

**United States Department of the Interior  
 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
 Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
 Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Crisfield Armory

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number Main Street Extended N/A not for publication

city, town Crisfield N/A vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland code 24 county Somerset code 039

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name State of Maryland, Military Department Contact: Col. Raymond Clift  
728-3388 x 244

street & number 231 West Hoffman Street

city, town Baltimore N/A vicinity of state Maryland 21201

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Princess Anne state Maryland 21853

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Maryland Historical Trust  
Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1980  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>      N/A      </u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Crisfield Armory, built in 1927, is located east of downtown Crisfield in a pleasant residential neighborhood. The brick building, two stories tall with a full basement, emulates a Medieval fortification. Attached to the rear of this two story main block is a narrower one-story drill hall.

The front facade, oriented to the north, consists of one-bay divisions on either side of a central section, itself flanked by two, three-story tall towers. Basement windows have been blocked over across the entire front. The windows in the entire building have been replaced with dark tinted stationary plexiglass panels with transoms at top and bottom. An early postcard (undated) in the possession of the building superintendent shows the front facade with 4/5 casement windows in the side sections and 2/5 casements in the towers. The bases of the first floor windows rest on the stone water table, and those at second floor level have stone sills in each of the side sections. There are two windows at each first and second floor windows, all with flat brick arches. A line of stone coping runs across the facade above the basement level.

A frieze of thin stone molding surmounting 8 stone dentils crosses each section. Four crenelles with stone caps crown the side sections. One strip buttress brackets each end of the side sections, capped with stone and with stone trims corresponding to the level of the stone water table, the vertical center of the front wall and the dentilled frieze.

The towers of the center section project slightly from the front wall plane and contain narrow windows at first and second floor levels, with some stone sills and flat brick arches. Each tower is flanked by strip buttresses capped with stone and trimmed with stone as in the side sections. A stone lozenge-shaped panel is placed at the level of the buttress caps in the center of each tower. A band of stone molding crosses the towers at a line corresponding to the stone caps on the crenelles of the center bay. The towers are crowned by three crenelles capped with stone, and a small square stone panel is centered directly beneath the center crenelles.

The center front facade features a segmentally arched doorway with double doors recessed 4-5 feet, surmounted by a stone plate which identifies the building. At second floor level is a double window with flat brick arch and stone keystone at center. The seal of the State of Maryland appears in a large square stone panel at the roofline, surmounted by three crenelles with stone caps.

The front yard contains a tall horseshoe-shaped ramp trimmed in brick with painted iron railings. A small cannon of undetermined date or origin graces the lawn between the arms of the ramp.

On the west side of the center block, all three basement windows are blocked. Three windows are placed at the first floor level, their bases set into the stone water table which continues from the front facade. At second floor level are two windows with stone sills. The dentilled frieze and roof crenelles with stone caps also continue as on the front facade. Strip buttresses bracket the two ends of the side block.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1946	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1927 **Builder/Architect** unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Applicable Criteria: A, C  
Applicable Exceptions: none  
Significance Evaluated: state

The Crisfield, Maryland Armory is primarily significant for its association with the reorganization and expansion of the National Guard system in the twentieth century. It derives additional significance from its role as a social center for its community, a function it has served continuously since its construction date. Architecturally, the building embodies the distinctive characteristics of its type, including a T shaped plan with a two-story front "head house" section and a one-story perpendicular "drill house" extending to the rear; its facade is detailed to recall Medieval fortifications, with towers flanking the central entrance, crenellated parapets, and strip buttresses.

The Crisfield Armory was built in 1927 to house Company L, Third Battalion, 115 Infantry of the 29th Division. After subsequent reorganizations, Company L re-emerged as the 1229th Transportation Company, the name by which it is presently known. As part of the 29th Division, the Company shares in the honors bestowed upon the Division at the close of World War II, most notably the distinguished unit citation and the French Croix de Guerre with Palm.

In an effort to express appreciation to the men of the unit returning from World War I, the County (Somerset) established a commission headed by Crisfield citizens and members of the local American Legion to establish an armory at Crisfield.

Over the years the Armory has been used for many community events - fairs, dances, auto shows, and has served as a roller skating rink for the young people of the town.

The Armory undertook a program of complete interior and exterior renovations in 1978. National Guard activity was minimal during renovations but resumed at the facility in 1980.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Wilson, Woodrow T., Lt. Col., U.S. Army (Ret.) History of Crisfield and Surrounding Areas on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Baltimore: Gateway Press, Inc., 1973.

Interview with Lt. Col. Woodrow T. Wilson, U.S. Army (Ret.)

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1.6 acre

Quadrangle name Crisfield, MD

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A	1 8	4 2 1 6 0 2 1 0	4 2 0 3 8 4 1 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B							
	Zone	Easting	Northing				

C							
	Zone	Easting	Northing				

D							
	Zone	Easting	Northing				

E							
	Zone	Easting	Northing				

F							
	Zone	Easting	Northing				

G							
	Zone	Easting	Northing				

H							
	Zone	Easting	Northing				

### Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet No. 1

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susanne Moore, Historic Sites Surveyor

organization Maryland Historical Trust date July 1980; revised 1985

street & number 21 State Circle telephone (301) 2692438

city or town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*J. M. H.* 8-14-85

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<i>See Continuation Sheet for pictures</i>	date
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

S-118

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Crisfield Armory

Continuation sheet Somerset County, Maryland Item number 7 and 10 Page 1

7. DESCRIPTION (continued)

On the east side of the center block is a new entrance at the rear of the basement level. The first floor contains one window toward the front and two narrow windows toward the rear. At second floor level two windows remain, one at either end of the block. The center window has been filled in with metal venting material. The east side is otherwise identical to the west side.

The rear one-story tall drill hall over full basement contains six bays with two windows in each, all filled with new plexiglas as on the front facade. All windows have frick sills and flat brick arches. Buttresses separate the bays with stone set-backs at approximately window top level.

The roof of the hall is a shallow barrel vault, and sits over a corbelled cornice and a row of brick dentils, seven per bay. Both the east and west rear sides are identical.

The rear of the drill hall has been altered with a two story brick addition with double flights of cement stairs leading to first floor doorways. the rear motor compound is sealed by high modern metal fencing topped with barbed wire.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Verbal Boundary Description:

All that lot or parcel of land situate and lying and being in the Town of Crisfield, Somerset County, in the State of Maryland, on the south side of Main Street, extended, being the same and all the real estate and premises conveyed unto the said Rastus R. Norris, Stephen P. Fuller, T. Edward Webb and Lorie C. Quinn, Jr., Trustees of the Crisfield Armory Commission of Somerset County, by Charles A. Loockerman and Martha J. Loockerman, his wife, ... recorded among the said Land Records in Liber OTB No. 30, folio 127.

Boundary Justification:

The nominated property comprises the total parcel historically associated with the resource.