

PH0661767

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JAN 31 1978
DATE ENTERED NOV 21 1978

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Janesville Memorial Armory
AND/OR COMMON
The Armory (preferred)

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
10 South High Street
CITY, TOWN
Janesville
STATE
Wisconsin 53545
VICINITY OF
First
COUNTY
Rock
CODE
55
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
First
NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CODE
105

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM pending
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Recreation

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
City of Janesville
STREET & NUMBER
18 North Jackson Street
CITY, TOWN
Janesville
STATE
Wisconsin 53545
VICINITY OF

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Rock County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
51 South Main Street
CITY, TOWN
Janesville
STATE
Wisconsin 53545

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Rock County Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings
DATE
1975
DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS
Rock County Historical Society
CITY, TOWN
Janesville
STATE
Wisconsin 53545
_FEDERAL _STATE COUNTY _LOCAL

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The "old" Janesville Armory building, constructed in 1930 from plans by Lt. Col. Henry C. Hengels, Wisconsin state military architect and engineer, is an Eclectic Revival building with Spanish Revival overtones. The building consists of two contiguous rectangular units, with their long sides parallel to the front (High Street) facade, with overall dimensions of 106' x 92'. The front portion, 43' x 59', two stories high plus a partially exposed full basement, is covered by a truncated hip terra cotta tile roof, intersecting with a broad front gable three bays wide, flanked by two bays on either side. This portion of the structure consists of a lobby, stairs, offices and meeting rooms, storage areas, kitchen and locker-rest room facilities. The rear portion of the structure, 63' x 92', consists solely of a garage in the basement and a large (60' x 90') drill hall at the first floor level. The garage floor is about 2' lower than the floor of the basement in the front wing, and the drill hall ceiling is quite high (about 18' at the apex). The roof of this section appears to be flat, but is actually a shallow barrel vault running north and south behind a parapet wall. The sides of the roof are about a foot lower than the apex.

Allusions to the Spanish Revival style consist chiefly of the visible tiled roof of the front wing; the use of ironwork - a second story balcony at the east front with spiral ironwork brackets and vertical iron pikes at the corners; and several arched openings with glass tympana. These arched openings are at the center of the first and second stories of the northeast (High Street) facade, at the two side entrance blocks, which are located at the intersections of the wings, and at the large south drill room window. The walls are of cream and buff brick, varied with bands of red brick and diaper-patterned sections of red, pink and charcoal brick. Unlike many urban buildings of this type and date of construction, all sides of the structure are decorative, featuring red brick buttresses, including the windowless rear (southwest) facade which abuts the property line. The side buttresses, including those along the alley to the north, are surmounted by concrete urns. The bays between the side buttresses are slightly recessed. Four irregularly spaced and largely decorative brick chimneys are surmounted by pairs of bulbous ceramic chimney pots, but one pot is missing. The exterior is basically unaltered except for the substitution of a pair of aluminum and glass doors at the main entrance, with the glass tympanum above left intact.

From 1930 until 1940 the interior was utilized as headquarters for the 32nd Tank Company of the Wisconsin National Guard, which was federalized just before World War II as Company A and Headquarters Company of the 192nd Tank Battalion. The 121st Field Artillery band also occupied quarters on the second story and drilled and rehearsed on the main drill floor in the rear block.¹ The Guards' motor vehicles utilized the garage in the rear basement.

The "flat" roof at the rear was recently resurfaced; some tile repair is need on the roof of the front block. The interior has been relatively neglected since the National Guard moved to their new quarters at 11 Palmer Drive in 1971. Parts of the building have recently been rented to various organizations, but is has been under-utilized. The rear drill-gym floor is pockmarked from practice sessions of a local drum-and-bugle corps. The building, however, is sound and fire resistant; its interior partitions appear to be hollow clay tile and/or concrete. The building could readily be adapted as a county museum, as is proposed by the Rock County Historical Society.

¹ Janesville Gazette, Progress Edition, January 10, 1931, p. 14

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1930

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Lt. Col. Henry C. Hengels

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Although the Armory is slightly less than 50 years old, it is associated with a military unit whose World War II record was of outstanding significance to the people of Janesville as well as to the nation. This military unit was the 32nd Tank Company of the Wisconsin National Guard, which had used the building as headquarters and training ground during the ten year period prior to World War II. Later known as Company A and Headquarters Company of the 192nd Tank Battalion, this unit achieved national fame in 1941-42 for its valiant service in the harrowing defense of Bataan, conducting a holding action for four months against vastly greater enemy forces and materiel. Virtually all surviving members were participants in the infamous "Bataan Death March" in enemy captivity after surrendering on April 9, 1942. Nearly two-thirds, or 64 of the 99 Janesville area members, failed to return alive in 1945.¹

The Janesville unit of the 32nd Division was first organized in 1920, and the Janesville Tank Company was the first unit of the Wisconsin National Guard to be assigned to overseas duty prior to World War II. Federalized on November 25, 1940, they were trained with outmoded equipment at Fort Knox, Kentucky, and at Camp Polk, Louisiana. Supplied with light tanks, they sailed on October 20, 1941, from San Francisco along with Companies B (Maywood, Illinois), C (Port Clinton, Ohio), and D (Harrodsburg, Kentucky). They were organized under the Provisional Tank Group, U.S. Forces in the Far East, on November 21; took battle positions on December 1 near Clark Field at Fort Stotsenburg in the Philippines; and defended it in the initial Japanese attack on December 8 (December 7, U. S. Time) which virtually wiped out the U. S. air cover.

Brigadier General James R. N. Weaver, commanding general of the Provisional Tank Group and among those taken prisoner after the fall of Bataan, subsequently praised the Tank Battalion in a report mailed to the Chairman, Association of Families of the 192nd Tank Battalion, Janesville.² According to Weaver, the 192nd and its sister unit the 194th were the first United States armed units involved in World War II to do the following: fight a tank-vs.-tank battle with an enemy, engage in jungle battle, bring in enemy prisoners, and shoot down an enemy plane by tank fire. Of more lasting importance, however, their four-month defense of Bataan covered the withdrawal of six divisions, supported the First and Second Philippine corps, and protected the south, east and west coasts of Bataan and the three landing strips. Operating under extremely adverse conditions, initially with only two-thirds tank strength and that with only light weight tanks, with only two radios, in unfamiliar territory, with no air cover, with dwindling food and medicine and no reinforcements, they helped enable the United States to have time to mobilize its war forces and production for the long struggle ahead.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"New Armory Supplies Janesville with Civic Center," Janesville Daily Gazette (Progress Edition) January 10, 1931, pp. 1, 6.

Lauer, Ed. T. "The 192nd Tank Battalion in Action 1942," ms, RCHS.

Weaver, Brig. Gen. James R. N., "Summary of Services of the Provisional Tank Group, U.S. Armed Forces in the Far East," reprinted in the Janesville Gazette, 1945.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.52

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 | 333860 | 4727080
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B | |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C | |

D | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A 22,500 square foot parcel occupying the east corner of Block 125, Willard's Subdivision of the city of Janesville, Wisconsin. The property is bounded on the northeast by South High Street, on the northwest by an alley, on the southeast by Dodge Street, and on the southwest by the rear property line of the parcel.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Nancy Belle Douglas

ORGANIZATION

Rock County Historical Society

DATE

December 1, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 896

TELEPHONE

(608) 756-4509

CITY OR TOWN

Janesville

STATE

Wisconsin 53545

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Richard W. Emery

TITLE Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE 1/25/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 1/21/78

ATTEST: *Dorothy Cole*

OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 5/12/78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places

1975

State

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

Madison

Wisconsin 53706

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Those taken prisoner on April 9 took part in the infamous "March of Death" into prison Camp O'Donnell, 20 miles a day under tropic sun, and disabled with disease and hunger. Stragglers who fell were killed on the spot, yet all but one of the Janesville area prisoners survived the march. Most of these survivors were eventually held captive at Cabanatuan or other camps or were shipped to Japan to work in factories and mines. Nearly all whom the Japanese listed as "missing in action" actually died in the prison camps or at sea. Yet, with no Geneva Convention safeguards, the men showed amazing courage and continuing morale.

The immediate and courageous involvement of the unit, which constituted a large percentage of Janesville's fighting men at the beginning of the war, has had a continuous and lasting effect on the people of Janesville. The uncertainty as to the fate of over half the men dragged on for three years until it became known at the end of the war that such a large percentage, nearly two-thirds of the group, had died in prison camps or prison ships. In four cases brothers who had joined the same unit both died, three of these pairs were twins. Men perished from malnutrition, sickness, and in at least one instance were gunned in mass slaughter.³ One "tanker" survived as a commando in the Philippine back country.⁴

There was strong support on the part of the people of the community back home. The Tank Company Auxiliary, organized January 21, 1942 when the Tank Battalion was out of communication in the Philippines, was among the first such associations in World War II.⁵ It has been active ever since, and still assists wounded veterans as well as annually remembering the war dead and the now dwindling numbers of survivors of the 192nd.⁶ Although many of the returnees more or less readjusted to civilian life, with the warmth and accolades of their townspeople, a majority first required long hospital recuperation, and a number have never recovered emotionally from the ordeal. Some of the stories may be forever untold as painful memories best forgotten; some will be published only upon the death of the participants;⁷ and some are dim memories of courage to new generations, but the effect on the survivors, their families and friends and the community remains. Only in very recent years, for instance, have imported Japanese goods been fully acceptable locally and Japanese visitors welcomed without reservation.⁸

The site of the old Armory has been publicly used ever since it was originally acquired in 1845 as the location for the Janesville Academy. This was a 35 x 55 foot two-story porticoed Greek Revival stone building which was used as Janesville's first private academy, originally under the direction of the Rev. Thomas J. Ruger (Episcopalian) until 1855-56 when it was acquired by the City of Janesville. The old stone Academy building was then utilized for four years as the city's first public high school. After the new school building was opened in 1859 the Academy building continued in use as a public school until its demolition about 15 years later. A successor building in Second Empire style, known first as Central and later as Lincoln School, was erected on the site in 1876. It served as an elementary school until 1921, when it was turned over to the Vocational School. In 1926 the Vocational School moved out and the National Guard

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moved in, utilizing the structure until 1929 when the upper portion was destroyed by fire.

Following the 1929 fire, the City of Janesville constructed the present building on the site of the former school buildings. The cost of construction was \$56,268.00, approximately \$50,000.00 of which was borrowed from the state. After the completion of the building in January, 1931, the National Guard occupied the building on a lease basis, with the lease income serving to repay the loan. The construction of the Armory was undertaken by the city partly to provide a center for community activities. For many years, during the Depression and war years, and until the construction of several new schools, churches and industrial buildings which provided space for community activities, the Armory served this important subsidiary role.

During World War II the Armory was used by the Selective Service board and as local headquarters of the "home guard" (Wisconsin State Guard), composed largely of veterans of World War I too old for combat duty. In 1947 the 32nd moved back in, with the Janesville company reactivated in November by Lt. Col. Pat Dawson as a quartermaster company, while the tank corps was moved to Sparta and the band to Madison.⁹ The 32nd was mobilized in 1961-1962 and called to Fort Lewis, Washington, during the Berlin crisis.¹⁰

With the announcement in 1970 that the National Guard would vacate the old Armory in favor of a new one-story structure, the Rock County Historical Society approached the city with a proposal to use the building as a museum. In recent years the building has been used for miscellaneous purposes, but on October 24, 1977 the Janesville City Council approved in concept the proposal to develop the facility as a county museum.

It is fitting that the Armory be adapted for use as a county museum, for the convenience of its size, construction and central location and for its associative value as the headquarters and training ground for Company A and Headquarters Company of the 192nd, who were vital in the heroic defense of America's first major engagement in World War II. They suffered the results of America's first major loss of land in battle to a foreign power with devastating attrition **of personnel**. Yet the remaining prisoners survived in spirit until men and land could be reclaimed at war's end in 1945.

1. Sources vary as to the number of participants because some were transferred in or out; 99 refers to the final count as registered in the monument to the 192nd, which has been moved from the Armory to the Corn Exchange Park three blocks away.
2. Brigadier General James R. N. Weaver, "Summary of Service of the Provisional Tank Group, U.S. Armed Forces in the Far East," reprinted in the Janesville Gazette, 1945, RCHS files.
3. Capt. Fred T. Bruni, on December 14, 1944 (Janesville Gazette, 1972).

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8.

4. George McCarthy, see Janesville Gazette, May 26, 1976.
5. Janesville Gazette, "Tank Co. Auxiliary is first organization formed as a result of World War II," May 29, 1942.
6. Interview with Mrs. Ernest Grim, November 21, 1977.
7. Ms. in preparation by Wilbur Parry, 571 N. Walnut, Janesville, WI.
8. Information from Richard B. Douglas, former proprietor of the Color Center, Janesville gift and interior design shop, 1954-67.
9. Interview with Pat Dawson, Janesville, November 29, 1977.
10. Mr. Skavlem, Wisconsin National Guard, Madison, November 30, 1977.

9.

Janesville Directories, Janesville Gazette, etc., files of the RCHS

Interview with Mrs. Ernest Grim, November 21, 1977.

Interview with Wilbur Parry, November 25, 1977.

Interview with Marvin Roth, November 28, 1977 and with Pat Dawson, Janesville, November 29, 1977.

Miller, Col. E. B., Bataan Uncensored (Long Prairie, Minn., 1949), 54-55, 67, 128, 137-140, 143, 154-156, 161-162, 207-209, 214 ff., 234-237.

Morton, Louis, The War in the Pacific: The Fall of the Philippines (Dept. of the Army, Washington, 1953), 33, 134, 168-169, 171, 176-178, 184-185, 205, 218, 221, 227, 346, 431.