NPS Form 10-900
(3-82)

√ MARYLAND NATIONAL GUARD ARMORIES THEMATIC GROUP

OMB No. 1024-0018
Expires 10-31-87

CE-1035

United States Department of the Interior
National Park 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   Elkton Armory

and or common

2. Location

street & number   Railroad Avenue and Bow Street   N/A not for publication

city, town   Elkton   N/A vicinity of   First Congressional District

state   Maryland   code   24   county   Cecil   code   015

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	X public	X occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	___ private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	X yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
		___ no	X military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name   State of Maryland, Military Department   Contact: Col. Raymond Clift
                                                              728-3388 x244

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.   Cecil County Courthouse

street & number

city, town   Elkton   state   Maryland   21921

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date   1980   ___ federal X state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records   Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town   Annapolis   state   Maryland   21401

Condition

		Check one	**Check one**
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	_X_ original site
_X_ good	___ ruins	_X_ altered	___ moved date _N/A_
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Elkton Armory is located within a few blocks of the center of downtown Elkton in a area of mixed residential and commercial uses. To the west across Bow Street is an abandoned school building with large surrounding playground and open spaces.

The Armory is a two story brick structure with full basement faced with light grey granite. Attached to the rear of this two-story main block is a narrower one-story drill hall. A modern one-story brick garage has been added to the rear of the drill hall. The front (Railroad Avenue) facade is oriented to the south, and is composed of a center section flanked by two-bay side sections. Bracketing the side sections are round towers at each end of the facade. Reading from east to west the features of the facade are as follows: At the corner is a two-story tower with one window each at basement, first and second floors, 1/1 replacement sash, all with stone lintels and sills except at the first floor where the windows are set into the stone water table. Windows across the entire facade are in the same style, with decorative stripping applied on the interior so that the windows have the superficial appearance of 4/4 sash. A band of stone molding encircles the tower above the second floor window. Three crenelles with stone caps crown the tower. Flanking the tower on its east side is a buttress with stone cap and stone trimmed setbacks corresponding to the bases and tops of the second floor windows and the band of stone molding above the windows.

Between the tower and center front is a two-bay side section, two windows each at basement, first and second floor levels, styled and trimmed as noted for the tower. The stone water table continues across the section as in the tower and a stone coping corresponding to the line of stone molding on the tower crosses the top of the side section. The top of the side section is finished with two crenelles with stone caps.

The center front features a slightly pointed arched doorway in stone at ground level, inside which wide double doors are recessed several feet. Surmounting the arched doorway is an elaborate stone panel containing the seal of the State of Maryland. Two windows occur at second floor level, styled and trimmed as in the side section and tower. The stone coping crosses the center front at top and is crowned by three crenelles with stone caps. A pair of buttresses flank the doorway with stone trimmed setbacks corresponding to the tops of the first floor windows, with stone caps set at the level of the bases of the second floor windows. Each cap contains a carved trefoil design.

The west side section is identical to that on the east side of the center section. The tower at the westernmost end of the facade contains two windows each at the basement, first and second floors. The outermost basement window has been blocked and stuccoed over. The design and trim of the windows and other structural details of the tower are identical to the tower on the east end of the facade. Attached to the tower on its west side at second floor level is a round chimney. The chimney rests on an inverted cone-shaped base of stone, decorated with four bands surmounting a small human-like mask.

The east side of the center block contains three windows at basement level (the center one blocked and stuccoed over), three at the first floor and two on the second floor (in two rearmost bays), all designed and trimmed as on the front facade. Four stone-capped crenelles top the center block side. The rear one-story drill hall over full basement is six bays long, punctuated by six buttresses with stone trimmed set-backs corresponding to water table, first floor window bases and tops, and capped with

See Continuation Sheet No. 1

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MARYLAND NATIONAL GUARD ARMORIES THEMATIC GROUP

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Exp. 10-31-84

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

CE-1035

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date entered

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet   Elkton Armory
Cecil County, Maryland   Item number   7 and 10   Page   1

7. DESCRIPTION (continued)

stone. First floor windows are four-paned sash under one-pane horizontal strips, one window per bay trimmed with stone sill. The roof over the drill hall is a shallow barrel vault.

The rear of the Armory drill hall is brick and with three rows of corbelling comprising a decorative arch over two original industrial-style windows. A one-story brick garage and fenced motor compound occupy the rear yard.

The west side of the building is identical to the east side except the rearmost bay of the drill hall contains a double door entry to the basement with cement ramp leading up to the street.

The well maintained long front lawn contains an elevated sidewalk, as if masking a bunker or tunnel, leading from the street to the front doors. Double flights of cement steps run perpendicular to the front facade and join the walkway immediately in front of the entrance. Near the street on the front lawn is a marble monument depicting a World War I soldier in uniform, a memorial to the citizens of Cecil County who served in that war.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Verbal Boundary Description:

BEGINNING for the same at the corner formed by the intersection of the northern-most side of Railroad Avenue and the easternmost side of Bow Street, and running thence along said Railroad Avenue and binding thereon north seventy-nine degrees east one hundred and fifty three and four tenths feet to the westernmost side of an alley fifteen feet wide, thence along said alley, with the use thereof, north thirteen and one-half degrees east three hundred and one and eight-tenths feet to the southernmost side of Stockton Street, thence in a westerly direction along side Stockton Street one hundred and forty feet to the easternmost side of Bow Street, and thence binding thereon south thirteen and one-half degrees west three hundred and sixty-eight and eight-tenths feet to the place of beginning...

Boundary Justification:

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

Period

___ prehistoric
___ 1400–1499
___ 1500–1599
___ 1600–1699
___ 1700–1799
___ 1800–1899
_X_ 1900–1946

Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

___ archeology-prehistoric
___ archeology-historic
___ agriculture
_X_ architecture
___ art
___ commerce
___ communications

___ community planning
___ conservation
___ economics
___ education
___ engineering
___ exploration/settlement
___ industry
___ invention

___ landscape architecture
___ law
___ literature
_X_ military
___ music
___ philosophy
___ politics/government

___ religion
___ science
___ sculpture
_X_ social/
    humanitarian
___ theater
___ transportation
___ other (specify)

Specific dates   1915   **Builder/Architect**   unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

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

The Elkton, 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 hall" extending to the rear; its facade is detailed to recall Medieval fortifications, with towers flanking the central entrance, crenellated parapets, and strip buttresses.

The Elkton Armory, completed in 1915 at a cost of $39,000 was dedicated to the uses of Company E of the 115th Infantry, 29th Division of the National Guard. Subsequent reorganizations renamed the unit 1729th Maintenance Company, under the fifth regiment. As part of the 29th Division, the unit shares in the honors bestowed upon the Division at the close of World War II, most notably the distinguished unit citation and French Croix de Guerre with Palm. Personnel of the unit are proud of its history and continuity, and a number of them are second and even third generations of Cecil County families with records of service in the same unit.

The Armory has housed a number of community events over the years and is credited to have started the first bowling alley in Cecil County in its drill hall during the 1940s. The Armory has also been the scene of community emergency operations, most notably the grim but necessary task of providing temporary shelter for the bodies of victims of a commercial airliner crash in 1963 which occurred two miles outside of Elkton.

9. Major Bibliographical References

<div style="text-align: right">CE-1035</div>

Land Records of Cecil County, Liber CK8, Folio 430.
Interview with Joseph W. Halsey of Elkton Armory physical plant staff.
Miller, Alice E. <u>Cecil County, Maryland, A Study of Local History</u>. Elkton: C&L
    Printing & Specialty Colk 1949.
Johnston, George. History of Cecil County. Elkton, published by the author, 1881.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property __1.120 acres__

Quadrangle name __Elkton, MD__

Quadrangle scale __1:24000__

UTM References

A |1 8| |4 2 8 4 5 0| |4 3 8 4 7 4 0|
  Zone   Easting   Northing

B |__| |__ __ __| |__ __ __|
  Zone   Easting   Northing

C |__| |__ __ __| |__ __ __|

D |__| |__ __ __| |__ __ __|

E |__| |__ __ __| |__ __ __|

F |__| |__ __ __| |__ __ __|

G |__| |__ __ __| |__ __ __|

H |__| |__ __ __| |__ __ __|

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet No. 1

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

state   N/A   code   county   code

state   code   county   code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title   Susanne Moore, Historic Sites Surveyor

organization   Maryland Historical Trust   date   July 1980; revised 7/85

street & number   21 State Circle   telephone   (301) 269-2438

city or town   Annapolis   state   Maryland 21401

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national   _X_ 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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature   8-14-85

title   STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER   date

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

     See Continuation sheet for listing   date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

GPO 911-399