

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Duluth Armory  
other names/site number Duluth National Guard Armory; Armory Arts and Music Center

### 2. Location

street & number 1301-1305 London Road  not for publication N/A  
city or town Duluth  vicinity N/A  
state Minnesota code MN county St. Louis code 137 zip code 55805

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination      request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets      does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

     national   X   statewide      local

Britta Bloomberg 4/13/11  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Britta Bloomberg, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Minnesota Historical Society  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property      meets      does not meet the National Register criteria.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register  determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register  removed from the National Register
- other (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

for Edison H. Beall 6-1-11  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Duluth Armory  
Name of Property

St. Louis County, MN  
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**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.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		<b>Total</b>

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

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DEFENSE / arms storage

RECREATION AND CULTURE / auditorium

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT / NOT IN USE

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS:

Classical Revival

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE, CONCRETE

walls: BRICK

CONCRETE

roof: ASPHALT

other: TERRA COTTA

STONE

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**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

**Summary Paragraph**

See continuation sheet.

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**Narrative Description**

See continuation sheet.

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## DESCRIPTION

### Summary Paragraph

The Duluth Armory is located on the northeast end of the downtown business district of Duluth, Minnesota, in the East Hillside neighborhood. The armory occupies Lots 1 through 5 and 12 through 14 of Block 4 of Banning and Ray's Subdivision in Duluth. The site is on a slope that descends towards Lake Superior to the southeast. The armory is oriented towards the lake, fronting on London Road to the southeast. On the other side of the street is Leif Erickson Park, which is situated on top of a tunnel for Interstate 35. The street grid aligns with the shore of Lake Superior; the streets run northeast-southwest and northwest-southeast. The armory follows the grid and is set on a northeast-southwest axis. The armory building has three main parts—the Head House, the Drill Hall, and a 1941 addition. The Head House is 200'-2" in length and 34' wide, and its front facade on London Road rises 69' above grade. The Drill Hall is 190'-8" in length and 93' wide. The 1941 addition, which was built onto the Drill Hall's north wall, is 154'-8" long and 45' wide. (The addition wraps around the Drill Hall's northwest corner, extending 11'-4" beyond the latter's rear wall.) The entire building has exterior walls of variegated dark brown brick.

### Narrative Description

For the purpose of this description, the northeast side of the armory and the block on which it sits will be referred to as the north, the southeast as the east, and so forth. The building occupies the south two-thirds of the city block bounded by London Road to the east, South Thirteenth Avenue East to the south, Jefferson Street to the west, and South Fourteenth Avenue East to the north. A single-story modern building is near the northeast corner of the block and an asphalt-covered lot extends behind it to Jefferson Street; this property is not associated with the armory. (See sketch maps, page 1)

The armory building fills most of its site. There is a narrow lawn along the front facade, but most of the landscape around the armory is paved with asphalt. Trees dot the north one-third of the block. The building was constructed on top of Chester Creek, which, during construction, was routed through the armory's subbasement before continuing on to Lake Superior. The armory sits in the transitional area between commercial and residential districts.

The three-story, flat-roofed Head House sits on an elevated basement and extends along London Road, occupying the east 54'-6½" of the building. It is rectangular in plan and has a post-and-beam structural system of concrete with some load-bearing walls, a stone foundation, exterior walls of variegated dark brown brick, and interior walls of clay tile brick. Stone decorations and belt courses along the roofline are Classical Revival in style.

The front (east) facade is nine bays wide, and the bays are bracketed by brick pilasters with chimney-like capitals. The central five bays project out 1'-10" from the front facade and approximately 5' above the main roof line. The central five pilasters support a cornice of stone that carries a brick parapet wall varying between 2' to 3' in height. The parapet has terra-cotta coping as well as stone details, such as square openings with starbursts. A central date stone reads "1915" and has a garland motif. The capitals of the facade's central five pilasters are decorated with stone caps and roundels. The pilasters

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that sit on both sides of the central window are topped with recessed rectangular panels of buff-colored stone; one reads "MNG" and the other, "MNM." Both are framed with egg-and-dart details and sit on brackets with shield motifs. Underneath the fourth-floor windows is a terra-cotta panel imprinted with "MINNESOTA."

The armory's main entrance is in this bay at the second floor.<sup>1</sup> The recessed entry is surrounded by a modern stucco finish with faux stone quoins, and is approached from the southwest by a modern metal staircase. A four-over-one-light transom window is above the modern metal door. A historic keystone with a garland motif is preserved at the center. An entrance to the first floor sits directly below the main entrance. The sloped landscape creates an exposed basement level along the Head House's front facade. A belt course of stone runs along the foundation. This basement level is accentuated with recessed brick courses and is topped with a belt course of stone.

The windows along the front facade have wood sashes and are double-hung. They are grouped into sets of three, except for the outermost bays which are paired. In the groups of three, the central window has three-over-one-light double-hung sashes and is bracketed on each side by a window with two-over-one-light double-hung sashes. Windows on the fourth floor and in the central bays have transoms with one row of lights, the number of which is the same as in the window below. In some sashes, multiple panes appear to have been replaced with single lights.

The south, east, and north walls of the Head House are trimmed with a small belt course of stone topped by a larger stone course that sits between two smaller brick courses. The roofline has brick parapet walls with metal coping. The south wall of the Head House also has brick pilasters between the bays, which are one window wide. The entrance at the second floor has a stone surround with decorative brackets and a lintel engraved with the word "ARMORY." The north wall has no brick pilasters.

The Drill Hall composes the western two-thirds of the building. The original section has a barrel-vaulted roof and a stone foundation; the 1941 addition has a flat roof and a concrete foundation. The Drill Hall's extant historic windows are mostly large, multi-pane, metal-framed windows with central moveable panels. The west wall has seven two-story bays. Brick pilasters divide the bays and, together with arched brick details over each bay, create an engaged colonnade. Extensions at the roofline with inset diamond-shaped stones give the appearance of crenellation. A brick projection above the central bay has a stone panel that reads "ARMORY." A tall course of stone runs along the foundation. The southernmost bay originally had an entrance; it has been filled in with brick. The two former entrances north of it have been converted into service doors. Most windows on the west wall have been concealed with paneling but appear to still be extant.

The south wall has large, multi-light windows, and the barrel vault is accented with projecting brick arches, large brick pilasters on each side, and a small circular motif. The two original entrances have been filled in with brick, and a new entrance sits between them in what was originally a window opening. The size of the window openings has been decreased with brick infill.

<sup>1</sup> The basement level is treated as a full floor and has historically been known as the "first floor." The main, or first floor, has always been known as the "second floor." This description adopts those labels.

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The flat-roofed 1941 addition is the same height as the north facade of the Drill Hall. A cast-stone course is halfway between the top of the windows and the roofline. The facade has three large windows that are highlighted by projecting brick "frames." One-story flat-roof additions are on the east and west sides. The eastern wing has six bays that are one window wide, while the west wing has three windows.

### Interior

The armory has approximately 107,580 square feet of interior space. Beneath the first floor is a subbasement with unexcavated areas and a room that once served as a shooting range. The first floor extends underneath both the Head House and the Drill Hall. Large doorways at the east corner of the 1941 addition and below the main entrance provide vehicular access to this level. Most of the floor is open, but the space is regularly interrupted by square concrete columns with straight, flared capitals that support the cast-in-place concrete floor for the second level. A series of small rooms sit around the perimeter.

The second floor's main (east) entry to the Head House has a vestibule with small rooms on each side that formerly served as ticket booths. The vestibule opens onto a larger corridor, which is bracketed by large cast-iron staircases with wood banisters and which has a central doorway that leads to the Drill Hall. The remainder of the second floor of the Head House is primarily dedicated to eight rooms, each approximately 22' by 43', four on each side of the entry corridor. The two outermost offices, which have corner gas fireplaces with decorative tile and wood surrounds, are smaller to allow space for restrooms. The restrooms are accessed from halls that extend from open staircases at each end of the Head House. These staircases serve as the building's primary vertical circulation, providing access to all floors and, on the south side, to an exterior door. The central and end staircases have decorative newel posts with recessed panels and ball finials. The Head House also has six small enclosed staircases of simpler detail along its common wall with the Drill Hall that run between the first and third floors. Half of these have been boarded up.

The plan of the third floor is similar to that of the second, except some offices are subdivided into smaller rooms. The main staircases from the central entry corridor end at this floor, and the space east of the landing was originally a large powder room with a small toilet room. The outermost offices again have fireplaces. The fireplace is in the corner in the south office but is in the center of the northeast wall in the north office, which is more elaborately outfitted with paneled walls. There is also paneling in an adjacent room. The corner offices have built-in vaults.

A large assembly room takes up the central half of the fourth floor. A stage at its north end has a curved apron and a square proscenium edged with wood molding. The remainder of the floor's interior space is divided into various function rooms. A doorway on the assembly room's west side provides access to the ceiling of the Drill Hall.

All of the interior floors are concrete. Most are covered in original wood flooring. Some of these floors were subsequently covered with commercial tile or carpeting. All walls and ceilings are plaster. Modern dropped, acoustic-tile ceilings have been installed in some rooms. The building has not been heated for several years and the roof has leaked. As a result, in many areas the wood floors are warped and in

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very poor condition and the plaster has deteriorated. Some of the offices have wood trim including tall decorative baseboards, chair rails, and crown molding. Most bathrooms in the building appear to have original fixtures. Some rooms have been subdivided with modern partition walls.

The interior of the Drill Hall is primarily one room that is 167' by 105'. The floors are concrete, and the two long walls are brick with decorative pilasters that mirror those on the exterior. The dropped, acoustic-tile ceiling conceals the metal trusses supporting the roof. A balcony of I-beam stringers with wood floors runs along the east and west sides of the room. Doors from the third floor of the Head House open onto the east balcony. The south quarter of the room has been partitioned off with a two-story, concrete-block enclosure. The main floor of this addition appears to have been a ticket office, entrance lobby, and concession stand. The upper floor has enclosed rooms and a concrete balcony over the main floor. Changes were made to the interior during its use as a storage facility for city vehicles. The wood floor was removed and the concrete subflooring was exposed and painted with parking lines. A portion of the balcony along the west wall was removed, and many of the openings were infilled.

The 1941 addition has a large stage with a fly loft. The plasterwork that frames the square proscenium is a Streamline Moderne interpretation of Classicism, with rounded flutes on the pilasters and stylized dentils on the capitals. The top of the proscenium is straight, with molding resembling a Classical entablature, and has vertical line decorations. The interior walls of the stage are brick with a white finish. While the majority of the armory's brick walls have stretcher bonds, every seventh course on the stage's interior walls is a header bond.

Doors to the east of the stage lead to a landing for stairs to the top floor of the addition's east wing, which has a floor at the same level as the stage. This floor has two large rooms along its east wall, one of which has been partitioned into two spaces. Two small rooms, originally used as dressing rooms, are on the north wall. The other flight of stairs leads down to an intermediate floor that has a large storage room and a row of classrooms along its north wall. To the west of the stage is a large room constructed to be a kitchen.

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**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for 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.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MILITARY

ENTERTAINMENT / RECREATION

**Period of Significance**

1915-1961

**Significant Dates**

1915

1941

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Kelly, Clyde W.

Williams, Owen J.

Bettenberg, Philip C.

**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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The Duluth Armory's period of significance begins with its opening in 1915. The armory continued its historic function until the departure of the National Guard in 1977. It also served as the city's primary venue for large events until the construction of the Duluth Arena-Auditorium in 1966. Therefore, the period of significance ends at the fifty-year cut-off in 1961.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary) N/A**



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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

See continuation sheet.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

See continuation sheet

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**Developmental history/additional historic context information** (if appropriate)

See continuation sheet.

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Section number 8 Page 1**SIGNIFICANCE****Statement of Significance Summary**

The Duluth Armory is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A** for its statewide **Military** significance. By the late nineteenth century, Duluth had emerged as a critical port for the shipment of iron ore, lumber, grain, and other products, and the harbor became a center of shipbuilding during World War I. It was in the country's strategic interest to maintain a cooperative labor force in Minnesota and safe shipping lanes on the Great Lakes. The National Guard was essential for maintaining civic peace during a period of widespread labor unrest. While the state's first Naval Militia did not face as direct a foe, its creation underlined the importance of Duluth's harbor. Both organizations provided an invaluable service to Minnesota by leading aid efforts during the inevitable emergencies that hit the expansive, sparsely populated region. The 1915 Duluth Armory was not the first facility built for the National Guard, but unlike the earlier structures, it was located away from downtown on a site of sufficient size to comfortably accommodate the organization's needs. It was the first Duluth armory designed with facilities for the Naval Militia as well as the National Guard, and its primary function was first and foremost for military use. The armory's overall size was larger than the Minneapolis Armory and the size of its drill hall ranked second only to Minneapolis's—measures that symbolized the importance of this northern outpost of the state's military. Built on the eve of the country's entrance into World War I, the Duluth Armory continued to serve through another world war and other major conflicts until the National Guard's departure in 1977.

The Duluth Armory is also locally significant under **Criterion A** in the area of **Entertainment/ Recreation** for its leading role in the cultural life of one of the state's largest cities. Its large Drill Hall was ideally suited for community use, which generated good will and revenue for the National Guard. Unlike other local venues that existed at the time of the armory's opening, such as the Lyceum and Orpheum Theaters, the armory's Drill Hall provided a large, flexible space that could host a wide variety of events. It served this function admirably for half a century until the construction of the Duluth Arena-Auditorium in 1966.

The period of significance for both areas of significance begins with the armory's opening in 1915 and ends at the National Register's fifty-year cut-off in 1961.

**Narrative Statement of Significance****The Beginnings of America's National Guard**

The National Guard has existed in one form or another since America's early colonial days. The Massachusetts Bay General Court formed the North, South, and East Regiments on December 13, 1636, and these units defended the interests of the British Crown in the colonies. After the Revolutionary War, the United States, with its newfound autonomy, resolved to create a democratic government free of the traits abhorred in monarchical rule. Although the former colonial possession had a wealth of natural resources that appealed to outside countries, making some form of self-defense essential, legislators were hesitant to create a professional army. It was the era of the revolution and democracy; Americans had witnessed firsthand how standing armies with "little sympathy with the mass of the people . . . became the instruments of oppression in the hands of unscrupulous public

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officials." The solution was to establish a state-based militia. Not only did this give the states a power they would not entrust to the federal government, lest it "someday trample the rights of the people through force of arms," but it gave citizens the sense that the army was made of and for them.<sup>1</sup>

The federal government, though, did have a hand in the matter. In May 1792, Congress passed the Uniform Militia Act, which ordered all white males between the ages of eighteen and forty-five to train in militia units and be ready to be drafted at the behest of their governor. Men would have to provide their own weapons, and the act explicitly laid out how each man would have to equip himself. What it did not contain was any measure obligating states to comply nor was it accompanied by any type of funding.<sup>2</sup>

As a result, the distribution of the militia was inconsistent. Established urban areas like Philadelphia and Boston saw a great deal of participation. The men's close proximity to each other allowed them to easily rendezvous. They typically met at armories, which at that time served primarily as storehouses. On the western frontier and in farming communities, however, the distance between homesteads made the formation of a cohesive group nearly impossible.<sup>3</sup>

Perhaps even more than the urban areas, these hinterlands needed men ready to defend their country. By the 1830s, many states attempted to mandate participation by punishing the unwilling with fines. These penalties lead to such heavy protests that a number of states opted to eliminate the whole system. The compulsory militia laws, already half-heartedly enforced, lapsed in many states. With little oversight, militia groups ceased resembling professional armies and began taking on the traits of fraternal organizations like the Oddfellows and the Masons. Warfare techniques and strategy came second to pageantry and socializing. "The Romantic ideals of the period . . . influenced many men's decisions to join the volunteers." Meetings involved "pomp and ceremony, elaborate (and often expensive) uniforms, and military music." While members had to follow by-laws or risk expulsion, the social aspect was paramount for many. Membership typically came by invitation, and many parlayed their connections into business and political promotions. These men did prove their skill in battle, though, as many companies served in the Mexican-American War in 1846–1848.<sup>4</sup>

### **Minnesota's Militia**

Minnesota's territorial government paid little attention to its military needs, but on October 1, 1858, only a few months after Minnesota achieved statehood, the adjutant general's office organized the state into militia units: six divisions, twelve brigades, and twenty-eight regiments. Participation was not mandatory. Rather, "the theory of this statute . . . was simply to allow such citizens as were capable of bearing arms the privilege of organizing into companies of volunteer militia, uniform themselves and

<sup>1</sup> "The Nation's First," Massachusetts National Guard, <http://states.ng.mil/sites/MA/resources/museum/thenationsfirst/default.aspx> (accessed October 6, 2010); Kenneth Maitland Davies, *To the Last Man: The Chronicle of the 135<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment of Minnesota* (Saint Paul: Ramsey County Historical Society, 1982), 174; Henry A. Castle, *Minnesota: Its Story and Biography* (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1915), 371; Dianna Everett, *National Guard Armories: A Brief, Illustrated Review of the Past Two Centuries* (Washington, D.C.: Historical Services Division, Office of Public Affairs, National Guard Bureau, 1994), 1.

<sup>2</sup> Everett, *National Guard Armories*, 1–2.; Jerry Cooper, *The Rise of the National Guard: The Evolution of the American Militia* (Lincoln, Neb.: University of Nebraska Press, 1997), 9.

<sup>3</sup> Everett, *National Guard Armories*, 2–3.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, 2; Cooper, *Rise of the National Guard*, 13.

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drill at discretion, all without compensation or other public inducement." The groups limped along for the next three years until the outbreak of the Civil War sounded a call to arms and exposed the weaknesses of the militia.<sup>5</sup>

After the war, it became apparent that a reserve force based on ceremony and fraternization was no longer sufficient. As the country industrialized, small companies turned into financial empires. They drew workers who soon found themselves crowded into urban centers and oftentimes exploited. The result was a cauldron of discontent that often resulted in rioting. In the face of potential revolution, city and state governments realized the necessity of a military force that could control and suppress these insurrections. Urban units of the National Guard began to strengthen and were provided with "fortress armories." These edifices served many purposes: as a safe storage for weaponry, as a place for troops to train and drill, and, if need be, as a shelter for large groups of people threatened by civil unrest.<sup>6</sup>

Not surprisingly, with this new urban demand, the only military companies thriving in Minnesota during the early 1870s were in Saint Paul. Minnesota's 1875 report to the War Department openly admitted that "owing to the lack of efficient legislation there is no fully organized state militia." Even Saint Paul faltered from the lack of governmental organization and support. By the end of the decade, the state had but one "thoroughly equipped company" at New Ulm. The lowest point, however, would also be the turning point. Over the next two years, several companies began organizing and legislators pursued laws that would "give proper encouragement to those who might be willing to devote their time and money to building up a force that would do credit to the commonwealth." The legislature appropriated \$5,000 for the National Guard and gave the governor the power to create a unit "at his pleasure"—the genesis of the First Battalion.<sup>7</sup>

A powerful catalyst for National Guard reform came at the end of the century with the country's entrance into the Spanish-American War in April 1898. In Minnesota, the National Guard organized into four volunteer regiments. The Thirteenth Minnesota Volunteer Regiment served on the front. After the war, the state's units returned with a newfound enthusiasm.<sup>8</sup>

The country itself had been transformed by the four-month war. After the United States defeated Spain, it achieved the status of world power. The war, though, had also exposed flaws within the country's militia, especially the National Guard, "which had been functioning, more or less, as a group of autonomous 'state armies.'" Politicians and military leaders sensed the need for restructuring. The National Guard was still regulated by the outdated Military Act of 1792. The federal government wanted more control over the military, and the maintenance of a regular army was imperative. The Military Act of 1903 (also known as the Dick Act)<sup>9</sup> repealed the 1792 law and divided the militia into the Reserve

<sup>5</sup> Castle, *Minnesota*, 371; Cooper, *Rise of the National Guard*, 23.

<sup>6</sup> Everett, *National Guard Armories*, 3. The name "National Guard" was apparently first adopted in 1824 when New York's Seventh Regiment served as an honor guard for the Marquis de Lafayette during his stateside visit. It was derived from the name of the Garde Nationale of the French National Assembly of 1789 (Davies, *To the Last Man*, 174).

<sup>7</sup> Castle, *Minnesota*, 372, 374; Cooper, *Rise of the National Guard*, 23.

<sup>8</sup> Minnesota National Guard, "History," <http://www.minnesotanationalguard.org/history/history.php> (accessed August 23, 2010); Castle, *Minnesota*, 374.

<sup>9</sup> The Dick Act was named after Congressman Charles Dick, who served as chairman of the House Militia Affairs Committee and as a member of Ohio's National Guard (William M. Donnelly, "The Root Reforms and the National

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Militia (capable men between the ages of 18 and 45) and the Organized Militia (state units receiving federal support). It also gave the president the power to draft militia units into federal service within the United States for up to nine months. If a unit did not meet federal standards, it could lose federal backing. The Dick Act was amended in 1908 to allow the president to choose the length of the service. Now National Guard units could be deployed outside of the country. Both the act and its amendment were put into place to "bring the National Guard into a stronger connection with the federal military systems."<sup>10</sup>

In addition, the Spanish-American War, fought around islands and on the sea, also revealed needs in the capabilities of the United States Navy. "As a consequence, Congress . . . displayed a commendable liberality in appropriating money to furnish the various Militia organizations with supplies and equipment necessary to the efficient training and instruction of the men" for naval operations. The Navy Department aided the cause by providing states with ships and boats for training purposes.<sup>11</sup>

### **Evolving Armory Design**

Changes in the militia after the Civil War also transformed the design and function of National Guard armories. Hundreds were constructed in the last decades of the nineteenth century. Most fell into the category historian Dianna Everett classifies as "castellated armories" for their medieval appearance that included towers, turrets, and crenellation. While recalling this older aesthetic, though, armories took advantage of contemporary advances in steel truss design that were enabling the construction of large enclosed spaces such as train sheds and exposition halls. The design of the armories began to evolve into two parts known as the drill hall and the "head house." The latter held administrative offices, classrooms, and other service areas. Many armories of this era were prominent landmarks with plans drafted by local architectural firms known for designing large, impressive public buildings. By the end of the nineteenth century, these architects often had a personal connection to the buildings, serving as members of the guard.<sup>12</sup>

The relatively placid decade between the Spanish-American War and World War I transformed armory design even further as the romanticized, castellated style quickly fell out of favor. A new armory in New York City exemplified the change and inspired architectural critic Montgomery Schuyler to write in 1905 that its design "seem[ed] to be a protest and a token of revolt. . . . Your regular thing, the architect seems to say, is not at all founded on fact. Your crenelles and machicoulis are anomalies in 'the present state of the art.' . . . Let us build a modern armory on modern lines."<sup>13</sup>

The function of armories was also undergoing a transformation. For much of the nineteenth century, public use of armories was uncommon. As holders of one of the largest—if not the largest—gathering space in many communities, however, National Guard units found it increasingly difficult to turn down

Guard," U.S. Army Center of Military History, <http://www.history.army.mil/documents/1901/Root-NG.htm> [accessed August 25, 2010].

<sup>10</sup> Everett, *National Guard Armories*, 23; Donnelly, "Root Reforms"; Minnesota National Guard, "History."

<sup>11</sup> *The Minnesota Naval Militia*, booklet (N. p.: c. 1906), Minnesota Historical Society Collections, Saint Paul.

<sup>12</sup> Everett, *National Guard Armories*, 13–14, 21–22.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*, 23; Robert M. Fogelson, *America's Armories: Architecture, Society, and Public Order* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1989), 178, 206.

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requests to use their facilities. Such requests, often coming from local financial supporters of the guard, had the irresistible benefit of bringing in much-needed revenue. Soon, drill halls saw regular service as multipurpose coliseums and exhibition halls. Armories, once designed to keep crowds out, were no “longer defensive bastions aloof from community purposes” but instead welcomed the public on a regular basis. Social functions also boosted the guardsmen’s morale; as the *Detroit News* explained, such events “[kept] men in the ranks.”<sup>14</sup>

### The “Zenith City of the Unsalted Seas”

When compared to other inland states bordering the Great Lakes, such as Michigan or Wisconsin, Minnesota’s shoreline along Superior composes only a small part of the state’s perimeter, yet that small piece of lakeshore proved to be as key an element in Minnesota’s economic history as Minneapolis’s Falls of Saint Anthony.

Duluth, and the adjoining city of Superior, Wisconsin, are geographically blessed with a substantial harbor. The port is protected to the north by a narrow strip of land known as Park Point. In the wide bay beyond this peninsula, Duluth is to the northwest and Superior is to the southeast. An even more protected harbor is found further inland at the wide mouth of the Saint Louis River. This natural harbor stands in sharp contrast to the inhospitable, rocky coast that characterizes most of Lake Superior’s north shore.

Although its location was remote during the frontier period, Duluth was growing into a commercial epicenter by the 1870s, drawing tens of thousands of new settlers. The region’s natural resources—particularly white pine forests and minerals—enticed East Coast investors to finance railroads and other infrastructure. The railroads reached north and west into the resource-rich hinterlands, and also south to the thriving cities along the Mississippi River. The rapid expansion of Duluth’s population and its burgeoning economy inspired Thomas Preston Foster, editor of the *Duluthian Minnesotian*, the area’s first newspaper, to christen the settlement “the Zenith city of the unsalted seas.”<sup>15</sup>

The nation became increasingly dependent on the materials transshipped from Duluth, including grain from the fertile lands of western Minnesota and the Dakotas. By 1885, Duluth had thirteen elevators along the shore capable of holding nine million bushels of grain, and it was soon the second-largest grain port in the nation.<sup>16</sup> Arguably the most significant export from Duluth, though, was the ore extracted from northern Minnesota’s Iron Range. Iron from Minnesota fed Eastern steel mills, making the United States one of the world’s foremost steel producers by the turn of the twentieth century. The Duluth-Superior docks shipped six million tons of Mesabe ore in 1900. The amount jumped dramatically to nineteen million tons in 1906 and 22.5 million tons three years later, and continued to rise, doubling during the 1910s. Thanks to its endowed geography, within four short decades Duluth

<sup>14</sup> Fogelson, *America’s Armories*, 208–209; Everett, *National Guard Armories*, 23, 30; Cooper, *Rise of the National Guard*, 145.

<sup>15</sup> Bill Beck and C. Patrick Labadie, *Pride of the Inland Seas: An Illustrated History of the Port of Duluth-Superior* (Afton, Minn.: Afton Historical Society Press, 2004), 40; David A. Lanegran, *Minnesota on the Map: A Historical Atlas* (Saint Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2008), 101.

<sup>16</sup> Michael Koop and Chris Morris, “Duluth Commercial Historic District,” 2006, National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, available at the State Historic Preservation Office, Minnesota Historical Society, Saint Paul, 8:5; Beck and Labadie, *Pride of the Inland Seas*, 57, 85; .

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had established itself as one of the country's most important ports.<sup>17</sup>

**The National Guard in Duluth**

Given Duluth's rapid rise as an economic and population center, it is not surprising that the city's National Guard program was well-established as one of the most important in the state by the late nineteenth century. The program traced its roots to June 1884 and the so-called "Duluth Guards," who conducted drill practice in the Hunter Block at the intersection of West Superior Street and North First Avenue West. The group's first annual meeting was held in December. It was later mustered into state service and renamed Company K of the Second Regiment. Two years later, the company employed an old rink on First Street in Duluth as a drill hall, but the term of use was short-lived.<sup>18</sup>

In 1889, the governor authorized the Duluth reservists to support local police when strikers marched on Duluth aiming to enlist fellow workers in their cause. One year later, the three officers and forty-one men of another Duluth unit, Company A, spent six days controlling six hundred men who "had set law and order at defiance" in nearby Cloquet, Minnesota, by protesting the business practices of local lumber mills.<sup>19</sup>

In early 1892, Duluth's local guardsmen reorganized. Company A became part of the Third Infantry Regiment. Forty-eight men (primarily local businessmen) formed Company G in West Duluth. Company H, which had fifty-two men, was also part of the Third Regiment. These companies were called out when labor unrest broke out along the Vermillion Range. By the following year, the Duluth Battalion of the Third Regiment comprised Company A at Duluth, Companies G and H in West Duluth, and Company I at Aitkin. In December, Alfred E. Watts and Charles Josten of Duluth were "imbued with the idea that not only was the military force of the city insufficient, but that they could organize a new company which would be a credit to the city," resulting in the creation of Company C the following March. Subsequently, Company I was mustered out of service, and Company G was moved to Duluth proper.<sup>20</sup>

More strikes on the Iron Range and growing participation in the National Guard brought the need for sufficient facilities for Duluth's four companies to the forefront. In 1896, plans were made to construct an armory that would have "a large and suitable drill hall, commodious quartermaster and company rooms, and all needed conveniences." It would be an edifice "marking a new and more prosperous era in the history of the Duluth militia." When the building was completed that November, the armory occupied the top floors of the commercial structure at the corner of East First Street and South Second Avenue East in downtown Duluth. The first floor was a public market and event space (Figure 1).<sup>21</sup>

<sup>17</sup> Beck and Labadie, *Pride of the Inland Seas*, 61, 103, 130–131; Lanegran, *Minnesota on the Map*, 102.

<sup>18</sup> *History of the Duluth Battalion, Third Infantry, N.G.S.M.* (Saint Paul: Minnesota Historical Society, 1896). The Hunter Block at 31 West Superior Street is within the boundaries of the Duluth Commercial Historic District, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The building, however, is considered noncontributing to the district because of poor integrity due to extensive alterations (Koop and Morris, "Duluth Commercial Historic District," 7:10).

<sup>19</sup> *History of the Duluth Battalion*.

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.* The 1896 armory, which was designed by local architects Edwin Radcliffe and Charles Willoughby, is within the boundaries of the Duluth Commercial Historic District and is considered a contributing property. Inappropriate alterations to the storefront, modern infill in window openings, and alterations to the interior, however, have

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The rising stature of the navy, which was highlighted during the Spanish-American War, and Duluth's distinction as the nation's furthest inland port garnered more duties for local reservists. The state established a naval reserve in 1899, which was endorsed four years later by the U.S. State and War Departments. This created one unit with two divisions in Duluth. Navy captain William "Guy" A. Eaton (Figure 3), later referred to as "the father of the Minnesota Naval Militia," was native of Duluth who had served in the Spanish-American War. He became the state naval militia's first commander and pressed for a training ship for the Duluth militia. The *U.S.S. Gopher*, a decommissioned 840-ton, two-masted steam schooner formerly known as the *Fern*, was brought to Duluth around 1904 (Figure 5). The militia obtained a boathouse and pier in the harbor in 1912.<sup>22</sup>

Lake Superior's wide expanse of water and unpredictable sailing conditions provided invaluable lessons for *Gopher* crews. The *Gopher* participated in joint exercises, meeting up with other vessels of the Great Lakes Squadron at Thunder Bay and traversing the lakes before receiving an inspection by the Navy's board of inspectors. According to a report quoted by historian Virginia Brainard Kunz, this fifteen-day cruise "offered unusual opportunities for navigation, both coasting and deep sea, for signal drills, target practice, man-overboard drills and competition, ship handling and emergency drills." These skills proved indispensable in 1910 when the militia was called on to assist with rescue efforts when a forest fire surrounded the town of Grand Marais, Minnesota.<sup>23</sup>

### **Duluth Needs a New Armory**

With the addition of the naval militia, Duluth's downtown armory was pressed for space. Lieut. Colonel Frederick E. Resche (Figure 2) was able to arrange for the temporary use of a 25' by 70' section of the building's first floor for a rifle range, but this conflicted with the building's other commercial activities. There was not enough room for a hospital corps—the sanitation detachment of the Third Regiment—that was being phased out in Saint Paul, and "on account of the lack of proper armory quarters and facilities for drill . . . the corps was mustered out" in March 1913.<sup>24</sup>

This might have been the final push that the city needed to announce plans in September to deed land at the foot of East Thirteenth Avenue as the site for a new armory. Because the property was part of Lake Shore Park, however, this idea was opposed by some Duluth residents. The land had once been owned by the Saint Paul and Duluth Railroad and occupied by squatters' huts. The railroad sold it to the city with the proviso that it be used as a park in perpetuity. The city, however, asserted that this was the best location for the armory and that the construction would not have a negative impact on the

compromised the building's integrity (Koop and Morris, "Duluth Commercial Historic District," 7:68).

<sup>22</sup> "Minnesota Naval Militia; Summary of," typewritten document, Accession no. 66-15.5(5), available at Saint Louis County Historical Society, Duluth; Stina B. Green, comp., "Minnesota's Naval Militia," *Minnesota Genealogical Journal* 26 (September 2001): 2533; *The Minnesota Naval Militia*; "The History of the Duluth Naval Reserve," Veterans' Memorial Hall website, <http://www.vets-hall.org/uss-paducah> (accessed November 3, 2010).

<sup>23</sup> Virginia Brainard Kunz, *Muskets to Missiles: A Military History of Minnesota* (Saint Paul: Minnesota Statehood Centennial Commission, 1958), 133.

<sup>24</sup> "Company Stations M. N. G.," *Third Infantry Bulletin* 1 (May 1910): 9; "New Armory Will Bring Sanitation Troops to City," *Duluth News Tribune*, April 14, 1913; "Duluth Armory Changes," *Third Infantry Bulletin, Minnesota National Guard* (January 1911).



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park or adjacent buildings.<sup>25</sup>

A site plan published a few days later in the *Duluth News Tribune* showed the proposed armory in the park, very close to the Duluth Curling Club. Although the latter building sat on private land, it was an imposing structure that dominated the north side of the park. The article argued that the proposed armory would “only occupy a corner of the park,” adding that it would not block any residence’s view of the lake nor would it adversely affect existing playgrounds.<sup>26</sup>

Despite the urgent need for more space, planning progressed slowly, and the protests were apparently effective in the end. By November 1914, the armory’s location had moved across London Road to a site that the city had previously acquired for \$16,000. Militia officials prepared to solicit bids for the building’s construction, funded by an allocation from the state of \$112,500. The armory was to be one of the largest in Minnesota, which translated into a great deal of work for local tradesmen. Mayor William Prince applauded the project as it would employ many local residents during the winter when work was scarce. In fact, a newspaper reported that the mayor “hoped to be able to close a deal whereby the contractors who erect the building will purchase the stone for the basement from the city. The stone would be quarried out of the Point of Rocks [on West Superior Street], which the city plans to operate on a more or less extensive scale, to help relieve the unemployment situation.”<sup>27</sup>

The delays continued, and bidding on the new armory did not occur until the following February. Duluth contractor George H. Lounsberry received the contract and was ready to begin work within two weeks. Local architects Clyde W. Kelly (Figure 4) and Owen J. Williams designed the building, which was estimated to cost \$107,410. Kelly had a personal connection to the project, serving as a lieutenant commander in the National Guard.<sup>28</sup>

The design departed, for the most part, from the castellated form associated with earlier armories around the state. For the Head House, the architects took decorative elements from Beaux Arts Classicism—then the popular style among federal buildings—and placed them on a canvas of dark brown brick. In a nod to tradition a small brick and stone canopy above the main entrance doors on London Road was crenellated (Figure 6). There were also toned-down references to castellation on the Drill Hall, where the ends of the barrel vault, its most prominent exterior feature, were highlighted with stepped parapet walls. The hall’s long side, facing Jefferson Street, was subtly enhanced with arched window openings and shallow brick pilasters.

Far from the imposing castellated style of former armories, the new facility’s understated, elegant design was appreciated by the community. Although located in a residential area, the armory’s

<sup>25</sup> “May Deed Site on Park Ground,” *Duluth News Tribune*, September 20, 1913; “Protest Armory in Shore Park,” *Duluth News Tribune*, September 23, 1913; “Council Inspects Shore Park Site,” *Duluth News Tribune*, September 21, 1913.

<sup>26</sup> “This Shows Just How Much Space Armory Would Take in Lake Shore Park,” *Duluth News Tribune*, September 29, 1913.

<sup>27</sup> “Will Build New Armory,” *Duluth Herald*, November 23, 1914; Castle, *Minnesota*, 375.

<sup>28</sup> “To Open Bids Today for \$100,000 Armory,” *Duluth News Tribune*, February 2, 1915; “Architects’ Sketch of Duluth’s New Armory; Will Be Erected at Cost of \$107,410,” *Duluth News Tribune*, February 17, 1915; Sheldon Aubut, Maryanne Norton, and Carolyn Sundquist, “Information for Determination of National Register of Historic Places Eligibility,” draft, 2001.

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"pleasing style of architecture . . . adds rather than detracts" from neighboring houses, the *Duluth News Tribune* reported. Instead of competing with the curling club for space and prominence, the buildings "form[ed] a pleasing picture, the two standing on the brow of a hill just above the lake shore."<sup>29</sup>

While the new armory was under construction (Figure 7), the activities of the National Guard continued on as usual at their old facilities. In May, Company C of the Third Regiment became the first military organization in Minnesota to win a congressional trophy for marksmanship. Meanwhile, the guard advertised in the local newspaper to encourage men "of good moral character and temperate" to enlist. Social activities, particularly dances, were an enticement. Company C held its last dance at the old armory on May 5, 1915.<sup>30</sup>

**"An Innovation in Armory Construction"**

The armory's grand opening celebration was held on November 22, 1915, a mere ten months after construction began. The building's total cost came to \$150,000, well over budget, with the state appropriating \$103,000, the city giving \$18,500, "and public-spirited citizens" providing the rest. Winfield S. Hammond, Minnesota governor and commander-in-chief of the state's National Guard, attended the festivities. Also present were former governor Adolph Eberhart, Major General Wood, and other officials. All praised the effective leadership of Colonel F. E. Resche and Captain Guy Eaton, the respective commanders of the infantry and naval reserves.<sup>31</sup>

The size of the new armory was impressive. It had the second-largest drill floor in the state, behind only the Minneapolis Armory, which had opened in 1907 (Figure 8). The building as a whole, however, outsized the one in Minneapolis. Materials on the interior were fireproof to protect the safety of the occupants.<sup>32</sup>

Captain Eaton was quoted in the *Duluth Herald* just before the opening: "Duluth has every reason to be proud of this building, for we believe it is the best equipped, and the most practical from a military or naval standpoint, in the state, if not in the Northwest. You seldom find a building where as much attention has been paid to details that mean military efficiency." These details, which the *Duluth Tribune* called "an innovation in armory construction," included sixty-five rooms to serve a spectrum of

<sup>29</sup> "Prominent at New Armory Dedication," undated *Duluth News Tribune* clipping, in possession of Joe Mann, Duluth.

<sup>30</sup> "Young Men, Attention!" advertisement, *Duluth News Tribune*, May 12, 1915; "Duluth Guardsman First to Win Congressional Trophy," *Duluth News Tribune*, May 2, 1915; "Attention—Company C Dance," advertisement, *Duluth News Tribune*, May 2, 1915.

<sup>31</sup> "Prominent at New Armory Dedication"; "Grand Opening Tonight: Duluth's New \$150,000 National Guard Armory," *Duluth Herald*, November 22, 1915, available at [http://armorycenter.org/herald\\_11-22-15.htm](http://armorycenter.org/herald_11-22-15.htm). Subcontractors included the Burgess Electric Company, the Northern Electrical Company, the Duluth Cut Stone Company, the National Iron Company (cast-iron staircases and railings), Engels and Company (interior decoration), and the D. R. Black Company (plumbing and heating system) ("City's New Military Home to Be Dedicated Tonight," *Duluth News Tribune*, November 22, 1915). Despite an illustrious thirty-year career in the Minnesota National Guard, Resche was honorably retired on April 14, 1918, a victim of the anti-German mentality that gripped the state during the First World War. Historian Virginia Brainard Kunz states that "the reason apparently was the growing feeling that a person of German birth should not be permitted to keep an important position in the armed forces" (Kunz, *Muskets to Missiles*, 135).

<sup>32</sup> "Grand Opening Tonight"; Castle, *Minnesota*, 375.

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military training functions (Figures 9 and 10). A specially constructed dirt-filled pit, for example, would be used to teach trainees field tactics like digging trenches and “the construction of bomb proofs.” A floor beneath the Drill Hall included a rifle range.<sup>33</sup>

The Head House provided quarters for each of the local National Guard companies. In addition, “each naval division [had] a locker and assembly room, a lounging room and a reading room, which [could] be shut off from the rest of the building.” The offices were lavishly decorated by the F. S. Kelly Furniture Company and Engels and Company. Commander Eaton’s quarters boasted a large fireplace on its north wall and mahogany furniture. Company C had three large rooms “in Chinese design” and a frieze “which [was] said to have been painted by a real artist.” A reception room for women, colored in old rose and ivory, was the “most dainty” of all. A large assembly hall at the center of the building’s top floor provided a place for cadets to “give private entertainments,” hold dances, or produce amateur plays. It would also be employed for all events held at the building, except those demanding the space provided by the Drill Hall.<sup>34</sup>

### Facing War

In his address at the Amory’s grand opening, Governor Hammond dedicated the building to peace because “America is a peaceful, peace-loving nation.” “But,” he continued, “we know that war does come despite our greatest efforts.” By the time he spoke, the Great War had spread across Europe. Although the role of the United States in the conflict was still uncertain, the country needed to train men for potential engagement. Within a month of the armory’s opening, Captain Eaton held a meeting for men interested in enlisting as “aeronauts” to pilot balloons in the militia’s Engineers’ and Aviators’ Division. (The aviation unit, the 109<sup>th</sup> Observation Squadron, was based at the airport in Minneapolis when it was activated in 1921.)<sup>35</sup>

The first action many men would see, however, would not be in Europe but along the United States’ southern border. President Woodrow Wilson signed the National Defense Act of 1916 in July, which underscored the need to sufficiently train citizen-soldiers as the country’s main reserve force. This was in response to Mexican general Francisco “Pancho” Villa’s March 9 raid on Columbus, New Mexico, that resulted in the death of American residents and soldiers. Wilson ordered the National Guard to patrol the Mexican border—the first federal use of these soldiers since the Spanish-American War.<sup>36</sup>

National Guardsmen in Duluth had begun training for possible patrol duty in January and were prepared for quick mobilization (Figure 11). Stationed in Mercedes, Texas, at Camp Llano Grande, the men never saw conflict. More training came from the Guard’s encounters with the radical “Wobblies” of

<sup>33</sup> “Grand Opening Tonight”; “Prominent at New Armory Dedication.”

<sup>34</sup> “Grand Opening Tonight”; “New Armory Furnished Through by the F. S. Kelly Furniture Company,” *Duluth Herald*, November 24, 1915; “The New Armory and the Militia,” undated newspaper clipping, in possession of Joe Mann, Duluth. The décor has been altered over time, but the sturdier elements of the offices—namely the fireplaces and the decorative woodwork—are extant.

<sup>35</sup> “Duluth’s New Armory, Finest and Best in the State—Is Dedicated to Peace,” *Duluth Herald*, November 23, 1915; “Duluth to Have a Flying Corps,” *Duluth News Tribune*, December 24, 1915; “Aeronauts Are Sought for Naval Militia Division Here,” *Duluth News Tribune*, December 29, 1915; “Minnesota Air National Guard,” [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minnesota\\_Air\\_National\\_Guard](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minnesota_Air_National_Guard).

<sup>36</sup> Everett, *National Guard*, 23; Cooper, *Rise of the National Guard*, 156; Minnesota National Guard, “History.”

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the Industrial Workers of the World, who were encouraging strikes throughout the Iron Range. This training prepared the soldiers for their next assignment—World War I—where the Third Regiment was put within the 34<sup>th</sup> Division as the 125<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment.<sup>37</sup>

On the European front, the sinking of the *R.M.S. Lusitania* by a German U-boat revealed that enemy threats could lurk beneath the surface of friendly waters. Lake Superior was now a double-edged sword—a training field for deep-sea work but also a cloak potentially concealing adversaries. Around 1915, the U.S. Naval Reserve came to Duluth at the behest of Commander Guy Eaton, whereupon all the militia members were sworn into the Naval Reserve.<sup>38</sup> In October, Eaton announced during a trip to Washington that the *U.S.S. Topeka* would be given to the Minnesota militia. The vessel, which Eaton called a “beauty,” had twice the capacity of the *Gopher*. The state’s militia would also be equipped with a “real gun boat” costing \$350,000. After the *Topeka* was “fitted up,” it came to Minnesota in the fall of 1917. Both ships would see action during the war. Eaton himself would also receive acclaim for his service. The Duluth Brigade mustered and traveled to Philadelphia to board the *U.S.S. Iowa* in 1917. Within two years, Eaton was in command of the *Iowa*, an exceptional accomplishment.<sup>39</sup>

For those who stayed behind, World War I was a boon to Duluth’s economy, particularly because of the demand for iron ore to produce armaments. In 1916, Minnesota provided 60 percent of the country’s iron ore—some 44.5 million tons—more than double the production of second-ranking Michigan.<sup>40</sup>

Another industry, shipbuilding, also thrived thanks to having Lake Superior at the city’s doorstep. Duluthian Alexander McDougal received a contract to build four ships for the British navy in December 1916. He and Julius Barnes soon purchased land on the Saint Louis River as the site for the McDougall-Duluth shipyard. They employed so many people that nearby streets were platted and the area essentially functioned as a company town. In 1917, the industry was bolstered when the Emergency Shipping Board ordered 346 “ocean-going cargo ships” from thirteen shipyards along the Great Lakes. McDougall-Duluth and two local competitors, the Globe and Superior Shipbuilding companies, received much of the business, and by the end of the war, they employed ten thousand workers. By 1921, the three companies had constructed 103 vessels. “The shipbuilding boom was one of the most spectacular economic development initiatives in the Twin Ports since the harbor was

<sup>37</sup> “Armory Is Army Camp,” *Duluth Herald*, June 19, 1916; Minnesota National Guard, “History”; Neil Betten, “Riot, Revolution, Repression in the Iron Range Strike of 1916,” *Minnesota History* 41 (Summer 1968): 83.

<sup>38</sup> This “dual service, training as a single fighting unit . . . with each new entrant signing into both organizations,” continued for the remainder of the naval militia’s existence in Minnesota (“Minnesota Naval Militia; Summary of”).

<sup>39</sup> “Bigger, Newer Vessel to Take Gopher’s Place, Promised Naval Militia,” *Minneapolis Tribune*, October 5, 1915; “Minnesota Naval Militia to Be Called by U.S.,” *Minneapolis Tribune*, March 13, 1917; Kunz, *Muskets to Missiles*, 133; “Minnesota Naval Militia; Summary of.” On September 21, 1923, the *Gopher* sank in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence while being towed in a northwest gale. At the time of her loss, she was an “obsolete gunboat” but still served as a training ship for the Ninth Naval District (“National Affairs: Casualties,” *Time*, September 3, 1923, available at <http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,716520,00.html>; Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs, “U.S. Ships Named After Minnesota Places,” <http://www.mdva.state.mn.us/memorials/ships.htm> [accessed December 13, 2010]).

<sup>40</sup> Beck and Labadie, *Pride of the Inland Seas*, 131; Tony Dierckins, *Zenith: A Postcard Perspective of Historic Duluth* (Duluth: X-Communication, 2006), 17–18.

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opened to maritime commerce in the 1870s," according to historians Bill Beck and Patrick Labadie.<sup>41</sup> The war helped solidify Duluth-Superior as one of the continent's key centers of maritime commerce. It ranked third in the nation, behind only New York and Philadelphia, through the 1920s.<sup>42</sup>

### **Domestic Protection during World War I**

On April 6, 1917, Congress declared war on Germany, and the National Guard was sent overseas. This mobilization, however, left the states without a force to respond to domestic emergencies, riots, and natural disasters—a problem not addressed in the 1916 National Defense Act. In response, many states created "home guards." The State of Minnesota's legislature established the "Commission of Public Safety," which was "authorized to enlist, organize, and maintain a Minnesota Home Guard for service within the state" and was "charged with securing a united war effort among Minnesotans and to use all means to protect public property and preserve order." A total of seven battalions were created initially and placed under the command of the governor, including units at Saint Paul, Duluth, and Virginia. Generally, they worked locally, but crises could bring them to other areas of the state.<sup>43</sup>

The Home Guard was built of units "not likely to be called for regular military service" and would eventually comprise twenty-three battalions and over eight thousand officers and men. The Fourth Infantry Regiment, along with the newly created Fifth and Sixth, were ordered to guard strategic military points and important sites, such as mines, ore docks, factories, and bridges. During the war, the Home Guard was only called to duty on two occasions. The first was in August 1918 to assist with recuse efforts after a tornado ravaged Tyler, Minnesota. Guardsmen were also needed to control the crowd of 70,000 sightseers who came to gawk at the aftermath.<sup>44</sup>

The second call to duty came two months later in response to a disaster so large that Home Guard's 2,700 men had to be assisted by members of the National Guard for two straight weeks of duty. On October 12, 1918, a particularly dry autumn became the catalyst for a disaster when a wildfire grew out of control and raged across a large section of northeastern Minnesota, devastating farms and communities in its path. Guardsmen rushed to fight the fire and rescue those in peril, transporting the injured back to Duluth for medical care.<sup>45</sup>

The Duluth Armory became a command central for the rescue efforts. Cars and ambulances brought victims to the building to receive medical care from Red Cross nurses. The challenge of caring for the injured was exacerbated by the fatal Spanish Flu epidemic that was just reaching the Iron Range that autumn. Treatment of the fire victims tapped out medical supplies, and the risk of infection spread as people crowded into shelters.<sup>46</sup>

<sup>41</sup> Dierckins, *Zenith*, 17–18; Beck and Labadie, *Pride of the Inland Seas*, 122–123.

<sup>42</sup> Beck and Labadie, *Pride of the Inland Seas*, 123.

<sup>43</sup> Barry M. Stentiford, *The American Home Guard: The State Militia in the Twentieth Century* (College Station, Tex.: Texas A&M University Press, 2002), 21–22, 32; William Watts Folwell, *A History of Minnesota*, rev ed. (1926; repr., Saint Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1969), 3:318; Kunz, *Muskets to Missiles*, 155.

<sup>44</sup> Kunz, *Muskets to Missiles*, 154.

<sup>45</sup> Ibid.; Francis M. Carroll and Franklin R. Raiter, " 'At the Time of Our Misfortune': Relief Efforts Following the 1918 Cloquet Fire," *Minnesota History* 48 (Fall 1983): 271–275.

<sup>46</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, "The Great Pandemic: The United States in 1918–1919: Minnesota," [http://1918.pandemicflu.gov/your\\_state/minnesota.htm](http://1918.pandemicflu.gov/your_state/minnesota.htm) (accessed August 20, 2010).

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The armory was soon bursting at the seams with the injured and attending medical staff (Figure 12). Frank Murphy, a volunteer driver, later wrote: "I will never forget the sight at the Armory. The main floor was filled with Cots and people sleeping there[,] some of them not knowing where the rest of their families were or whether they were alive or not." Over the next few days, patients in critical condition were sent to hospitals. The others were moved elsewhere so that the Drill Hall could handle new arrivals and related activities.<sup>47</sup>

This was a huge undertaking. Twenty-eight communities had been affected, and hundreds were displaced. Over the next couple of days, refugees were asked to register at the armory to facilitate their reunion with relatives. In addition, the armory became the headquarters for donations, volunteers, clothing and food distribution, and adoption services. By the beginning of November, the armory and other Duluth facilities had served 761 people.<sup>48</sup>

#### **Changes and Alteration**

The reserve units remained active after the First World War. By 1923, for example, Commander Eaton reported that there were 38 officers and 220 men attending the naval militia's weekly drills. The First Battalion's headquarters as well as its First, Second, and Fourth Divisions were housed at the Duluth Armory. There was, however, a turnover in leadership when Eaton suddenly passed away after a medical operation in 1924. His funeral was appropriately held at the armory. Clyde Kelly, Eaton's second-in-command and one of the armory's architects, took over the vacant post.<sup>49</sup>

As time passed, the armory was modified to meet new needs that arose. In 1921, for example, the City of Duluth took out a permit to install a 250-gallon gasoline tank at a cost of \$300. A sketch on the permit seems to indicate that it was located near the first-floor doorway in the original concrete stairs at the main entrance facing London Road.<sup>50</sup>

<sup>47</sup> Francis M. Carroll and Franklin R. Raiter, *The Fires of Autumn: The Cloquet-Moose Lake Disaster of 1918* (Saint Paul: Minnesota Historical Society, 1990), 111; "Arms of Duluth Open to Victims; First Aid Given," *Duluth News Tribune*, October 13, 1918.

<sup>48</sup> "Searchers Find 569 Bodies," *Duluth News Tribune*, October 15, 1918; notice from Red Cross Registration Bureau, *Duluth Herald*, October 14, 1918; "Armory Well Organized to Speed Great Relief Task," *Duluth News Tribune*, October 17, 1918; "Quick Service for Refugees at Armory," photograph with caption, *Duluth News Tribune*, October 19, 1918; Carroll and Raiter, "At the Time of Our Misfortune," 276. The building was put to a similar use in 1937. Although the National Guard had been employed two decades earlier to quell potential strike-related violence in Minnesota's northern timberlands, now Governor Elmer A. Benson (Figure 19) told Fred Lequier of the recently created Minnesota Timber Workers Union that relief measures from the state would be made available to the striking workers. The National Guard and the state highway patrol were enlisted to help the men; the former handed out supplies. The armory served as a shelter for strikers who had lost their homes (Stacy Mitchell, "Union in the North Woods: The Timber Strikes of 1937," *Minnesota History* 56 (Spring 1999): 267–268).

<sup>49</sup> "United States Naval Reserve Force, Ninth Naval District," *Naval Review* 2 (April 1924): 4–5; "Commander State Naval Militia Called by Death," *Duluth Herald*, April 23, 1924; "Capt. Guy A. Eaton Dies at 52; Last Rites at Armory Friday," *Duluth News Tribune*, April 24, 1924; "Clyde W. Kelly in Command of Naval Reserves," *Duluth Herald*, May 2, 1924; "Clyde W. Kelly Named as Head of Naval Unit," *Duluth Tribune*, May 3, 1924. Kelly, too, would unexpectedly succumb three years later from post-operative complications ("Capt. Clyde W. Kelly, Naval Reserve Leader, Dies Suddenly," *Duluth News Tribune*, May 9, 1927).

<sup>50</sup> Detailed Statement of Application for Permit for the Installation of Storage Tanks No. 4041, possibly dated January

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In December 1927, the state installed a "patented composition board ceiling" in the Drill Hall at a cost of \$4,400. A total of \$10,000 was spent on improvements which included painting and lighting. Work was completed by the end of the month that enabled the armory to host a New Year's Eve Ball. Attendees enjoyed the improved hall which had been made into "a gorgeous Fairyland."<sup>51</sup>

In 1934, with widespread unemployment during the Great Depression, the legislature resolved to spend \$7,345 on nine armories and to employ day laborers to do the work. The Duluth Armory received \$1,415 of this allocation for repair of the building's basement and roof and the Drill Hall's ceiling and windows. More work in 1937 included repointing brick, altering toilet rooms, repairing entrance doors, painting woodwork, and fixing the Drill Hall's floors.<sup>52</sup> The seating capacity of the Drill Hall, which originally had a balcony along only its east wall, was expanded around this time with the construction of balconies along its south and west walls.<sup>53</sup>

The most significant alteration, however, came just prior to World War II. In September 1940, Sidney L. Stolte, administrator of the state's Work Projects Administration, announced an enlargement of the Duluth Armory "under the national defense program." A number of other armories across the state benefited from this initiative including those at Crosby-Ironton, Atikin, Princeton, Morris, Benson, Sauk Centre, Moorhead, and Hastings. The Duluth project, which "would increase the size of the building, provide new meeting rooms, and extend the stage easterly," had already been approved. The plans, dated November 1940, featured a large, flat-roof brick addition with a cast-stone belt course and coping. An east wing, which extended towards London Road, was two stories tall and allowed access to a basement-level garage (Figure 16). The extension to the rear and west, however, was only one story above ground because of the armory's sloped site. The plans were drafted by architect Phillip C. Bettenburg who designed several armories in the state including those in Minneapolis and Brainerd in the 1930s. Historian Alan Lathrop notes that in addition to being an architect, Bettenburg was "a career officer in the U.S. Army and rose to the rank of major general and commander of the Minnesota National Guard."<sup>54</sup>

14, 1921, in possession of Joe Mann, Duluth.

<sup>51</sup> Detailed Statement of Application for Additions, Alterations or Repairs to Brick, Frame or Other Buildings or Structures No. 22728, December 14, 1927; "Permits for Homes and Flat Houses," *Duluth Herald*, December 16, 1927; New Year's Eve Ball advertisement, *Duluth Herald*, December 30, 1927. The December 16 article said the state was "putting in a ceiling," rather than "replacing the ceiling," which would indicate that the new ceiling did not have a predecessor. It cannot be determined if this is the dropped ceiling that is in the Drill Hall today.

<sup>52</sup> "Duluth Armory to Be Prepared," *Duluth Herald*, September 20, 1934; "National Guard Armory, Minneapolis, Minn.," HABS No. MN-93, 1990; copy of letter from Department of Building Inspection to H. G. Bettenburg, Saint Paul, September 10, 1937, and Detailed Statement of Application for Additions, Alterations, or Repairs or Any Other Improvement to Brick, Frame or Other Buildings No. 36783, dated March 6, 1937, both in possession of Joe Mann, Duluth.

<sup>53</sup> Plans also show a balcony on the north wall, the location of the stage, that was never built (P. C. Bettenburg, c. 1934-1937 architectural plans of Duluth Armory, in possession of LHB Corporation, Duluth).

<sup>54</sup> "Duluth Armory Expansion Work Will Begin Soon," *Duluth News Tribune*, September 7, 1940; "Armory Extension Work Starts," photograph with caption, *Duluth Herald*, April 15, 1941; P. C. Bettenburg Architects and Engineers, "Armory Addition, Duluth Minn., Drawing No. 4011," November 1940, architectural plans, in possession of LHB Corporation; Alan K. Lathrop, *Minnesota Architects: A Biographical Dictionary* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2010), 23.

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Work on the addition appears to have stalled while the state and city had a dispute over the type of curtain—steel or asbestos—that was required for the stage. In the meantime, because of growing hostilities abroad, the armory was closed to outside use for several weeks in mid-February 1941 while National Guardsmen were quartered there for mobilization. Construction finally began in mid-April on the \$95,896 addition that would hold a stage, classrooms, a kitchen, and restrooms. Unlike the barrel vault over the Drill Hall, the addition's roof was flat to allow for a fly loft above the stage.<sup>55</sup>

Construction went on through the summer and continued into Duluth's harsh winter. A year after the project began, 1,800 high school juniors and seniors put on the first event at the enlarged armory (Figure 17). Their "salute to the nation's armed services" raised money for the war effort and included a music festival with a choir of 1,100 students and an "all-city school orchestra of ninety pieces."<sup>56</sup>

Years before the construction had started, military training had become a higher national priority as concerns mounted over increased instability in Europe and other parts of the world. Duluth's units went to the state's National Guard training facility, Camp Ripley, on a regular basis. In 1937, over four hundred Duluth reservists traveled to the camp to participate in "the greatest peacetime war games ever held in the Northwest," according to the *Duluth Herald*. Duluth's naval reservists were called to service in December 1940.<sup>57</sup>

One year later the United States entered World War II. Duluth's status as the country's furthest inland port made it a potential site of attack. Therefore, the armory was soon readied for the possibility of war on the shore of Lake Superior (Figure 18). A few weeks after the addition was finished, the Drill Hall was outfitted as a "model bombproof installation" with stacks of sandbags blocking windows that had blackout screens, "light-proof paint," and "luminous paint markings" around the building. While a foreign invasion seemed unlikely, the country did face the same problem it had during World War I—how could the home front be protected when the National Guardsmen were abroad? In 1940 Congress amended the National Defense Act allowing governors to create militia groups to protect their states. Minnesota resurrected its Home Guard as the State Guard. A *Duluth New Tribune* article from December 1944 described Duluth's Second Infantry Regiment as "Monday Night Soldiers"—men between the ages of eighteen and fifty-five who would meet at the armory each week, "don uniforms and military manners," and train as soldiers.<sup>58</sup>

<sup>55</sup> "Armory Projects Approved by WPA," *Brainerd (Minn.) Daily Dispatch*, October 29, 1940; "Institute Homeless; Can't Have Guests," uncited February 4, 1941 newspaper advertisement, in possession of Joe Mann, Duluth; "Armory Extension Work Starts," photograph with caption, *Duluth Herald*, April 15, 1941; Detailed Statement of Application for Additions, Alterations or Repairs or Any Other Improvement to Brick, Frame or Other Buildings or Structures, No. 44874, dated May 21, 1941, and George A. Wise, Department of Military and Naval Affairs, Saint Paul, letter to A. G. Johnson, Department of Building Inspection, City of Duluth, May 26, 1941, both in possession of Joe Mann, Duluth.

<sup>56</sup> "1,800 to Use Armory Stage," *Duluth News Tribune*, May 17, 1942.

<sup>57</sup> "Duluth Gunners Take Part in War Games at Camp Ripley," *Duluth Herald*, August 9, 1937; "The History of the Duluth Naval Reserve."

<sup>58</sup> "Armory Anti-Air Raid Work Is Set," *Duluth Herald*, June 30, 1942; Brent C. Backus, "Homeland Defense: The Pennsylvania State Guard, 1941–1953," *Military Review* (May–June 2004): 56; "Monday Night Soldiers," *Duluth News Tribune*, December 24, 1944.



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Minnesota's supply of iron ore was just as important in World War II as it had been during the Great War. The peak year, 1942, saw 63.2 million tons pass through the Duluth-Superior docks, an amount exceeding the 1929 record by 20 million tons. Shipbuilding again exploded, following the pattern of World War I but at unprecedented rates. "Re-creating their role in . . . World War I, the Twin Ports became one of mid-America's major centers of shipbuilding between 1941 and 1945," according to historians Beck and Labadie. During the war, two hundred vessels were constructed, "far outstripping the number of ships built during World War I." The industry also employed 14,000 residents at its peak in 1944. Once again the militia was key in protecting this important American port and potential target.<sup>59</sup>

### Public Use of the Armory

Activity at the armory was not limited to the military. The unobstructed, adaptable interior of the Drill Hall was a natural venue for large expositions and trade shows (Figures 13 and 14). Such a sizable enclosed space was a boon to the wind-swept, lakeside city during the long, cold winter months. Displays of items as large as cars or as small as flowers could attract thousands of interested—and paying—visitors. The National Guard appreciated both the good will and the rent that this produced.

In February 1916, shortly after the armory opened, it housed what the *Duluth Herald* dubbed "Duluth's Biggest Annual Event," an automobile show which used the entire 40,000 square feet of the Drill Hall and balcony. This was immediately followed by the largest card party in Duluth organized by the Women's Auxiliary of the Saint Louis County Medical Association to raise money for a philanthropic fund. Even bigger events used the armory in combination with other local venues. The ambitious "Exposition of Progress and Iron Ore Golden Jubilee" in 1925, for example, occupied a total of 120,000 square feet in the armory, the Curling Club, and the Amphitheater. Other large events at the armory included the American Peony Society's twenty-seventh annual show in 1930.<sup>60</sup>

Following World War II, when the construction of new homes rebounded after two decades of lethargy, Duluthians attended the First Annual Home and Builders Show at the armory to marvel at the latest in domestic technology. Showcases like the Duluth and Arrowhead Exposition and "Outdoor Life" Show and the Annual Home-Boat Show appealed to interests outside of the home. The Teen Style Show and Dance was directed at the younger crowd. The Drill Hall was also used for assemblies of groups such as Rotary International's banquet in 1922—the largest in the city's history—and the Minnesota Centennial Lutheran Pageant. Businesses rented the Drill Hall for special sales.<sup>61</sup>

<sup>59</sup> Beck and Labadie, *Pride of the Inland Seas*, 163, 165

<sup>60</sup> "Second Annual Duluth Automobile Show," *Duluth Herald*, January 28, 1916; "More than \$200 Made for Charity by Auxiliary of Medical Association at Duluth's Biggest Card Party," *Duluth Herald*, February 12, 1916; Application for Permit for Electrical Installations No. 113, dated February 24, 1919, and Application for Electric Permit No. 45444, dated April 11, 1952, in possession of Joe Mann, Duluth; "120,000 Square Feet Floor Space Used," *Duluth Herald*, July 18, 1925; "Thousands Ready for Duluth Show," *Mason City (Iowa) Globe-Gazette*, July 1, 1930.

<sup>61</sup> "Duluth Builders Exchange Building Show," *Duluth Herald*, March 17, 1923; "20,000 Square Feet Floor Space Used," *Duluth Herald*, July 18, 1925; "Thousands Ready for Duluth Show," *Mason City (Iowa) Globe-Gazette*, July 1, 1930; Duluth and Arrowhead Exposition advertisements, *Duluth Herald*, April 29, 1940; "United Shows, Inc. Announces . . .," advertisement, *Duluth Herald*, May 29, 1947; "Now Thru Sunday," advertisement, *Duluth News Tribune*, April 5, 1960; Penney's advertisement, *Duluth Herald*, August 25, 1959; "Rotarian Banquet Largest in the City's History," *Duluth Herald*, March 17, 1922; Lutheran Pageant advertisement, *Duluth Herald*, October 21, 1958; "Last Day Today!"

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The armory also provided a venue for traveling speakers. In the era before television lectures at the armory were sometimes broadcast on the radio—a boon to local stations—for those who could not attend in person. Prominent speakers at the armory included politicians such as former president William H. Taft, who visited in 1920, President Harry Truman, who spoke in October 1948, and Senator Hubert Humphrey, a guest on *America's Town Meeting of the Air* in 1950. From the 1930s through the 1960s, the Women's Institute of Duluth sponsored other noteworthy speakers such as cosmetician Elizabeth Arden, Robert Ripley of *Ripley's Believe It or Not*, former first lady Eleanor Roosevelt, Princess Ileana of Romania, and Baroness Maria von Trapp.<sup>62</sup>

Musicians, dancers, and other entertainers performed at the armory. Russian composer Sergei Rachmaninoff gave a concert in January 1920, followed in November by John Phillip Sousa and his marching band. The New York Philharmonic came in 1921, and the following year, Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Valentino danced the Four Horseman tango with music provided by E. Coleman's Nationally Famous Argentine Orchestra. Duke Ellington and his band played the armory, as did the United States Marine Band. The Duluth Civic Symphony Orchestra, founded in 1925, began holding its annual series of concerts at the armory in 1931. Three years later, the orchestra had its first radio broadcast from there.<sup>63</sup>

The popularity of Westerns in the 1950s brought other celebrities and musicians. In 1950, Roy Rogers, Dale Evans, and Trigger put on two "Great Western" variety shows for children at the armory. Tex Ritter and his friends appeared four years later, as did Gene Autry with his horses Champion and Little Champ. Country music acts were also popular, with performers often appearing as ensembles as they did at the Grand Old Opry. Singers included George Jones and Mother Maybelle and the Carter Sisters. Johnny Cash's show in 1957 featured Carl Perkins and Jerry Lee Lewis. He later returned with June Carter and Grandpa Jones. Other popular singers that visited the armory were Liberace, Buddy Holly and the Crickets, the Big Bopper, Louis Armstrong, Sonny and Cher, the Beach Boys, the Everly Brothers, and Diana Ross and the Supremes (Figures 23 and 24).<sup>64</sup>

advertisement, *Duluth Herald*, February 28, 1957.

<sup>62</sup> "The American Legion," advertisement, *Duluth News Tribune*, January 18, 1920; Armory Arts and Music Center, "Request for Proposals: The Historic Armory and Adjacent Property," October 2006, <http://www.armorycenter.org/media/Revised%20RFP%20102006.pdf> (accessed November 2, 2010), 17; "Elizabeth Arden," advertisement, *Duluth Herald*, October 21, 1940; "The Women's Institute of Duluth Presents," advertisement, *Duluth Herald*, November 13, 1943; "See and Hear Eleanor Roosevelt," advertisement, *Duluth Herald*, May 22, 1947; William W. Stewart, "Mrs. Roosevelt a Visitor," *Superior (Wisc.) Evening Telegram*, May 28, 1947; "The Women's Institute of Duluth Presents," advertisement, *Duluth Herald*, March 5, 1952; advertisement for von Trapp lecture in "Women's Institute Concerts and Programs at Armory," n.d., in possession of Joe Mann, Duluth.

<sup>63</sup> Armory advertisement, *Duluth Herald*, May 25, 1923; "All Star Musical Course," advertisement, *Duluth News Tribune*, January 18, 1920; "March King to Be at Armory Nov. 6," *Duluth Herald*, October 16, 1920; "New York Philharmonic Orchestra Tonight," *Duluth News Tribune*, May 18, 1921; "Concert and Dance," advertisement, *Duluth Herald*, June 29, 1946; "Get on the Band Wagon!" advertisement, *Duluth News Tribune*, October 9, 1947; Duluth Superior Symphony Orchestra, "Mission, Vision and History," <http://www.dssso.com/mission.php> (accessed August 27, 2010); Federal Writers' Project, *The WPA Guide to the Minnesota Arrowhead County* (1941; reprint, Saint Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1988), 109; Federal Writers Project, *The WPA Guide to Minnesota* (1938; reprint, Saint Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1985), 245.

<sup>64</sup> "Trigger Steals Show," *Duluth News Tribune*, November 9, 1950; "Tomorrow in Person," advertisement, *Duluth*

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The Drill Hall also accommodated recreation and sporting events. In 1926, it held a roller rink with an admission of ten cents and an additional twenty-five cents to rent skates. The Harlem Globetrotters played exhibition games at the armory. For a basketball game in March 1940, "5,000 highly enthused spectators jammed and wiggled their way into the Duluth Armory." An estimated one thousand had to be turned away from seeing the semi-final round of the district basketball tournament, which encouraged advocates for the construction of a municipal auditorium to replace the armory's Drill Hall. Although this effort was not immediately successful, it foreshadowed the growing perception in the years following World War II that the armory was inadequate and outdated.<sup>65</sup>

Still, the building continued to be put to good use. One of the most notable post-war events was the funeral for Duluth native Albert Woolson, the oldest surviving Union army soldier (Figures 20–22). After he passed away on August 2, 1956, three thousand people crowded into the Drill Hall for the service including Governor Orville Freeman and other state officials. A National Guard escort of 109 men—each representing one year of Woolson's life—accompanied his casket from the armory to the cemetery.<sup>66</sup>

**Obsolete Giants**

The United States emerged from World War II as a new entity. Fifteen years of economic depression and wartime rationing had forced the use of old buildings until they were threadbare. When prosperity finally appeared, Americans began a vigorous campaign of new construction. As developers platted suburbs, the government evaluated its property with an eye to modernization. To reward the militia for its role in winning World War II, states began getting rid of "outdated" armories and appropriating funds to construct hundreds of new and modern facilities, many outside of city centers on large, undeveloped suburban plats. The title to some of the obsolete armories was transferred to municipalities. Without a specific reuse plan, however, the massive size of the buildings—once their most desirable feature—turned them into financial drains. Consequently, many were demolished.<sup>67</sup>

Although the Duluth Armory remained in military use decades longer than many of its counterparts, change was on the horizon. While the U.S. Naval Reserve took over the responsibilities of the Minnesota Naval Militia, which was disbanded in 1946, the Minnesota National Guard continued to be housed there in the years immediately after the Second World War, and the Drill Hall remained a

*Herald*, January 7, 1954; Tex Ritter Show advertisement, *Duluth Herald*, March 5, 1959; "In Person!" advertisement, *Duluth Herald*, July 1, 1955; "The Sparkling Entertainment for the 1962–1963 Season Presented by the Women's Institute of Duluth," advertisement, *Duluth Herald*, September 10, 1962; Duluth Armory advertisement, *Duluth Herald*, November 22, 1963; Johnny Cash Show advertisement, *Duluth News Tribune*, April 24, 1957; "Johnny Cash," *Duluth Herald*, April 25, 1957; "Tomorrow!" advertisement, *Duluth Herald*, July 20, 1962; "WEBC Presents in Person," *Duluth Herald*, May 24, 1967; Curtis Carper, "The Old Duluth National Guard Armory, Where Buddy Holly and Bob Dylan Crossed Paths," *Associated Content*, [http://www.associatedcontent.com/article/434257/the\\_old\\_duluth\\_national\\_guard\\_armory.html](http://www.associatedcontent.com/article/434257/the_old_duluth_national_guard_armory.html) (accessed August 27, 2010).

<sup>65</sup> "Announcing the Grand Opening," *Duluth Herald*, March 3, 1926; Basketball! advertisement, *Duluth Herald*, October 27, 1956; "Five Thousand See Game and Another 1,000 Are Turned Away," *Duluth Herald*, March 9, 1940.

<sup>66</sup> "Duluth Lists Plans for Woolson Rites," *New York Times*, August 4, 1956; "Nation Shares City's Sorrow," *Duluth Herald*, August 6, 1956; "Woolson, Last Union Veteran, Is Buried after Military Rites," *New York Times*, August 7, 1956.

<sup>67</sup> Fogelson, *America's Armories*, 220; Everett, *National Guard Armories*, 43.

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popular venue for shows, performances, and exhibitions. The building could not, however, also accommodate the eight hundred men of the Army Reserve. Organized in 1949, the reserve soon found itself in need of its own facilities. Legislators began seeking federal funds in 1955 to accomplish this, and after several more years of planning, construction began. The \$400,000 center opened on January 1, 1963, introducing state-of-the-art armory design to Duluth.<sup>68</sup>

As the 1960s continued, more changes would threaten the historic armory's role in the city. The construction of the \$6.1-million Duluth Arena-Auditorium in 1966 greatly diminished the use of the armory.<sup>69</sup> Situated on a picturesque twenty-seven-acre parcel on the waterfront in view of Duluth's Aerial Lift Bridge and "designed for almost every kind of sport event, as well as business conventions," the new facility had an arena with a 7,700-person capacity, far exceeding that of the armory. Its auditorium could hold 2,400—comparable to the Drill Hall—but in contrast to the multipurpose armory, it had modern amenities and was designed "primarily for plays, concerts, and operas," making it a more desirable venue. The armory's location became more of a backwater in 1976 when the Duluth Curling Club left its monumental sixty-three-year-old building across London Road and moved to the new arena.<sup>70</sup>

The historic armory's future was dealt another serious blow in 1977 when the National Guard announced plans for a new armory for Duluth. In 1978, the city purchased the historic armory from the state for \$160,000 and a National Guard maintenance facility on Twenty-fourth Avenue West for \$93,000. It used the Head House for offices and employed the Drill Hall as a garage space for maintenance vehicles (Figure 25). "In addition to using it to store fleet vehicles, city officials actually poured raw materials onto the [Drill Hall's] open floor." The hall's wood floor, seen in many historic photographs, is no longer extant.<sup>71</sup>

By 2000, the city concluded that the armory had serious structural problems that would be too expensive to address. The *Duluth News Tribune* reported that there was "a demolition order scheduled to take effect Sept. 1, 2001." In response, local preservationists rallied to save the building, but they faced major challenges. The building had fallen into disrepair after years of vacancy, and its proximity to the lake and visible location along a busy thoroughfare made the site a prime location for new development. Inclusion on Preservation Alliance of Minnesota's "Ten Most Endangered" list in 2001,

<sup>68</sup> "Minnesota Naval Militia; Summary of"; "New, Bigger Armory Sought for Reserve Army Unit in Duluth," *Duluth Herald*, June 24, 1955; "City Legislators Seek U.S. Funds for Local Armory," *Duluth News Tribune*, August 6, 1955; "Army to Inspect Sites for Armory," *Duluth News Tribune*, April 15, 1956; "Early Duluth Armory Construction Urged," *Duluth News Tribune*, June 8, 1958; "Army Reserve Opens Doors," *Duluth Herald*, October 18, 1963.

<sup>69</sup> After various additions and alterations, the facility is now known as the "DECC" (Duluth Entertainment Convention Center).

<sup>70</sup> "Convention and Recreation Center Is Built in Duluth," *New York Times*, October 16, 1966; "Duluth Curling Club Has Long History," *Duluth News Tribune*, February 11, 2010. The curling facility, which had been in the city's possession since 1966 as destroyed by fire on June 3, 1983. Its loss allowed for the expansion of Interstate 35 ("Curling Building Presented to City," *Duluth Herald*, October 26, 1966, and "Curling Club Ruins," photograph with caption, *Duluth News-Tribune and Herald*, June 15, 1984).

<sup>71</sup> Duluth City Council Proceedings, resolution dated November 13, 1978, 505, 513; Aubut, Norton, and Sundquist, "Information for Determination of Eligibility"; Matthew R. Perrine, "Discover Duluth: The Armory, Vol. I-III," *Duluth Budgeteer News*, May 15, 2009.

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**Duluth Armory**

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however, helped the preservationists gain momentum. On May 24, 2004, the property was purchased by the Armory Arts and Music Center, which is working to redevelop the structure for a new use.<sup>72</sup>

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<sup>72</sup> Sarah Jackson, "Demolition Order Galvanizes Armory Supporters," *Duluth News Tribune*, November 9, 2000; State of Minnesota, "Laws of Minnesota for 1977, Ch. 11," <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/data/revisor/law/1977/0/1977-011.pdf> (accessed September 30, 2010); Nate DeMars, email message to Stephanie K. Atwood, August 31, 2010.

Duluth Armory  
Name of Property

St. Louis County, MN  
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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

See continuation sheet.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- 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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: Camp Ripley Archives, Little Falls, MN

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): SL-DUL-0583

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** Less than one acre  
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u>	<u>570160</u>	<u>5183240</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

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Lots 1 through 5 and 12 through 14 of Block 4 of Banning and Ray's Subdivision in Duluth.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes the property that has historically been associated with the Duluth Armory.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Stephanie K. Atwood and Charlene K. Roise, Historians  
organization Hess, Roise and Company date December 21, 2010  
street & number 100 North First Street telephone (612) 338-1987  
city or town Minneapolis state MN zip code 55401  
e-mail roise@hessroise.com

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

**Photographs:**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

See continuation sheet.

**Property Owner:**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Armory Arts and Music Center (c) (3)  
street & number 1626 London Road #779 telephone (218) 590-6103  
city or town Duluth state MN zip code 55812

**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.460 et seq.).

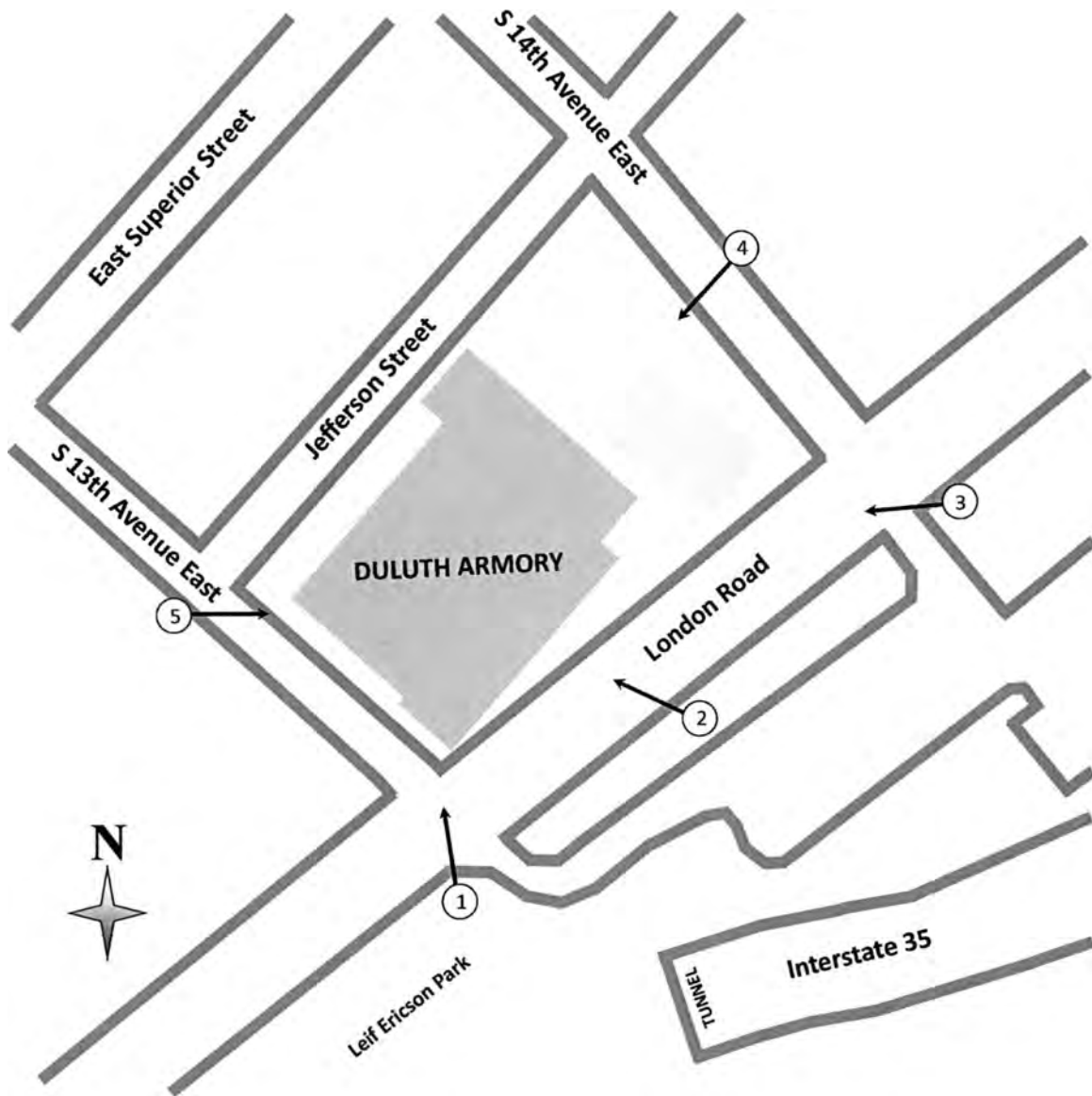
**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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Additional Information-Photo Key Sketch Map Page 1



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Duluth
Saint Louis County
Minnesota
Photographers: Charlene K. Roise and Stephanie K. Atwood
August 2010

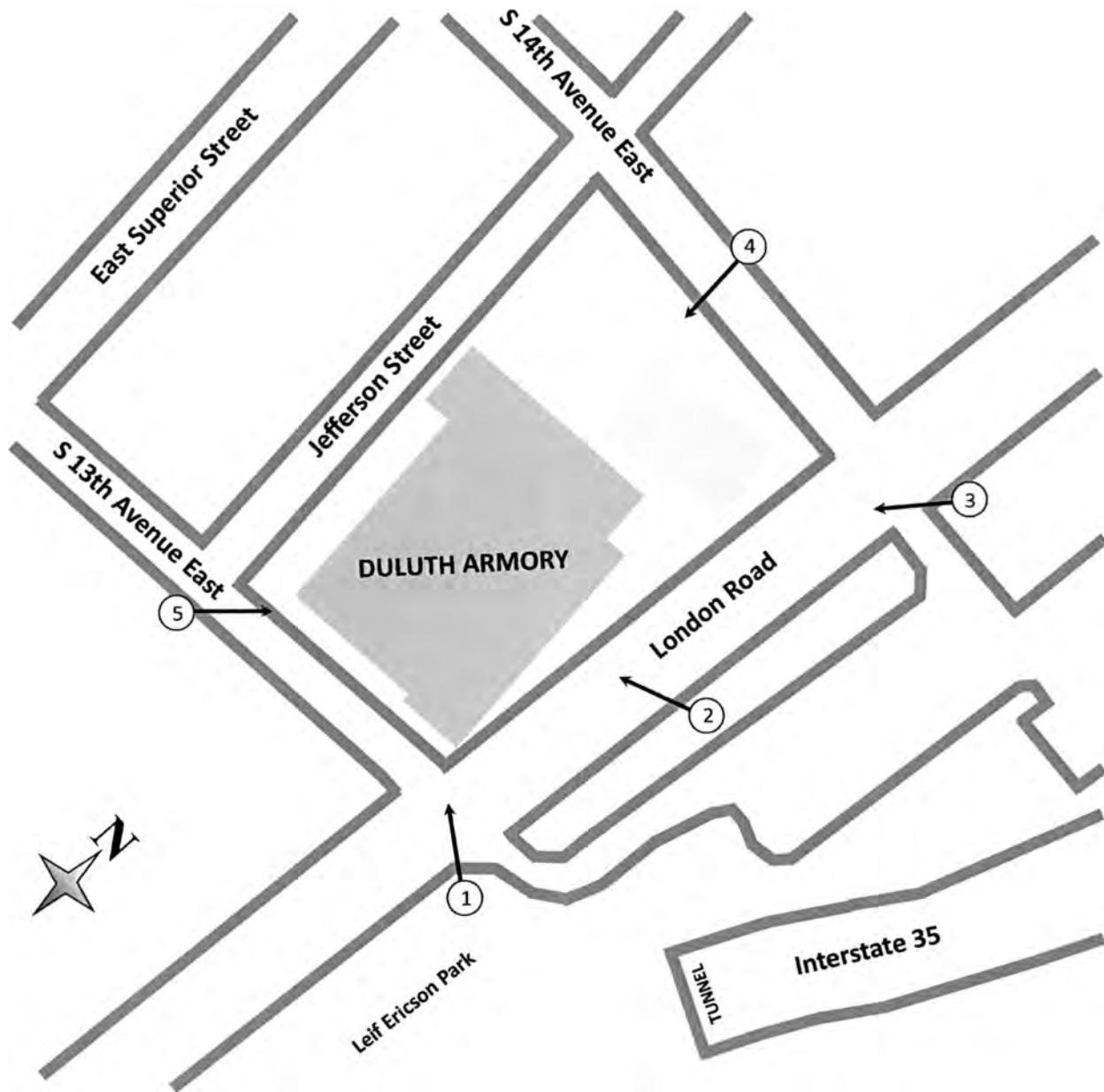


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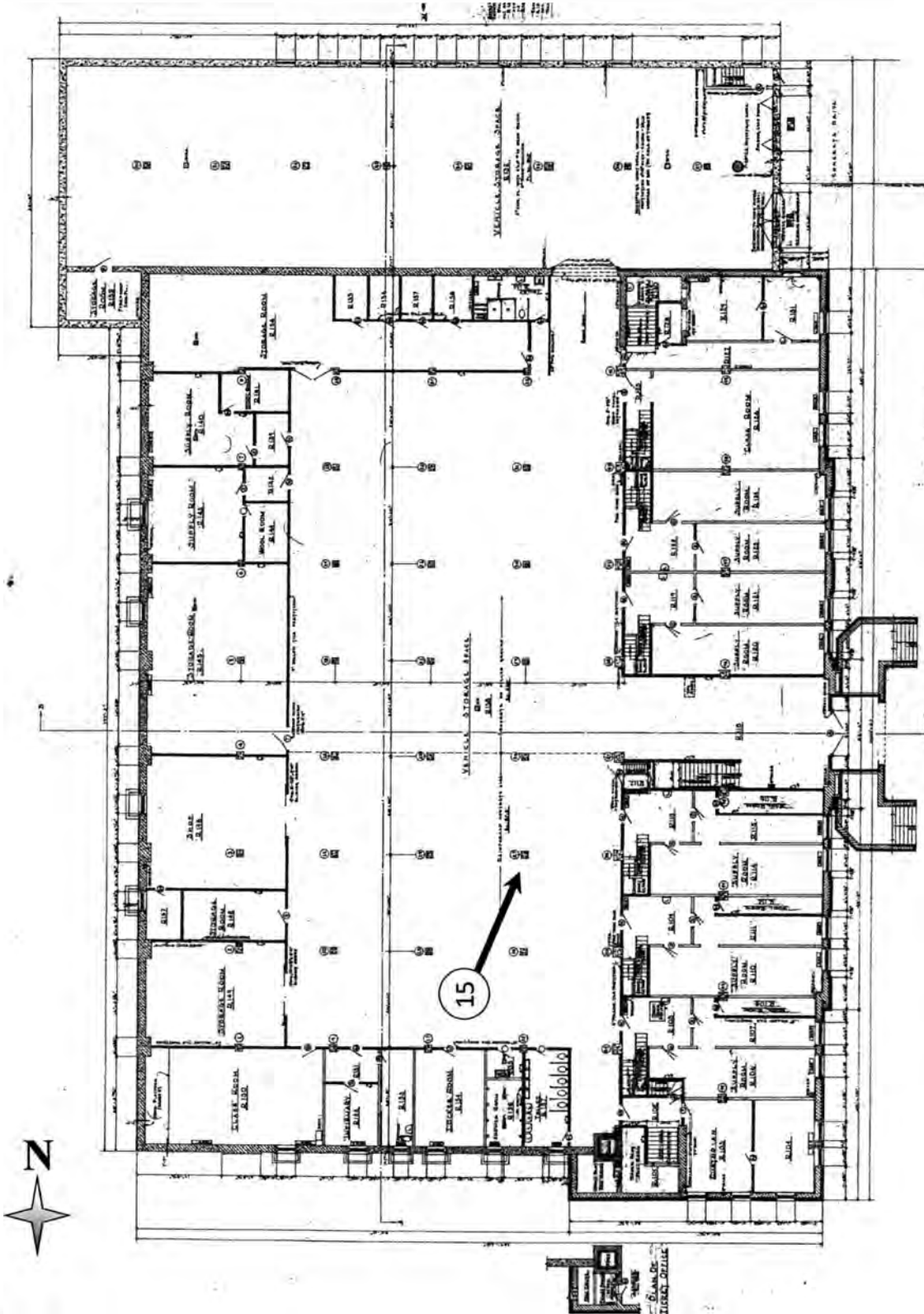


<b>DULUTH ARMORY</b>
Duluth
Saint Louis County
Minnesota
Photographers: Charlene K. Roise and Stephanie K. Atwood
August 2010

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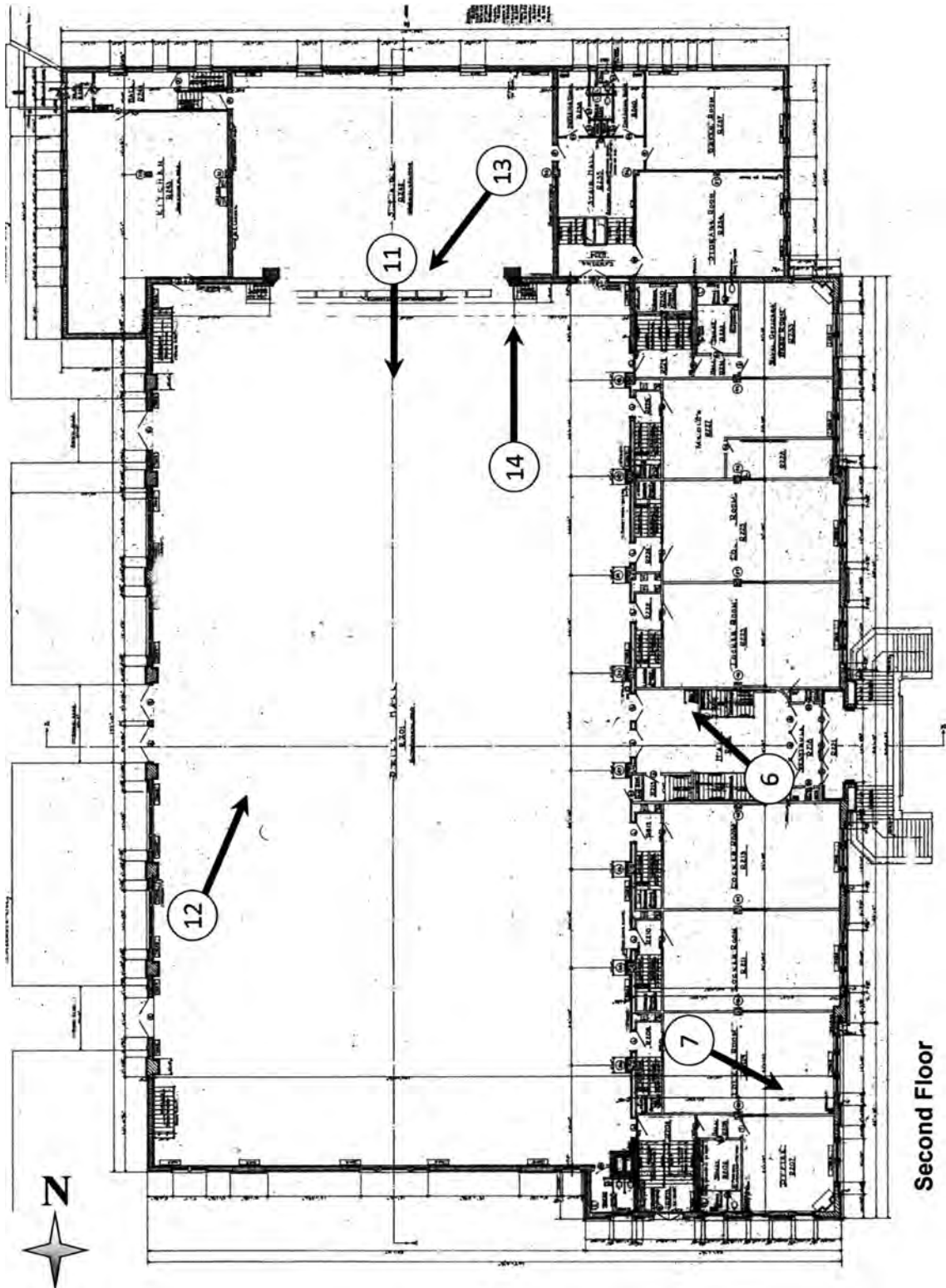
First Floor (Basement)

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Additional Information-Photo Key Sketch Map Page 4



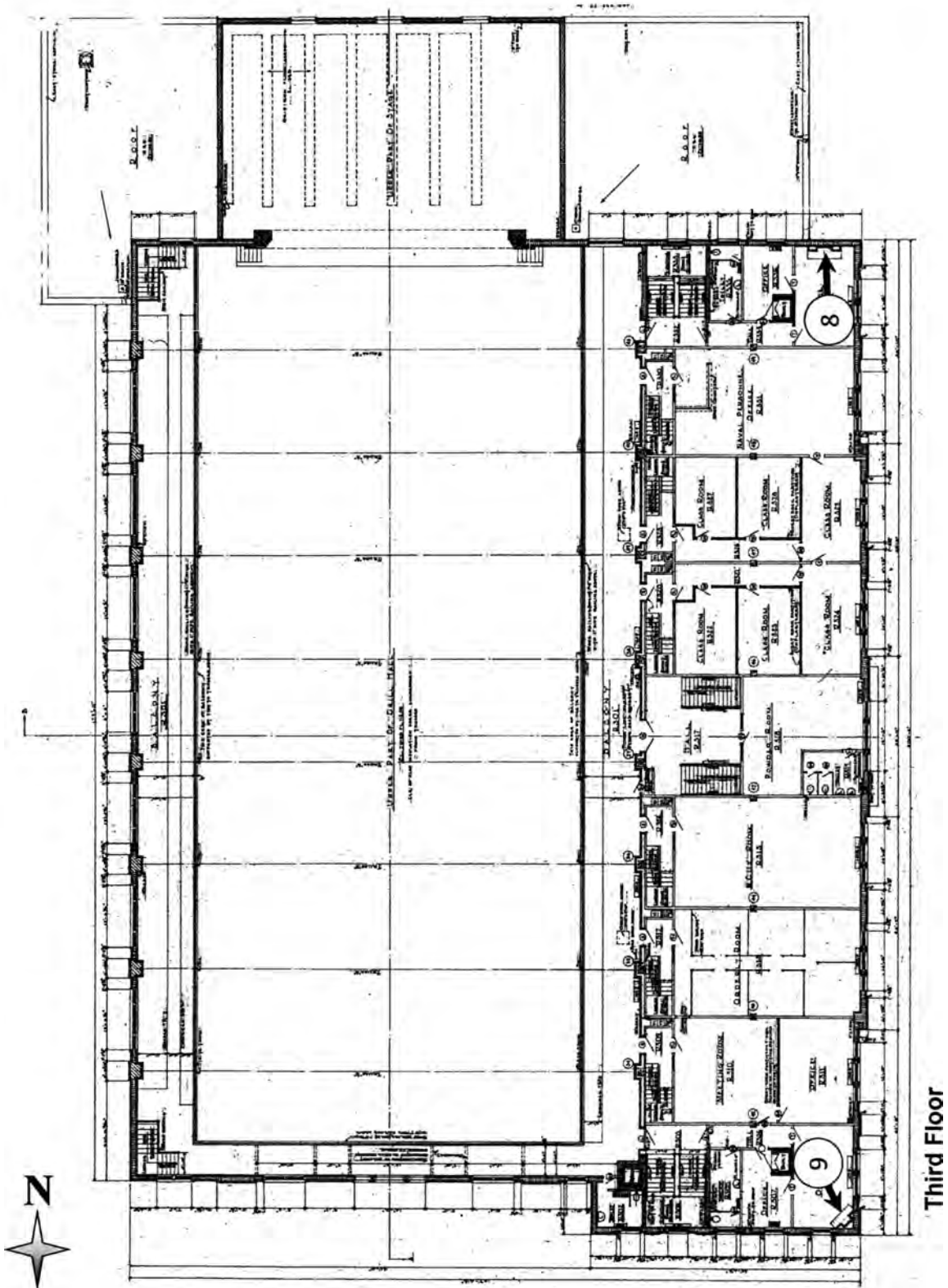
Second Floor

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Additional Information-Photo Key Sketch Map Page 5

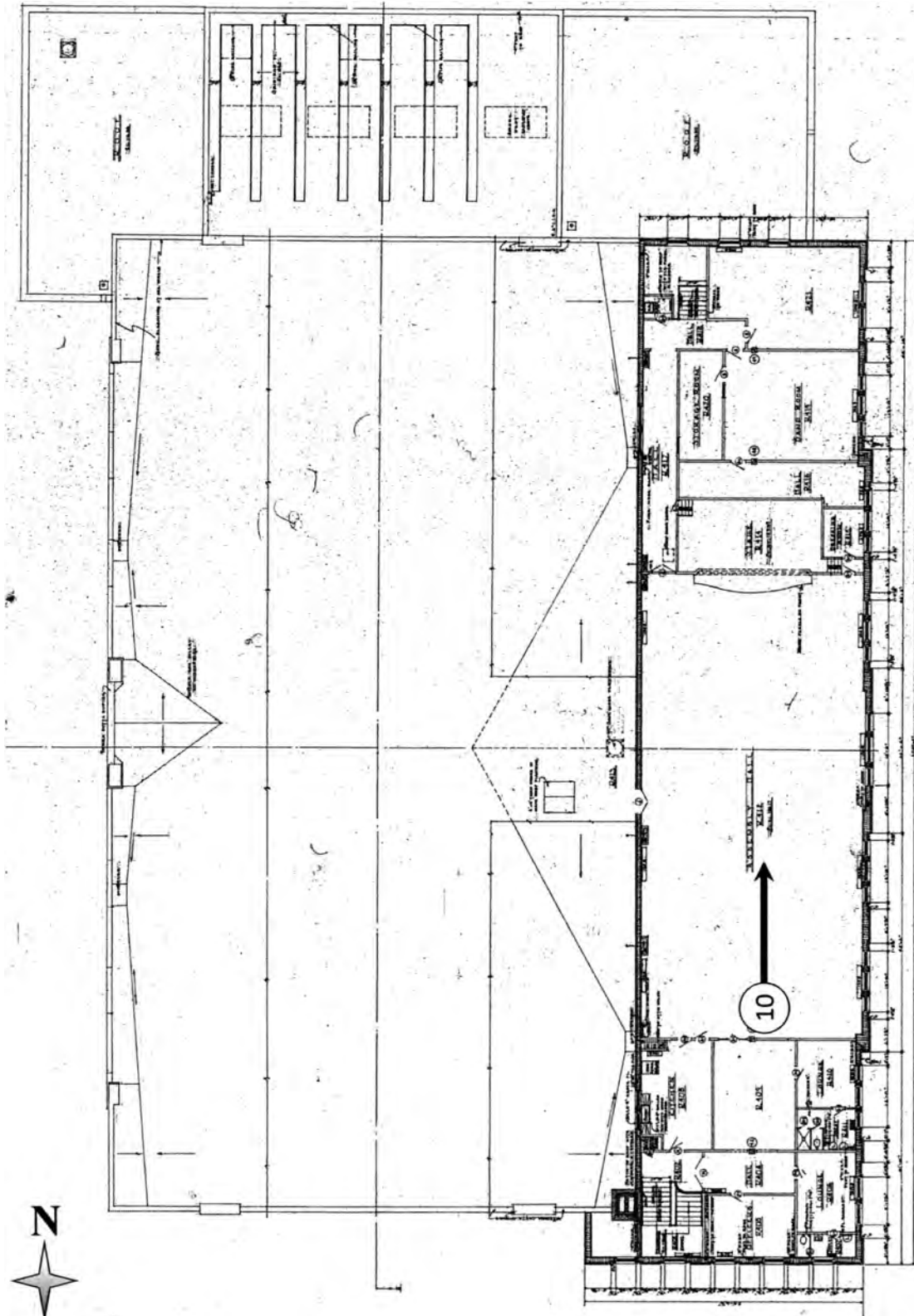


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Additional Information-Photo Key Sketch Map Page 6



Fourth Floor

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National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

<b>Duluth Armory</b>
Name of Property
St. Louis County
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Additional Information Page 1

**INDEX OF FIGURES**

**Figure 1.** Photograph showing the newly constructed 1896 Duluth Armory, the predecessor of the 1915 London Road facility. This building still stands at the intersection of East First Street and North Second Avenue East. Note the first-floor sign advertising the "Public Market." (Minnesota Digital Library)

**Figure 2.** Colonel F. E. Resch who served as captain of Company C at the opening of the 1896 armory and commander of the infantry at the opening of the 1915 armory. (*History of the Duluth Battalion, Third Infantry, N.G.S.M.*)

**Figure 3.** Captain William "Guy" A. Eaton, first commanding officer of Minnesota's Naval Militia. (Northeast Minnesota Historical Center, University of Minnesota-Duluth)

**Figure 4.** Clyde W. Kelly, one of the architects of the Duluth Armory and Eaton's successor. (Northeast Minnesota Historical Center, University of Minnesota-Duluth)

**Figure 5.** A postcard depicts the *U.S.S. Gopher* sailing on what is most likely Lake Superior while training Minnesota Naval Reservists, c. 1914. (NavSource, "Service Ship Photo Archive: USS Gopher (IX-11) ex USS Fern (Gunboat) (1891-1905)," <http://www.navsource.org/archives/09/46/46011.htm>)

**Figure 6.** A detail from one set of the armory's original plans. Handwritten notes on the plans alter and streamline the design by removing stone ball motifs at the roofline and changing the plaques at the fourth-floor's central windows from a curvilinear shape to a more subdued rectangular one. (Architectural plans in possession of LHB Corporation, Duluth)

**Figure 7.** The armory under construction, view to northeast. (McKenzie photograph from undated Duluth newspaper article in possession of Joe Mann, Duluth)

**Figure 8.** The Drill Hall's seating chart for the 1916-1917 All-Star \$10,000 Artists' Course concert. Around 3,100 seats are shown, including rows placed on the original balcony (left). ("All-Star \$10,000 Artists' Course," undated advertisement, in possession of Joe Mann, Duluth)

**Figure 9.** A publication by the Commercial Club of Duluth includes this photograph of the new armory. The caption gives a construction cost \$10,000 less than the actual amount and notes that, in addition to room for the National Guard companies, there are also accommodations for the band and the hospital corps. (Commercial Club of Duluth, "Duluth Minnesota," c. 1916 publication in possession of Joe Mann, Duluth)

**Figure 10.** A color postcard advertising the "New Armory" appears to be adapted from the photograph in Figure 9, but the trees now have foliage and dirt in the foreground has been transformed into a verdant landscape. (Location No. MS2.9 DU8 r17, Minnesota Historical Society Collections, Saint Paul)

**United States Department of the Interior**  
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**Duluth Armory**

Name of Property

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Additional Information Page 2

**Figure 11.** The First and Second Divisions of the Naval Militia's First Battalion pose in front of the armory on its first Memorial Day in use (1916). (*The Naval Review*, January 1923, page 14)

**Figure 12.** "Stations" in the Drill Hall provide various services to victims of the October 1918 fire, who also receive assistance from Guardsmen and Red Cross nurses. The original windows and entrance on the hall's west wall can be seen in the background. The Drill Hall's original hardwood floor is also visible. A hanging light fixture can be seen in the upper right-hand corner. (Photograph courtesy of Nate DeMars, Duluth)

**Figure 13.** An orchestra performing on the small stage that was originally in the Drill Hall, c. late 1910s–early 1920s. (Photograph courtesy of Nate DeMars, Duluth)

**Figure 14.** An audience primarily of children as seen from the Drill Hall's original stage. The new balconies at the rear of the auditorium as well as along the west wall are visible, c. 1935–1940. (Photograph courtesy of Nate DeMars, Duluth)

**Figure 15.** The 125<sup>th</sup> Infantry Unit in formation in the Drill Hall, c. 1940. The original stage is visible at the rear. Painted lines for a basketball court are on the wood floor. ("Request for Proposals: The Historic Armory and Adjacent Property")

**Figure 16.** The new addition under construction, 1941. View to west from London Road. (Location No. MS2.9 DU8 r9, Minnesota Historical Society Collections, Saint Paul)

**Figure 17.** The armory, c. 1945. The new addition is visible at the right. (Photograph courtesy of Nate DeMars, Duluth)

**Figure 18.** The 125<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Band in the fourth-floor Assembly Room, c. 1941. The 125<sup>th</sup> saw more days of combat during World War II than any other American unit. (Photograph courtesy of Nate DeMars, Duluth)

**Figure 19.** Minnesota governor Elmer Benson speaks to the audience at the Farmer-Labor State Convention in the Drill Hall, March 1938. (Location No. J2 1938 p2, Minnesota Historical Society Collections, Saint Paul)

**Figure 20.** The funeral of Albert Woolson, Duluth native and last surviving Civil War Union veteran. The photograph, dated August 7, 1956, shows the appearance of the Drill Hall after World War II. The dropped ceiling and proscenium arch have been painted white, while the wood floor is still intact. (Negative No. 58671, Location No. GT3.7 p69, *Minneapolis Star Journal Tribune* Photograph Collection, Minnesota Historical Society Collections, Saint Paul)

**Figure 21.** Pallbearers carry Woolson's casket. The Drill Hall's original east balcony and the later south (rear) balcony are visible. (*Life Magazine* photograph, available at Life.com)

**United States Department of the Interior**  
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**Duluth Armory**

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Additional Information Page 3

**Figure 22.** Reporters sit on the Drill Hall's east balcony during Woolson's funeral. The west balcony as well as the historic window and door openings are visible at rear. (*Life Magazine* photograph, available at Life.com)

**Figure 23.** Waylon Jennings, Buddy Holly, and Tommy Allsup (l-r) perform at the Duluth Armory on January 31, 1959, one of the stops on the Winter Dance Party Tour. (Photograph courtesy of Nate DeMars, Duluth)

**Figure 24.** J. P. "The Big Bopper" Richardson performs at the Duluth Armory on January 31, 1959. (Photograph courtesy of Nate DeMars, Duluth)

**Figure 25.** The east (front) facade of the armory with its historical concrete stairs partially removed, c. 1980s. (Photograph courtesy of Nate DeMars, Duluth)



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

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**Duluth Armory**

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Additional Information

Page 4



Figure 1

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

<b>Duluth Armory</b>
Name of Property
St. Louis County
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Additional Information Page 5



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

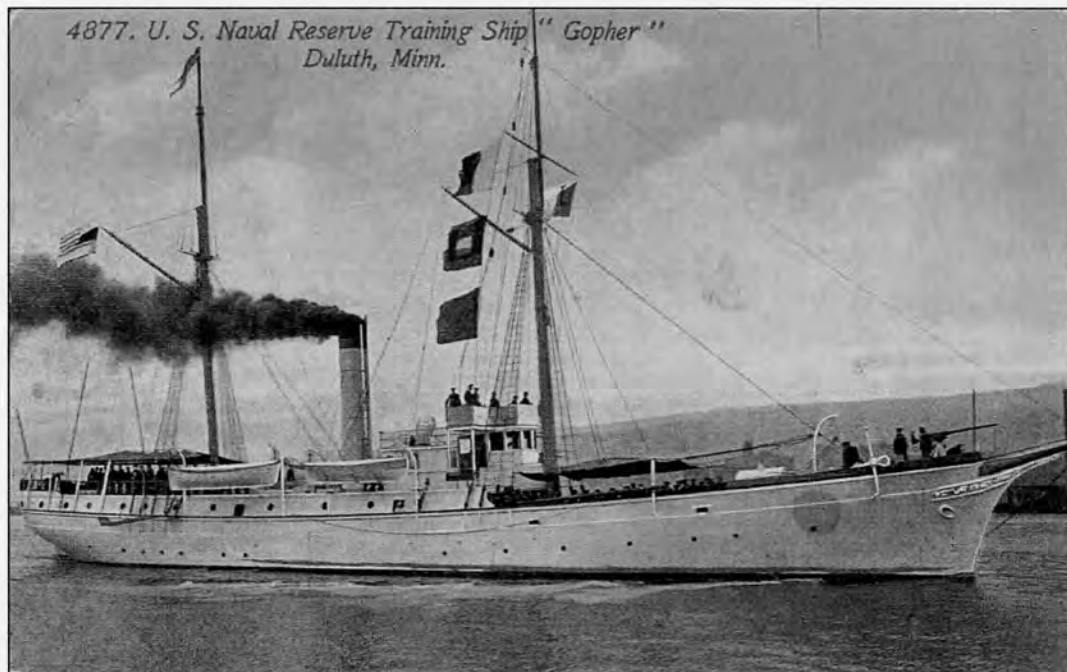


Figure 5

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Duluth Armory**

Name of Property

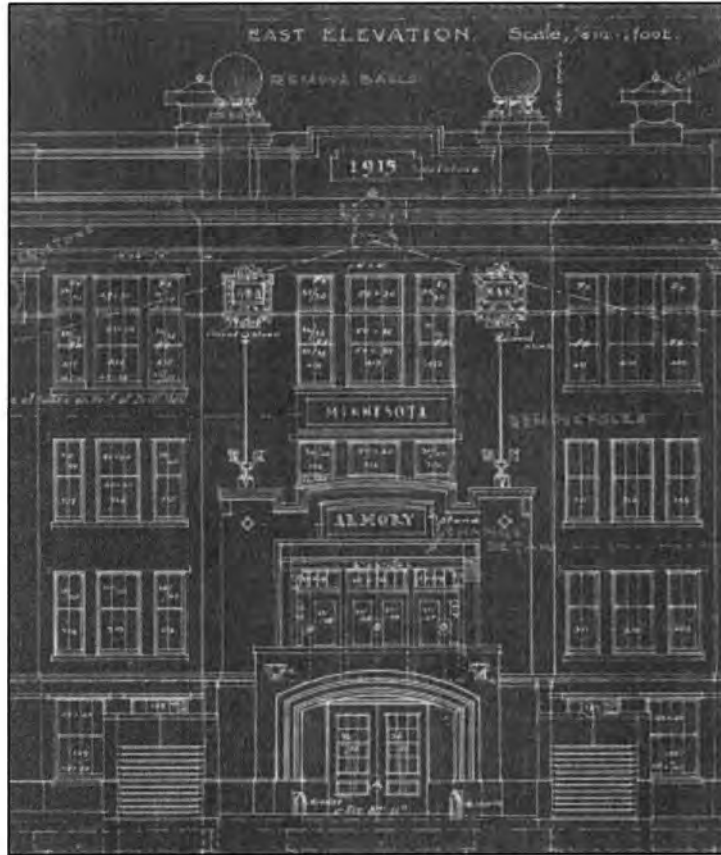
St. Louis County

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Additional Information Page 6



**Figure 6**



**Figure 7**

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Duluth Armory

Name of Property

St. Louis County

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Additional Information

Page 7

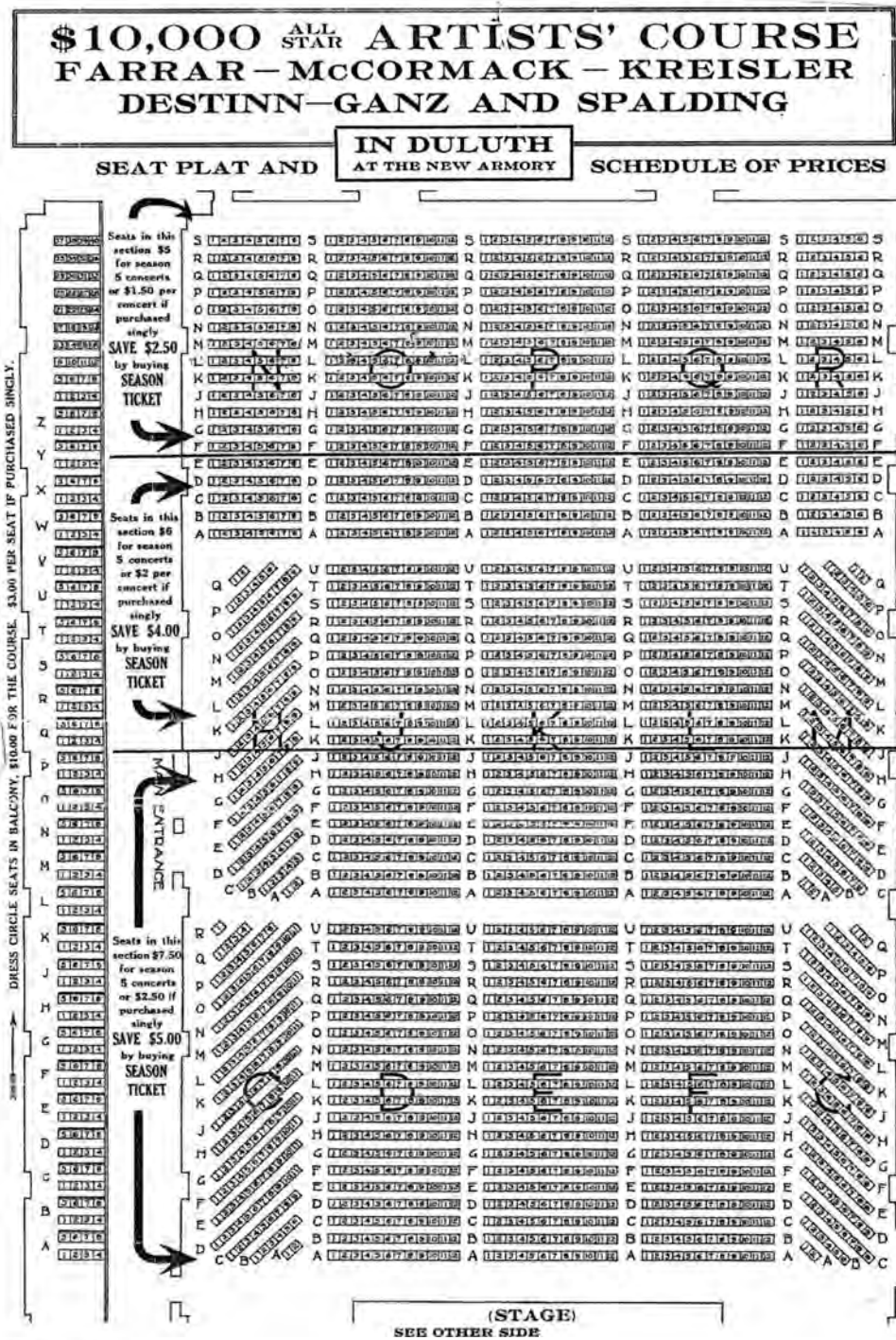


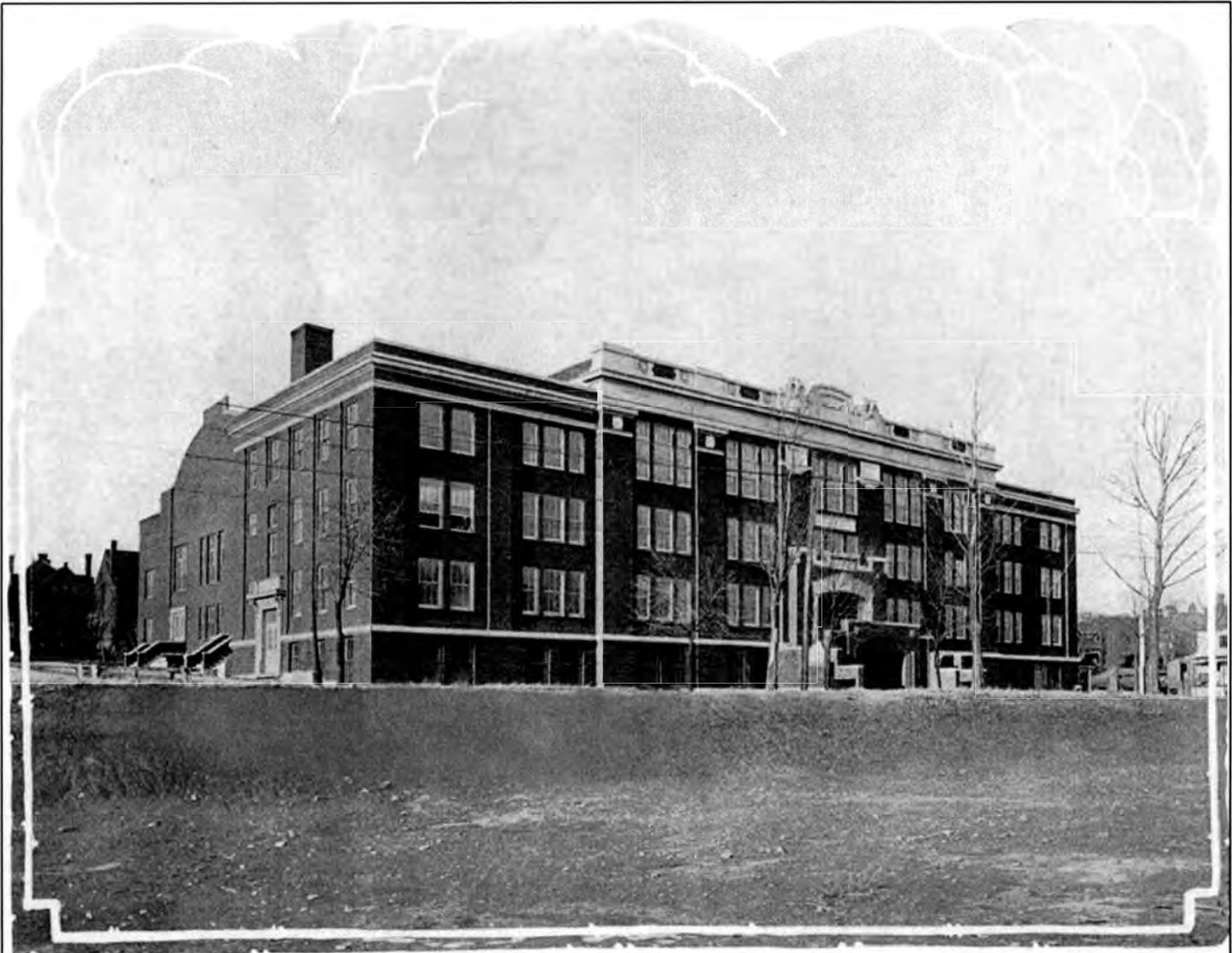
Figure 8

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

<b>Duluth Armory</b>
Name of Property
St. Louis County
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Additional Information      Page 8



*New State Armory at Fourteenth Avenue East and London Road. Erected in 1915 at a cost of about \$140,000. It furnishes quarters for the staff, band, hospital corps and three companies of infantry, Third Regiment, Minnesota National Guard, and the commanding officers and three divisions of the Minnesota Naval Militia.*

**Figure 9**

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Duluth Armory**

Name of Property

St. Louis County

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Additional Information Page 9

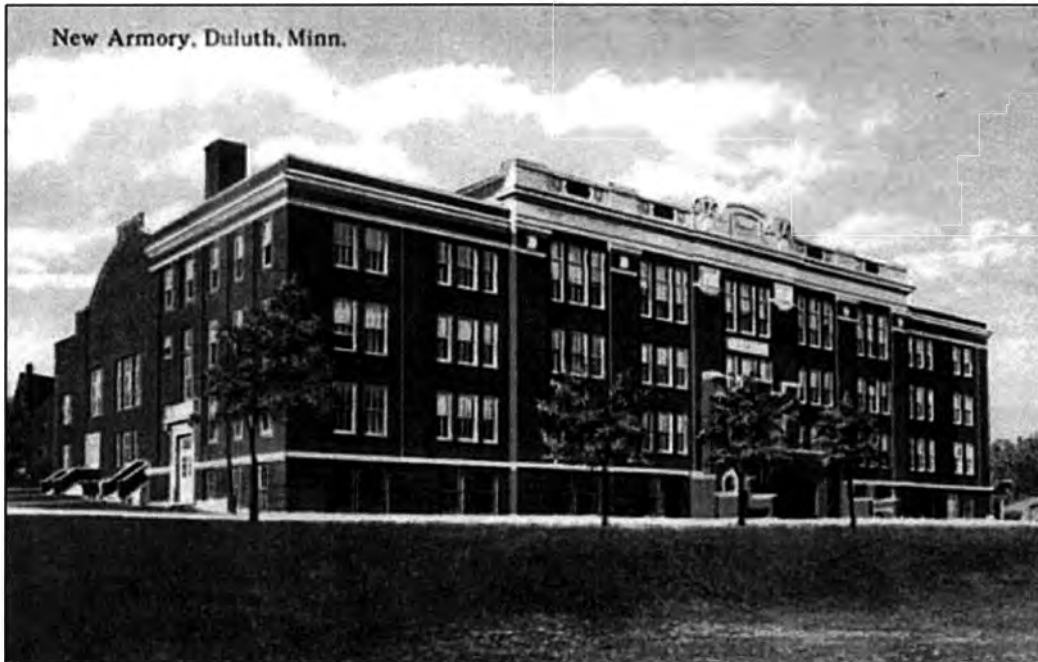


Figure 10

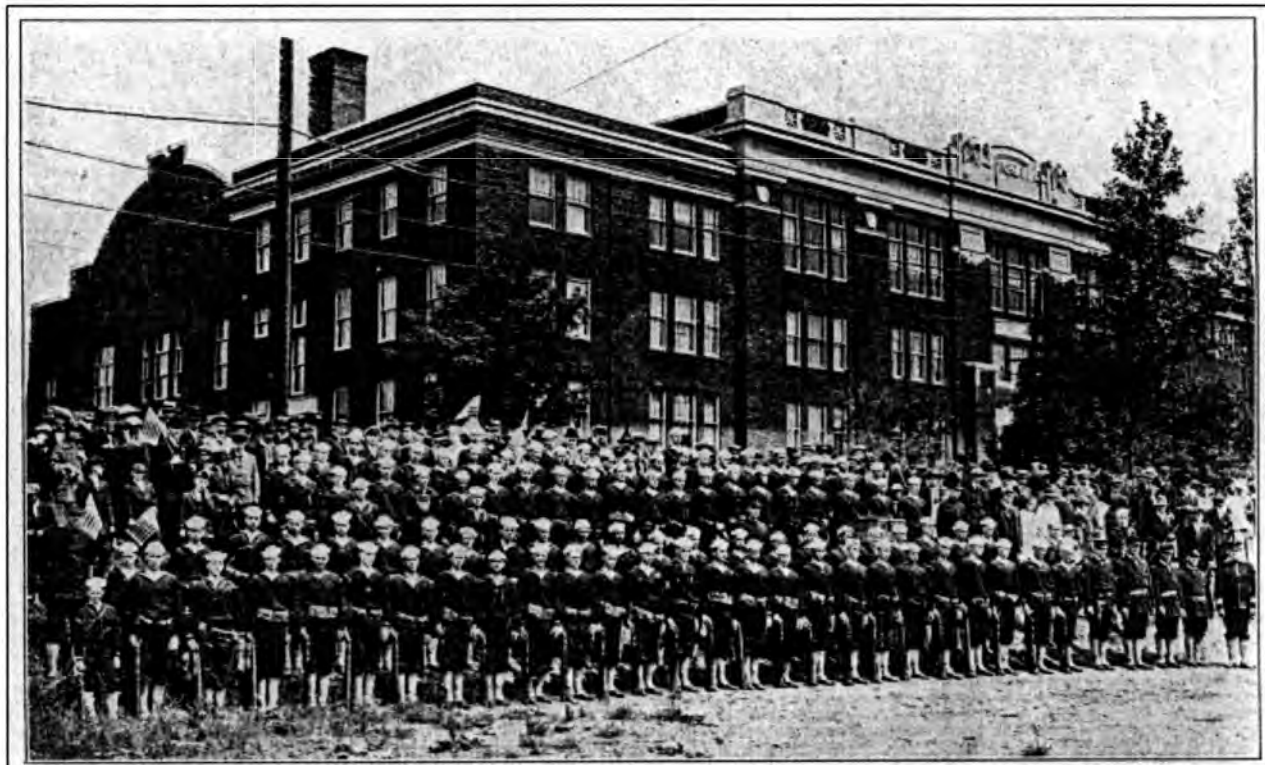


Figure 11

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

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Continuation Sheet**

<b>Duluth Armory</b>
Name of Property
St. Louis County
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N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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**Figure 12**



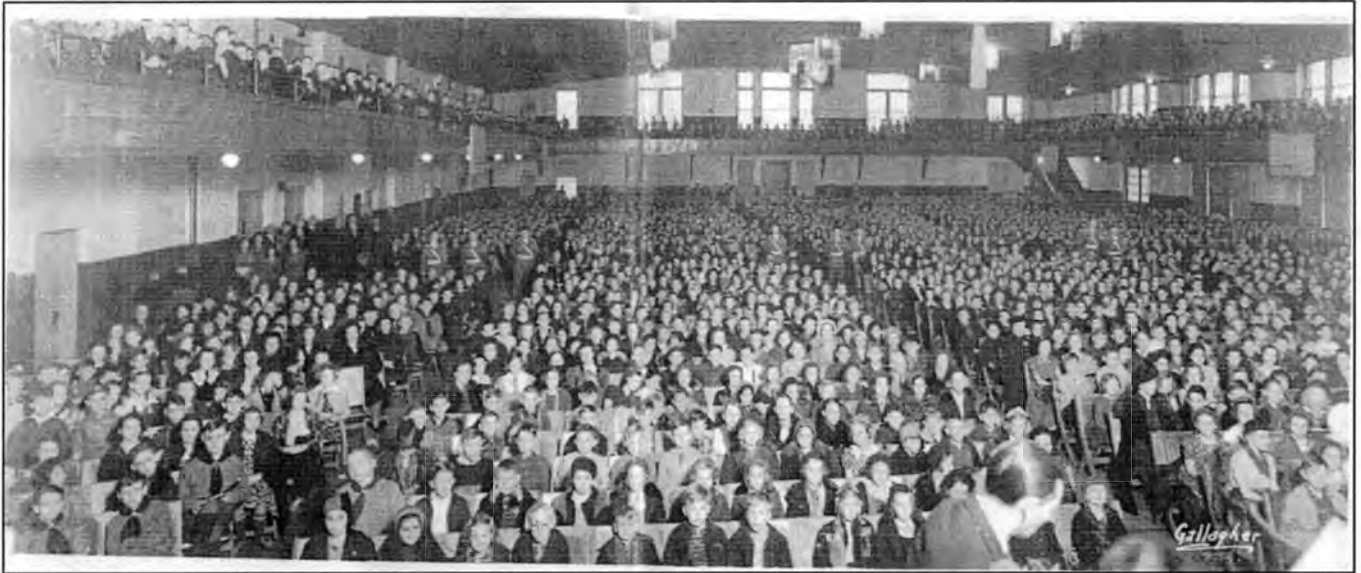
**Figure 13**

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
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<b>Duluth Armory</b>
Name of Property
St. Louis County
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N/A
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**Figure 14**



**Figure 15**

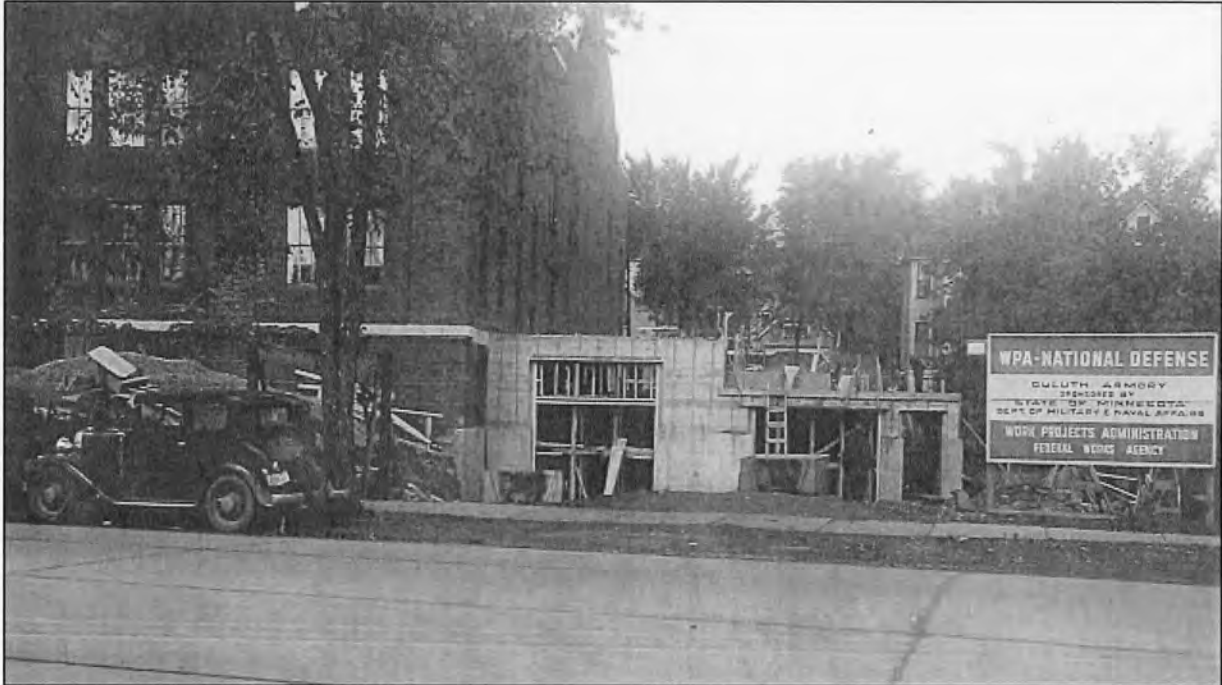


**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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<b>Duluth Armory</b>
Name of Property
St. Louis County
County and State
N/A
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**Figure 16**



**Figure 17**

**United States Department of the Interior  
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Continuation Sheet**

**Duluth Armory**

Name of Property

St. Louis County

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Figure 18



Figure 19

**United States Department of the Interior  
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Name of Property
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County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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**Figure 20**

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
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**Duluth Armory**

Name of Property

St. Louis County

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Figure 21



Figure 22

**United States Department of the Interior  
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Continuation Sheet**

<b>Duluth Armory</b>
..... Name of Property
St. Louis County
..... County and State
N/A
..... Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



Figure 23



Figure 24



Figure 25

**United States Department of the Interior**  
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**National Register of Historic Places**  
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<b>Duluth Armory</b>
Name of Property
St. Louis County, MN
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Photographs Page 1

**Photographs:**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Duluth Armory  
City or Vicinity: Duluth  
County: St. Louis County  
State: Minnesota  
Name of Photographer: Stephanie K. Atwood  
Date of Photograph: August 2010

MN\_StLouisCounty\_DuluthArmory\_0001

Exterior view to northwest showing (l-r) south and front (east) facades of Head House.

Name of Property: Duluth Armory  
City or Vicinity: Duluth  
County: St. Louis County  
State: Minnesota  
Name of Photographer: Stephanie K. Atwood  
Date of Photograph: August 2010

MN\_StLouisCounty\_DuluthArmory\_0002

Exterior view showing detail of central bays of front facade of Head House. View to west.

Name of Property: Duluth Armory  
City or Vicinity: Duluth  
County: St. Louis County  
State: Minnesota  
Name of Photographer: Stephanie K. Atwood  
Date of Photograph: August 2010

MN\_StLouisCounty\_DuluthArmory\_0003

Duluth Armory exterior. View to southwest showing (l-r) Head House, unaffiliated commercial building, and 1941 addition.

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

**Duluth Armory**

Name of Property

St. Louis County, MN

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Photographs Page 2

Name of Property: Duluth Armory  
City or Vicinity: Duluth  
County: St. Louis County  
State: Minnesota  
Name of Photographer: Stephanie K. Atwood  
Date of Photograph: August 2010

MN\_StLouisCounty\_DuluthArmory\_0004

Duluth Armory exterior. View to south showing north facade of 1941 addition.

Name of Property: Duluth Armory  
City or Vicinity: Duluth  
County: St. Louis County  
State: Minnesota  
Name of Photographer: Stephanie K. Atwood  
Date of Photograph: August 2010

MN\_StLouisCounty\_DuluthArmory\_0005

Duluth Armory exterior. (L-r) Main (west) and south facades of Drill Hall and south facade of Head House. View to northeast.

Name of Property: Duluth Armory  
City or Vicinity: Duluth  
County: St. Louis County  
State: Minnesota  
Name of Photographer: Stephanie K. Atwood  
Date of Photograph: August 2010

MN\_StLouisCounty\_DuluthArmory\_0006

Head House interior, second floor. View to northwest showing main entrance corridor on second floor.

Name of Property: Duluth Armory  
City or Vicinity: Duluth  
County: St. Louis County  
State: Minnesota  
Name of Photographer: Charlene K. Roise  
Date of Photograph: August 2010

MN\_StLouisCounty\_DuluthArmory\_0007

Head House interior, second floor. View to east showing a second-floor office with modern alterations, such as a dropped ceiling and linoleum floor tiles. View to east.

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

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**Continuation Sheet**

<b>Duluth Armory</b>
Name of Property
St. Louis County, MN
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Photographs Page 3

Name of Property: Duluth Armory  
City or Vicinity: Duluth  
County: St. Louis County  
State: Minnesota  
Name of Photographer: Charlene K. Roise  
Date of Photograph: August 2010

**MN\_StLouisCounty\_DuluthArmory\_0008**

Head House interior, third floor. View to north showing fireplace in the former third-floor office of Guy Eaton.

Name of Property: Duluth Armory  
City or Vicinity: Duluth  
County: St. Louis County  
State: Minnesota  
Name of Photographer: Charlene K. Roise  
Date of Photograph: August 2010

**MN\_StLouisCounty\_DuluthArmory\_0009**

Head House interior, third floor. View to southeast showing corner fireplace in third-floor office and original windows.

Name of Property: Duluth Armory  
City or Vicinity: Duluth  
County: St. Louis County  
State: Minnesota  
Name of Photographer: Charlene K. Roise  
Date of Photograph: August 2010

**MN\_StLouisCounty\_DuluthArmory\_0010**

Interior view of Head House, fourth floor. View to north of Assembly Room showing stage with curved apron.

Name of Property: Duluth Armory  
City or Vicinity: Duluth  
County: St. Louis County  
State: Minnesota  
Name of Photographer: Charlene K. Roise  
Date of Photograph: August 2010

**MN\_StLouisCounty\_DuluthArmory\_0011**

Drill Hall interior. View to south from stage of 1941 addition.



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

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**Duluth Armory**

Name of Property	St. Louis County, MN
County and State	N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)	

Photographs Page 4

Name of Property: Duluth Armory  
City or Vicinity: Duluth  
County: St. Louis County  
State: Minnesota  
Name of Photographer: Charlene K. Roise  
Date of Photograph: August 2010

MN\_StLouisCounty\_DuluthArmory\_0012

Drill Hall interior. View to northeast showing (l-r) stage of 1941 addition and historic east balcony.

Name of Property: Duluth Armory  
City or Vicinity: Duluth  
County: St. Louis County  
State: Minnesota  
Name of Photographer: Charlene K. Roise  
Date of Photograph: August 2010

MN\_StLouisCounty\_DuluthArmory\_0013

1941 addition interior. View to southwest of stage interior and proscenium arch with Drill Hall at rear.

Name of Property: Duluth Armory  
City or Vicinity: Duluth  
County: St. Louis County  
State: Minnesota  
Name of Photographer: Stephanie K. Atwood  
Date of Photograph: August 2010

MN\_StLouisCounty\_DuluthArmory\_0014

Drill Hall interior. Detail view of east side of proscenium arch on stage.

Name of Property: Duluth Armory  
City or Vicinity: Duluth  
County: St. Louis County  
State: Minnesota  
Name of Photographer: Stephanie K. Atwood  
Date of Photograph: August 2010

MN\_StLouisCounty\_DuluthArmory\_0015

Drill Hall interior, first (basement) floor. View to northeast showing concrete columns with flared capitals and cast-in-place concrete ceiling.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Duluth Armory

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MINNESOTA, St. Louis

DATE RECEIVED: 4/21/11      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/11/11  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/26/11      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/06/11  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 11000324

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N    DATA PROBLEM: N    LANDSCAPE: N    LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N    PDIL: N    PERIOD: N    PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N    SAMPLE: N    SLR DRAFT: N    NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    6.1.11 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



DULUTH ARMORY  
ST LOUIS CO., MN  
PHOTO 1 OF 15

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MINNESOTA

NO TRESPASSING

NO TRESPASSING

NO TRESPASSING

NO TRESPASSING

DULUTH ARMORY  
ST LOUIS CO., MN  
PHOTO 2 OF 15

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DULUTH ARMORY  
ST LOUIS CO., MN  
PHOTO 3 OF 15

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DULUTH ARMORY  
ST LOUIS CO., MN  
PHOTO 4 OF 15

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DULUTH ARMORY  
ST LOUIS CO., MN  
PHOTO 5 OF 15

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ST LOUIS CO., MN  
PHOTO 6 OF 15

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DULUTH ARMORY  
ST LOUIS CO., MN  
PHOTO 7 OF 15

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Duluth ARMORY  
ST LOUIS CO., MN  
PHOTO 8 OF 15

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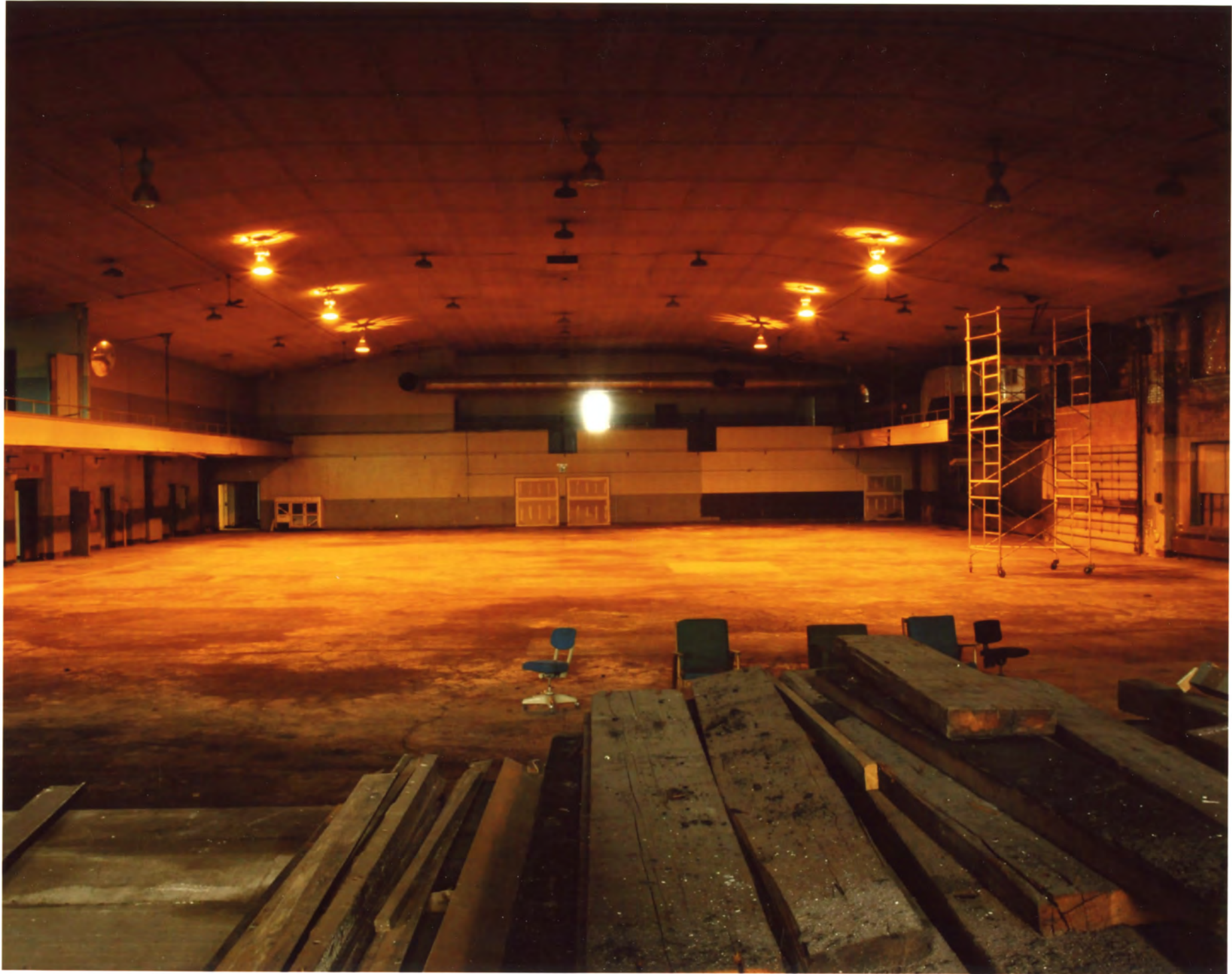
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ST LOUIS CO., MN  
PHOTO 9 OF 15

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DULUTH ARMORY  
ST LOUIS CO., MN  
PHOTO 10 OF 15

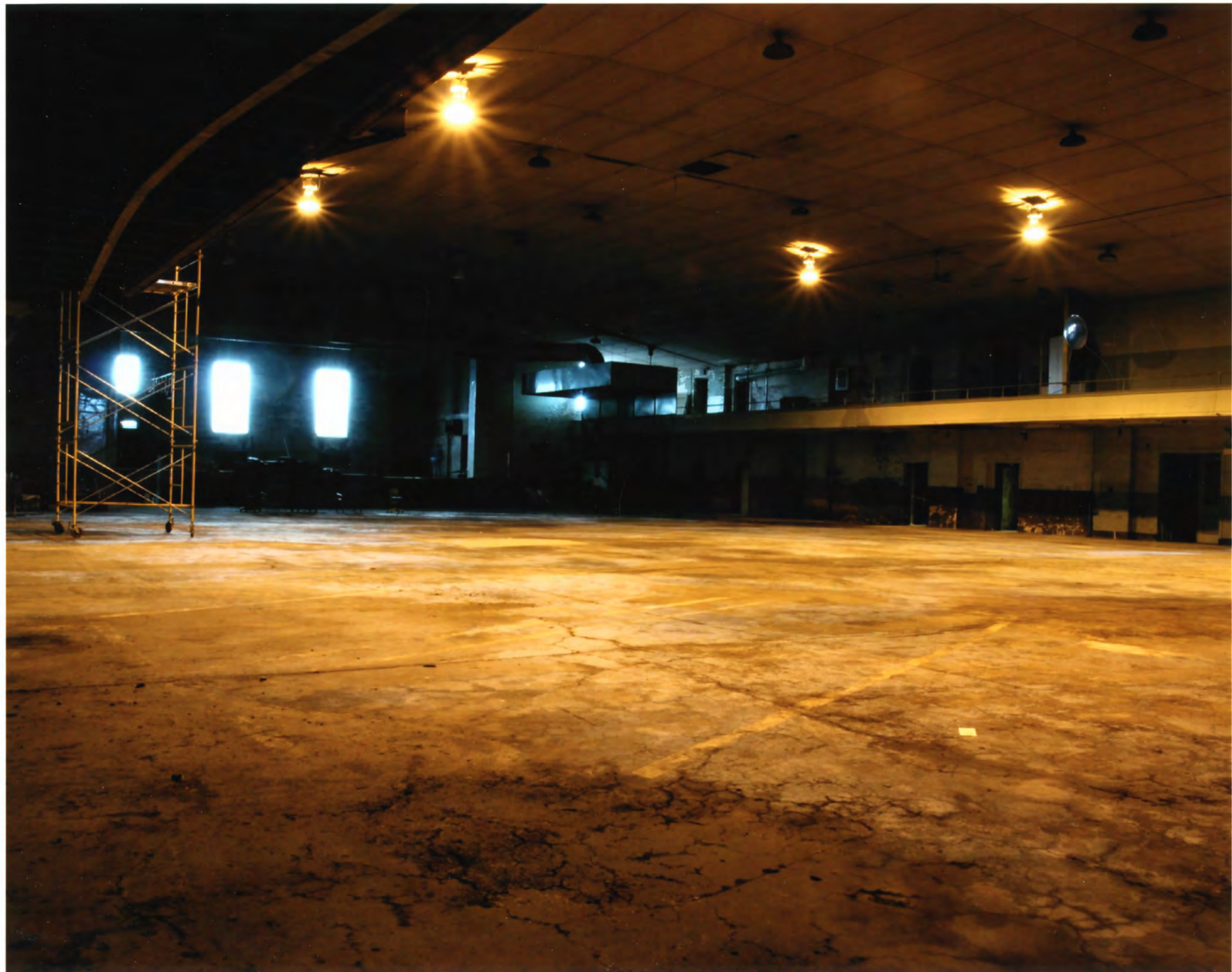
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DULUTH ARMORY  
ST LOUIS CO., MN  
PHOTO 11 OF 15

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DULUTH ARMORY  
ST LOUIS CO., MN  
PHOTO 12 OF 15

\*\*\*\*\* 12/20/10 091 National Camera Co  
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DULUTH ARMORY  
ST LOUIS CO., MN  
PHOTO 13 OF 15

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DULUTH ARMORY  
ST LOUIS CO., MN  
PHOTO 14 OF 15

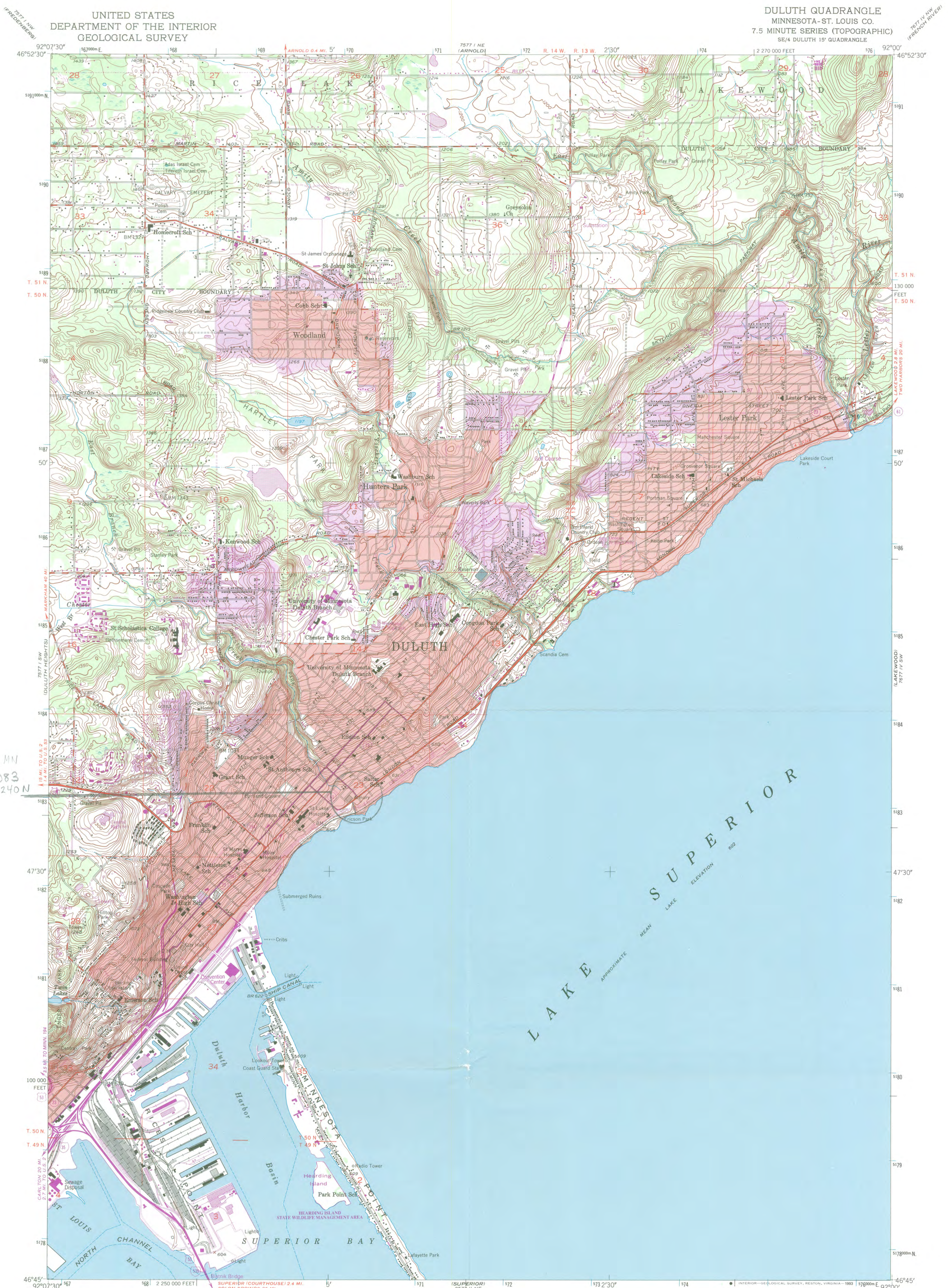
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DULUTH ARMORY  
ST LOUIS CO., MN  
PHOTO 15 OF 15

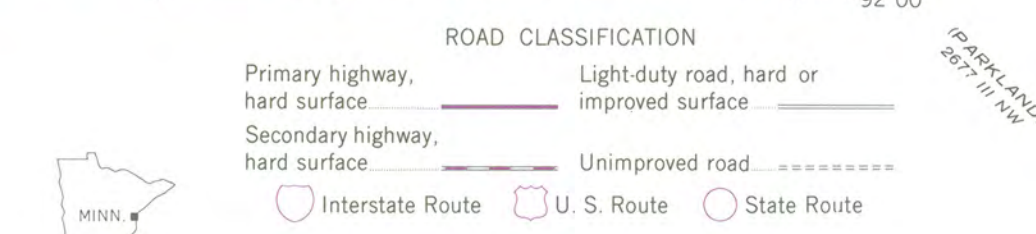
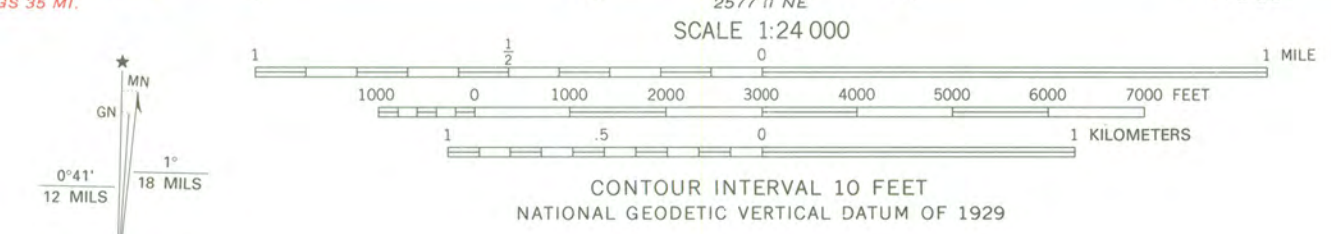
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Duluth Army  
Duluth  
Saint Louis Cor-1, MN  
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Produced by the United States Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and U.S. Lake Survey  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1952. Field checked 1953  
Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Minnesota coordinate system, north zone (Lambert conformal conic)  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 15, shown in blue 1927 North American Datum (NAD 27)  
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83 for 7.5-minute intersections are given in USGS Bulletin 1875  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked  
Purple tint indicates extension of urban area



QUADRANGLE LOCATION  
Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with State of Minnesota agencies from aerial photographs taken 1991 and other sources. This information not field checked. Map edited 1993  
Information shown in purple may not meet USGS content standards and may conflict with previously mapped contours

**DULUTH, MINN.**  
SE/4 DULUTH 15' QUADRANGLE  
46092-G1-TF-024  
1953  
REVISED 1993  
DMA 7577 I SE - SERIES V872

COMPLIES WITH U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY STANDARDS FOR SPATIAL ACCURACY - CLASS 2  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



City of Duluth  
Planning Division

411 West First Street • Room 208 • Duluth, Minnesota 55802-1197  
218-730-5580 • Fax: 218-730-5904 • www.duluthmn.gov

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February 15, 2011

Ms. Britta Bloomberg  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
Minnesota Historical Society  
345 Kellogg Boulevard West  
St. Paul, MN 55102

Re: Duluth HPC comment on the nomination of Duluth Armory, 1301-1305 London Road, Duluth, St. Louis County, to the National Register of Historic Places

Dear Ms. Bloomberg:

Thank you for your letter of January 11, 2011 inviting the Duluth Heritage Preservation Commission (DHPC) to comment on the nomination of the Duluth Armory to the National Register of Historic Places. The DHPC reviewed the nomination at our January 25, 2011 meeting. The review included the participation of commission member Wayne Gannaway, as your letter specified, because Mr. Gannaway meets the Federal Standards for History. The nomination was available for public comments. No comments were received. The conclusion of the DHPC is that the property meets the criteria of the National Register of Historic Places and, thus, the DHPC supports the nomination.

Sincerely,

*Carolyn Sundquist*  
*eh*

Carolyn H. Sundquist  
Chair, Duluth Heritage Preservation Commission

cc: Mayor Don Ness

Minnesota Historical Society  
State Historic Preservation Office  
345 Kellogg Blvd West, St. Paul, Minnesota 55102  
651/259-3451



**TO:** Carol Shull, Keeper  
National Register of Historic Places

**FROM:** Susan Roth, National Register Historian

**DATE:** April 15, 2011

**NAME OF PROPERTY:** Duluth Armory

**COUNTY AND STATE:** St. Louis Co., MN

**SUBJECT:** National Register:

- Nomination
- Multiple Property Documentation Form
- Request for determination of eligibility
- Request for removal (Reference No. )
- Nomination resubmission
- Boundary increase/decrease (Reference No. )
- Additional documentation (Reference No. )

**DOCUMENTATION:**

- Original National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
  - Multiple Property Documentation Form
  - Continuation Sheets
  - Removal Documentation
  - Photographs
  - CD w/ image files
  - Original USGS Map
  - Sketch map(s)
  - Correspondence
  - Owner Objection
- The enclosed owner objections  
Do  Do not  constitute a majority of property owners

**STAFF COMMENTS:**



April 21, 2011

Dr. Carol Shull  
Keeper, National Register of Historic Places  
Mail Stop 2280, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
1201 Eye Street NW  
Washington, DC 20005

RE: Photographs for Abbott Hospital, Hennepin County; Duluth Armory, St. Louis County;  
and Duluth Young Women's Christian Association, St. Louis County, Minnesota

Dear Dr. Shull:

Enclosed are the above photographs which were inadvertently left out of the National Register Nominations that were recently received by your office. We apologize for any inconvenience this omission may have caused.

Sincerely,



Britta L. Bloomberg  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Office  
Minnesota Historical Society