

MINNESOTA HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

79007205

HISTORIC NAME: New Ulm Armory

COUNTY: Brown  
CITY/TWP.: New Ulm

CURRENT NAME:

LEGAL DESC.: B103N - L1, 2

ADDRESS:  
205 North Broadway

<b>CLASSIFICATION:</b> Building <u>X</u> Structure _____ Object _____ District _____	<b>CONDITION:</b> Excellent _____ Good <u>X</u> Fair _____ Deteriorated _____	<b>SIGNIFICANCE:</b> Local _____ State <u>X</u> National _____	<b>THEME/S:</b> Primary <u>Military</u> Secondary _____ Others _____
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OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_ Restricted X  
VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_  
OCCUPIED: Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

PRESENT USE:  
Armory

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1914

ORIGINAL USE: Armory  
ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Albert Shippel, Mankato plans dated 4-25-1914

ORIGINAL OWNER: State of Minnesota

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: state of Minnesota; Department of Administration; 50 Sherburne Avenue; St. Paul, MN 55155

ACREAGE: Less than one acre X

LOCAL CONTACT/Org.:

UTM REFERENCE:  
15 / 383340 / 4907630

FORM PREPARED BY: Dennis Gimmestad  
DATE: January 1979

New Ulm Quad.

**DESCRIPTION:**

The New Ulm National Guard Armory is an imposing red brick and concrete structure located on North Broadway in New Ulm.

The building, designed by Mankato architect Albert Shippel in 1914, is on a sloping site which permits three full stories at the front (Broadway side) and two stories to the rear. The lower story is of concrete blocks and is capped by a water table that encircles the building. Square and octagonal corbelled towers at the corners and at central positions on the south and east sides and a crenelated parapet give the building a vigorous profile. Fenestration is basically symmetrical and pierces the building with single and paired rectangular windows.

Details on the Broadway facade include an arched window opening over the central drive-through entrance, a two-section cast concrete name stone, and ornamental roundels set in arched recesses over the central third story windows. A curving ramp of concrete leads to a second-level drive-through entrance on the Fifth North Street side.

The interior of the building has been carefully maintained and only slightly modified. The three levels of the front are occupied by office space; the upper two levels of the central section are the gymnasium-drill space. The lower level contains kitchen and dining facilities and equipment storage space.

**SIGNIFICANCE:**

Armory buildings constructed from the turn of the century through World War I often retained the stylistic elements of the medieval fortress while adapting the interior to accommodate a wide variety of activities. In a recent survey of state-owned structures in Minnesota conducted by the Department of Administration and the State Historic Preservation Office, the New Ulm National Guard Armory was judged to be the most distinguished example of this type of several such existing buildings in the state.

The building has been the center of both National Guard and community activities since its construction in 1914. The New Ulm Guard was one of the first local National Guard companies to be organized in Minnesota shortly after state legislation created an active state militia in 1871. Motivating force behind this "New Ulm Military Company", as it was called, was Joseph Bobleter, who later became the first president of the Minnesota National Guard Association.

The New Ulm Armory is significant as an outstanding representative example of pre-WWI armories in the state, associated with one of Minnesota's oldest National Guard Companies, and as a strong visual component of the local streetscape.