historic references. The Art Moderne style, with origins possibly traced to the Modernist work of the German Werkbund and initiated by Hermann Muthesius, found popularity in the United States as the natural

¹⁴ White, Anthony G. *Bridge Architecture and Design: Iron and Steel Bridges*. Monticello, IL: Vance Publishing, 1981; & Danko, George. *The Evolution of the Simple Truss Bridge: From Empiricism to Scientific Construction*. 1979.

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progression of Art Deco design, only sparer and streamlined during the 1930s to suit changing tastes and a preference for spare, austere, and expressive designs. An aerodynamic look began to take shape during the early depression years and first became popular in industrial design and everyday objects. Incorporated lighting features, austere finishes or no finishes at all, and sharp angles were developed to distinguish the style from the more common Art Deco architecture that preceded it.¹⁵

The Moderne style was popular in Wisconsin from 1930 to 1950 and is characterized by smooth wall finishes, round corners, and emphasized horizontality, for which it is often also referred to as Streamline Moderne. Examples are typically constructed of concrete and feature flat roofs, narrow bands of windows often continuing around corners, windows or entire walls of glass block, mirrored panels, horizontal banding, circular elements, and little to no surface decoration. What decoration did exist was focused at doorways and windows and consisted of metal or structural glass panels or trim. Aluminum and stainless steel were widely used materials in this style for doors, windows, railings, and balusters. The structures reflect a greater use of conservative and classical elements and have a monumental feel. They often include post offices, train stations, public schools, libraries, civic centers, courthouses, museums, bridges, dams, and armories across the country. Architectural historian Richard Guy Wilson characterized the style of "Moderne" by the eclectic coexistence of "traditionalism and modernism." Many public buildings completed between 1933 and 1944, during and shortly after the Great Depression, as part of public relief projects sponsored by the Public Works Administration (PWA) and the Works Progress Administration (WPA) of the New Deal were designed in this style with a utilitarian nature.¹⁶

It is instructive to compare the Auditorium and Armory building in the city of Sheboygan and other Art Moderne style buildings in the rest of Sheboygan County. A study of the Wisconsin Historical Society's Architecture and History Inventory (AHI) was undertaken to establish a context for the Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory and assess its National Register potential. Other significant examples of the style in the city of Sheboygan include a municipal pumping station located at 1208 South 7th Street, a house at 2523 North 13th Street, the John and Ann Howell House at 2335 North 3rd Street, and the Gale Chevrolet Company showroom at 1803 Calumet Drive. The Plymouth Post Office at 302 East Main Street in the city of Plymouth is also of the Art Moderne style and listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRIS #00001242). All were constructed between 1933

¹⁵ Reed, Robert C. *The Streamline Era*. San Marino, CA: Golden West Books, 1975; & Greif, Martin. *Depression Modern: The Thirties Style in America*. New York: Universe Books, 1975.

¹⁶ McAlister, Virginia. *A Field Guide to American Houses, Second Edition*. New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 2013; & Blumenson, John J. G. *Identifying American Architecture: A Pictorial Guide to Styles and Terms, 1600-1945*. New York, NY: W. W. Norton & Company, 1981; & Wyatt, Barbara, Ed. *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin: Volume 2, a Manual for Historic Properties*. Madison, WI: Historic Preservation Division State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986; & *Municipal Auditorium and Armory, Sheboygan, Wisconsin*. Original Plans. Edgar A. Stubenrauch Architect, December 4th, 1940.

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and 1946.¹⁷ While these are all fine examples of the Moderne style, the individually-listed buildings are the most appropriate as a basis of comparison. The Plymouth Post Office, while having exterior construction that identifies it as the Art Moderne style, was nominated to the National Register for its significance in the area of Art, not Architecture. The Plymouth Post Office is a lesser example architecturally being of much smaller scale, and having minimalist application of stylistic ornament. Of the Art Moderne buildings, the Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory is clearly the exceptional example.

Otherwise the closest comparative, stylistically and in scale, is the Sheboygan County Courthouse, at 615 North 6th Street, listed in the National Register in 1982 (NRIS #82000713). While the Sheboygan County Courthouse is classified as the Art Deco style, if these buildings are examined side-by-side they bear striking similarities. Indeed, the Art Deco and Art Moderne styles are of the same period and emerged from the same Modernistic artistic and design movement, incorporate the same sleek and streamlined design sensibilities, and have very similar character defining features. The two styles even use the same type of geometric ornament, the primary difference between the two is how that ornament is used (either to emphasize verticality or horizontality), and the use of window banding and curved corners. The Art Deco style emerged earlier than the Art Moderne style and dates of construction help assign stylistic labels to these two similar expressions of Moderne design. The Sheboygan County Courthouse and the Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory both exhibit defining features of the overreaching Moderne movement including: concrete and steel structure, flat roof, geometric designs and banding, spare exterior walls with decoration focused at doors and windows, and demonstrate the blending of traditional architectural elements with modern architectural design and materials. These two buildings are also a natural comparison because of their similar dates of construction (built only eight years apart) and similar monumental scale. While both are of a grand scale, the courthouse is arguably the more elaborate of the two buildings. The courthouse not only exhibits the hallmark characteristics of the style, but reflects its status as a county courthouse with its taller height, more decorative exterior, and its elaborate and richly ornamented interior. The Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory is similar in scale (being a bit shorter), and architectural features, but its spare interior design is in line with its use as an armory and public auditorium. This evaluation confirms that the Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory is one of the finest examples of the Art Moderne style in Sheboygan and is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

¹⁷ 'Wisconsin Architecture and History Inventory,' Wisconsin Historical Society website.
<www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Article/CS2834> accessed May 6, 2018

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Architect

Edgar A. Stubenrauch

Edgar Stubenrauch was born in Sheboygan in 1894. After earning his degree in architecture from the University of Illinois in 1918, he served in the U.S. Army in the European Theater for approximately one year. After which, he attended the University of London for six months before he returned to Sheboygan. Upon his return, he worked for his contractor father for several months. After passing the architect state board examination, he was employed as an intern with the State Architect of Wisconsin for a year. He then returned to his hometown. In 1921, he married Lillian Tasche of Sheboygan. The couple went on to have two daughters and one son. Stubenrauch opened his own office that same year. He served on the first City of Sheboygan Zoning Commission and on the Zoning Board of Appeals.¹⁸ During his career, he designed hundreds of large buildings in Wisconsin and in Upper Michigan, including the Sheboygan Clinic, Sheboygan Post Office, Rocky Knoll Sanatorium, University of Wisconsin-Sheboygan, Pine Hills Country Club, and numerous other churches, schools, residences, municipal buildings, healthcare facilities, industrial buildings, commercial buildings, and the Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory, as well as many other WPA projects in the region. Stubenrauch is known to have been practicing architecture as late as the 1960s. He died in 1988 in Sheboygan. His successor firm continued to work prominently in the area. After over eighty years in operation, Stubenrauch Associates closed its doors early in 2004.¹⁹

Conclusion

The Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory is an excellent example of the Art Moderne style and a monumental example of civic architecture, designed by the notable Sheboygan architect, Edgar Stubenrauch. Constructed in 1942 and federally funded by the Works Progress Administration, the building has an exposed concrete exterior, steel bow-string truss roof, and plaster and wood-detailed interiors. The Art Moderne style was popular during the 1930s and 1940s, particularly in the design of civic architecture. The building exhibits the features that define the style and is one of the best examples of the style in the community making it eligible for the National Register in the area of Architecture (Criterion C). The Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory is also locally significant for its association with the history of entertainment and recreation (Criterion A), having been the community's most prominent entertainment venue, cultural center and auditorium, and the center of social activities for many decades. While constructed to serve as the home for the Wisconsin

¹⁸ Lehrke, Jennifer L. *City of Sheboygan, Wisconsin Architectural and Historical Intensive Survey Report*. Sheboygan, WI: Historical Preservation Commission, 2002.

¹⁹ *Municipal Auditorium and Armory, Sheboygan, Wisconsin*. Original Plans. Edgar A. Stubenrauch Architect, December 4th, 1940; & General Files, on file with the Sheboygan County Historical Research Center.

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Army National Guard's 32nd Division, the building quickly assumed additional roles: it was the home of the Sheboygan Red Skins, an early professional basketball team, as well as hosting a variety of meetings, rallies, concerts, fairs, and other sporting events. Attending events at the Municipal Auditorium and Armory shaped the lives of most Sheboygan residents, adults and children alike and has been an indelible part of the fabric of the community since its construction.

Statement of Archeological Potential

This area of the state, near the mouth of the Sheboygan River at Lake Michigan, was likely home to considerable Native American activities and early European settlement. A large area at the mouth of the Sheboygan River is recorded in the Archaeological Sites Inventory as being the vicinity of a large village site occupied by the Sheboygan Band of the Potawatomi and other groups (ASI #SB-0156). The Sheboygan area is mentioned by many prominent early traders, missionaries, and explorers, so this village may have been occupied quite early, and may have been a possible trading center. The Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory was constructed on four feet of fill on a site formerly occupied by a lumber mill, and while it is almost certain that the construction of the subject building would have greatly disturbed remaining archeological artifacts directly within its footprint, it is possible that archaeological remains may be extant. Archaeological investigation was outside the scope of this nomination project and further potential for the property remains unassessed.

Preservation Activities

This nomination follows a recent concerted local effort to preserve the Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory building significant for its association with the architectural, social and cultural history of Sheboygan. Advocates for the vacant building hope to re-purpose and restore it as an entertainment and civic center again. The Armory Community Project, Inc. intends to utilize historic tax credits and other incentives to rehabilitate the property. This nomination was privately funded.

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Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory
City of Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, WI

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Section 10 Page 1

Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory
City of Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, WI

Verbal Boundary Description

The property that is the subject of this nomination consists of a single contributing resource located in the southeast quarter section of Section 23, Town 15 North, Range 23 East in the City of Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, Wisconsin. The boundary for the Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory is clearly delineated on the accompanying sketch map. The boundary encloses an area of approximately 1.8 acres.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encloses a 1.8-acre parcel that immediately surrounds the Auditorium and Armory. It is the current legal parcel for the property. The eastern boundary of this parcel is the western edge of the right-of-way of the north-south running Broughton Drive. The northern boundary is the southern edge of the right-of-way of the east-west running Center Avenue. The western boundary is the centerline of the north-south running alley, and the southern boundary is the northern edge of the right-of-way of the east-west running Pennsylvania Avenue.

The 1.8-acre parcel that now comprises this property was originally part of a slightly larger parcel. The larger parcel was subdivided at the centerline of an existing paved alley. The original acreage of the parcel is believed to be extraneous for the purpose of this nomination, lacking a significant connection to the Auditorium and Armory, its history, or landscape. The Auditorium and Armory in relationship to Broughton Drive and the front yard has not changed.

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Continuation Sheet

Section photos Page 1

Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory
City of Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, WI

Name of Property:	Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory
City or Vicinity:	City of Sheboygan
County:	Sheboygan
State:	Wisconsin
Name of Photographer:	Bob Short
Date of Photographs:	March 12, 2018 and March 23, 2018
Location of Original Digital Files:	Wisconsin Historical Society, Division of Historic Preservation, Madison, WI

- Photo 1 of 18: (WI_SheboyganCounty_SheboyganMunicipalAuditorium&Armory_0001)
Aerial, facing northwest
- Photo 2 of 18: (WI_SheboyganCounty_SheboyganMunicipalAuditorium&Armory_0002)
Aerial, facing northeast
- Photo 3 of 18: (WI_SheboyganCounty_SheboyganMunicipalAuditorium&Armory_0003)
Exterior, facing northwest
- Photo 4 of 18: (WI_SheboyganCounty_SheboyganMunicipalAuditorium&Armory_0004)
Exterior, facing west
- Photo 5 of 18: (WI_SheboyganCounty_SheboyganMunicipalAuditorium&Armory_0005)
Exterior, facing southwest
- Photo 6 of 18: (WI_SheboyganCounty_SheboyganMunicipalAuditorium&Armory_0006)
Exterior, facing southwest
- Photo 7 of 18: (WI_SheboyganCounty_SheboyganMunicipalAuditorium&Armory_0007)
Exterior, facing south
- Photo 8 of 18: (WI_SheboyganCounty_SheboyganMunicipalAuditorium&Armory_0008)
Exterior, facing east
- Photo 9 of 18: (WI_SheboyganCounty_SheboyganMunicipalAuditorium&Armory_0009)
Exterior, facing northeast
- Photo 10 of 18: (WI_SheboyganCounty_SheboyganMunicipalAuditorium&Armory_0010)
Exterior, facing north
- Photo 11 of 18: (WI_SheboyganCounty_SheboyganMunicipalAuditorium&Armory_0011)
Exterior, facing southwest
- Photo 12 of 18: (WI_SheboyganCounty_SheboyganMunicipalAuditorium&Armory_0012)
Exterior, facing northwest
- Photo 13 of 18: (WI_SheboyganCounty_SheboyganMunicipalAuditorium&Armory_0013)
Interior, Lobby, facing north
- Photo 14 of 18: (WI_SheboyganCounty_SheboyganMunicipalAuditorium&Armory_0014)
Interior, Lobby, facing south

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

Section photos Page 2

Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory
City of Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, WI

Photo 15 of 18: (WI_SheboyganCounty_SheboyganMunicipalAuditorium&Armory_0015)

Interior, Stair Hall, facing south

Photo 16 of 18: (WI_SheboyganCounty_SheboyganMunicipalAuditorium&Armory_0016)

Interior, Drill Hall facing southwest

Photo 17 of 18: (WI_SheboyganCounty_SheboyganMunicipalAuditorium&Armory_0017)

Interior, Drill Hall, facing west

Photo 18 of 18: (WI_SheboyganCounty_SheboyganMunicipalAuditorium&Armory_0018)

Interior, Bleachers, facing west

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Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory
City of Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, WI

Figures

Figure 1: Sketch Map

Figure 2: Sketch Plans

Figure 3: *First Floor Plan*. Edgar A. Stubenrauch, Architect. "Municipal Auditorium & Armory, Sheboygan, Wisconsin," Architectural Plans. 1940.

Figure 4: *Second Floor Plan*. Edgar A. Stubenrauch, Architect. "Municipal Auditorium & Armory, Sheboygan, Wisconsin," Architectural Plans. 1940.

Figure 5: *Elevations and Sections*. Edgar A. Stubenrauch, Architect. "Municipal Auditorium & Armory, Sheboygan, Wisconsin," Architectural Plans. 1940.

Figure 6: *Elevations and Sections*. Edgar A. Stubenrauch, Architect. "Municipal Auditorium & Armory, Sheboygan, Wisconsin," Architectural Plans. 1940.

Figure 7: Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory under construction, May 1941.

Figure 8: Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory upon completion - Exterior, Summer 1942.

Figure 9: Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory upon completion - Lobby, Summer 1942.

Figure 10: Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory upon completion -Drill Hall, Summer 1942.

Figure 11: Sheboygan Red Skins Basketball Game, c. 1950.

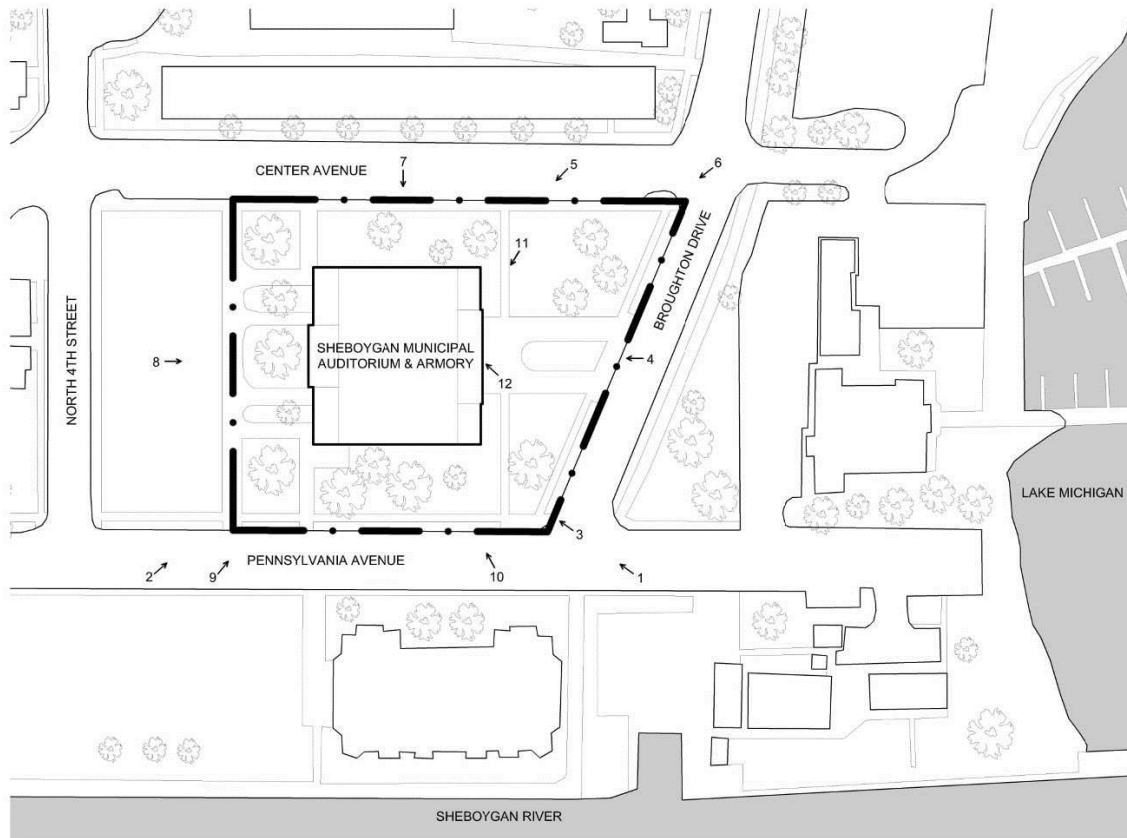
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Section **figures** Page 1

Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory
City of Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, WI

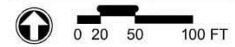
Figure 1: Sketch Map



LEGEND

-  PROPERTY LINE & NRHP BOUNDARY
-  PHOTO NUMBER & VANTAGE POINT

SKETCH MAP



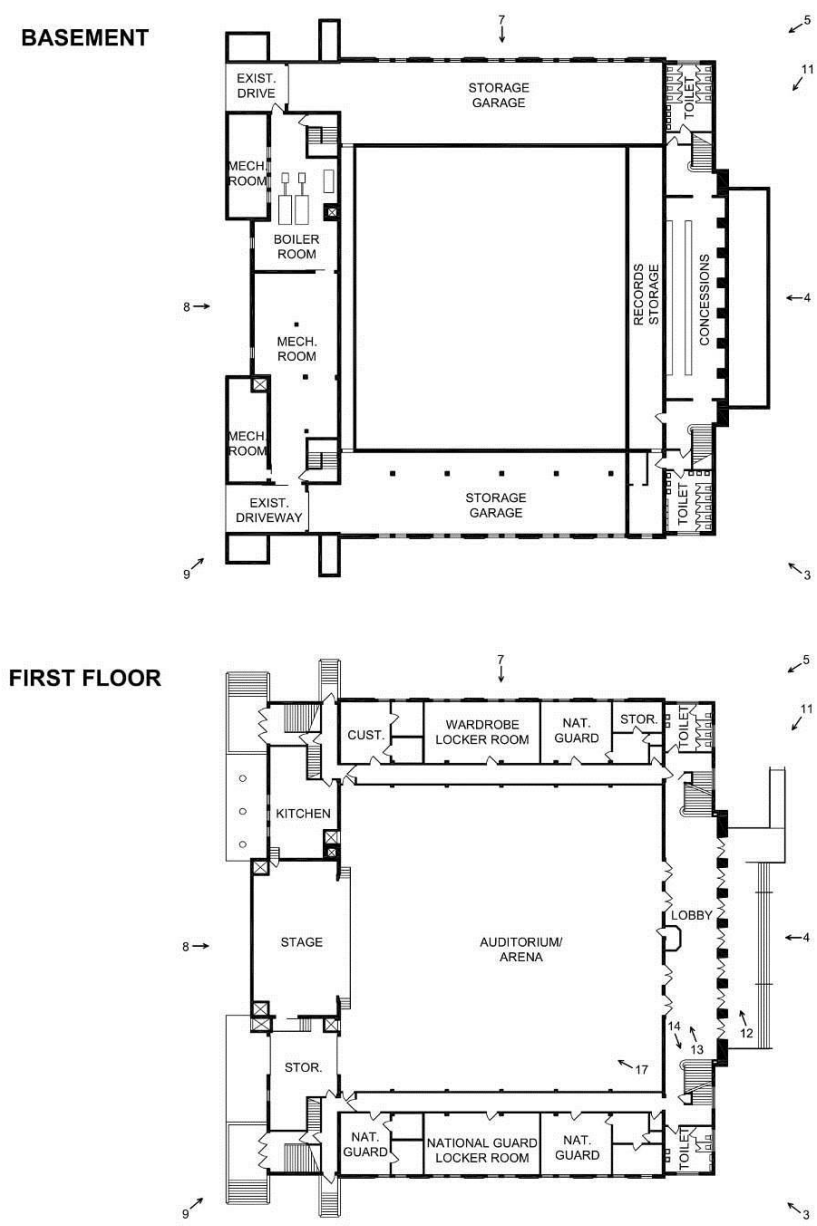
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section figures Page 1

Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory
 City of Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, WI

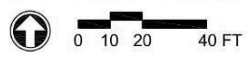
Figure 2: Sketch Plans and Photo Key



LEGEND

1 → PHOTO NUMBER & VANTAGE POINT

SKETCH PLAN



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section figures Page 1

Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory
City of Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, WI

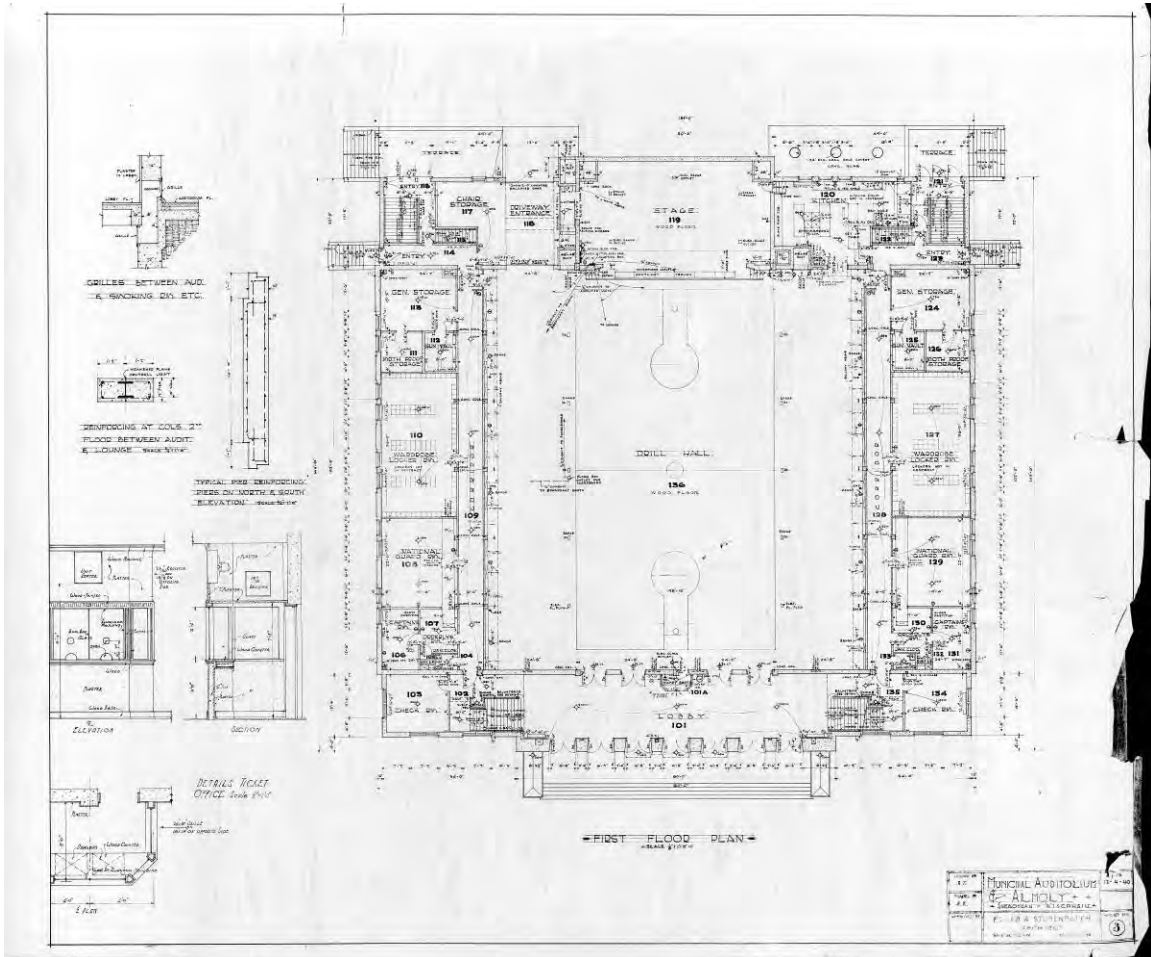


Figure 3: First Floor Plan. Edgar A. Stubenrauch, Architect. "Municipal Auditorium & Armory, Sheboygan, Wisconsin," Architectural Plans. 1940.

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Continuation Sheet

Section figures Page 1

Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory
City of Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, WI

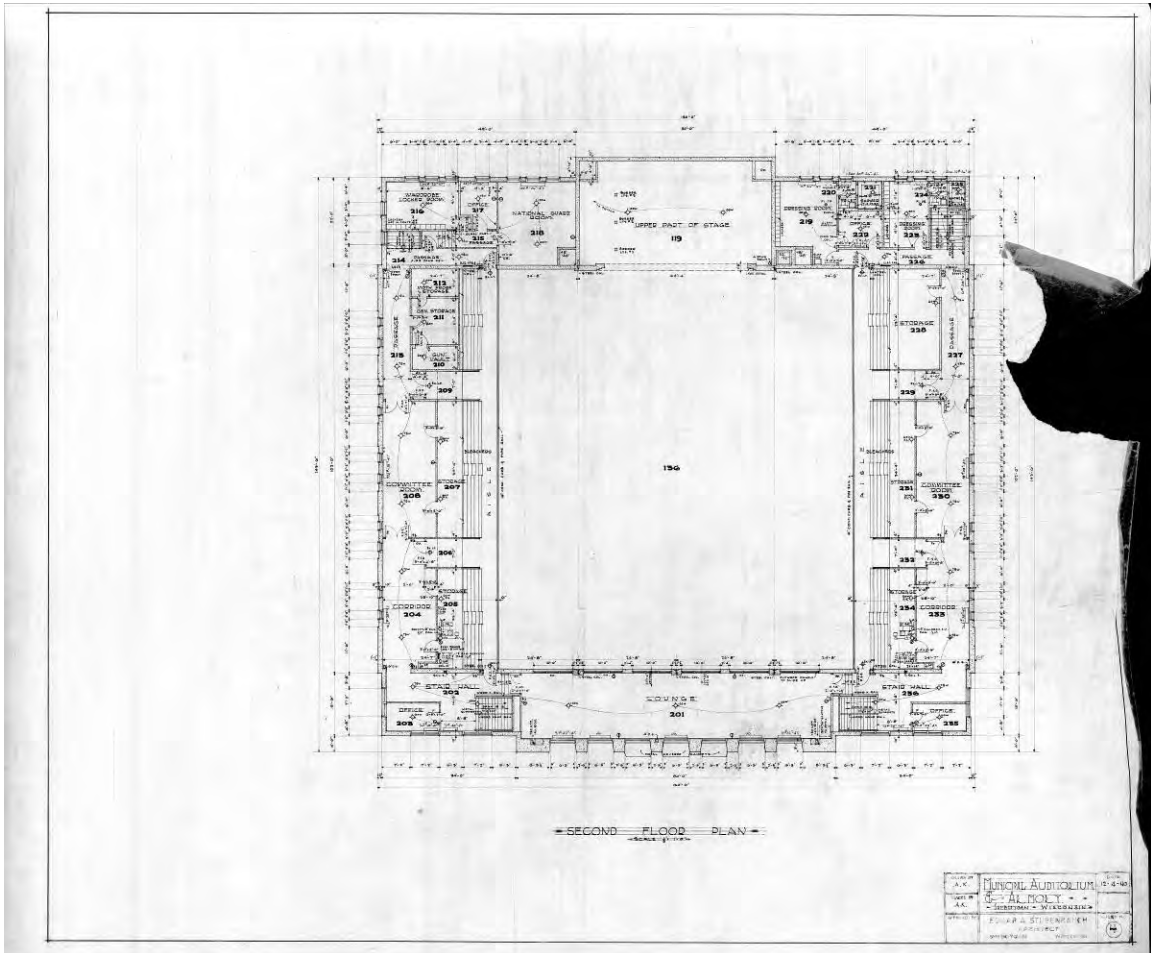


Figure 4: *Second Floor Plan*. Edgar A. Stubenrauch, Architect. "Municipal Auditorium & Armory, Sheboygan, Wisconsin," Architectural Plans. 1940.

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National Park Service

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Section figures Page 1

Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory
City of Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, WI

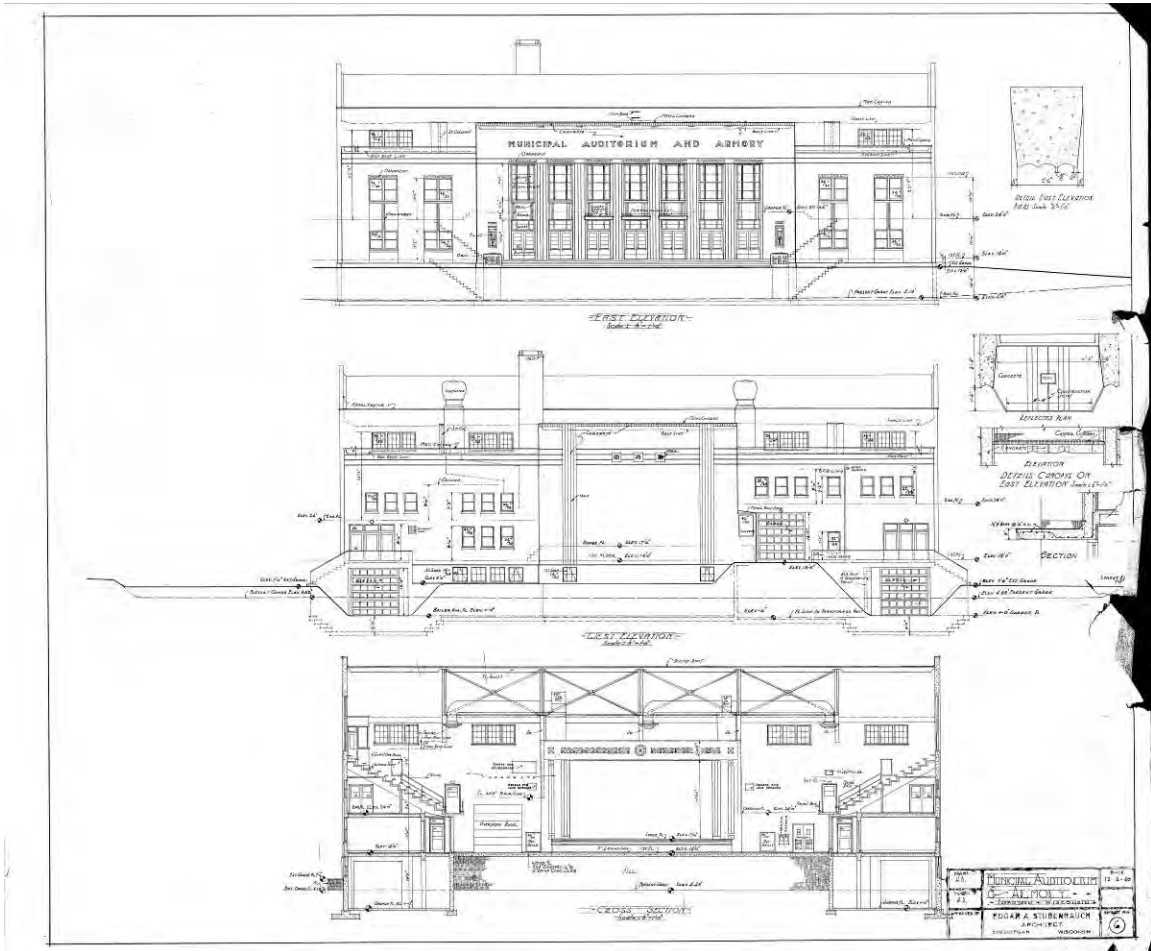


Figure 5: *Elevations and Sections*. Edgar A. Stubenrauch, Architect. "Municipal Auditorium & Armory, Sheboygan, Wisconsin," Architectural Plans. 1940.

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National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

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Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory
City of Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, WI

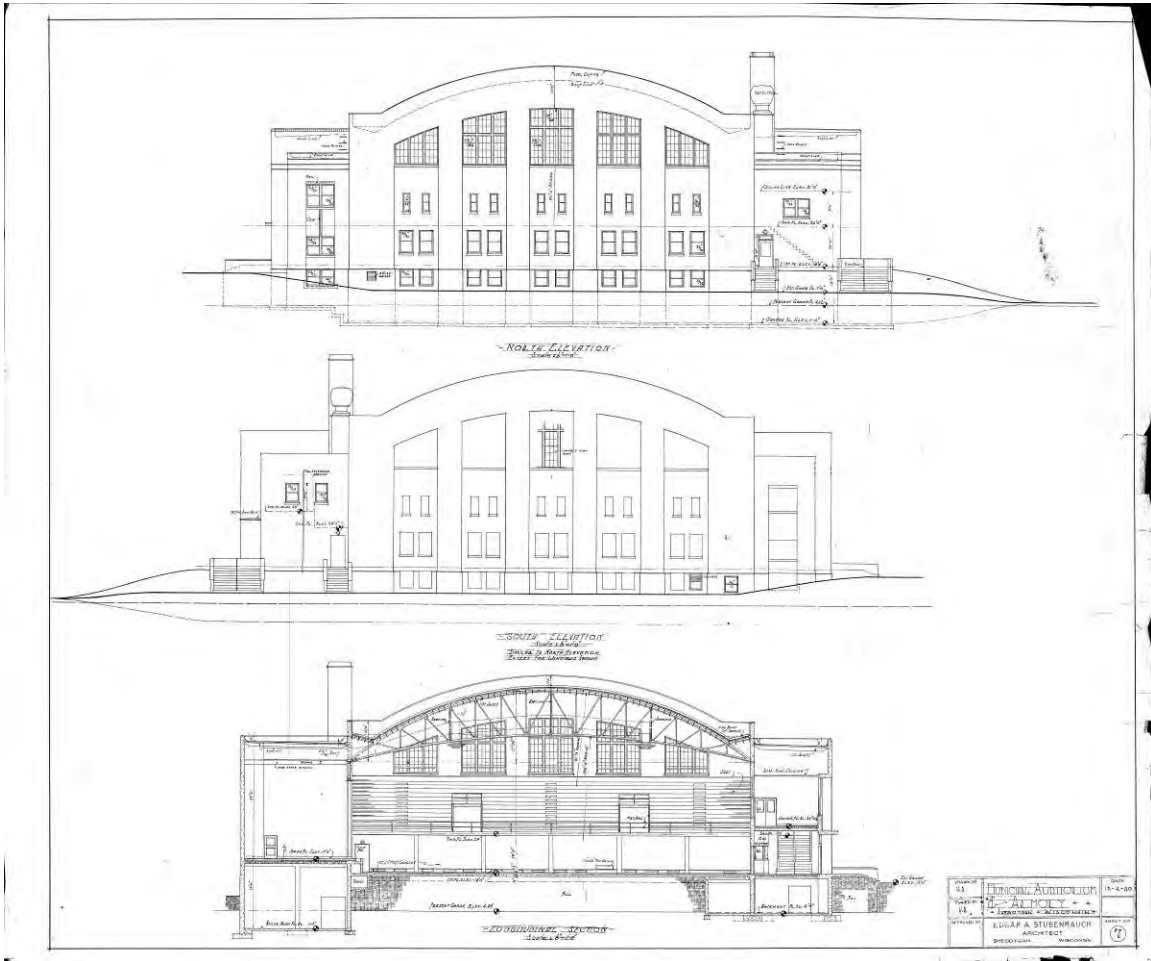


Figure 6: Elevations and Sections. Edgar A. Stubenrauch, Architect. "Municipal Auditorium & Armory, Sheboygan, Wisconsin," Architectural Plans. 1940.

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Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory
City of Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, WI

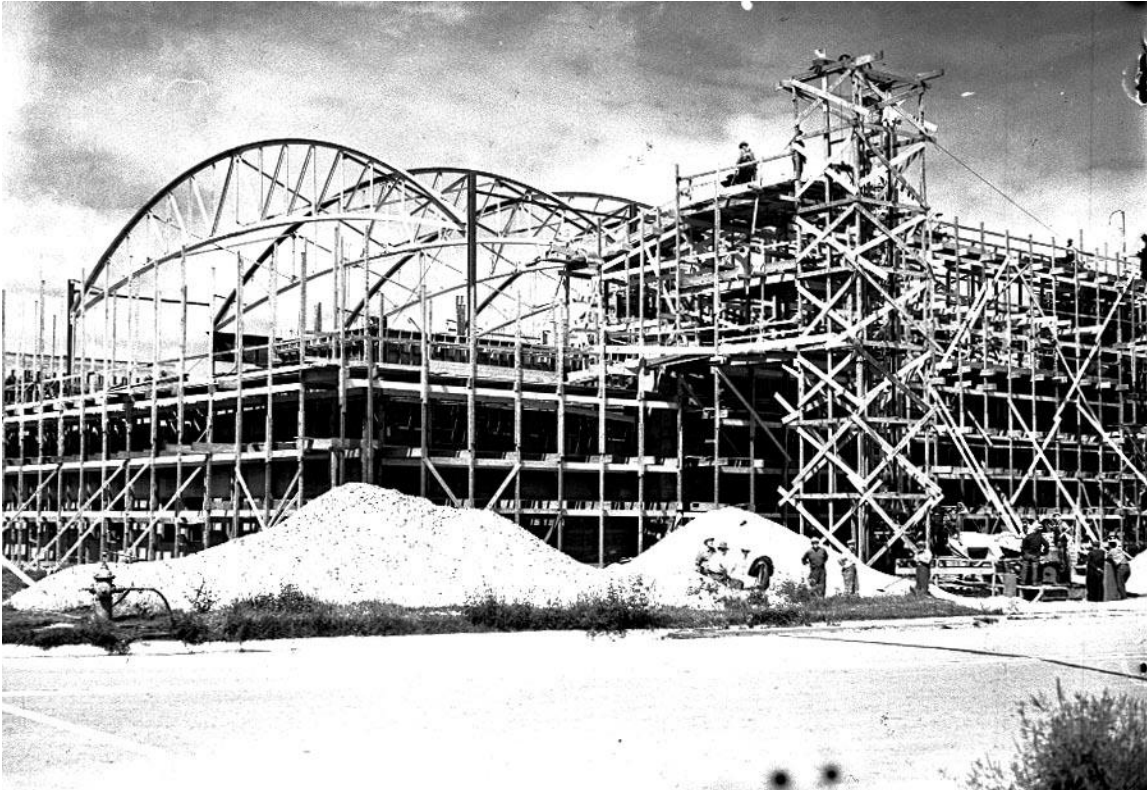


Figure 7: Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory under construction, May 1941. Photo Courtesy of the Sheboygan County Historical Research Center.

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National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

Section figures Page 1

Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory
City of Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, WI



Figure 8: Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory upon completion - Exterior, Summer 1942. Photo Courtesy of the Sheboygan County Historical Research Center.

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National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

Section figures Page 1

Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory
City of Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, WI



Figure 9: Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory upon completion - Lobby, Summer 1942. Photo Courtesy of the Sheboygan County Historical Research Center.

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National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

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Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory
City of Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, WI



Figure 10: Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory upon completion -Drill Hall, Summer 1942. Photo Courtesy of the Sheboygan County Historical Research Center.

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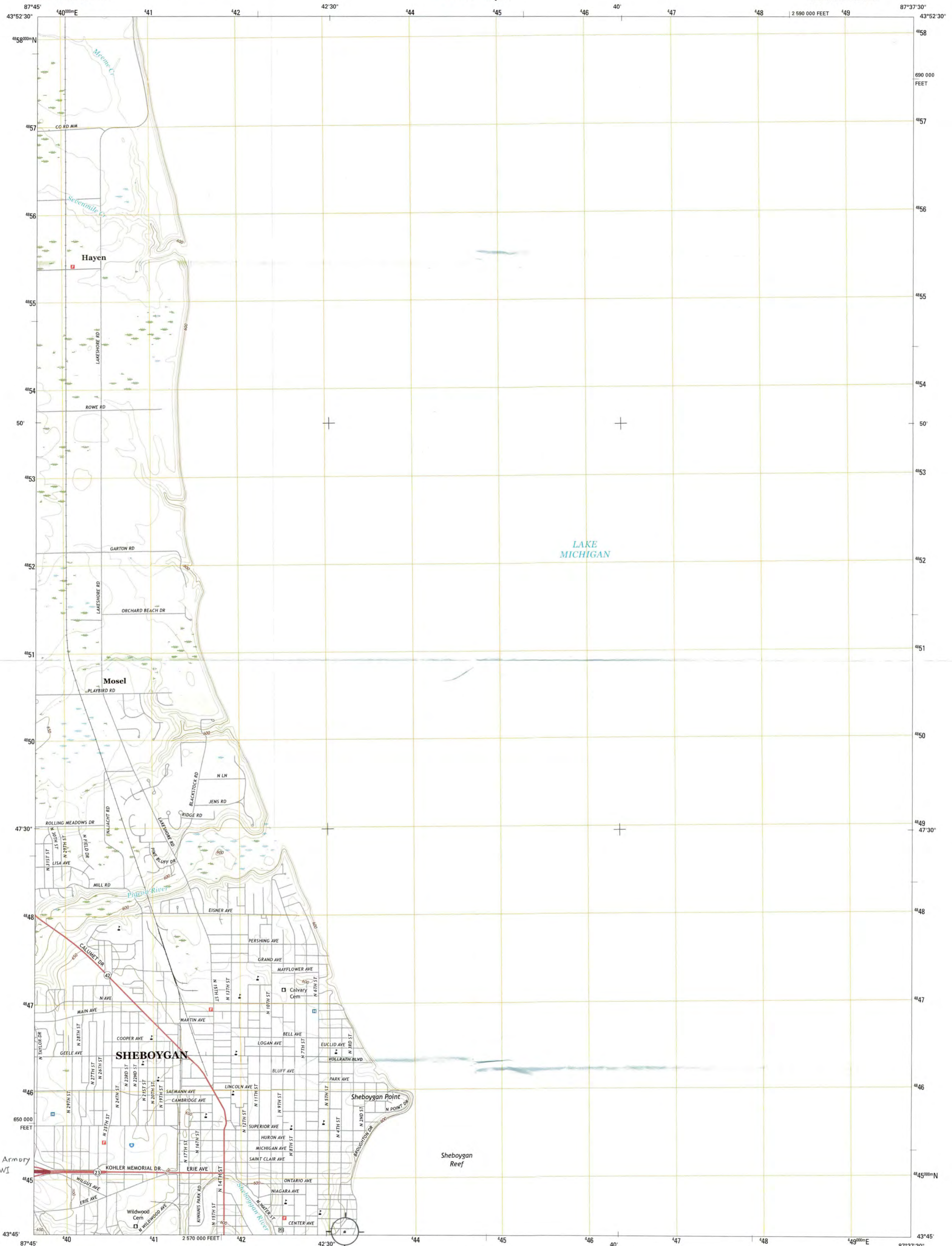
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section figures Page 1

Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory
City of Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, WI



Figure 11: Sheboygan Red Skins Basketball Game, c. 1950. Photo Courtesy of the Sheboygan County Historical Research Center.



Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium & Armory
City of Sheboygan, Sheboygan Co., WI
UTM Reference:

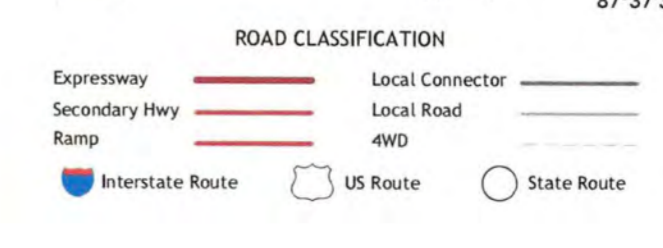
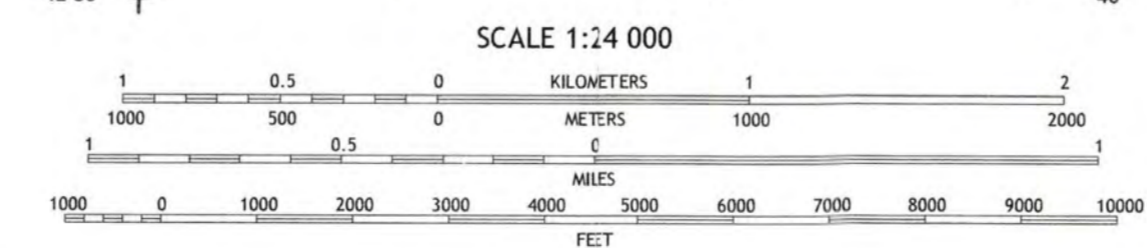
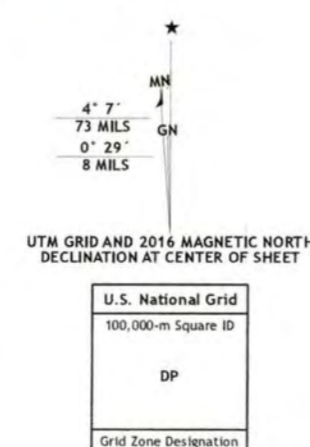
Zone Easting Northing
16N 443223.6 4844371.6

Produced by the United States Geological Survey

North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83)
World Geodetic System of 1984 (WGS84) Projection and
1 000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, Zone 16T
10 000-foot ticks: Wisconsin Coordinate System of 1983 (south zone)

This map is not a legal document. Boundaries may be generalized for this map scale. Private lands within government reservations may not be shown. Obtain permission before entering private lands.

Imagery:NAP, June 2013
Roads:U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 - 2016
Names:GNIS, 2016
Hydrography:National Hydrography Dataset, 2013
Contours:National Elevation Dataset, 1999
Boundaries:Multiple sources; see metadata file 1972 - 2016
Public Land Survey System:BLM, 2014
Wetlands:FWS National Wetlands Inventory 1977 - 2014



1	2	3	1 Cleveland West
4	5	2 Cleveland East	
6	7	3 Howards Grove	
		4 Sheboygan Falls	
		5 Sheboygan South	
		6 Sheboygan	
		7 Sheboygan North	
		8 Sheboygan	

SHEBOYGAN NORTH, WI
2016











MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM AND ARMORY



MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM AND ART GALLERY













MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM AND ARMORY





ARMORY















UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 12/17/2018 Date of Pending List: Date of 16th Day: Date of 45th Day: 1/31/2019 Date of Weekly List: 2/8/2019

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject 1/31/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary
Comments:

Recommendation/
Criteria

Reviewer Barbara Wyatt Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2252 Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

GLENN GROTHMAN
6TH DISTRICT, WISCONSIN

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

COMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM



RECEIVED
JUL 26 2018

24 WEST PIONEER ROAD
FOND DU LAC, WI 54935
(920) 907-0624

1217 LONGWORTH BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2476

GROTHMAN.HOUSE.GOV

UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

July 24, 2018

Wisconsin Historic Preservation Review Board
C/o Peggy Veregin
Wisconsin Historical Society
816 State Street
Madison, WI 53706



Wisconsin Historic Preservation Review Board:

I am writing in support of Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory nomination to the Wisconsin State Register of Historic Places and the National Register of Historic Places. The building, located in Sheboygan, is part of the Sixth Congressional District which I represent.

The Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory is an exceptional example of the Modern style and a monumental example of civic architecture. Constructed in 1942 and federally funded by the Works Progress Administration, the building has an exposed concrete exterior, steel bow-string truss roof, and plaster and wood-detailed interiors, demonstrating the civic architecture. The building exhibits the features that define the style and is one of the best examples of the style in the community making it eligible for the National Register in the area of Architecture. The Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory is also locally significant for its association with the history of recreation and entertainment, having been the community's most prominent entertainment venue, cultural center and auditorium, and the center of social activities for many decades. While constructed to serve as the home for the Wisconsin Army National Guard's 32nd Division, the building quickly assumed additional roles: it was the home of the Sheboygan Red Skins, an early professional basketball team, as well as hosting a variety of meetings, rallies, concerts, fairs, and other sporting events. Attending events at the Municipal Auditorium and Armory shaped the lives of most Sheboygan residents, adults and children alike and has been and indelible part of the fabric of the community since its construction.

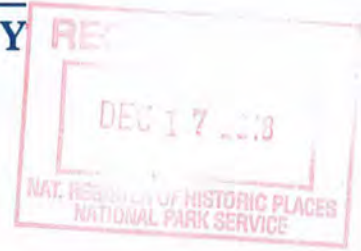
Please give all due and fair consideration consistent with current federal and state laws and agency regulations. Keep me apprised of your efforts and findings by contacting my District Director, Alan Ott, at 24 West Pioneer Road Fond du Lac, WI 54935 or by calling (920) 907-0624. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress



WISCONSIN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY



TO: Keeper
National Register of Historic Places

FROM: Peggy Veregin
National Register Coordinator

SUBJECT: National Register Nomination

The following materials are submitted on this Fourteenth day of December 2018, for the nomination of the Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory to the National Register of Historic Places:

- 1 Original National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form
- 1 CD with NRHP Nomination form PDF
- Multiple Property Nomination form
- 18 Photograph(s)
- 1 CD with image files
- 1 Map(s)
- 11 Sketch map(s)/figures(s)/exhibit(s)
- 1 Piece(s) of correspondence
- Other:

COMMENTS:

- Please ensure that this nomination is reviewed
- x This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
- The enclosed owner objection(s) do or do not constitute a majority of property owners
- Other: