

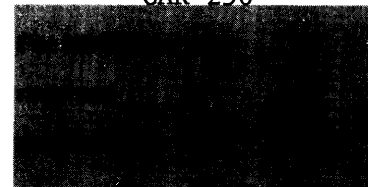
TR

CAR-256

**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 Denton Armory

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number Maple Avenue and Randolph Street N/A not for publication

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

state Maryland code 24 county Caroline code 011

**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  
728-338 ext. 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. Caroline County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Denton state Maryland 21629

**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 _____ N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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

The Denton Armory is a two story brick structure with full basement situated on the southeastern edge of the town of Denton, at the corner of Maple and Randolph Streets. Across Maple Street (to the west) is a large open space with playground, and the surrounding area is given to mixed commercial and residential uses.

The Armory, completed in 1938 is oriented to the west. It is composed of one story, one-bay side sections flanking a three-bay center section. The side sections are identical and contain 6/4 casement windows under 6-pane horizontal strips. The windows have no trim except narrow stone sills.

The second section of the front facade projects slightly from the side sections. Strip buttresses with stone caps punctuate the bays. The bays flanking the center arched doorway contain windows at first floor level, 6/4 casement under a 6-pane horizontal strip, with narrow stone sills. At second floor level are windows, also 6/4 casement with stone sills. The center doorway is flanked by piers projecting slightly from the rest of the center.

The doorway block projects several inches from the rest of the facade center. Wide double doors under a slightly recessed pointed brick arch are flanked by 2/4 casement windows at the first floor level. Two rows of brick corbelling cross above the doorway. The corbelled section is surmounted by the letters "M N G" in gold attached to the wall. A band of stone molding crosses the center section immediately above the second floor windows.

Centered above the second floor window at second floor level are decorative slots. The roofline above is flat and untrimmed.

A brief flight of cement steps leads to the doorway from the sidewalk, and a low brick wall with cement trim lines the walkway to the street. The front walk along Maple Street is lined with tall shade trees.

The south and north sides of the center block are identical, with double 4/4 casement windows under 4-pane horizontal strips.

The rear one story drill hall over full basement is four bays long, with bays separated by strip buttresses ending with stone caps above the level of the window tops. The first floor windows are stationary panels of glass, four panes horizontally and 6 panes vertically with transom openings at their centers. The windows have stone sills. At basement level are two small windows per bay. The hall roof is hipped shaped and tiled. The north and south sides of the drill hall are identical except that the first bay of the south side has a canopied and attractively landscaped ground floor walkway leading to the basement entrance to the Caroline (County) Senior Center.

The five-bay rear wall of the drill hall is punctuated by strip buttresses with stone caps and windows as noted for the side elevations. A flight of steps with iron pipe railing leads to a double door entrance in the extreme southeast bay. At the southwest corner of the lot is a brick one story garage set inside a fenced triangular motor compound.

# 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** 1938 **Builder/Architect** Builder: Carlstrand Engineering Corporation  
Baltimore

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)** Applicable Criteria: A, C  
Applicable Exceptions: G  
Significance Evaluated: state

The Denton, 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. Although the Denton Armory is less than 50 years old, constructed in 1938, it is exceptionally significant for its association with the distinguished contribution of the Maryland National Guard in the second World War.

The Denton Armory, the ninth such structure to be built on Maryland's Eastern Shore, was completed in October, 1938 at a cost of \$50,000. The building was dedicated May 30, 1939 to the uses of the 104th Quartermaster's Company of the Maryland National Guard. As part of the 29th Division, the 104th 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.

The requests for bids for construction of the Armory were published in the Caroline Sun (now the County Record) beginning in April 1938. A \$50,000 limit was set, allowing \$45,000 for buildings costs and \$5,000 for architectural work and furnishings. In June of that year a construction contract was awarded to the Carlstrand Engineering Corporation of Baltimore, who offered to complete the building by October 1938 for a total of \$43,000.

The Denton Armory has served many community purposes over the years. The Denton unit of the National Guard has removed to a new armory on Route 404 between Denton and Centrevill which it shares with that town's Guard unit. The entire building is now occupied by Caroline County services. The basement level presently enjoys lively occupation by the Caroline Senior Center which has renvoted the area to contain a cafeteria and cheerful gave and meeting room. The first floor front is occupied by the offices of the Caroline County Health Department. The gymnasium is heavily used by Denton youth for basketball gaves. The second floor appears to be vacant.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

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The Caroline Sun (now County Record), March 26, April 23, and June 11, 1938.  
Horsey, Eleanor F. Origins of Caroline County, Maryland. Privately printed by the author, 1974.  
History of Caroline County, Baltimore Regional Publishing Company, 1971.  
Vertical files, Maryland Room, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 0.860 acres

Quadrangle name Denton, MD

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

1	8	4	2	7	9	0	0	4	3	0	4	0	0	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 N/A code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan Moore, Historic Sites Surveyor

organization Maryland Historical Trust date 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  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 [Signature] date 8-14-85

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date

For NCRS use only  
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

[Signature] [Signature] [Signature]

Keeper of the National Register

Adapted

Chief of Registration