GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

HISTORIC PRESERVATION REVIEW BOARD
APPLICATION FOR HISTORIC LANDMARK OR HISTORIC DISTRICT DESIGNATION

New Designation __X__
Amendment of a previous designation _____
Please summarize any amendment(s) _____

Property Name: District of Columbia National Guard Armory

*If any part of the **interior** is being nominated, it must be specifically identified and described in the narrative statements.*

Address 2001 East Capitol Street SE

Square and lot number(s) Part of RES 343F (see Verbal Boundary Description in nomination)

Affected Advisory Neighborhood Commission 7D

Date of Construction: 1941 Date of major alteration(s) N/A

Architect(s) Nathan C. Wyeth Architectural style(s): MODERN MOVEMENT/Moderne

Original use DEFENSE/Armory; RECREATION/CULTURE/Auditorium
Present use DEFENSE/Armory; RECREATION/CULTURE/Auditorium

Property owner United States of America

Legal address of property owner 1849 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20240 (National Park Service)

NAME OF APPLICANT(S) DC Preservation League

***If the applicant is an organization**, it must submit evidence that among its purposes is the promotion of historic preservation in the District of Columbia. A copy of its charter, articles of incorporation, or by-laws, setting forth such purpose, will satisfy this requirement.*

Address/Telephone of applicant(s) 1328 Florida Avenue NW, 2nd Floor, Washington, DC 20009; (202) 783-5144

Name and title of authorized representative: Rebecca Miller, Executive Director

Signature of applicant representative: Rebecca Miller Date: 10/14/26

Name and telephone of author of application: DC Preservation League, (202) 783-5144

Date received _____
H.P.O. staff _____

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.

1. Name of Property
Historic name: _District of Columbia National Guard Armory_____
Other names/site number: _____
Name of related multiple property listing**:**
_N/A_____
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing

---

2. Location
Street & number: _2001 East Capitol Street SE
City or town: _Washington_____ State: _DC_____ County: _____
Not For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐

---

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

I hereby certify that this ___ 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 ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___national ___statewide ___local
Applicable National Register Criteria:

___A ___B ___C ___D

_____

Signature of certifying official/Title: **Date**

_____

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

District of Columbia National Guard Armory | Washington, DC
Name of Property | County and State

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:) _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:	☐
Public – Local	☐
Public – State	☐
Public – Federal	☒

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)	☒
District	☐
Site	☐
	☐

District of Columbia National Guard Armory | Washington, DC
Name of Property | County and State

Structure

Object ☐

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register _____

6. Function or Use
Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
DEFENSE/Armory
RECREATION/CULTURE/Auditorium

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
DEFENSE/Armory
RECREATION/CULTURE/Auditorium

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)
MODERN MOVEMENT/Moderne

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property: Limestone walls; metal sheet roofing

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The District of Columbia National Guard Armory, designed in 1939-1940 by Municipal Architect Nathan C. Wyeth and completed in 1943, is an imposing and vaulted, limestone-clad Art Moderne building on the south side of East Capitol Street, SE in far east Capitol Hill. Adjacent to RFK Stadium, the Armory is dramatically sited on East Capitol Street where the broad avenue splits to circle around the centrally aligned RFK Stadium, before reconvening as a single roadway to cross the Anacostia River. The Armory occupies a stand-alone plot of ground that together with the stadium, dominates this western edge of the Anacostia River, due east of the U.S. Capitol.

The armory building consists of a soaring, 350 x 200-foot barrel-vaulted drill hall surrounded by, but rising above, flat-roofed wings. The limestone-clad wings that were historically used as offices, shops, storage facilities and more (referred to collectively as the Administrative Buildings) are characterized architecturally by their streamlined massing and architectural treatment typical of the Art Moderne style. The wings almost fully surround the drill hall, giving the building its generally rectangular footprint with exterior dimensions of approximately 500 x 350 feet. The vaulted roof of the drill hall springs visually from the roof of the surrounding wings and rises at its apex well above them.

Narrative Description

Site

The armory building occupies a sizeable plot of land bounded on the north by East Capitol Street, on the south by Independence Avenue, and on the west and east by 19th and 22nd streets SE, respectively. The area topography is relatively flat but slopes down towards the river on the east. Large-scale institutional complexes are in the vicinity, including a correctional treatment facility, a former hospital and its vast surface parking areas to the south, RFK stadium and its parking to the armory's north, and Eastern High School to the northwest. Immediately west of the armory, on the west side of 19th Street NE, the area is residential in character with densely built-up early twentieth-century rowhouses. Immediately north of the armory is a wide grassy ellipse—historically a surface parking area—with mature shade trees and open lawn for helicopter landings. Here, East Capitol Street splits into two segments with the ellipse occupying the center of the north and south street segments.



Figure 1: Aerial view of the D.C. Armory on center of the photograph (ca. 1955), looking northeast across the future site of RFK Stadium and the Anacostia River (D.C. National Guard Archives).

The armory is set back from and faces the southern leg of East Capitol Street on its north and fronts on Independence Avenue on the south. Three broad walkways lead from the East Capitol Street sidewalk up to the main and secondary entrances of the building with grassy areas to either side. These grassy areas serve as an informal outdoor museum with a helicopter and plane on display to either side. Surface parking fills the plot of land on the east, west and south sides of the building. A tall metal fence encloses most of the property grounds leaving only the East Capitol Street plaza and entrance to the building accessible to the public.

Three non-historic and temporary drive-through guard sheds are located at the northeast, northwest, southeast and southwest corners of the property to monitor access into and out of the parking lots.

Exterior

The armory building is a soaring, 350 x 200-foot vaulted drill hall encased by flat-roofed wings. The wings, attached to the four exterior elevations of the drill hall, are collectively referred to as the administrative buildings, but each was historically named for its specific and intended functions as follows: General Headquarters (north wing), Engineers' section (east wing), Quartermasters' section (west wing) and Artillery section (south wing). The General Headquarters, Engineers' and Quartermasters' sections are all physically continuous on the exterior and connected on the interior to each other and to the drill hall, while the south Artillery section stands separate from the others. The Artillery wing is U-shaped in plan and projects from the center of the south elevation of the drill hall where an open exterior court forming the U shape of the wing separates it from the drill hall. Historically, the primary access point into the Artillery wing from the exterior was through the south side entrance doors facing Constitution Avenue and from the drill hall, across the exterior open court of the Artillery section. A hyphen, built by 1959, extends through the open court, providing an enclosed hallway connecting the Artillery section and the drill hall internally.

The drill hall and the four administrative buildings have structural steel framing sheathed with limestone curtain walls. Each of the four administrative sections features a projecting entry pavilion at the center of their respective building wings. These pavilions are three or four stories in height above grade and are flanked by lower wings. The Headquarters' and Artillery sections are confined to the north and south elevations of the building, respectively, while the Engineers' and Quartermasters' sections occupy the full extent of the east and west wings and wrap around to occupy portions of the north and south wings. The wings are continuous across the north, east and west sides, but on the south side, they terminate before abutting the Artillery section.

Characteristic of the Art Moderne style, alternating bands of smooth and rusticated limestone walls between window bays and at various cornice lines give the wings horizontal emphasis, while long bays of windows in the center of the projecting entry pavilions accentuate the verticality of these central elements. The building is fitted with a strictly symmetrical arrangement of steel awning windows punched into the limestone wall surfaces. The windowsills

and sash muntins line up with the rustication of the stone walls, again accentuating the sense of horizontality.

North Elevation—General Headquarters Pavilion and Wings

The north elevation is divided into two principal parts comprising the prominent and projecting central pavilion (General Headquarters) and the flanking side wings (Photo 1). The lengths of these side wings, to the east and west of the central pavilion, are divided programmatically between General Headquarters and the Engineers' and Quartermasters' sections. The General Headquarters pavilion, facing East Capitol Street, serves as the main entrance to the offices of the D.C. National Guard as well as to the drill hall. Secondary public entrances in the side wings to the left and right of the central pavilion, lead from the exterior through a vestibule and foyer directly into the drill hall. These secondary entrances also demarcate the programmatic division of the side wings between General Headquarters and the Engineers' and Quartermasters' sections of the building.



Figure 2: Photo of north elevation of the armory, ca. 1941 as construction was nearing completion, looking southeast with the General Headquarters' Pavilion on-center and lower wings to either side. The secondary entrance with the awning in the west wing (to the right of the four-story pavilion) is one of two public entrances that lead from the north side of the armory through dedicated lobbies to the drill hall (D.C. National Guard Archives).

The central Headquarters' pavilion has layered massing with a four-story, five-bay central section and lower, three-story, two-bay-wide corner bays. The corner bays have windows on all three stories that are recessed slightly from the plane of the wall and set upon a continuous sill with rusticated stone panels between the windows. This treatment gives the corner bays its horizontal emphasis. The five central bays of the entrance pavilion are, alternatively, characterized by long and vertical strips of window bays filled with multi-light steel sash windows that in characteristic Art Moderne fashion accentuate the verticality of the center bays and give the building its physical hierarchy. Five double-wide entry doors are symmetrically arranged under the window bays and both doors and windows are deeply recessed into the limestone-clad wall surface—rusticated at the first story and smooth above. A wide and smooth limestone frieze with DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA NATIONAL GUARD incised into it, separates the entry doors from the window bays above (Photo 2). Each of the vertical window bays features three-light windows at the lower level and 18-light windows above, separated by metal spandrels decorated with alternating bands of raised Art Deco-inspired shield and chevron motifs. The 18-light windows in the upper part of the vertical bays correspond to the double-height conference room (identified as assembly room on original plans) on the third floor. Above the vertical window bays, a smooth limestone-clad frieze extends across the top of the central pavilion with a large Art Deco-inspired stylized eagle with outspread wings inscribed into it. Raised metal lettering, not original to the building, JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS/DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA NATIONAL GUARD extends across the frieze above and below the eagle (Photo 3). The roofs of the center pavilion, including its central five-bay section and corner wings, are flat. Parapet walls rise above the flat roofs.

The side wings on this north elevation extend east and west from the projecting central pavilion. They are recessed from the pavilion's façade and, at two stories tall, are lower than both the four-story central pavilion and its three-story corner bays. The wings extend fourteen bays long where the typical bay consists of a single square window opening with multi-light steel sash windows punched into each bay at both stories. At the fifth and sixth bays from the central pavilion, this pattern deviates where secondary entrances to the building are in place of windows. These entrances provide direct access from the exterior into the drill hall and in both cases consist of a set of four double doors raised above grade.

A wide concrete walkway leads to the primary entrance to a broad set of steps that gives direct access to five sets of double doors. The steps extend between wide limestone cheek walls with aluminum hand railings at the center and at either end. Concrete walkways similarly lead to the secondary entrances in the wings to either side of the central pavilion. These walkways lead up two sets of steps to pairs of four entrance doors with metal awnings projecting over them. These secondary entrances, somewhat off-center of the long wings, provide direct access from the exterior to the drill hall. They also delineate where, on the interior, the Headquarters section ends and the Engineers and Quartermasters offices begin. From these secondary entrances, the north building wing wraps seamlessly around the east and west ends of the building.

Above the second-story windows, the north elevation of the wings has a wide and undecorated wall surface or frieze. This expanse terminates with a plain cornice cap. The north elevation of the drill hall rises above and is set well back from the wall surface of the two-story side wings.

This wall, entirely clad with limestone with horizontal banding at the top, acts as a springboard from which the vaulted roof of the drill hall rises.

East Elevation—Engineers' Pavilion and Wings

The east wing of the building comprises the Engineers' pavilion projecting from the center of the elevation with lower, limestone-clad wings to either side. The Engineers' section, facing the Anacostia River, was designed to be occupied by the 121st Engineer, providing space for nine company units, together with school and instruction rooms and offices for the regimental commander, other officers, and their staff. The central pavilion is four-stories tall and seven-bays wide (Photo 5). Lower flanking wings are each ten bays long (Photos 4 and 6). As on the north façade, the wings feature single, multi-light steel sash in each of the bays and at each floor level with recessed banding in the limestone walls between the windows, giving the wings their horizontal emphasis.

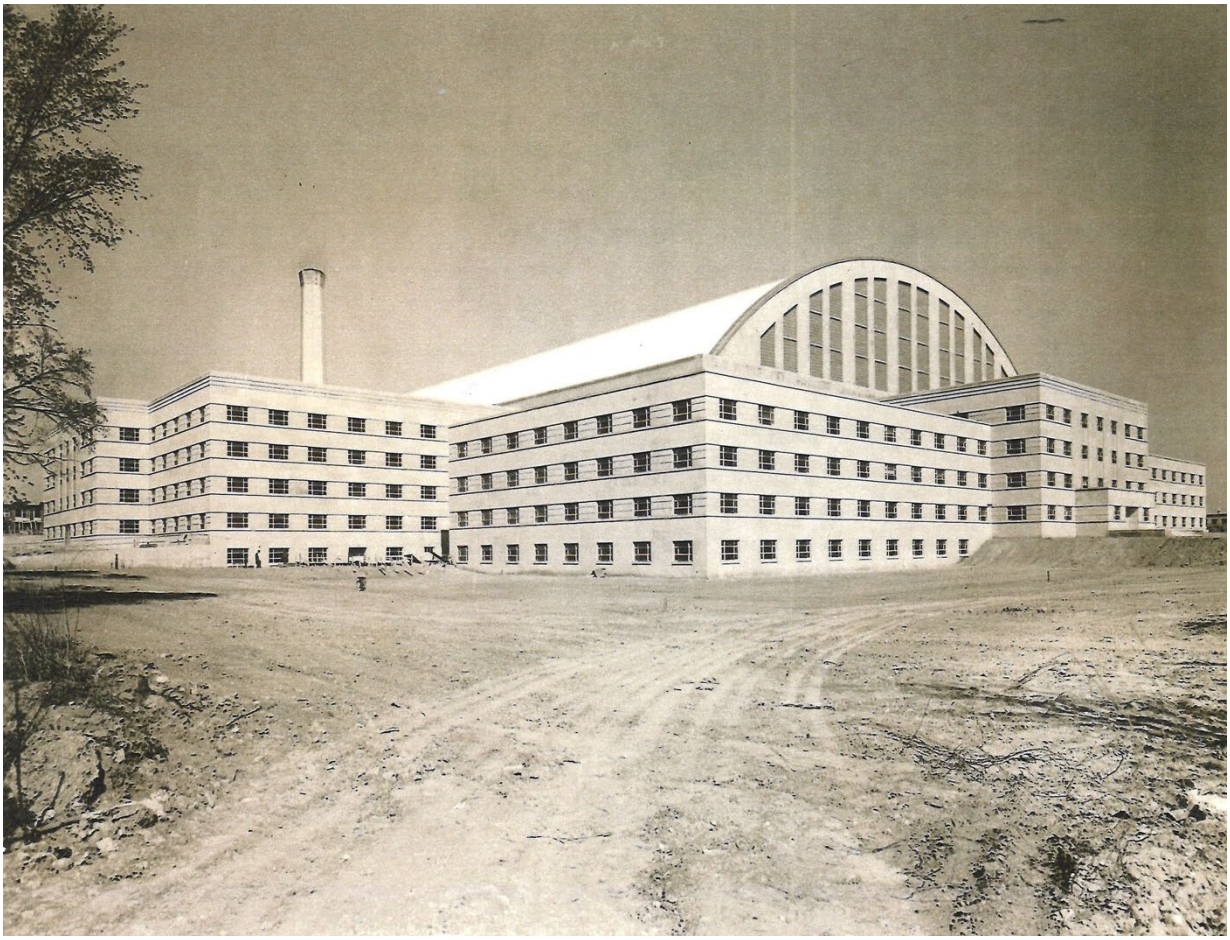


Figure 3: Ca. 1941 view looking northwest showing south (Artillery Section) and east (Engineers' Section) encasing the vaulted drill hall (D.C. National Guard Armory Archives).

The central pavilion on the east elevation (Photo 5) is equally pronounced, but less architecturally articulated than that on the north elevation. Here, the seven bays of single, multi-light steel sash on each story are all on the same wall plane, though the three central window

bays with their metal spandrels at the second and third floors, are given greater emphasis in the building's hierarchy. The spandrels are ornamented with raised eagle bas reliefs in the center bay and chevron bas reliefs in the flanking bays.

On the first story of these three central bays, an enclosed, one-story stone entry vestibule with a flat roof, projects from the primary wall plane. Within this projection two pairs of double doors occupy the center bay, while windows like those elsewhere on the elevation, are located to either side. Above the door, the stone frieze is carved with D.C. N.G. with a shield with stars and stripes incised into the frieze between the "C" and "N" letters. Although the ornamentation on this elevation is minimal, it, along with the soft stone edges and corners of the building, contribute notably to the Art Moderne character of the building.

The east elevation of the building clearly exposes the east end wall of the vaulted drill hall rising above the central pavilion and its wings. The end wall, like the corresponding wall on the west side is arched, conforming with the vaulted roof form (Photo 5). It has thirteen vertical window bays extending from the base of the arch to a limestone-clad extrados forming the top of the arch. Arranged in pairs and separated by vertical piers of limestone, these window openings are filled with glass blocks. Although the vaulted drill hall is structurally self-sufficient and independent of the wings encasing it, its roof appears, visually, to spring from the flat roof of the wings.

West Elevation—Quartermasters' Pavilion and Wings
The west wing of the building is similar in massing and detail to the east, but the center pavilion and wings are one story lower than those on the east side due to the change in grade. Named the Quartermasters' section, the wing was intended to house the Special Troops, 29th Division and the District of Columbia units of the 104th Quartermaster regiment. This section held nine company units with school and special instruction rooms and offices. The wing consists of a central, seven-bay-wide, three-story-tall entry pavilion and flanking two-story wings, each ten bays long (Photos 7 and 8). As on the east elevation, the central pavilion is dominant; it projects forward from the wing wall and has long windows in the three central bays, though there is less vertical emphasis due to the reduced number of stories. Metal spandrels, with raised shield and chevron *bas reliefs* moldings, exist only between the second and third stories making the entire pavilion's massing boxier and less vertical. Two pairs of doors are set flush with the wall of the center bay of the pavilion, rather than in a projecting entry bay as found on the opposing elevation.

The lower two-story wings to either side, like those on the east elevation of the building, turn the western corners of the building. On the north, this wing merges seamlessly with the wing on the north façade. On the south, the wing extends eight bays long, terminating before the wing would abut the Artillery section with a loading dock between the two sections (Photo 9). As on the east elevation, the arched end wall of the drill hall's west end rises dramatically above the end wall of the pavilion and its wings.

South Elevation—Artillery Section
The south elevation of the armory consists of the four-story Artillery Pavilion at the center of the long elevation facing Independence Avenue SE (Photo 10). The Artillery Pavilion was intended

to house the 260th Coast Artillery Regiment (anti-aircraft) and included fourteen company units, instruction and office spaces. The central pavilion has a central four-story, seven-bay-wide projecting pavilion and four-story, five-bay-wide wings to either side. Although these wings are the same height as the central section, they are set back from it. Despite being the same height, the recessed wings in conjunction with the three slightly recessed vertical window panels of the central pavilion, help to accentuate the center pavilion and maintain the hierarchy of massing. The window bays have metal spandrels with raised *bas relief* chevron ornamentation between the stories. A pair of double entry doors is recessed into the center bay at the first story of this elevation (Photo 11).

The flanking wings feature single, multi-light steel sash in each bay and each story. As elsewhere on the building, the stone walls have incised horizontal striations extending between the windows in-line with the window muntins, while a similar treatment defines the height of the building's parapet wall.

The U-shaped plan of the Artillery Pavilion creates a courtyard between the pavilion and the drill hall. The courtyard is enclosed on all four sides, but open to the sky. A tall six-sided buff brick smokestack is located at the southeast corner of the courtyard and extends from the boiler room below-grade to a height well above the flat roof of the pavilion (Photo 12, 15, 16 & 29). The buff brick stack features corbelled brick towards its top. The courtyard is not landscaped and is otherwise devoid of features. A one-story hyphen—essentially an enclosed corridor that connects the Artillery Pavilion to the Drill Hall—bisects the open court.

Drill Hall

The vaulted drill hall with its rectangular footprint is oriented with its long side running east-west. Set upon massive concrete piers below grade, the drill hall is an arched metal structure providing a 70,000 square foot clear span. The drill hall is encased on its exterior by the four limestone-clad pavilions and their wings, but its soaring vaulted roof rises well above them. While the vaulted structure is constructed of steel, its end walls are clad on the exterior with smooth limestone like those of the surrounding wings, and its roof is sheathed in smooth sheet metal (Photo 13). There are no standing seams save for at the ridge line where a pronounced seam extends the roof's full length.

The east and west end walls of the drill hall are arched and are filled with vertical bays of windows whose heights progressively increase as the arch reaches its crown at the center top of the wall. The openings, separated by non-structural limestone-clad piers, are filled with glass blocks.

Interior

The interior of the building is organized with the expansive drill hall in the center with offices, shops, storerooms and other spaces dedicated to the various programmatic uses in the wings surrounding the drill hall on all four sides. The pavilions and wings rise variously from below-grade to two to four stories above grade. Corridors—both single-loaded and double-loaded depending upon the wing—lead through the four wings and provide access to the various internal

offices and other spaces on all floors. The interior of the building has many points of entry. The principal entrance is in the General Headquarters pavilion in the center of the north elevation. Secondary entrances are in the wings of the north elevation and in the central pavilions of the east and west wings. The Artillery wing on the south elevation also has its own dedicated entrance facing Independence Avenue SE. Elevators and stairs are located throughout the building in the central pavilions and the wings.

Although some of the interior spaces have been altered with new wall partitions and dropped ceilings, the circulation and configuration of space and much of the interior materials and features remain intact. The original circulation patterns of single and double-loaded corridors leading between the north, east and west wings and opening onto private offices, company rooms, storerooms and other spaces survive intact, as does most of the original materials. The circulation pattern repeats itself from one floor to another, with enclosed, fireproof metal stairs connecting the floors. Important character-defining features of the interior include double-height lobbies in each of the four central pavilions, company rooms with stairs on either end wall leading to offices above the main roof and gathering space for the company units, and assembly rooms in the uppermost floors of the pavilions.

The interior description below is organized by the four building sections and focuses on the most character-defining areas of those sections.

General Headquarters—Interior
The principal entrance to the General Headquarters section is through the center of the five double metal and glass doors in the north pavilion. Each set of doors opens into its own foyer which then opens through another set of double metal and glass doors into a large, double-height lobby. Concrete piers with implied fluting extend from floor to ceiling to form the north and south perimeters of the double-height space. A balcony on the north side and an open second-floor corridor on the south side overlook the lobby with the double-height piers passing through them to support the second-floor ceiling beams above (a large assembly room occupies the space above the double-height foyer on the third story). Metal railings with three sets of horizontal rails span the piers at the balcony level. On the south corridor side, the railings serve as stanchions for flag poles all of which hold flags arrayed along the railing draping towards the lobby. The caps of the piers feature single gold-painted embossed metal stars that are near eye-level from the balconies (Photo 17). At the west end of the lobby is the original ticket booth for public events that took place in the drill hall (Photo 18). The ticket booth consists of four ticket windows, now protected behind metal grilles, and a single door at one end, providing access to the booths.

In addition to its ticket booth, the lobby retains all its original materials, including terrazzo flooring and plaster walls and ceiling. Similarly, the second-floor balcony level and the corridors on all floors retain their original terrazzo floors, though in many cases, the ceilings have been dropped with acoustical tiles. The corridors lead to company rooms and offices at the front of the pavilion and in the wings to either side on both the second and third floors of the Headquarters wing (Photo 19). As elsewhere throughout the building, the company rooms are characterized by their metal stairs on either end wall of the main room with enclosed offices above. Originally, an open walkway connected the two stairs and provided access to the offices in the center of the

upper level; in most cases that walkway has been filled in to enlarge the offices themselves (see Photo 28). The elevator and stair halls are located beyond the lobby, across the corridor, on either side of the foyer. The stair halls are enclosed fireproof areas with concrete block walls with quarter-turn metal stairs with metal railings. Some of the stairs feature pipe railings; others have square pickets and newels (Photos 21-22).

A set of five doors on the south side of the General Headquarters' lobby opens to a transverse corridor (with the drill hall beyond) which extends east and west through the north wing. These corridors lead past individual offices on either side before reaching the lobbies of the secondary entrances. These lobbies—single-height rather than double-height spaces—provide direct access to the drill hall from the north side of the building, east and west of the central pavilion. Four sets of double metal doors lead into a narthex and then another set of four double doors lead into the lobbies. The lobbies are unarticulated with terrazzo flooring, plaster walls and plaster ceilings (Photo 23). The lobbies lead into the drill hall through four pairs of solid metal doors, while a single set of double metal and glass doors on the side walls open into the wing to either side. Corridors continue through the length of the north wing of the building, then intersect with and continue through the east and west wings to the principal lobbies on-center of the east and west wings of the building.

A series of offices occupy the second and third floors of the General Headquarters sections, including sizeable corner offices in end piers of the central pavilion. An assembly/conference, located on the third floor directly above the double-height lobby, occupies the most prominent space in the General Headquarters' pavilion. It extends the full length of the five central bays of the façade of the building and is itself a tall, double-height space, corresponding with the long exterior windows of the façade (Photo 20). The room features its original wood floors, plaster walls with wood wainscotting, paneled wood doors, molded wood door and window trim, plaster ceiling, and wide, unadorned plaster cornice. The walls are lined with photographs and medallions commemorating people and events. A small display area with a bust of Thomas Jefferson, "the Father of the District of Columbia National Guard," is in the northwest corner of the room.

A below-grade basement (labeled ground floor on drawings) under the General Headquarters' pavilion includes a series of shops and storerooms. A one-time rifle range is now a storage space.

Engineers and Quartermasters' Sections—Interior
There are several access points to the Engineers' and Quartermasters' sections of the building: from the interior of the Headquarters section, from the secondary entrances on the north elevation and from the entrance pavilions on-center of the east and west wings (described above). The primary entrance from the exterior, however, is through the pavilions on the east and west sides. A projecting entry vestibule on the Engineers' (east) pavilion leads through a set of double doors to a vestibule, then up a flight of stairs to a double-height lobby area like that of the General Headquarters pavilion with the second floor open on three sides. As in the General Headquarters' lobby, concrete piers with implied fluting extend from floor to ceiling (Photos 24-25). However, instead of stars, wide horizontal banding defines the piers' caps. Metal railings with three sets of horizontal rails extend between the columns. Here, also, there are only two

flagpole stanchions, though other flags are draped from the railings. The original terrazzo floors and plaster ceilings and walls remain intact.

The primary entrance to the Quartermasters' (west) section is through the entry pavilion on the west elevation. This pavilion lacks the projecting entry vestibule of the Engineers' pavilion, but instead presents two double doors cut into and flush with the plane of the wall at-grade. These doors lead immediately to a flight of stairs that ascend to the double-height lobby of this pavilion. The treatment of the piers, railings and other features in this lobby match those of the Engineers' lobby. As elsewhere, the original terrazzo floors and plaster ceilings remain intact.

In both the Engineers' and Quartermasters' sections, single-loaded corridors run along the back wall of the wings, with offices, company rooms and storerooms lining the front on all floors. Company rooms with the two metal stairs on either side of the main room characterize are also found throughout these pavilions and their wings. The uppermost floor of both central pavilions historically featured a large assembly room at the center of the pavilion with fireplaces on-center of the interior wall opposite the windows. The assembly rooms have been divided into smaller spaces with dropped ceilings and original flooring covered, but original fireplaces with brick surrounds, remain (Photo 26).

There are no below-grade spaces in the Quartermasters' or Engineers' wings.

Artillery Pavilion—Interior
The primary entrance to the U-shaped Artillery wing of the building is through the exterior entrance doors on the south elevation. The doors lead into a double-height lobby with balconies on all four sides (Photo 27). This entry lobby can also be reached from the drill hall via an enclosed hyphen leading through the open court.

The Artillery Pavilion is composed of a series of offices, classrooms, storerooms, battery rooms and other facilities associated with training the National Guard units organized around a corridor conforming with the U-shaped plan of the pavilion. As in the other pavilions, the double-height lobby and the battery rooms, with individual, straight-flight metal stairs against the side walls, are the most distinctive spaces in this section of the building (Photo 28).

A below-grade rectangular-shaped basement fills the entire footprint of the U-shaped Artillery Pavilion and the courtyard. A boiler room occupies the space below the center courtyard, while the surrounding U-shaped area is divided into a variety of rooms that historically included recreation and dining areas, storerooms, locker rooms, a band room, and a medical detachment room. The boiler room and boiler are still intact, as is the still-functioning chimney stack. The octagonal-shaped, buff brick base of the stack is visible from the hyphen where it cuts through the court from the basement level, rising well above the roof around it (Photo 27).

Drill Hall—Interior
The drill hall is a large, clear-span vaulted interior space measuring 368'8" x 196'4." It rises 95 feet in height and encompasses nearly 70,000 square feet. Seating galleries and extensible bleachers line the length of the side walls for seating capacity of up to 10,000 persons. A wooden

floor fills the full extent of the open space with the soaring vaulted ceiling above. Steel arches span the width of vaulted space at equal intervals from one end of the drill hall to the other. A catwalk to reach speakers/lighting runs the full length of the drill at the crown of the vault, while ladders to reach them rise from on-center of the east and west end walls (Photos 30-31).

The east and west interior end walls of the drill hall are red brick with the long vertical window openings filled with glass block occupying the upper half of the wall space. The glass block has been painted and fans occupy the lower part of the windows in places. Door openings are located on the center of both the east and west end walls with wide brick surrounds with brick reveals framing the openings (Photo 32). Clocks (replacements of the originals) are located above both openings in a wide lintel of the brick surround. These east and west doors provide access to the drill hall from the east and west pavilions.

On the north side of the drill hall, there are three entrance points to the drill hall. Double-leaf metal doors lead into the hall from the General Headquarters pavilion and at the center of the wall, between bleachers. To either side of this center door, wider door openings lead directly into the hall from the dedicated lobbies in the north wing of the building. On the south side, two wide openings lead to loading docks on either side of the central entry, all also fitted between the bleachers.

The drill hall's steel structure is supported by a vast array of below-grade massive concrete columns. These large columns with mushroom capitals are fully exposed at the basement level (Photo 33). The floor is concrete and the ceiling above is concrete. The north end of the basement was historically partitioned off to accommodate a rifle range and the west end for a shop and stockroom. The rifle range, no longer intact, provides additional storage space. The remainder of the basement under the drill hall was intended for, and is still used for, parking.

INTEGRITY

The National Guard Armory of the District of Columbia retains a high degree of integrity. The building is located on its original site and retains its setting of recreational and institutional uses surrounded by residential urban building fabric. The exterior of the building has no notable additions or alterations, retains its original massing, architectural detailing and craftsmanship, and its original materials. The building with its vaulted roof is a recognizable landmark from afar. The interior of the building similarly retains its original circulation patterns, original materials and its key, character-defining spaces. In some cases, original materials have been obscured through partition walls, dropped ceilings and floor coverings, but overall the materials remain intact.

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.)

- [X] 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.
- [X] 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.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- [ ] 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

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)
ARCHITECTURE
MILITARY

Period of Significance
1941-1975

Significant Dates
1941

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder
Wyeth, Nathan C.

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The District of Columbia National Guard Armory (D.C. Armory) was designed by Municipal Architect Nathan C. Wyeth in 1940-41 and built 1941-43. It is an imposing limestone-clad and vaulted Art Moderne building which occupies a prominent site at the extreme east end of Capitol Hill along East Capitol Street, a principal east-west axis of the original L'Enfant Plan of the City

of Washington. The building was constructed to house the National Guard of the District of Columbia, established by an Act of Congress in 1889 and a direct successor to the District of Columbia Militia, established by an Act of Congress in 1802. The building was the first purpose-built armory to serve the D.C. National Guard.

The D.C. Armory achieves significance under District of Columbia Criterion B and similar National Register Criteria A for its role in local military activities, namely providing the headquarters and training space for the D.C. National Guard and the D.C. Army National Guard.[1] The primary mission of the D.C. National Guard and the D.C. Army National Guard is to protect the nation's capital. The Armory is also significant as a major public event space. Throughout the course of its history, the Armory's drill hall has hosted a variety of events, namely the circus, sporting events, presidential inaugural balls, political events, and antique shows. The Armory has provided an important venue for activities for D.C. residents and played a significant role in the affairs of the community.

The D.C. Armory is also significant under District of Columbia Criteria D through F and similar National Register Criterion C because it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, style, and method of construction. It is an excellent, locally distinctive example of the armory building type, fashioned in the "stripped classical" style that was distinctive to its era. The Armory was designed to house the headquarters and training space for the D.C. National Guard and in addition to its military function, it was designed to function as a civic center and large-scale community meeting space. The D.C. Armory features important character-defining features, including a large drill hall and offices and restrained Art Moderne décor.

The D.C. Armory retains a high level of integrity. It is located on its original site and retains integrity of setting as part of a civic and entertainment center with surrounding residential building fabric. It retains its original massing with its pavilions and wings encasing the soaring drill hall with no significant alterations. It retains its original Art Moderne design, details and materials, with little to no alterations. Until now, the Armory has continued to serve its original purpose and thus retains high integrity of feeling and association.[2]

The Period of Significance for the D.C. Armory is 1941-1976, spanning the building's date of completion to a point fifty years from the present.

[1] The National Guard, which is run by each state, is federally funded and serves as the reserve for the U.S. Army. The 1933 National Guard Mobilization Act required all federally funded troops to register for both state National Guard and National Guard of the United States. The 1952 Armed Forces Reserve Act created modern regular Army reserve components, including the National Guard.

[2] As of July 2026, The D.C. National Guard planned to relocate from the Armory to a new location. See "National Guard plans to relocate from D.C. Armory as RFK campus readies for redevelopment," *Washington Business Journal*, Jul. 2, 2026. https://www.bizjournals.com/washington/news/2026/07/02/dc-armory-national-guard-relocate-rfk-campus.html.

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

CRITERION A: Military History

The D.C. Armory houses the D.C. National Guard and the D.C. Army National Guard, the local military component of the District of Columbia. They are tasked with protecting the nation's capital and have been deployed during periods of civil unrest throughout the city's and nation's history to maintain order. The National Guard of the District of Columbia is the only local National Guard with a federal mission, and it is the only National Guard that reports directly to the U.S. President. From its establishment in 1889 until construction of the D.C. Armory in 1943, the National Guard occupied many and various spaces throughout the city for its military training and operations from market halls to hotels. After decades of lobbying by military and political leaders, Congress finally, in 1938, approved funding for a dedicated National Guard armory building. Despite delays, the armory, with its extensive drill hall, was completed in 1943. Since its opening, the D.C. Armory has served as a central location for training, gathering, and storage purposes for the local military. In addition, and beyond its military function, but integral to armories nationwide, the armory building was designed to and has functioned throughout its history as a community venue for large events.

Military Militias and the Establishment of the District of Columbia Militia

The National Guard traces its roots to the tradition of British militia—a community-based defense brought to the new world by English settlers. Established throughout the colonies before the Revolutionary War, militias maintained public order and provided protection from Native Americans and other colonial powers such as the French and Spanish. Ultimately, these British-inspired militias were instrumental in fighting for and winning American independence from Britain. Before the Revolutionary War in the area that would become the District of Columbia, militia units tied to Maryland and Virginia were formed. The port town of Georgetown, part of Maryland, had its own militia unit.[3]

Following the Revolutionary War, President George Washington—a former militiaman—supported a system of organized and well-trained militias under state control to protect its citizens.[4] In 1792, Congress officially recognized the state militias of the United States as the backbone of the military establishment.[5] However, because the new federal city of Washington, established in 1791, was not (and is not) a state, it did not have a militia. As president, Thomas Jefferson was concerned that if any one of the state militia units wanted to force political action and march on Washington and even overthrow the federal government, there would be no

[3] National Guard. *Historical and Pictorial Review, National Guard of the District of Columbia, 1940*. (Baton Rouge, LA: Army and Navy Pub. Co, 1940), xix.
[4] https://www.mountvernon.org/library/digitalhistory/digital-encyclopedia/article/continental-army
[5] National Guard website, "Establishing the Militia."

military force to protect the city. Jefferson thus created the District of Columbia Militia, passed by an Act of Congress in 1802. This act, passed into law as the District of Columbia Militia Law, authorized the President:

> "to cause the militia, of the respective counties of Washington and Alexandria to be formed into regiments and other corps, conformably, as nearly as may be, to the laws of Maryland and Virginia, as they stood in force in the said counties, respectively ...".[6]

As established, the mission of the District of Columbia Militia was to protect the nation's capital. The law allowed for the organization of legions with cavalry, artillery, infantry, and grenadiers assigned to each legion. Any free, able bodied white man between the ages of 18 and 45 could volunteer to join the militia. Militiamen were citizen soldiers meaning they held regular jobs and positions within the community but were simultaneously protectors of the government, capital, and their community.[7]

Subject to order to duty by the President or by the Commanding General, the volunteer members were required to furnish their own uniforms, arms, and equipment at their own expense.[8] President Thomas Jefferson selected Brigadier General John Mason as the first Commanding General of the District of Columbia Militia. John Mason, son of George Mason, a Founding Father of the United States and author of the Virginia Bill of Rights, was a Georgetown resident, businessman and banker and served as Commanding General from 1802 to 1811. Later commanding generals were also persons of prominence that spent time in Washington D.C. including politicians, military leaders, and social elites.[9]

Military Engagements of the District of Columbia Militia

The D.C. Militia held its first muster in 1802 at the Washington Jockey Club where 700-1,000 men were in attendance.[10] Between its first muster in 1802 and 1889, when it was succeeded by the National Guard, the D.C. Militia was activated to participate in several military campaigns, including most notably the War of 1812 and the Civil War. In August 1814, as British troops arrived in Bladensburg, Maryland and began their march on Washington, the District Militia joined other American forces to oppose the British "hit and run" thrust on the capital.[11] American troops formed three defensive lines with the D.C. Militia being part of the Third Line straddling a set of high hills near the future Civil War site of Fort Lincoln. Tactical errors, confusion and an unclear chain of command contributed to a major defeat for the Americans as British forces entered and burned the City of Washington. Ultimately, this embarrassing defeat

[6] National Guard. *Historical and Pictorial Review*, xix.
[7] William P. Kladky, "Continental Army," George Washington's Mount Vernon, Accessed February 10, 2025, https://www.mountvernon.org/library/digitalhistory/digital-encyclopedia/article/continental-army.
[8] National Guard. *Historical and Pictorial Review*, xix.
[9] National Guard. *Historical and Pictorial Review*, xx.
[10] A "muster" is a formal gathering of troops for inspection, roll call, or to account for all members of a military unit. Muster leaders would role call each individual and provide instruction on the latest military tactics. The men would then practice the new tactics. This first muster is celebrated annually by the DC National Guard.
[11] Megan Rupnik. "National Register of Historic Places Form for the District of Columbia Army National Guard Armory," The Louis Berger Group, Inc., Washington, D.C., 2003.

and the burning of Washington led to the re-evaluation of America's military and defense system. After the war, Congress approved a naval program and a regular Army of 10,000 men and raised taxes to fund these initiatives.[12]

One month after the Battle of Bladensburg, one of the most famous D.C. militiamen—Lieutenant Francis Scott Key—made history at the Battle of Fort McHenry in Baltimore, Maryland. Key, of the Georgetown Artillery, was negotiating a prisoner exchange on behalf of the government, and in so doing boarded a British ship in Baltimore's harbor. After the negotiations, however, the British captain refused to let Key and his fellow servicemen disembark, as they had witnessed the movement of British ships and troops while on board. Unable to leave the ship, Key witnessed the British bombardment of Fort McHenry for a 25-hour period beginning in the early morning hours of September 13, 1814. At dawn on September 14, after Key saw the American flag flying above the fort, he was moved and inspired to compose a poem. This poem, later published and titled the Star-Spangled Banner, would eventually become America's national anthem.[13]

In the 1830s and the 1840s, the D.C. Militia participated in the Creek Indian War and the Second Seminole War in Florida. In 1846, a new volunteer company was organized in Washington and in May 1846, that company along with two other units, the Washington City Riflemen and the Washington Volunteer Company Number One, were engaged in the Battle of Monterrey, a major battle of the Mexican American War.[14]

The militia's greatest role in protecting the capital would come in the years before and during the Civil War. In 1859, following the raids of the Federal Armory and Arsenal in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, by John Brown, President Lincoln called the D.C. Militia as a precaution to protect military facilities in Washington. They were to serve as a deterrent to those who thought of duplicating John Brown's actions. Two years later, at the start of the Civil War, ten companies of the D.C. Militia were the first to answer the President's national call for servicemen. They were tasked with the security and order of the city which contained both southern sympathizers and Union supporters. The militia also identified ways to remove Southern sympathizers within their own ranks which served as a model for other Union militias. Some of these local militiamen spearheaded the first Union push across what is now the Fourteenth Street Bridge to establish a bridgehead in Confederate Virginia.[15]

Establishment of the D.C. National Guard

After the Civil War, interest grew nationwide for the establishment of a more unified military. In 1878, the National Guard Association formed as a non-profit group to lobby for a cohesive volunteer military organization. The National Guard Association sought to improve funding for

[12] Richard Ervin. "National Register of Historic Places Form for Bladensburg Battlefield," Maryland Department of Transportation, Baltimore, MD, 2025.
[13] Megan Rupnik. "National Register Form."
[14] National Guard. *Historical and Pictorial Review*, xxv.
[15] Megan Rupnik. "National Register Form."

and to promote the National Guard as a component of the national military force.[16] The National Guard Association succeeded in procuring funding from Congress.

That same year, the D.C. Militia was re-organized when Brigadier General Albert Ordway was appointed Commanding General. Until then, the militia was grouped into individual companies, but Ordway reorganized the militia forces into a single reinforced brigade.[17] Then two years later, in 1889, Congress repealed the Act of 1804 and passed in its place an act "to provide for the organization of the militia of the District of Columbia," which became the National Guard of the District of Columbia.

The District of Columbia National Guard consisted of up to 28 companies of infantry in regiments and battalions and included one battery of light artillery, one signal corps, one ambulance corps, one band of music, and one corps of field music.[18] In 1890, the first engineer company organized within the National Guard was established in Washington, and would eventually, after several consolidations, become known as the 121st Engineers of the D.C. National Guard.[19] In 1891, an all-African American company, the 1st Separate Battalion that was later incorporated into the 372nd Infantry during World War I, was established under the D.C. National Guard. The militia unit was known as the D.C. City Guard Battalion. The unit was, in part, organized by Frederick Douglass' son, Charles Redmond Douglass.[20]

The 1st Separate Battalion was segregated from and did not share facilities with the other militia units. Originally, they occupied space on the south side of O Street, across from the O Street Market but moved to the True Reformer Building at 1200 U Street NW before WWI. They remained there for decades, even after construction of the D.C. National Guard Armory on East Capitol Street in 1941, since no provisions were made as part of the building's design to house the all-Black unit.

The National Guard: Legislative Changes and Growth

Several years after the Spanish-American War, the federal government passed the First Militia (Dick) Act of 1903. The bill, sponsored by U.S. Senator Charles Dick, a Major General in the Ohio National Guard and president of the National Guard Association, gave federal status to state militias and guards. As such, all National Guard units were required to conform to U.S. Army organization, rules, and regulations within five years and to attend regular drills and training exercises. In order to receive federal funding, National Guard units were required to be available for annual inspection by federal officers, to drill twenty-four times a year, and turn out each summer for five days of encampment.[21] The federal funding paid the salaries of soldiers on

[16] John K. Mahon. *History of the Militia and the National Guard (Macmillan Wars of the United States)*. (New York, NY: Macmillan, 1983), 119.
[17] National Guard. *Historical and Pictorial Review*, xxvi.
[18] Megan Rupnik. "National Register Form."
[19] National Guard. *Historical and Pictorial Review*, xxvi.
[20] David J. Mason, "Charles Redmond Douglass (1844-1920)," Blackpast, January 16, 2025, https://www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/charles-redmond-douglass-1844-1920/.
[21] John K. Mahon. *History of the Militia*, 140.

duty during training and provided state guard units and militia with arms and other military equipment.[22]

Between 1903 and 1916, the federal government spent $53 million on equipping and training National Guard units across the country.[23] The newly available funding resulted in a large building campaign for armories, particularly in the Northeast region. Although no funds were dedicated to the construction of an armory building in Washington, D.C., the Act of 1903 did improve benefits to guardsmen and encouraged greater enlistment in the National Guard. From 1903 to 1916, the D.C. National Guard practiced joint maneuvers with regular Army troops and underwent more reorganization and troop allotment.[24]

In 1916 major developments occurred which created the foundation of the National Guard as a dual federal and state system. During March of 1916, when Pancho Villa and other Mexican raiders were raiding towns in the southwest U.S., President Woodrow Wilson responded by sending army units to protect the border. As Pancho Villa fled deeper into Mexico and the army followed, the U.S.-Mexico border was left unsecured. In response, President Wilson launched Operation Jumpstart, calling on the Militias of Texas, Arizona, and New Mexico to secure the border. However, the lack of manpower that resulted from Operation Jumpstart compelled Wilson to consider mobilizing other units with Congressional approval.

In June of that year, Congress passed the National Defense Act. This act made mandatory the use of the term "National Guard" for state militias and utilized the "armies clause"[25] of the Constitution when calling on the National Guard for federal service.[26] Following the passage of the act, the federal government was given the power to call on National Guard units during times of emergency. As a result, D.C. guardsmen were called into service to support Operation Jumpstart and were sent to Texas and Arizona to protect towns along the border between the U.S. and Mexico.[27] Included in the units deployed was the 1st Separate Battalion which was the only one of D.C.'s units to engage in any combat.[28]

The D.C. National Guard was next called into duty twelve days prior to the declaration of war on Germany in 1917 when the President required the Guard to protect the Washington area government buildings, utilities, railroads, and bridges from possible enemy sabotage.[29] Eventually, all D.C. National Guard units served in France during the war, but once again, only the all-Black, 1st Separate Battalion saw action under French command. In 1918, the 1st Separate Battalion was incorporated into the 372nd Infantry, which was later decorated by the government

[22] Megan Rupnik. "National Register Form."
[23] Megan Rupnik. "National Register Form."
[24] National Guard. *Historical and Pictorial Review*, xxvii.
[25] U.S. Constitution, art. 1, sec. 8, cl. 12.
[26] Eric, Jones. "Evolution of the Military: Part 3," Stennis Center for Public Service, December 1, 2021. https://stennis.gov/evolution-of-the-military-part%203/#:~:text=This%20law%2C%20coupled%20with%20the,for%20the%20U.S.%20armed%20forces.
[27] National Guard. *Historical and Pictorial Review*, xxvii.
[28] Megan Rupnik. "National Register Form"
[29] National Guard. *Historical and Pictorial Review*, xxvii.

of France with the Croix de Guerre for its service. A monument stands in the French countryside recognizing those who served in the 372nd.[30]



Figure 4: Members of the 1st Separate Battalion, 372nd Infantry Company B who were awarded the Croix De Guerre in France after serving under French Command with the 157th "Red Hand" Division (D.C. National Guard)

At the end of WWI, all National Guard units were discharged from military service with the United States. The inter-war years were relatively quiet, and the National Guard was chiefly preoccupied with continued education and training maneuvers. In 1933, the federal government exerted more control over state National Guard units with the passage of the National Guard Mobilization Act. Under this act, the National Guard became a reserve component of the U.S. Army, and the President could call the National Guard into active federal service whenever the Congress declared a national emergency.[31] This allowed the National Guard to fulfill its dual purpose as both a state militia and a reserve component of the U.S. Army.

20th Century Mobilizations of the District of Columbia National Guard

In 1941, the National Guard was called to federal service for World War II, and D.C. National Guard units served in both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters of war. The 121st Engineers served in Europe after landing on Omaha Beach during the D-Day operations as well as in the Pacific at Guadalcanal.[32] Additionally, one D.C. air guard unit, the 121st Observation Squadron, flew

[30] Paul LaRue, "One of the Earliest Monuments to African American WWI Troops ,"The United States World War One Centennial Commission, 2020, https://www.worldwar1centennial.org/index.php/communicate/press-media/wwi-centennial-news/6814-one-of-the-earliest-monuments-to-african-american-world-war-i-troops.html.
[31] Archaeological Investigations Northwest. *Integrated Cultural Resource Management Plan for the Oregon Army National Guard* (Draft Copy), Portland, OR Archaeological Investigations Northwest, 2001, 2-4.
[32] Megan Rupnik. "National Register Form."

patrols along the mid-Atlantic coast until it was reconstituted as the 121st Liaison Squadron and flew Piper L-3's and Stinson L-5's in support of ground forces in Italy and France.[33]

Following World War II, on January 26, 1949, Executive Order 10030 delegated supervision and control of the District National Guard from the President to the Secretary of Defense. In turn, authority was turned over to the Army for all matters pertaining to the ground component and the Secretary of the Air Force for all matters pertaining to the air component of the D.C. National Guard.[34]

In 1950, two military police battalions, the 260th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Group, and the 715th Truck Company from the D.C. National Guard and the 113th Fighter Wing from the D.C. Air National Guard were mobilized for the Korean conflict. The only D.C. National Guard unit that participated in the Korean War was the 715th Transportation Truck Company, an all-Black unit formed in November 1947. Serving in eight campaigns, the 715th Transportation Truck Company received the Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation for its services.[35]

In 1958, the National Guard Bureau (NGB) was incorporated into the organization of the U.S. Department of Defense. The NGB became a Joint Bureau of the Departments of the Army and the Air Force. It was also during this time that the National Guard reorganized under the Pentomic concept and came to be known as the Army National Guard (ARNG).[36]

In 1968, the 113th Tactical Fighter Wing was deployed to Vietnam, but much of the D.C. National Guard, now called DCARNG, maintained an important presence locally. During the Civil Rights era, the DCARNG broadened its training programs to include quick and efficient response to civil disturbance calls and to assist local authorities in emergency situations. Training conducted at the DCARNG summer camps focused strongly on riot control training. In 1968, thousands of DCARNG guardsmen were on duty for anti-war demonstrations and Senator Robert F. Kennedy's funeral. In 1968 following the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., President Johnson dispatched the Guard into the city after rioting broke out. While the riots were brought under control, many buildings were burned, more than 6,000 were arrested, thirteen people died, and at least a thousand were injured. [37]

In 1990-91, more than 1,200 DCARNG soldiers, pilots, and other personnel participated in Operation Desert Shield/Storm, which was more than 25 percent of the entire DCARNG. Of that number, some 790 were called up by the President, while others served voluntarily for varied time periods in both the continental United States and overseas.[38]

During more recent conflicts one in four members of the DCARNG have been assigned to active duty, supporting military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, while others fill openings at

[33] Megan Rupnik. “National Register Form.”
[34] Megan Rupnik. “National Register Form.”
[35] Megan Rupnik. “National Register Form.”
[36] Megan Rupnik. “National Register Form.”
[37] Megan Rupnik. “National Register Form.”
[38] Megan Rupnik. “National Register Form.”

military bases across the country.[39] The DCARNG Air Guard supports the national capital region's temporary flight restrictions. Notably, this unit was scrambled on 9/11 to provide air security after the attacks on the Pentagon. More recently, DCARNG was called upon during the January 6, 2020, protests at the Capitol to help with crowd control. The DCARNG continues to be the serving force to protect the nation's capital and maintains active duties at the armory to assist with this mission.

CRITERION C: Armory Architecture

The National Guard and its previous incarnation as the D.C. Militia occupied many and various buildings and sites throughout its history. From the completion of the first armory for the DC Militia in 1858 until the groundbreaking of the current armory in 1943, there was a nearly 80-year struggle by the organization to find a permanent home. Various locations served the Militia and National Guard as temporary homes during this period. Military and political leaders generally agreed that the National Guard needed a permanent home. But debate over how to fund such a building and where it would be located often stymied any action.

Early Armory locations and buildings

In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, militia units, like the D.C. Militia, were essentially homeless and were required to supply their own equipment and uniforms. Public spaces such as village greens served as marching grounds, while local taverns provided social gathering places. The lack of a dedicated home base meant lack of equipment storage space, insufficient drilling space, and reduced preparedness during local emergencies.[40]

The construction of the first purpose-built armory for the D.C. Militia did not occur until after the Mexican American War. In 1847, the Secretary of War requested that an armory be constructed on the National Mall. In response, between 1855 and 1858, the Columbian Armory and Military Museum, intended primarily to store arms and display historical artifacts from previous conflicts, was built at 6th Street and Independence Avenue SW. An 1858 article in the *Daily National Intelligencer* praised the new building, noting that the armory's "beautiful chandeliers" had just been tested and that visitors had complimented the "beauty of the halls and the quality of the materials and workmanship." Further, the "halls are admirably fitted for the purposes intended, and the lower hall could, in addition to a depository for artillery, be used as a drill room, there being sufficient room for two companies to practice at the same time. The ladies who were present last evening could not forbear expressing a wish that Uncle Sam would let them have a dance or two on the admirable floor of the spacious main hall."[41]

[39] Megan Rupnik. "National Register Form."
[40] David Super, Julia Miller, and Renee Hylton. *Still Serving: Reusing America's Historic National Guard Armories* (Washington, D.C.: National Trust for Historic Preservation, 2000), 2.
[41] "Columbian Armory," *Daily National Intelligencer*, Jan. 1, 1858.



Figure 5: Columbian Armory (Armory Square Hospital) during the Civil War (Source: Library of Congress).

The reference to a potential dual purpose as a civilian social hall as well as armory is consistent with widespread 19th century practice. No one seems to have thought the militia would need exclusive use of its facility. Indeed, the Columbian Armory's use as an armory was short lived. After the start of the Civil War, the entire square, known as Armory Square, was transformed into a military hospital with the former armory and additional temporary structures collectively serving as Armory Square Hospital. After the conclusion of the war and for many decades, the armory building remained in place, serving a variety of purposes—including as an aquarium and warehouse for the Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition—but was never returned to use as an armory. Beginning in 1881, the U.S. Fish and Fisheries Commission occupied it before moving to the new Department of Commerce building in Federal Triangle in 1932. The landmark building was demolished in January 1964.[42]

The D.C. Militia was once again without a home during the Civil War years and after. Various militia units met at private residences and found storage areas in existing buildings for their equipment. Around 1885, one of the militia groups, the Washington Light Infantry, erected its own armory south of Pennsylvania Avenue on 15th Street. Otherwise, the militias secured the best spaces they could to accommodate their drilling and gathering needs.

Late 19th century armories often became centerpieces within urban communities. Many were built according to architectural styles that clearly distinguished them from other public structures. Following Civil War draft riots and post-Civil War labor unrest, some localities began to construct fortified armories. Many armories were executed in a castellated Gothic style, recalling Medieval fortified castles and featured similar interior plans. These plans were typically characterized by the "head shed" and the "drill shed" which were combined as distinguishable

[42] Jack Eisen, "Historic Landmark Being Razed in Southwest," *Washington Post*, Jan. 19, 1964, A1.

components into a single building. The "head shed" provided space for administrative offices and storage rooms for the Guard, while the "drill shed" offered a large expanse for marching. The drill shed was often used for social events when not in use by the units. Since these buildings were funded by local and state governments. they were often designed as showpiece buildings with multiple civic purposes. D.C. armory spaces used variations on these schemes.[43]

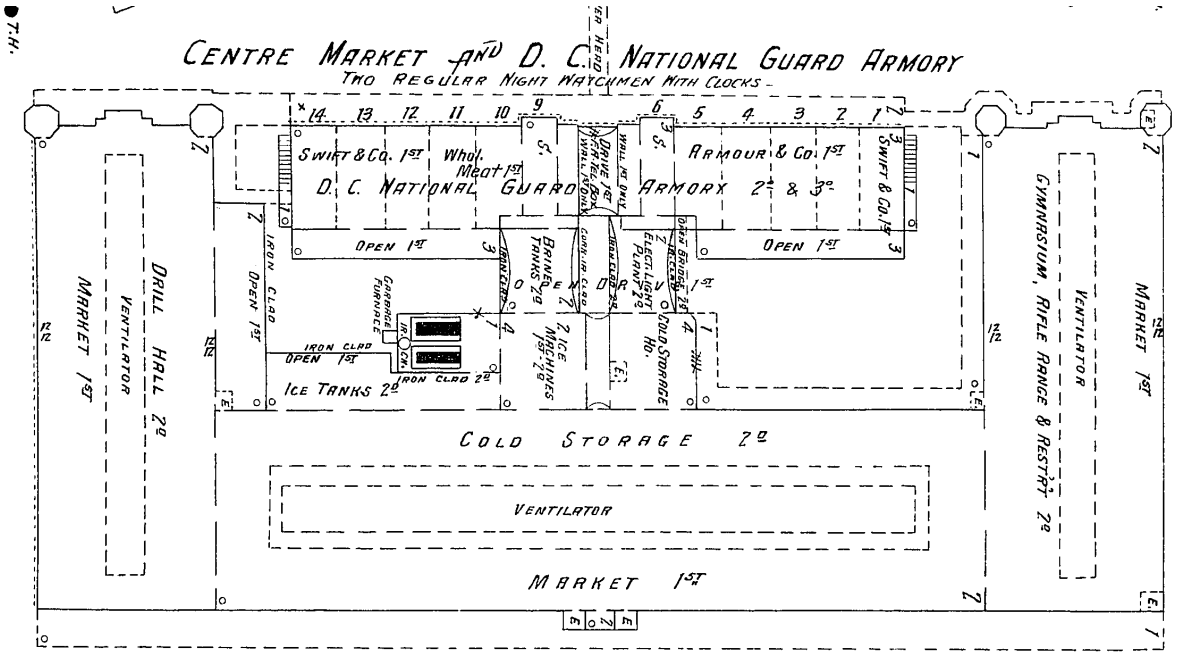


Figure 6: Detail from 1903 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map showing the D.C. National Guard Armory occupying sizeable real estate in the vast Center Market building between 7th and 9th Streets NW.

In 1890, shortly after the establishment of the D.C. National Guard, the organization moved to the second floor of the vast Center Market, located at the present site of the National Archives building. The Guard would make use of this space off and on for many years, but it was never an ideal fit. In fact, within a few years, the Guard would move to a new, custom-built structure next to the city's Convention Hall at 5th and L Streets NW. The Convention Hall filled the new second floor of the Northern Liberties Market building. As the *Washington Times* reported, "Wearying of his attempts to have Congress appropriate sufficient money for the building of an armory, Gen. Ordway [commander of the DC National Guard] secured legislation permitting him to lease for a term of three years a building suitable for such purposes."[44]

Designed by Scottish-born architect Corstorphine W. Sommerville, the quickly constructed building at 446 L Street NW seemed at first to be ideal. The building itself accommodated typical "head shed" functions, including providing space for offices, lecture rooms, storage of arms and ordnance, locker rooms, and a rifle range on the top floor. The "drill shed" functions

[43] David Super, Julia Miller, and Renee Hylton. *Still Serving: Reusing America's Historic National Guard Armories* (Washington, D.C.: National Trust for Historic Preservation, 2000), 3.
[44] "Around the Armories," *Washington Times*, Oct 7, 1894, 12.

were to be accommodated in the Convention Hall. According to a newspaper article, "One of the novel features about the new building is the steel bridge which will connect it with Convention Hall where the drills will be held. The bridge will be covered and the boys will have no trouble at all in reaching their drill room, sixty-five feet away from the armory proper, while the bridge will be simple and strong"[45]



THE NEW NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY.

Figure 7: Illustration of the 1895 purpose-built armory at 446 L Street NW, showing the raised steel bridge connecting the armory to the Convention Hall (unseen to the right). Source; Evening Star*, Oct. 13, 1894.*

The Guard moved into the building in 1895 but soon encountered problems. Its lease included a certain number of days of exclusive use of the Convention Hall space, but in winter months, when the hall was converted to an ice-skating rink, the Guard did not get the usage of the hall that it expected. Further, there were numerous complaints about the "quality and quantity of the light and heat in both the hall and armory."[46] When its three-year lease was up in February 1898, The Guard moved back to its former space above Center Market, which had been renovated and expanded to better satisfy the Guard's needs.[47]

In 1908, after the Pennsylvania Railroad terminal on Constitution Avenue between 6th and 7th Streets NW was vacated, a Congressional commission identified that location as a potential permanent site for an armory. Congress hired the architectural firm Tracy, Swartwout, and Litchfield to design an armory building in a classical style befitting the site on the National Mall. However, the Commission of Fine Arts, which has authority to review federal buildings, ultimately rejected the design with its colonnade as it deviated from the common design of armories with large towers for sharp shooters, stalling the project. Other sites were then

[45] "Around the Armories," op. cit.
[46] "Need a New Drill Hall," *Washington Post*, Jan. 5, 1896, 9; "The National Guard," *Evening Star*, Nov. 14, 1896, 18.
[47] "Back to Old Quarters," *Washington Post*, Dec. 26, 1897, 3.

considered, but the Commission of Fine Arts declared an Armory on the mall to be inappropriate.[48]

Failing to gain support for a dedicated, government-owned armory, the Guard was perennially on the lookout for better leased space. It would return to the L Street armory in 1915 but was forced to move again when that building's owners ended the lease in 1926.[49]

By the late 1920s, the Guard's activities were scattered among a half dozen sites around the city.[50] The largest number of Guard units were headquartered in two of the former "Government hotels" on Union Station Plaza. Built as temporary housing for female federal employees during World War I, some of the hotel buildings had already been demolished. The Washington Auditorium in the West End was also considered and rejected. The Guard's next temporary quarters in 1931 was the former National Hotel on Pennsylvania Avenue at 6th Street NW, a dilapidated building the D.C. government had bought in 1930 to clear for the planned Municipal Center.

While the D.C. Guard regularly changed headquarters, its scattered supplemental spaces remained constant. In 1917, the War Department appropriated $50,000 to purchase approximately 170 acres of leased land in southeast for training drills.[51] In 1920, this training ground was formally dedicated as Camp Simms and is today the site of Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling and Joint Base Andrews.

Meanwhile, the True Reformer Building at 1200 U Street NW served as home-base for the all-Black 1st Separate Infantry from some time before 1914 until the U.S. Military was formally integrated in 1948. After its creation in 1891, the all-Black infantry unit was segregated from and did not share a home with the other militia units. Originally, the unit occupied space on the south side of O Street, across from the O Street Market before moving to the True Reformer Building. The 1st Separate Infantry unit remained in the True Reformer building even after construction of the armory on East Capitol Street, since no provisions were made as part of the new building's design to house the all-Black unit. After WWII, the unit was deactivated, but its military heritage can be traced to today's 372nd Military Police Battalion.

The Pension Building, the Municipal Center Project, and the Armory (1925-1938)

The 1920s saw beginnings of a massive realignment of Washington's governmental cityscape. While these years were a time of great uncertainty and dislocation for the D.C. National Guard, they laid much groundwork for the eventual construction of the D.C. Armory, including establishing future Municipal Architect Nathan C. Wyeth's links to the project.

[48] Don A. Hawkins, "National Guard Armory on the Mall," *Washington History* 7, no. 1 (1995): 68–68, Accessed February 10, 2025. http://www.jstor.org/stable/40073137.
[49] "National Guard Offers Barter for Drill Site," *Washington Post*, Jan. 14, 1926, 2.
[50] "District National Guard," *Sunday Star*, Feb. 26, 1928, 62.
[51] "Encroaching Housing Silences Rifle Fire at Camp Simms," *Evening Star*, November 23, 1956, A1.

1926 was a watershed year for federal government realignment. Congress appropriated $50,000,000 to consolidate federal agencies in the "Federal Triangle," a set of massive office buildings which would replace entire squares of commercial and residential structures along the south side of Pennsylvania Avenue between Seventh and Fifteenth Streets NW.[52] Because this clearing threatened to remove important municipal structures, that same year the District government launched plans for a Municipal Center campus adjoining Judiciary Square to the Federal Triangle's northeast.

As multiple federal agencies realigned and swapped spaces, DC Guard Commander General Anton Stephan crusaded tirelessly to take over the Pension Building on Judiciary Square, which had only recently been occupied by the newly established General Accounting Office.[53] General Stephan advised a house subcommittee and senatorial powerhouse Reed Smoot (R-Utah) that, despite federal agencies' competing claims, the DC Guard was also "a Federal force [that]… does not stand in the same position as the State organizations." He cited the economic advantages of adapting a building already owned by the government over new construction, and contended that, after the completion of the [planned] Federal Triangle, "the Federal Government will have but small use for the Pension Building, and particularly the rotunda, which the Guard wants for a drill hall."[54]

By 1927, Stephan's advocacy seemed to be gathering support. He drafted legislation authorizing the Guard's use of the Pension Building, and, by 1928, both house and senate bills were pending.[55] Though they pleaded lack of jurisdiction to endorse Stephan's plan, the District Commissioners also urged Congress to solve the Guard's housing problem.[56] Stephan also requested that Secretary of War Davis "take the matter up with [the president" to facilitate turning "the Pension Office Building…over to the local Guard as an armory as soon as it is vacated by the General Accounting Office," which was slated to occupy a building planned for the Federal Triangle.[57]

Federal organizations like the Commission of Fine Arts, joined by the Federal Planning Commission in 1930, also supported Stephan's proposal, So did the city's major daily newspapers, beginning with the *Washington Post* in 1927.[58] In 1928, the *Evening Sta*r's monthly "District National Guard" column noted that the Pension Building was "suited for armory purposes and its use by the local National Guard has the united support of local veteran organizations."[59] In 1929, an irate editorial complained that the DC Guard was "being treated as a red headed orphan without a home" whose welfare drew only "passing and passive interest" from the War Department, Congress, and the District government. The *Star* concluded:

[52] "$165,000,000 Public Building Measure Signed by Coolidge," *Post,* May 26, 1926, 5.
[53] "Plan of Stephan is Given Support," *Star*, Feb 19, 1926
[54] "District National Guard," *Star,* Feb 21, 1926, Sec 3, 8, "Need of Armory Told in Hearing," *Star*, Feb 24, 1926, 22.
[55] "District National Guard," *Star,* Sept 25, 1927, 8.
[56] "Urge Quarters for DC Guard," *Star*, Jan 9, 1928, Sec 2, p1.
[57] "Pension Building Opposed as Armory," *Star*, Mar 11, 1928; "District National Guard," *Star.* Mar 25, 1928, 8.
[58] "A Home for the Guard," *Post;* Mar 14, 1927, 6.
[59] "Pension Building Opposed as Armory," *Sta*r, Mar 11, 1928; "District National Guard," *Star* Mar 25, 1928, 8.

> The Pension Office has never been praised for its beauty. But it does remain as an interesting relic. As long as it stands, any utilitarian advantages it possesses should be capitalized. Gen. Stephan's suggestion is not only practical, but it would carry out the symbolism of the building [as a memorial to soldiers.][60]

In 1932, the *Washington Times-Herald* enlisted in the campaign as well, advising that:

> The request of Maj. Gen. Anton Stephan that the old Pension Building be converted into an armory when Government offices now housed there are moved, deserves the kindest consideration by the Public Buildings Commission and Congress.[61]

When in 1930, razing the remaining Government hotels to expand the Capitol grounds forced the Guard into the abandoned National Hotel, the *Star* reminded readers that:

> Judiciary Square has been suggested as a possible [armory] site. The proposal also has been made to Congress that the Pension Building be assigned for the use of the Guard.[62]

Another *Star* proposal was that the armory could be part of the Municipal Center itself:

> The Pension Building] is in the Government square which borders on the area now being acquired by the District of Columbia Government for… establishing a municipal center, and it was declared to be quite appropriate for the local military activities to be located there. As a matter of fact, at the present time the armory [the former National Hotel] is located on a part of the municipal center site.[63]

However, despite widespread support, plans for an armory remained stalled when General Stephan died in April 1934.[64] The *Washington Times* suggested that a fitting memorial would be to name the new armory for him.[65]

During the 1930s, the various armory proposals were periodically revived and the former Sixteenth Street Reservoir, Buzzards Point in Southwest, and a district-owned tract near the foot of East Capitol Street NE endorsed by the National Capitol and Planning Committee in 1933, were considered as alternative sites.[66] However, the headwinds of the depression years proved formidable.[67] Fiscal shortfalls caused periodic reductions in the size and scope of the Municipal

[60] "A Home for the Guard," *Star*, June 2, 1929.
[61] "An Army Without an Armory," *Washington Times-Herald*, Feb 18, 1932
[62] "District National Guard," *Star,* Sep 20, 1931
[63] "District National Guard," *Star,* Dec 21, 1930
[64] "General Anton Stephan Dies After Year's Heart Illness," Star, Apr 11, 1934
[65] "General Anton Stephan", *Washington Times*, Apr 12, 1934
[66] "Planning Body Approves Site for Armory, *Post;* Sep 17, 1933; 2**;** "Board Favors East Capitol Street Plan," *Post*, Feb 18, 1934, M13; "Stadium Plans Will Be Given to Park Board." *Post;* Jun 26, 1935; 10
[67] "Guard Officers Hold New Hope*," Washington Times*, Dec 22, 1935; "Guards Avoid Armory Site Controversy," *Post;* Apr 11, 1939; 6

Center project and led to reduced allotment of PWA funds for all District projects and led to reduced allotment of PWA funds for all District projects.

Ultimately, the GAO's tenancy proved an unremovable roadblock to the Pension Building's conversion. Despite General Stephan's 1926 congressional testimony, a GAO building was only briefly included in the Federal Triangle plan. Just a few months after General Stephan's death, the Committee of Fine Arts and Congress authorized funds to expand the Pension Building to meet GAO requirements.[68] The GAO would occupy the Pension Building until 1950.[69]

Plans for a Municipal Center armory also stalled. Indeed, in 1938, in what the *Post* implied was a backroom "deal," the PWA approved the District Government's request for a larger Municipal Center grant but rejected its application for armory construction funds.[70] That same year, although a House committee approved the inclusion of a never-to-be-built civic auditorium in the Municipal Center plan, it rejected the District Commissioners' proposal that it include armory space.[71]

Building the DC National Guard Armory

Like other National Guard Armory projects all over the country, planning and construction for the D.C. Armory benefitted from President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's post-Depression New Deal programs as well as his later direct intervention. In the summer of 1935, O. Marshall Finnan, president of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission (NCPC), prepared preliminary plans for the erection of a new armory as well as a stadium and other recreational facilities in the hopes that funding could be procured from a public works allotment or an appropriation of Congress. New Deal agencies such as the WPA and the PWA were already providing funding for the renovation of existing armories and the construction of new ones all over the country.[72] These programs encouraged or even required renovated or newly built armories to combine armory use with a community use component.[73] For the most part, the "head shed" and other offices would be exclusively for Guard use, while the "drill shed" served the dual purpose of training facility and public and ceremonial event space.[74] Many of these programs also required the states to contribute a portion of the overall costs of construction. Because the District is not a state, the federal government would be responsible for 100 percent of the costs of building.

[68] Maarja Krusten. *The History of GAO: How GAO Built Its Dreamhouse*, online at https://www.gao.gov/assets/2019-09/How%20GAO%20Built%20Its%20Dream%20House.pdf, 10-11.
[69] Krusten, 11-15. In 1940, Congress authorized the acquisition of a GAO Headquarters site in Square 518 across G Street NW from the Pension Building. However, construction was interrupted by World War II, and the present building was not completed until 1950.
[70] "PWA Rejects Grant for a New Armory," *Post;* Sep 3, 1938; X15.
[71] "House Group Backs Building of Auditorium," *Post;* May 7, 1938; X5.
[72] Works Progress Administration. *Final Report on the WPA Program 1935-43*, 52.
[73] Works Progress Administration. *Final Report on the WPA Program 1935-43*, 52-53.
[74] David Super, Julia Miller, and Renee Hylton. *Still Serving: Reusing America's Historic National Guard Armories* (Washington, D.C.: National Trust for Historic Preservation, 2000), 4-5.

To begin the process of getting funding from the federal government, the District had to submit a bill to Congress. This process, which could be tied up in political red tape for years, was slow to begin.[75] In a 1936 annual report to the Secretary of War, Major General Blanding, who was the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, ranked the need for an armory in the nation's capital at number seven in his list of 10 recommendations affecting the country.[76] "For years we have been trying to get an armory. But with all the red tape and buck-passing we've gotten nowhere," he complained.[77] Civic groups also began to lobby for an armory, seeing an opportunity to provide space for the public. The D.C. National Guard preferred to have a facility for its use only, but it recognized that joining forces with District residents might help it achieve the goal of getting the funds.[78]

The armory proposal was part of Finnan's larger NCPC development plan on East Capitol Street that called for a stadium, marching ground, armory, and aquatic facility. All these facilities needed to be funded by appropriation from Congress and required the coordination of multiple federal agencies. In the spring of 1936, an application that called just for the construction of the Armory was submitted by D.C. Commissioner George E. Allen to the WPA, a branch of the Federal Works Administration. The plans were drawn by Allied Architects, Inc. and consisted of a central drill hall surrounded by several buildings on the bank of the Anacostia River.[79]

Ultimately, funding for the D.C. Armory came from the PWA, a different, but similar, federal agency to the WPA, since WPA funds would require a state contribution and PWA project funds came entirely from the federal government. In 1938, the PWA approved the D.C. Armory project based upon a submission by the District Commissioners for a location in the city's Southwest neighborhood. However, funding had been exhausted by other projects, and the D.C. Armory project was put on hold until adequate funding could be provided.[80]

By early 1939, the armory situation was growing increasingly dire as the demolition of the National Hotel building approached. In 1939, a D.C. appropriations bill that included construction of the armory went to the House of Representatives, but in the process, Congress challenged the building's design and its proposed site in Southwest. One congressman stated that drill halls would become obsolete with modern military technology focused on vehicles and aircraft, and storage for these vehicles was best met in a "glorified warehouse." The D.C. National Guard feared it would lose the building as designed with its drill hall and attached offices hall to a "bulky warehouse"-style armory.[81] Further, the appropriations bill carried a

[75] "Aid for Armory: Suggestion Made Project Be Combined with Auditorium Plan," *Evening Star*, November 15, 1936, D5.
[76] District of Columbia Preservation League (DCPL), "National Guard Armory of the District of Columbia: Social and Historical Significance" (Washington, D.C., 1990).
[77] "Officer Renews Pleas for Armory," *Evening Star*, December 18, 1936, B-7.
[78] "Aid for Armory: Suggestion Made Project Be Combined with Auditorium Plan," *Evening Star*, November 15, 1936, D5.
[79] "$2,000,000 Armory Plans are Given W.P.A by District," *Evening Star*, March 1, 1936, B1.
[80] "President Favors DC Armory of Modern Beauty and Design," *Evening Star*, April 13, 1939, 2.
[81] "Guard May Only Get 'Warehouse,' Not New Armory: Statement by Collins Raises Questions of Type of Building," *Evening Star*, April 9, 1939, A2.

provision for $150,000 to be used only for the purchase of a site in Southwest Washington.[82] The National Capital Planning Commission, which favored the foot of East Capitol Street as the appropriate site for an armory, lobbied against the proposed changes in site and design and further argued that a barn-like structure would not fit in with the development of the street.[83] President Roosevelt agreed, noting that he preferred a design "in keeping with the physical beauty of the city's more recently constructed buildings" and suggesting that a combination armory-auditorium might be a viable solution.[84]

When Congress resumed discussions on the D.C. appropriations bill a month later, testimony unanimously endorsed placing the D.C. Armory at the end of East Capitol Street rather than in southwest, and subcommittee chair Senator John Overton (D-Louisiana) decided that construction of the armory building should begin immediately.[85] Since the Armory would not be designed as a warehouse-type structure, the possibility of using the facility for community purposes was once again raised. In July of 1939, the armory coordination committee, composed of D.C., NCPC, National Park Service, and the United States Army Engineers Office representatives, unanimously agreed to use the new armory for community activities.

Throughout the armory's construction, its potential as a venue for the community was kept in mind. The NCPC hoped that an armory on East Capitol Street would spur future development in the area with such buildings as libraries, courts, and museums. An *Evening Star* rendering based on official plans showed how the area could be transformed into a premier venue as a "Sports Center Armory Project." incorporating a stadium, parade ground, boat house, and swimming stadium.[86] Immediately, consideration for the area to host track meets, the George Washington University and Georgetown basketball games, and boxing matches were potential events that pointed to the Armory as a potential host site. The FWA would approve funding to continue the development of the surrounding site for recreation in 1942.

In June 1939, Municipal Architect Wyeth was selected to draw plans for the Armory and to serve on a coordination committee with National Guard leaders Brig. General Albert Cox and Colonel John Ohemann.[87] The Office of the Municipal Architect began working on plans for the armory the following day.[88] Funding for the armory was provided by Congressional appropriation via the District's general funding bill for 1940.

---

[82] "Guard Studies Armory Site East of Fort Humphreys: Wide Difference of Opinion Over a Southwest Area Indicated," *Evening Star*, April 10, 1939, A2.
[83] "Guard May Only Get 'Warehouse,' Not New Armory: Statement by Collins Raises Questions of Type of Building," *Evening Star*, April 9, 1939, A2.
[84] "Early Action Likely on D.C. Guard Armory: Roosevelt Confers." *Post;* Mar 19, 1939, 14; "President Favors DC Armory of Modern Beauty and Design," *Evening Star*, April 13, 1939, 2.
[85] "Testimony Unanimous for East Capitol Street Armory Site: Immediate Start of Building Favored Before Senate Subcommittee," *Evening Star*, May 16, 1939, A1.
[86] "14 Pages: The Nation's Capital in Souvenir Pictures," *Evening Star*, January 20, 1941, 30.
[87] "Wyeth Will Draw Plans for Armory," *Post,* Jul 26, 1939, 15; "Weather Bureau Plan Is Approved," *Post,* Oct 21, 1939, 15.
[88] "Planners Approve Community Use of Armory to Speed Detailed Plans: Drill Hall, Containing 70,000 Square Feet, to Have 'Union Station' Roof," *Evening Star*, September 16, 1939, A18.

Wyeth's preliminary plans were approved by the NCPC and the Commission of Fine Arts in September 1939. Estimated to cost $2.7 million, the armory was built, for the most part, according to Wyeth's plans with one notable exception. When the public learned that the armory was to be built of brick, citizen opposition emerged. The Commission of Fine Arts received several letters advocating the substitution of limestone, also favored by the NCPC and the CFA itself.[89] President Roosevelt, the Commander-in-Chief of the D.C. National Guard during peacetime, also felt that the use of white stone would maintain a more consistent architectural design for federal buildings in the District. even though this raised the ultimate cost of the armory by $40,000.[90]

Wyeth's plans called for a central drill hall measuring approximately 70,000 square feet and covered with a "Union Station" roof, surrounded on all four sides by the headquarters of the various D.C. National Guard units.[91] One door entered the drill hall from each headquarters, and two entrances from the street permitted the public to enter the drill hall without passing through the National Guard headquarters. The floor of the drill hall, as designed, measured 350 x 200 feet with 50-foot galleries on all four sides. With removable seating arrangements, it seated 6,000 people and the galleries held 4,000. [92]

Different sections of the Armory served different units. The general headquarters was in offices on the north side of the building. The south housed the headquarters of the 260th Coast Artillery unit, and located on the west were the special troops and military police of the 29th Division, and the 1st battalion of the 104th Quartermaster Division.[93] The east building housed the 121st Engineers, and the space provided for nine company units, with school, special instruction rooms, and offices.[94] Storage space, target ranges, and parking space all were located in the partially raised basement. The building would follow established principles of design for armories nationwide, including the two key characteristics: a "head shed" for administrative offices and storage spaces and a "drill shed" for conducting military drills. In addition to its military function, the armory would function as a civic center and large-scale community meeting space. Besides surpassing the old Washington Auditorium, which seated 6,500, city officials believed that the auditorium would among the best in the country.[95]

[89] "Park and Planning Commission Discuss East Capitol Street," *Evening Star*, October 20, 1939, B1.
[90] DCPL, "National Guard Armory of the District of Columbia: Social and Historical Significance."
[91] "Planners Approve Community Use of Armory to Speed Detailed Plans: Drill Hall, Containing 70,000 Square Feet, to Have 'Union Station' Roof," *Evening Star*, September 16, 1939, A18.
[92] National Guard. *Historical and Pictorial Review*, 106.
[93] "Planners Approve Community Use of Armory to Speed Detailed Plans: Drill Hall, Containing 70,000 Square Feet, to Have 'Union Station' Roof," *Evening Star*, September 16, 1939, A18.
[94] National Guard. *Historical and Pictorial Review*, 106.
[95] DCPL, "National Guard Armory of the District of Columbia: Social and Historical Significance."

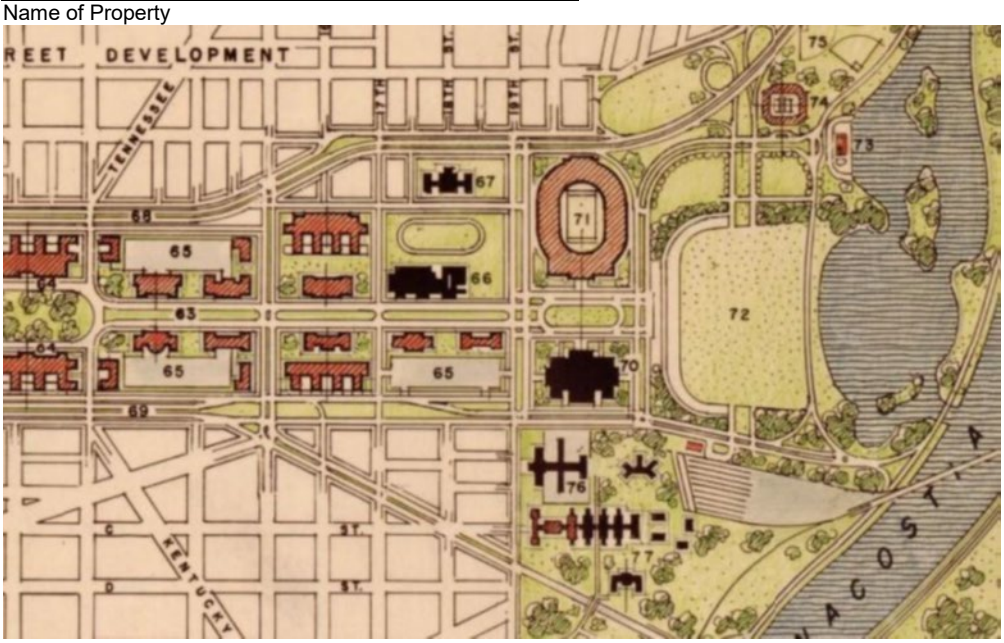


Figure 8: Detail of NCPC's 1941 plan for the development of the central area of Washington, D.C. showing the armory building on the south side of East Capitol Street and a proposed stadium to its north (Library of Congress)

Missing from the initial plans was space for the 372nd Infantry (formerly the 1st Separate Battalion). Racial segregation would remain in effect until July 1948, when President Truman signed into law Executive Order 9981 to fully integrated all branches of the military.[96] Although the 372nd was to have had additional space in a separate project, this plan was never executed. The 372nd was called into service for WWII, disbanded following the war, and thus never moved into the armory.[97]

The long-awaited ground-breaking ceremony for the D.C. Armory was held on June 2, 1940 before a crowd of more than 1,200. Senator John Overton, Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on District Appropriations, Representative Ross Collins, who first introduced the Armory measure in the House; Colonel David McCoach. Jr., District Engineer-Commissioner; and Brigadier General Albert Cox, all dug inaugural shovels of earth. The atmosphere was festive with the 260th Coast Artillery Band playing "Stars and Stripes Forever" by John Philip Sousa, who as a child played on the banks of the nearby Anacostia River, and the 121" Engineers Band followed with the "Star-Spangled Banner", penned by D.C. militiaman Francis Scott Key during the War of 1812.[98]

[96] Dr. Paul-Thomas Ferguson, "African American Service and Racial Integration in the U.S. Military," www.army.mil, February 23, 2021, https://www.army.mil/article/243604/african_american_service_and_racial_integration_in_the_u_s_military#:~:text=In%20response%2C%20Truman%20issued%20Executive,equal%20rights%20within%20the%20military.
[97] "$2,000,000 Armory Plans are Given W.P.A by District," Evening Star, March 1, 1936, B1.
[98] DCPL, "National Guard Armory of the District of Columbia: Social and Historical Significance."

On July 14, 1941. sixteen months after the ground-breaking and just six months before the United States entered World War II, the armory's cornerstone was laid even before the building was finished. Comprising nearly 800 soldiers, detachments from the 121st Engineers, the 104th Quartermaster Regiment, and the 29th Division special troops came from Fort Meade to attend the ceremony.[99] Also present were Commissioner Melvin C. Hazen, former Engineer Commissioner David McCoach, Jr., U,S. Army Chief of Staff General George C. Marshall, architect Wyeth, and the armory's builder, Charles H. Tompkins. Brigadier General Cox's address opened the ceremonies by saying that "until now, the armed forces of the District were an orphaned force" and that the new armory was the "culmination of 80 years of effort on the part of the District of Columbia citizenry to acquire a home for their armed forces."[100] The cornerstone contained a time capsule with newspaper articles describing the armory's construction, the history of the National Guard, a copy of the armory's Congressional appropriation act, a roster of D.C. National Guard troops, and other items.[101]

On February 14, 1942, the D.C. National Guard turned its space at the National Hotel over to the civilian defense registration effort and moved into its new quarters.[102] However, the Armory had already been put to use by the War Department. In 1941 the department had moved roughly 1,500 employees into the drill hall, which it filled with desks of staff reclassifying records as well as the Navy Camouflage School. The basement provided records storage.[103] [104] With the Guard called for service in WWII, the War Department remained in the building until the Pentagon was completed in 1943. The FBI then occupied the building, with the drill hall serving as a repository for the massive fingerprint files moved over from the Department of Justice. After the War, the FBI resisted leaving, but after some back and forth, the National Guard finally got the FBI to move out in June 1947. A regimental review to celebrate the Guard's return was held in a regimental on the armory drill floor in late spring.[105]

[99] "Cornerstone is Laid at Armory Despite Mud and Water: Ceremonies Go Ahead after Board Walks Span Quagmire," *Evening Star*, July 14, 1941, A5.
[100] DCPL, "National Guard Armory of the District of Columbia: Social and Historical Significance."
[101] DCPL, "National Guard Armory of the District of Columbia: Social and Historical Significance."
[102] "National Guard Completing Moving into New Armory," *Evening Star*, February 14, 1942, A18.
[103] "War and Naby to Keep Guard Armory Offices Despite New Building: Basement and Drill Hall on East Capitol Will Be Retained," *Evening Star*, September 11, 1941, A2.
[104] "National Guard Completing Moving into New Armory," *Evening Star*, February 14, 1942, A18.
[105] Megan Rupnik. "National Register Form."

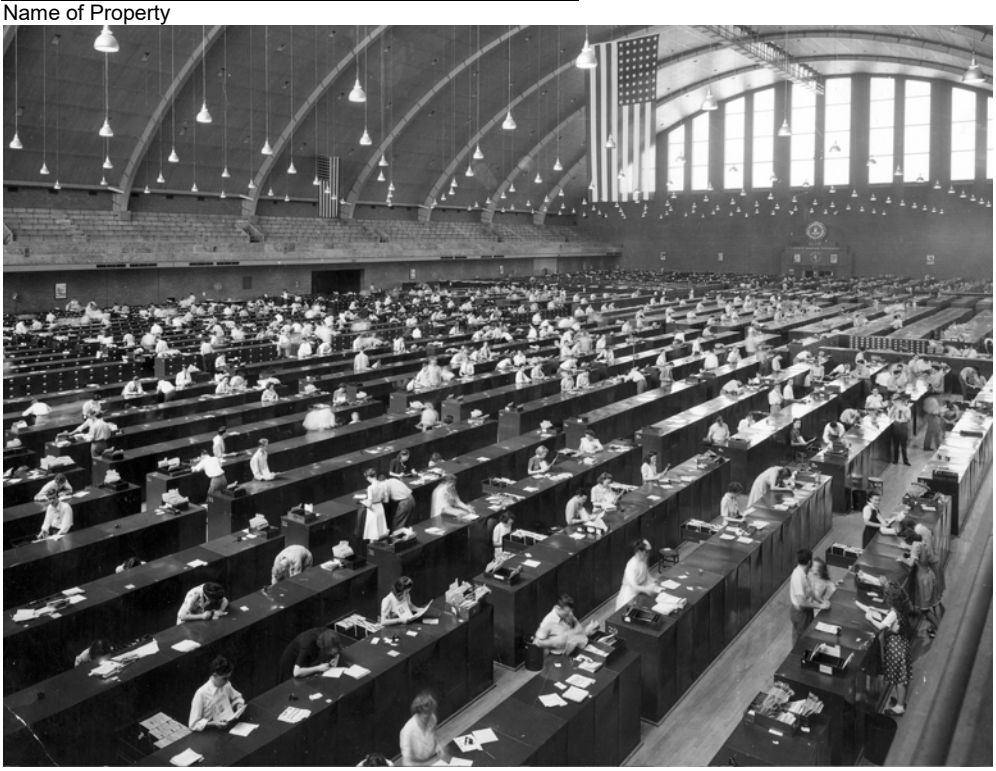


Figure 9: Fingerprinting division of the FBI at the D.C. Armory during WWII (Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division)

The primary use of the armory has been to provide offices and training space for the National Guard, but it was also intended to be a site for major public events in the nation's capital.[106] For the 1950 sesquicentennial celebration of the nation's capital, the NCPC envisioned incorporating the armory with a stadium, athletic field, indoor swimming stadium, and a lake and boat house in nearby Benning flats.[107] The armory has hosted inaugural balls for several Presidential electees,[108] the first in 1949 for Harry Truman and the most recent in 2008 for Barrack Obama. The 1961 inaugural ball for John F. Kennedy included a notable preliminary event produced by Frank Sinatra and Peter Lawford.

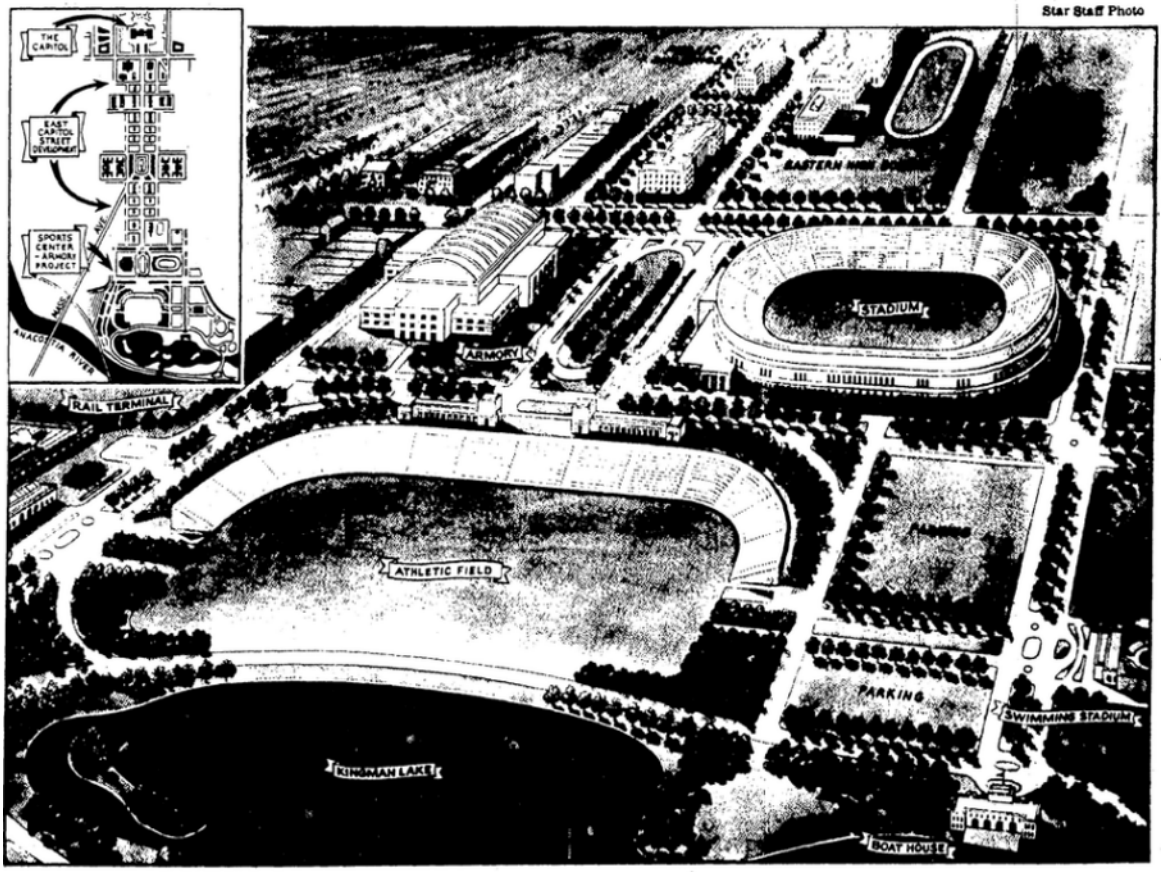
Besides inaugurations, the armory has hosted a wide range of other community and charity events including the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus, the annual Thanksgiving drive and Longest Yard Football Classic, various concerts, antique shows, community meetings,

[106] Not long after the D.C. National Guard was finally settled in the armory, a dispute arose between the Guard and the D.C. Commissioners about who would receive the concession receipts from events held in the drill hall and who was ultimately in control of the armory. After much compromise on both sides, Congress passed a bill in 1948 that established an Armory Board to consist of one representative from the Board of Commissioners, one from the D.C. National Guard, and a third member to be named by the chairmen of the House and Senate District Committee.[106] About two months later, Arthur J. Bergman, a former coach of the Washington Redskins, was hired as the manager of the armory to promote and coordinate its use for public events.

[107] "Limestone Decreed for Construction of New Armory: Decision Speeds Plans; Action Comes after Cost Estimate Review," *Evening Star*, November 18, 1939, A8.

[108] Given that the National Guard has always provided security for inaugurations, it was logical to have inauguration events on site.

and more. It has also been the home of local sports teams, including the Washington Diplomats soccer team (1978) and D.C. Rollergirls (2008-present).



From official plans, Star Staff Artist Newman Sudduth prepared this conception of the great East Washington sports center, construction of which has begun with erection of the District National Guard Armory and grading of the huge arena in the foreground, on the bank of the Anacostia River. The small map in the inset shows the relationship of the sports center to other landmarks. It is connected directly by East Capitol street with the Capitol Building group and it has been proposed that Federal and State buildings should be erected along the street. Proposed Federal building sites are shown around Lincoln Square, which is one of the great focal points for the Washington system of diagonal avenues. With the Armory, stadium and great sports field, the sports center would be able to accommodate sports events, pageants and ceremonies on the grand scale. Provisions are made for water as well as field sports. The presence of the huge sports field adjoining the Armory is an ideal arrangement from the military standpoint, providing almost unlimited space for parades and ceremonials. Ample rail and highway facilities, serving the sports center without conflicting with regular city traffic, are contemplated.

Figure 10: Rendering of potential development on East Capitol Street that appeared in the Evening Star for its issue on the 1941 Presidential Inauguration (Evening Star).

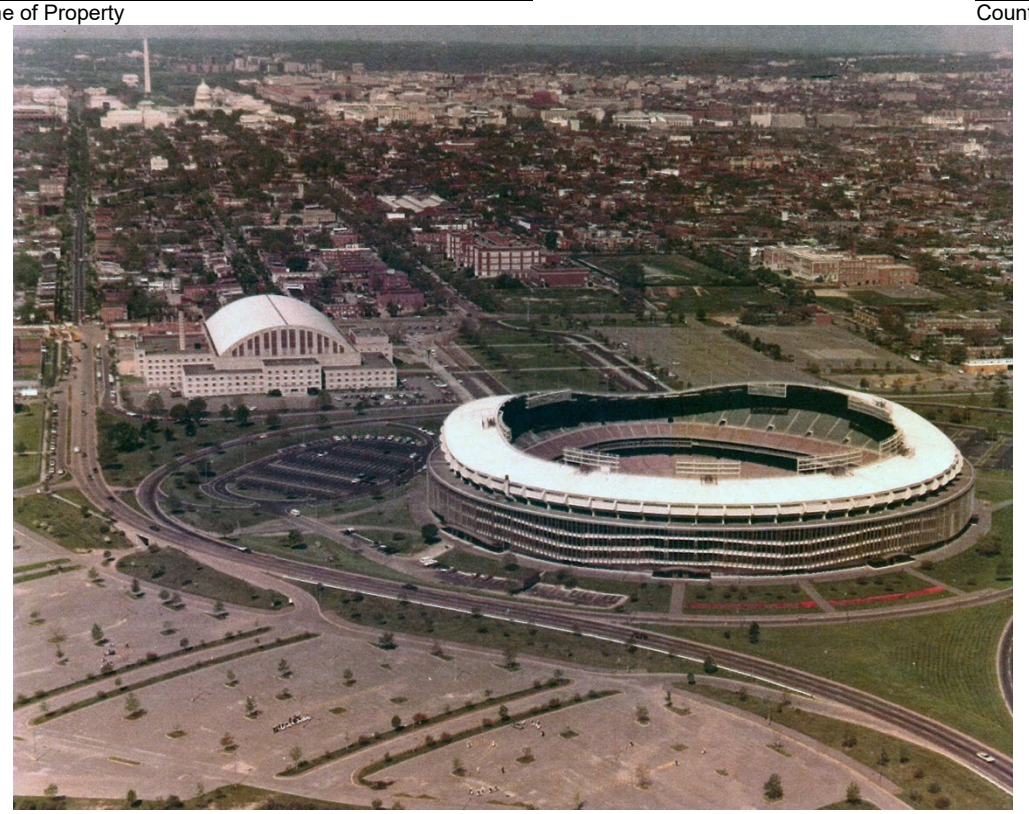


Figure 11: Aerial view looking west showing the armory and RFK stadium as built in 1961 at the end of East Capitol Street rather than north of it, opposite the armory (D.C. National Guard Archives).

Architect Nathan C. Wyeth

Few, if any, architects have had Nathan C. Wyeth's influence on the Washington cityscape. During his first decade of practice, he created iconic "great houses" and contributed to such monumental public projects as congressional office buildings, the Tidal Basin, and the original Oval Office of the President. In the nineteen-teens, he designed major hospitals and the Key Bridge. After military service in World War I and several years' sabbatical, he resumed designing large residences. In 1925 he became a key advisor to Municipal Architect Albert I. Harris and, in 1929, a principal partner in Allied Architects, a firm formed by several of the city's leading architects to pursue large commissions. After Harris' sudden death in 1933, Wyeth succeeded him as Municipal Architect and served until 1945. During his tenure, which spanned depression and world war, the District of Columbia constructed an extraordinary portfolio of civic buildings.

Nathan Corwith Wyeth was born April 20, 1870, in Chicago to a branch of a Massachusetts family whose descendants include Palm Beach architect Marion Syms Wyeth and the artists N.

C., Andrew, and Jamie Wyeth.[109] His father Charles J. Wyeth was a prosperous member of that city's Board of Trade whose firm sold malt to the brewing industry. Late in life, Nathan Wyeth told of being carried from the path of the Chicago fire as a babe in his father's arms.[110] Afterwards the Wyeths resettled in Evanston, but in 1873, Charles Wyeth died at age 37 from sudden complications of consumption.[111] Nathan, his mother, and his older brother then travelled to Europe, where they remained until 1875.[112]

In 1881, Nathan's mother married General Orlando Bolivar Willcox, a Detroit attorney turned soldier who received the Medal of Honor for leading multiple charges at the Battle of Bull Run.[113] After surviving a year in Confederate camps, General Willcox had been freed in a prisoner exchange and returned to the Union Army. After the war, he was placed in command of the Department of Arizona and involved in armed conflict with Native American tribes. Because he could not leave his post, Julia Wyeth travelled to Arizona for their wedding. For a half-dozen years, she accompanied him to posts across the country, while Nathan and his older brother attended nearby boarding schools. Nathan attended the grammar school of Racine College, an Episcopal preparatory school in Wisconsin, and as a teenager studied at the Adams Collegiate Institute in Sackets Harbor, New York, where General Willcox was stationed from 1882 to 1886. General Willcox then commanded the Department of Missouri at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas until he retired from active duty in April 1887. During this time, his family lived in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

After General Willcox retired, Nathan, his mother, his brother, and a young half-brother embarked on a year-long trip to Europe, where Nathan studied watercolor painting in Belgium and Switzerland. General Willcox meanwhile had become Director of the United States Soldiers Home, and Julia Willcox joined him in Washington after the family returned to the United States in May 1888.[114] Nathan then attended Michigan Military Academy, a college preparatory school in the Pontiac area modeled after West Point.[115] While personal details about Nathan's enrollment are unknown, at MMA cadets were divided into ranks within companies, with daily military drills and dress parades as well as classroom military and academic study.[116]

---

[109] Christina Wyeth Baker, "An Introduction to the Life and Career of Nathan Corwith Wyeth," (March 2, 2003) (personal to author, unpublished). Christina Wyeth Baker. *The Wyeth and Wythe Families of America: Seven Generations of the Descendants of Nicholas Wyeth* (Heritage Books, 2019) is the definitive genealogical work on the Wyeth family, and her assistance with the biographical information in this nomination is deeply appreciated.
[110] *National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form: Sixteenth Street Historic District* (Boundary Expansion).2006. Washington, DC: National Park Service
[111] "Chas. J. Wyeth," *Des Moines Register*, April 13, 1873, 1; See also Charles Jones Wyeth, *Find A Grave*, https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/229487124/charles-jones-wyeth.
[112] Wyeth; Passenger List, State of Nevada, Castle Garden, Port of New York, June 15, 1875; https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7488/images/NYM237_398-0844.
[113] "Medals for Two Brave Men", *Washington Post*, February 27, 1895, 3. General Willcox's medal was awarded many years after the Civil War.
[114] "Gen. O.B. Willcox Buried", *Washington Post*, May 15, 1907, 11. Wyeth (2023).
[115] *The National Cyclopaedia of American Biography Volume 50.* James T. White & Company, (1968) 474.
[116] *Catalogue of the Michigan Military Academy.* (Detroit: Free Press Book and Job Printing Establishment,) 1877, 32. While there are no unknown archival copies of the MMA catalogue during the years Nathan Wyeth would have attended, subsequent editions provide details on the school's organization and curriculum. It is also possible that Wyeth could have been enrolled as a "special student."

Wyeth had intended to devote himself to watercolor painting, but these plans were dashed in the fall of 1888. Charles Wyeth's will had provided his widow and sons with an income based upon a principal of $100,000 (the equivalent of several million dollars today) placed in trust with the friend whose surname became Nathan's middle name. However, in October the sudden failure of N. Corwith and Company sent ripples through the major New York City banks. It was later revealed Nathan Corwith, a merchant, banker and speculator nicknamed "the Lead King," had comingled the Wyeth brothers' trust with the funds for his failed business.[117] Litigation outlived Corwith and eventually reached the Illinois Supreme Court.[118] Although it is unclear what assets were recovered, the new trustee's sale of several pieces of property triggered litigation that continued into the 1890s. It was now necessary that the Wyeth brothers support themselves by their earnings, and each was forced to borrow money to finance his education.[119]

A career in architecture apparently promised fusion of art and practicality. In 1889, Nathan entered the Art School of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, which had been established "to furnish to New York a noble class of mechanics and artificers" through specialized training in subjects like mechanical drawing, modeling, carving, carriage drafting, decoration, and sculpture.[120] By the time Nathan entered, its focus had shifted from the "industrial arts" to a more conventional fine arts curriculum, with programs in painting, drawing, and architecture. Receiving a diploma required completing a rigorous "three seasons" of specialized classwork. The architecture program, which included drawing, history, and mathematics, aspired to convey far more than technical skills. In the words of its prospectus:

> Beginners in offices are usually set to work to do tracing and similar mechanical work, and the opportunities afforded them to learn the theory of composition are, in most cases, extremely limited. This class has been formed to fill this want.[121]

The school's ambitions for its graduates were lofty, as "it is intended that those who follow this course should be sufficiently advanced to pass the examination required for admission to the Paris École des Beaux Arts."[122] The program was unique for its time in that it admitted both male and female students.

---

[117] Corwith was a highly successful speculator in pig lead and real estate from Charles Wyeth's hometown of Galena, Illinois who tried to corner the market in lead, with disastrous results. "A Corner That Didn't Connect," *Rock Island Argus,* Oct 20, 1888, np; "The Corwith & Co. Failure." *Chicago Daily Tribune*; Oct 21, 1888; 16; "Still Talking of Corwith & Co." *Chicago Daily Tribune*; Oct 26, 1888; 5.
[118] "Street v. French," *The Northeastern Reporter, Volume 35* (Chicago: West Publishing Company, 1894) 816. Pages 814-820 describe the case in detail. Wyeth (2023). **"**For A Dock Property Purchase**,"** *Chicago Daily Tribune;* May 15, 1892, 6; "Dismissed the Bill," *Chicago Daily Tribune*; Dec 23, 1892; 10.
[119] Wyeth (2023).
[120] *Schools of the Metropolitan Museum of Art Prospectus, 1883-84* (np) https://libmma.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16028coll25/search
[121] *Schools of the Metropolitan Museum of Art Prospectus, 1888-89* (np) https://libmma.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16028coll25/search
[122] Ibid.

On October 2, 1889, the museum school logged a $25.00 check to cover a year's tuition for "N.C. Wyeth."[123] Nathan was committing to an immersive experience. Based on the 1888-89 prospectus, his class met Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday mornings and Monday, Wednesday, and Friday afternoons. A historical lecture was open to all students on Friday afternoon, and at 3:30 PM on Wednesdays Tuckerman staged an innovative cross-program lecture on principles of design.[124]

Nathan Wyeth thrived in this atmosphere. In May 1890, the *New York Times* mentioned that he had received the second largest year-end prize, an $80 award from trustee D. O. Mills for best work in the architecture class.[125] However, for unknown reasons he did not enroll for the third season. necessary to obtain a diploma and instead returned to the Willcox home. It is often reported that, during his Washington sojourn, Wyeth designed a fourth story for the Lemon Building, designed by established architect Harvey L. Page at 1729 New York Avenue NW in 1890.[126] Although the District of Columbia Building Permit Index includes no such listing, a plausible explanation is that Wyeth drew the upper story façade as an amendment to the original plan while working in Page's office during the summer and fall of 1890.

In any case, in June 1890, within a month of returning to Washington, Wyeth applied for a passport to travel to France.[74] By January 1891, he was living in Paris, and, by the following spring, he was a student at the École des Beaux Arts.[127] Besides his academic record, little is known of his life in Paris. In late March 1892, he was admitted to the École on the recommendation of architect Henry Duray, in whose atelier he spent the next three years. He appears to have been a stellar student, receiving medals in descriptive geometry, construction, and modeling, as well as numerous "Mentions" (awards).[128] After designing a gallery for geological and zoological specimens as what today would be considered an undergraduate thesis, he was promoted to the premier class and joined the atelier of Pascal in 1895. Several Wyeth family members resided in France, and he was visited at least once by his mother and General Willcox, but no record confirms that Nathan visited the United States before his graduation in 1899.[129]

The track of Wyeth's early architectural career is as confusing as that of his student years is vague. *Wyatt's American Architects* states that, upon returning to the United States, he worked as a designer with the Office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury in 1899 and the noted

[123] *Account Book of the Art Schools of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1888-1889*, 24 https://libmma.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16028coll25/id/573
[124] *Schools of the Metropolitan Museum of Art Prospectus, 1888-89* (np)
[125] "Prizes for Art Students," *New York Times*, May 1, 1890, 8.
[126] James Goode. *Capital Losses* (Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution Press; 2003*), 310.* Charles H. Atherton. "An Insider's Reflections on the Development of Washington 1960-2004." *Washington History*, 2006, Vol. 18, No. 1/2 (2006), 46.
[127] Dictionnaire des élèves en architecture de l'École des beaux-arts de Paris at https://agorha.inha.fr/ark:/54721/28a2a52e-31e5-4dc2-8f69-fe2fb50ca7b8 contains digital images of Wyeth's records from the École.
[128] Dictionnaire des élèves en architecture de l'École des beaux-arts de Paris https://agorha.inha.fr/ark:/54721/7
[129] Wyeth (2023).

New York firm of Carrère & Hastings from 1900 through 1903. [130] Wyeth's AIA questionnaire of 1946 reverses this and states that he worked for Carrère & Hastings in 1899-1900 and the Architect of the Treasury from 1900 to 1903.[131] Although his employment with Carrère & Hastings suggests that he settled in New York, he was in fact a Washingtonian. In February 1900, Wyeth wrote the École asking that his diploma be sent to him at the Willcox residence, 2022 R Street NW. A month later he joined a committee at the Washington YMCA.[132] The Willcoxes generally closed their house and went away for the summer. On June 4, 1900, a census enumerator listed Nathan as boarding with the family of John Pairo at 2127 Florida Avenue NW, just a few blocks from the Willcox home.[133] On December 23, 1900, the *Washington Post* reported that "Mr. Nathan Wyeth, who has spent the last five years studying architecture in Paris, will be spending the winter with his mother at 2022 R Street NW."[134]

The 1901 and 1903 *Registers of the United States* jibe with Wyeth's 1946 AIA questionnaire, confirming his employment with the Office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury from 1900 to 1903.[135] His AIA questionnaire, and other accounts state that he then transferred to the Architect of the Capitol, where he remained until 1904.[136] During this later year, Wyeth was also receiving commissions as a principal in a private firm.

Such conflicts are not necessarily contradictions. Carrère & Hastings had been involved in the capital's architectural affairs from John M. Carrère's unsuccessful campaign to be named Supervising Architect of the Treasury in the mid-1890s. In 1899, the firm began constructing the Townsend House (later the Cosmos Club) just blocks from the Willcox home and in 1901 it refurbished areas within the Capitol building. In April 1904, it was retained to design the original House and Senate Office buildings, with plans to be drawn within the Office of the Architect of the Capitol.[137] *Wyatt's American Architects* cites these buildings as Wyeth's first "principal work."[138] It is likely that Wyeth shifted between public and private employment while working on the same projects at different times as an employee of Carrère & Hastings and the Architect of the Capitol.

Wyeth's talents were such that he would have undoubtedly held a prominent place in the architectural circles of any city. However, Washington of 1900 was perhaps the ideal setting for

[130] George S. Koyl. *Wyatt's American Architects* (R.S. Bowker, 1962), 784, accessed at http://www.archive.org/details/americanarchitec001309mbp, May 1, 2011
[131] "Nathan C. Wyeth: "Questionnaire for Architects' Roster," (July 1946) at AIA Archives Website at https://content.aia.org/sites/default/files/2018-10/WyethNathaC_roster.pdf.
[132] Dictionnaire des élèves en architecture de l'École des beaux-arts de Paris, https://agorha.inha.fr/ark:/54721/7; "Hold a Business Meeting." *Evening Star*, Mar 20, 1900, 8.
[133] Twelfth Census of the United States. Washington, DC. Enumeration 145, Sheet 4A.
[134] "Social and Personal," *Washington Post*, December 23, 1900, 18.
[135] Official Register of the United States. (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1901). 121; Official Register of the United States. (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1903), 113, at https://archive.org/details/sim_united-states-official-register-of-the-united-states_1903-07-01_1/page/112/mode/2up?q=wyeth
[136] Antoinette J. Lee. *Architects to the Nation: The Rise and Decline of the Supervising Architect's Office.* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2000), 212 also cites this information.
[137] "Architect of Office Building," *Washington Post*, April 12, 1904, 4.
[138] Koyl, 784.

his career. The Columbian Exposition of 1893 had inspired a Beaux Arts boom which, by 1900, was making it the city's dominant style for government buildings and great houses. The Beaux Arts-inspired City Beautiful movement's principles were coronated as an "official style" by the adoption of the McMillan Plan in 1902, followed by the construction of such dominant buildings as Daniel Burnham's Union Station, York and Sawyer's District Building, the Carnegie Library at Mount Vernon Square, and Carrère & Hasting's Carnegie Institution. While several Washington architects had studied at the École, in 1900 Nathan Wyeth was the first École diplomate practicing in the city.[139]

Wyeth's social position was another advantage. While serving his architectural apprenticeship, he had launched himself into the whirl of the capital's high society. In December 1902, he was a guest at the White House debut of Alice Roosevelt and began to be mentioned in society page accounts of balls and receptions.[140] Although he was in his early thirties and probably past his athletic prime, Wyeth was an enthusiastic member of the Washington Fencing Club and played competitive tennis at the club level. In 1901, his work attracted its first journalistic attention when a review of the Washington Architecture Club Show at the Corcoran Gallery commented on the "beautifully rendered designs characteristic of the Friend School" offered by N.C. Wyeth.[141]

In early 1904, Wyeth formed a partnership with fellow École graduate William Penn Cresson (1873-1932), later a diplomat, distinguished biographer of James Monroe, and husband of Daniel Chester French's daughter. Wyeth & Cresson received its first building permit in March 1904 and executed six other commissions during its three years of activity. Most were fashionable residences with a minimum construction cost of $25,000, constructed in an era when developer Harry Wardman built row houses for about $2,000 each.[142] In the next half-dozen years, Wyeth would design ten notable houses between Sheridan Circle and Willcox home.[143]

Shortly after construction began on the Russell Building, Wyeth received a permit for his largest commission to date. Sarah Wyeth, the architect's cousin, was the widow of pioneering Philadelphia pharmaceutical manufacturer John Wyeth. John Wyeth had prospered during the Civil War as the inventor of machinery that formed premeasured medicinal capsules and a contractor supplying drugs for the Union Army. The family-owned Wyeth Drug Company, in various corporate incarnations, would grow and remain in business until Pfizer purchased its pharmaceutical line for $68 billion in 2009. Apparently, Sarah Wyeth became attracted to the Washington social scene and in 1908 commissioned her cousin to design a suitable residence in the city. A year later. Wyeth was commissioned to build a house next door for diplomat Gibson Fahnestock. The Fahnestock House, another highly accomplished Beaux Arts design, is among the most famous Washington houses of its era. It completed a row of four important Wyeth

[139] Cynthia Field. Isabelle Gournay, and Thomas Somma, eds. *Paris on the Potomac* (Ohio University Press, 2007). 26.
[140] "Miss Alice Roosevelt Introduced to Society," *Washington Post*, January 4, 1902. 1.
[141] "Art Topics," *Washington Post*, April 7, 1901, E9.
[142] All permit information from DC Historic Preservation Office. "DC Building Permit Database" (2009). Also see "Design Handsome Houses," *Washington Post*, October 6, 1907, R7.
[38] "Palatial Homes Planned," *Washington Post*. Mar 29, 1908; R10.

houses, interrupted only by Glenn Brown's Beale residence and the blue-chip firm of Wood, Donn, & Deming's Fitzhugh House on Sheridan Circle.[144]. The Florance Pullman mansion at 1125 16th Street NW is another iconic Washington "Great House" which Wyeth designed at almost the same time.

While the Wyeth, Fahnestock, and Pullman houses were approaching or under construction, Nathan Wyeth was expanding his practice beyond society residences. For a partial reconstruction of the Tidal Basin, Wyeth designed the graceful, classically accented Tidal Reservoir Inlet Bridge (1908-09) with Army Corps of Engineers Colonel Spencer Cosby.[145] His next project brought him enduring notoriety. Almost immediately after his inauguration in March 1909, President William Howard Taft ordered a competition to enlarge and make permanent the White House's west wing offices.[146] Wyeth's winning design included a curved windowed wall and presidential office patterned after the White House's Blue Room. Construction of what quickly became known as "the Oval Office" was completed in the fall of 1909. The finished office attracted considerable mention in the press.[147]

In addition to his busy practice, Wyeth found romance with Dorothy Lawson, the much younger daughter of a Cincinnati tin plate manufacturer who had spent several social seasons in Washington with an aunt who was an intimate friend of First Lady Helen Taft.[148] Dorothy was related to the Blair family of Maryland and reportedly met Nathan at a function at Blair House, which was then a private residence.[149] After their wedding in 1911, the Wyeths moved in Washington's most elite social and diplomatic circles. Dorothy would have a long and successful career as social secretary to several European embassies.

By 1910, Nathan Wyeth was designing increasingly more prominent buildings. In November of that year, approximately eighteen months after the Fahnestock and Pullman Houses, Wyeth received the permit to build the National Register-listed House of Mercy, a residential facility for women and their children adjoining Rock Creek Park.[150] Possibly he received the prestigious project, for which he donated his services, because he was one of the leading architects in the city.[151] Several of the home's patrons and Board of Lady Managers were clients for Wyeth-designed house.[152]

[144] "New Residence Planned," *Washington Post*, May 2, 1909, CA7.
[145] "Nathan Wyeth Will Become City Architect," *Washington Post*, January 12, 1934, 15.
[146] In 1902, President Theodore Roosevelt had commissioned the firm of McKim, Mead, and White to add west wing offices to the White House. McKim envisioned this space to be temporary, as he had endorsed Daniel Burnham's proposal for a permanent federal office campus in Lafayette Square centered on new presidential offices.
[147] "More Room for President," *Washington Post*, May 20, 1909, 3.
[148] "Miss Lawson Will Wed Mr. Wyeth," *Washington Post*, Sept 9, 1911, 7.
[149] Wyeth (2023).
[150] "New Chancery Ready November 1," *Washington Post*, Sept 13, 1914, R3.
[151] "Home For Girls Open," *Washington Post*; Oct 25, 1911; 5.
[152] "House of Mercy Is Ready," *Washington Post*; Oct 23, 1911; 12

Wyeth also directed extensive remodeling of the British Embassy in 1910.[153] In 1916, he designed the National Register-listed Columbia Hospital for Women in the Italian Renaissance style, and, in 1915, the city's nine-story Emergency Hospital near the White House.[154] In August 1916, he received his most impressive commission to date, the Key Bridge, to be constructed by the Washington District of the Army Corps of Engineers.[155] Wyeth originally designed a two-level bridge which his widow decades later recalled as having "beautiful approaches." However, cost considerations forced its re-design on a single level, and "dashed the hopes of the young architect" in the words of the *Star*.[156] Construction began in 1917, shortly before the United States entered World War I, and in December Wyeth left the project for a commission as a major in the US Army Office of the Surgeon General's Construction Division.

The wartime construction, modification, and maintenance mission of the Surgeon General's office was monumentally daunting. In addition to 131 existing post hospitals, 32 new mobilization camps each required a large hospital of 1,500 to 3,000 beds with full supporting facilities like laboratories and staff quarters. More hospitals were needed at ports of embarkation and to serve sick and wounded in the nation's 61 draft districts. The nerve center of this network was the Hospital Division of the Surgeon General's Office in Washington, where a small drafting room prepared all original sketches for hospital work. Later, "when speed was imperative…plans for the remodeling of buildings and for additions were prepared on the ground…was executed almost entirely under the advice of the architects of this section."[157]Although he may have had other assignments, Wyeth was assigned to hospitals associated with the Hoboken, New Jersey port of embarkation.[158]

After the war, Wyeth, reportedly recovering from exhaustion, spent several years hiking and sketching in Switzerland.[159] Besides a warehouse addition permit in 1921, he appears to have been inactive architecturally until 1925, when he was among a dozen architects named to assist Municipal Architect Albert Harris with a backlog of school design projects. He also co-founded Allied Architects, a partnership to undertake public building commissions.[160] Over the next several years, Wyeth rebuilt his own practice, designing elite residences and embassy buildings while also seeking other types of commissions. In 1926, he began a successful architectural partnership with Francis P. Sullivan, with whom he designed the National Register-listed Hospital for Sick Children at 1731 Bunker Hill Road NE in 1929.[161] That spring, Allied Architects was selected to design the Longworth House Office Building, with Wyeth as principal

[153] "Improve British Embassy," *Washington Post*, July 13, 1910. 12. "New Chancery Ready November 1," *Washington Post*, Sept 13, 1914, R3.
[154] "Hospital Fund Ready," *Washington Post*, December 7, 1913, R3. "Rush New Hospital," *Washington Post*, Nov 23, 1913, R3. Also "Where the Sick and Injured Are Soon to Find Help," *Washington Post*, Nov 13, 1913, 14.
[155] Historic American Buildings Survey. "Gibson Fahnestock House, DC-259" (1978), 5.
[156]
[157] Charles Lynch, Frank W. Weed, and Loy McAfee *The Medical Department of the United States Army in the World War, Volume I: The Surgeon General`s Office* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office 1923), 342.
[158] HABS No. DC-259. 4; "Our Town: Busy Nathan C. Wyeth Designs the Washington of Tomorrow," *Washington Post,* Jan 7, 1940, E1.
[159] "Busy Nathan C. Wyeth Designs the Capital's Buildings," *Washington Post*, January 7, 1940. E1.
[160] "12 Named to Aid Harris," *Washington Post*, March 18, 1925, 2.
[161] Ibid.

partner.[162] Wyeth & Sullivan also became consulting architects for a new wing for the Russell Senate Office Building, completed in 1933.[163]

Wyeth might have retired after these commissions, but he lost a considerable portion of his wealth in the stock market crash.[164] In 1929, he had been hired to assist Albert Harris with the design of the Municipal Center.[165] After Harris died suddenly in 1933, Wyeth, at age 64, succeeded him as Municipal Architect.[166]

During his tenure from 1934 until 1946, Wyeth and his staff executed a remarkable portfolio of schools, courthouses, and civic buildings like the Petworth and Georgetown libraries and the Municipal Center complex, as well as the National Guard Armory and the District-owned Glenn Dale tuberculous treatment facility in Maryland.

In addition to the aesthetic talents his work demonstrated, drawing the design for the Armory would seem to have drawn upon his familiarity with basic drill processes from Michigan Military Academy, experience with military-affiliated projects like the World War I hospital construction, and expertise with the design processes for large-scale public projects. Wyeth's notable buildings employ a variety of styles, especially the Beaux-Arts, Colonial and Georgian revivals as well as the Italianate and the stripped classical/Art Moderne style of the armory. Other notable 1930s armories like that in Minneapolis share variations of this style. However, the D.C. Armory's stripped classical /Moderne style limestone façade also particularly evokes the buildings of the nearly contemporary Municipal Center campus, especially the National Register-listed central Municipal Center (completed 1941) and Recorder of Deeds (completed 1943) buildings, as well as the now demolished Library Annex. Although the Armory is faced in limestone rather than concrete, its stylistic lineage particularly extends to Wyeth's 1916 Key Bridge. According to architectural historian Steve Calcott's National Register nomination, the bridge evidences:

> Architect Nathan Wyeth's skill at applying Classical design principals to…modern material. Wyeth's design for the Key Bridge presents Classicism through its proportions and large Doric pilasters on its piers. The minimalism of the Key Bridge design foreshadows the stripped Classical aesthetic of the 1920s and 1930s.[167]

Construction was slowed by wartime material rationing. Wyeth subsequently designed several schools and school additions as well as improvements to Gallinger Hospital and a "Home for the Aged" at the District Government's Blue Plains facility.[168] However, the Armory and Municipal Center buildings were his final major projects as Municipal Architect. His last year on the job was marked by prolonged controversy with the Board of Education over his efforts to replace Colonial and Georgian revival style school designs with simpler, more economical Modernist

[162] "New House Office Plans Completed," *Washington Post*, April 21, 1929. 9.
[163] "Russell Senate Office Building," Architect of the Capitol Website at http://www.aoc.gov/cc/cobs/rsob.cfm.
[164] "Nathan Wyeth Will Become City Architect," *Washington Post*, January 12, 1934, 15.
[165] "Individual Architects Employed on Center," *Post;* Oct 31, 1929; 10
[166] "Nathan Wyeth Will Become City Architect," *Washington Post* Jan 12, 1934,15.
[167] Stephen Callcott. *National Register Nomination Form for the Francis Scott Key Bridge* (1995), n.p.
[168] "Fine Arts Commission Adds Two," *Star*, Dec 2, 1945.,28.

plans.[169] The war emergency had postponed Wyeth's compulsory retirement at 70, but on July 31, 1946, he retired at age 76.[170]

Conclusion

The D.C. National Guard Armory is an iconic civic structure devoted to maintaining the security of the nation's capital and providing a gathering place for major public events that have included presidential inaugural celebrations. Its dual function is in keeping with the traditional role of National Guard armories throughout the country, but it also incorporates the D.C. Guard's unique federal functions and special mission to protect the buildings, sites, and institutions that make the District of Columbia the seat of government. The Armory also reflects the District of Columbia Government's unique role as a provider of functions conventionally associated with state governments in addition to municipal services. Its stripped classical/Art Moderne limestone façade both enhances the Armory's presence in the cityscape and asserts its kinship with the buildings of the Municipal Center, whose construction was a major statement of identity for the District. Its commanding location among a complex of District government buildings on an arterial route to Capitol Hill reflects both its mission and makes it a visual landmark to travelers crossing the Anacostia and residents alike.

Nathan Wyeth's extraordinary contributions to the District of Columbia cityscape span virtually every area of architecture. His buildings include character-defining residences in the Dupont Circle, Sheridan-Kalorama, and Greater Sixteenth Street historic districts, as well as non-residential structures that contribute to the Judiciary Square Historic District, Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Landmark District, and others. Wyeth also designed or made significant contributions to the legislative branch buildings enumerated in this nomination, the Maine and District of Columbia World War I memorials, and the many governmental buildings included in his portfolio as Municipal Architect. In terms of aesthetic quality as well as social importance, the D.C. Armory is a unique and major work by this recognized master Washington architect.

[169] 'Revised Plans Asked," *Star*, Mar 27, 1946, A6: "Fancy Schools Cost Too Much, Architect Says," Atar, March 28, 1946, A20; "School Architecture Controversy," Star. Apr 2, 1946. B1.
[170] "21 DC Workers, Past Age Limit, to Retire July 31," *Star*, Feb. 14, 1946; "Eleven Men, 337 Years of Service to the District," *Star*, July 26, 1946, B1.; "Coe Named DC Architect, *Times Herald*, 21.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Archaeological Investigations Northwest. *Integrated Cultural Resource Management Plan for the Oregon Army National Guard* (Draft Copy). Portland, OR: Archaeological Investigations Northwest, 2001.

District of Columbia Preservation League (DCPL), "National Guard Armory of the District of Columbia: Social and Historical Significance." Washington, D.C., 1990.

Ervin, Richard. "National Register of Historic Places Form for Bladensburg Battlefield." Maryland Department of Transportation, Baltimore, MD, 2025.

Evening Star. Various Articles from 1936-1948.

Fogelson, Robert M. *America's Armories: Architecture, Society, and Public Order*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1989.

Ferguson, Dr. Paul-Thomas. "African American Service and Racial Integration in the U.S. Military." www.army.mil, February 23, 2021. https://www.army.mil/article/243604/african_american_service_and_racial_integration_in_the_u_s_military#:~:text=In%20response%2C%20Truman%20issued%20Executive,equal%20rights%20within%20the%20military.

Hawkins, Don A. "National Guard Armory on the Mall." *Washington History* 7, no. 1 (1995): 68–68. Accessed February 10, 2025. http://www.jstor.org/stable/40073137.

Jones, Eric. "Evolution of the Military: Part 3." Stennis Center for Public Service, December 1, 2021. https://stennis.gov/evolution-of-the-military-part%203/#:~:text=This%20law%2C%20coupled%20with%20the,for%20the%20U.S.%20armed%20forces.

Kladky, William P. "Continental Army." George Washington's Mount Vernon. Accessed February 10, 2025. https://www.mountvernon.org/library/digitalhistory/digital-encyclopedia/article/continental-army.

LaRue, Paul. "One of the Earliest Monuments to African American WWI Troops." The United States World War One Centennial Commission, 2020. https://www.worldwar1centennial.org/index.php/communicate/press-media/wwi-centennial-news/6814-one-of-the-earliest-monuments-to-african-american-world-war-i-troops.html.

Living New Deal. "D.C. Armory and East Capitol Street Recreation Area – Washington D.C." Living New Deal, October 25, 2020. https://livingnewdeal.org/sites/stadium-armory-sports-facility-washington-dc/#:~:text=The%20Armory%20was%20completed%20in,(Evening%20Star%2C%201942).

Mahon, John K. *History of the Militia and the National Guard (Macmillan Wars of the United States)*. New York, NY: Macmillan, 1983.

Mason, David J. "Charles Redmond Douglass (1844-1920)." Blackpast, January 16, 2025. https://www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/charles-redmond-douglass-1844-1920/.

National Guard. *Historical and Pictorial Review, National Guard of the District of Columbia, 1940*. Baton Rouge, LA: Army and Navy Pub. Co, 1940.

National Guard. "Operation Jump Start." National Guard, 2017. https://www.nationalguard.mil/Resources/Image-Gallery/Historical-Paintings/Heritage-Series/Jump-Start/.

Rupnik, Megan. "National Register of Historic Places Form for the District of Columbia Army National Guard Armory (Draft Copy)." The Louis Berger Group, Inc., Washington, D.C., 2003. On file at the D.C. Historic Preservation Office.

Super, David, Miller, Julia, and Hylton, Renee. *Still Serving: Reusing America's Historic National Guard Armories*. Washington, D.C.: National Trust for Historic Preservation, 2000.

Works Progress Administration. *Final Report on the WPA Program 1935-43*. 1946.

Yeh, Puong Fei. "The Role of the Zimmermann Telegram in Spurring America's Entry into the First World War." *American Intelligence Journal* 32, no. 1 (2015): 61–64. Accessed February 10, 2025. http://www.jstor.org/stable/26202105.

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:

_X_ State Historic Preservation Office
____ Other State agency
____ Federal agency

____ Local government
____ University
____ Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

---

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approx. 9.8 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)
Datum if other than WGS84:_____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 38.88869 Longitude: -76.97552
2. Latitude: Longitude:
3. Latitude: Longitude:
4. Latitude: Longitude:

Or
UTM References
Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

1. Zone: Easting: Northing:
2. Zone: Easting: Northing:
3. Zone: Easting: Northing:
4. Zone: Easting : Northing:

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

The National Register Boundaries of the District of Columbia National Guard Armory include part of federal reservation 343F, comprising all of the historic squares platted and numbered 1121, 1122, 1128, 1129, 1135 and 1136, extending from Independence Avenue NE on the south, East Capitol Street on the north, 19th Streets on the west and 22nd Street NE on the east. The boundaries encompass the armory building and its grounds, including surface parking and its associated structures.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries of the District of Columbia National Guard Armory encompass the armory building and its immediate grounds. The property boundaries follow the boundaries of the six city squares that were part of the original Plan of the City of Washington upon which the armory was constructed in 1943.

---

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Multiple contributors
organization: DC Preservation League
street & number: 1328 Florida Avenue NW, 2nd Floor
city or town: Washington state: DC zip code: 20009
e-mail: info@dcpreservation.org
telephone: (202) 783-5144
date: October 14, 2026

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: District of Columbia National Guard Armory
City or Vicinity: Washington
County: State: DC
Photographer: Kim Williams and Jack Jones
Date Photographed: March 2025

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:



Photo 01: DC_DC National Guard Armory_001.tif: View looking south of north elevation



Photo 02: DC_DC National Guard Armory_002.tif: View looking southeast at north elevation entrance



Photo 03: DC_DC National Guard Armory_003.tif: View looking south at north elevation incised eagle detail



Photo 04: DC_DC National Guard Armory_004.tif: View looking northwest at east elevation



Photo 05: DC_DC National Guard Armory_005.tif: View looking west at east elevation



Photo 06: DC_DC National Guard Armory_006.tif: View looking southwest at east elevation



Photo 07: DC_DC National Guard Armory_007.tif: View looking east at west elevation



Photo 08: DC_DC National Guard Armory_008.tif: View looking southeast of west elevation



Photo 09: DC_DC National Guard Armory_009.tif: View looking north of loading dock on south wing



Photo 10: DC_DC National Guard Armory_010.tif: View looking north of south elevation

District of Columbia National Guard Armory | Washington, DC
Name of Property | County and State



Photo 11: DC_DC National Guard Armory_011.tif: View looking north at south elevation entrance and DCNG incision detail



Photo 12: DC_DC National Guard Armory_012.tif: View looking west of south artillery wing



Photo 13: DC_DC National Guard Armory_013.tif: View looking northwest at east elevation from rooftop



Photo 14: DC_DC National Guard Armory_014.tif: View looking northwest at east elevation from rooftop



Photo 15: DC_DC National Guard Armory_015.tif: View looking west at south artillery wing and chimney stack from rooftop



Photo 16: DC_DC National Guard Armory_016.tif: View looking west at south artillery wing and chimney stack from rooftop



Photo 17: DC_DC National Guard Armory_017.tif: View looking northwest of 2nd floor corridor above the general headquarters lobby located in the north wing

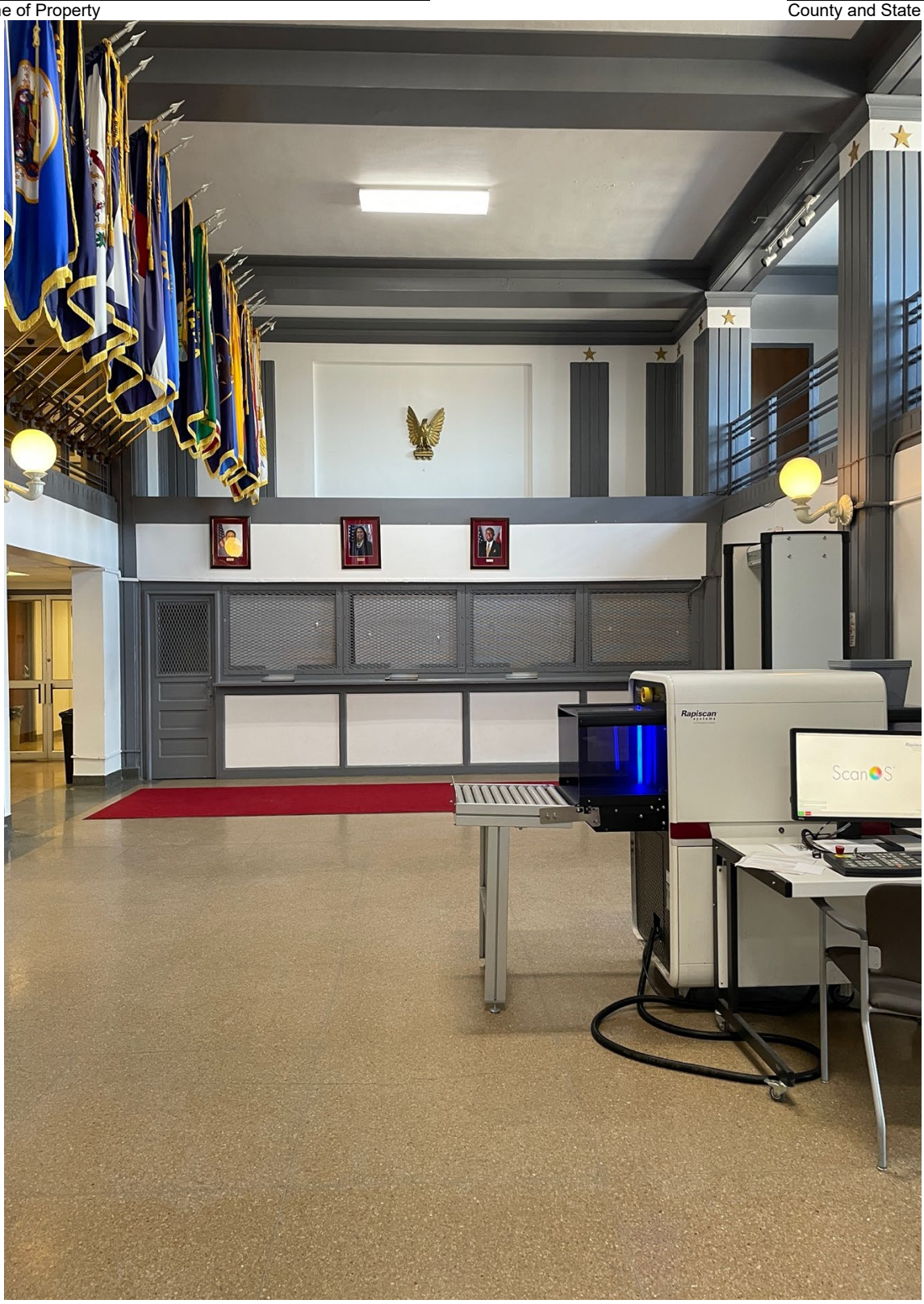


Photo 18: DC_DC National Guard Armory_018.tif: View facing west of ticket booth in the general headquarters lobby located in the north wing



Photo 19: DC_DC National Guard Armory_019.tif: View looking west of 2nd floor corridor above general headquarters lobby located in the north wing

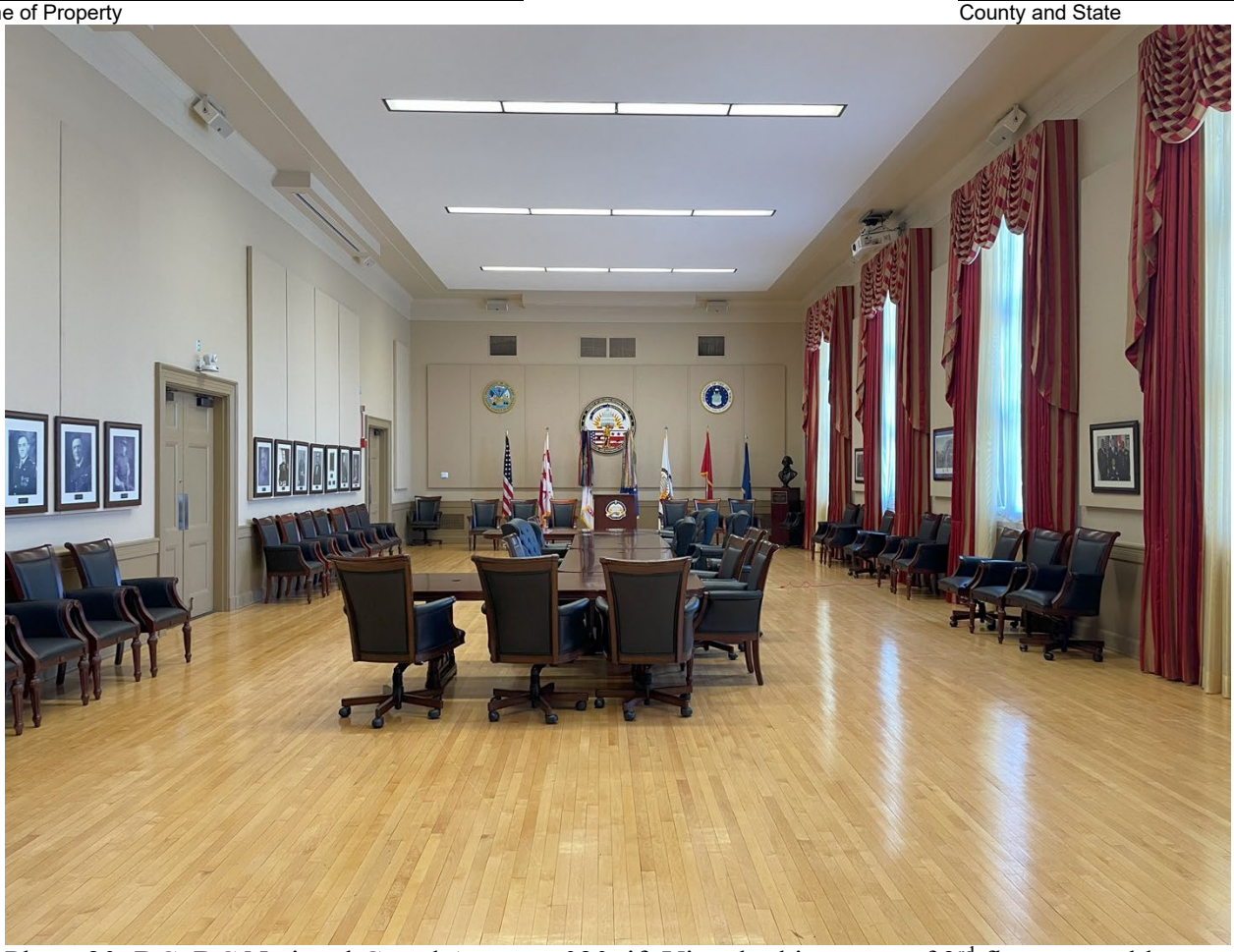


Photo 20: DC_DC National Guard Armory_020.tif: View looking west of 3rd floor assembly room in the general headquarters located in the north wing



Photo 21: DC_DC National Guard Armory_021.tif: Detail of typical stairway with metal, square railings

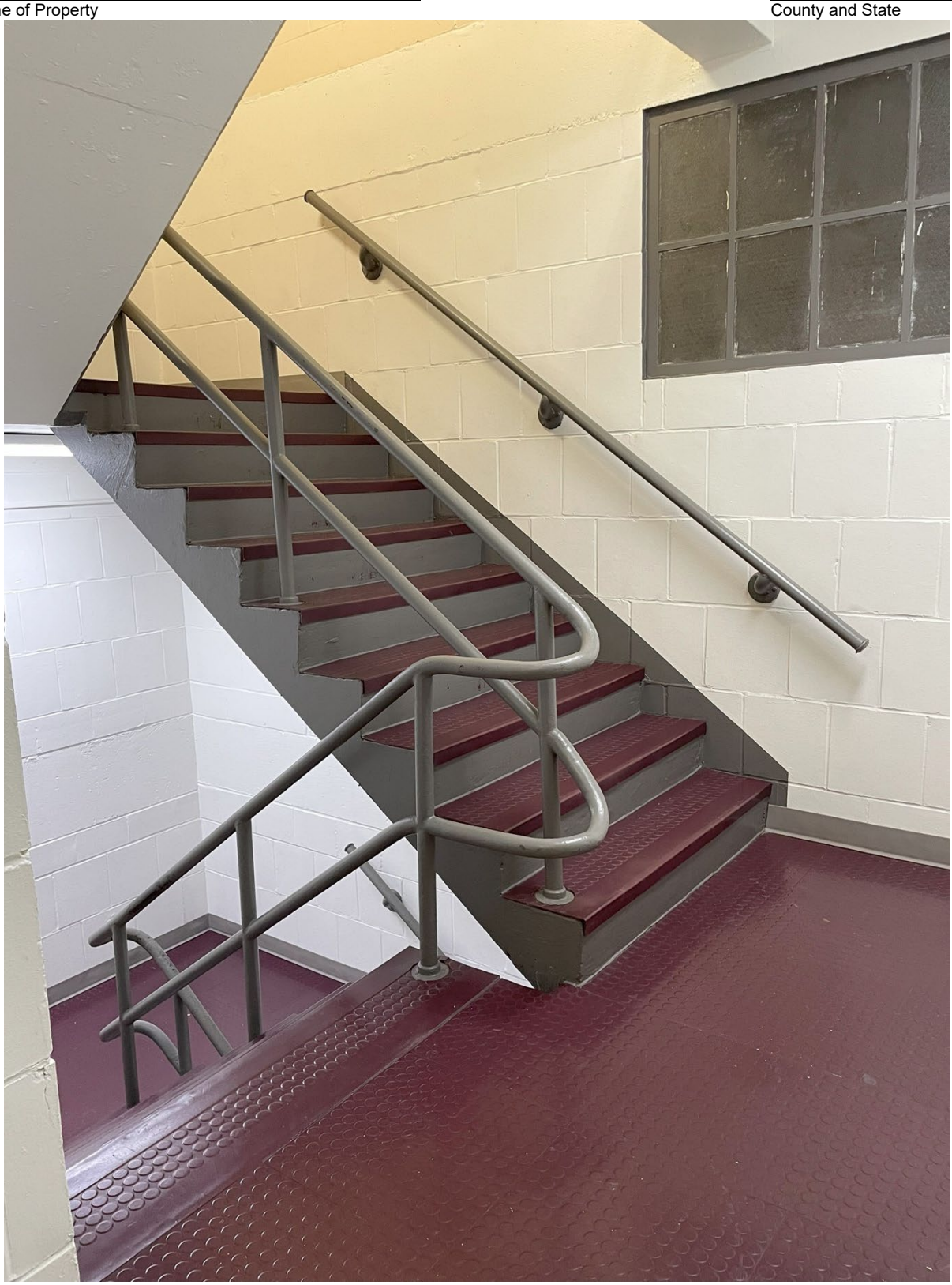


Photo 22: DC_DC National Guard Armory_022.tif: Detail of typical stairway with metal, rounded railings

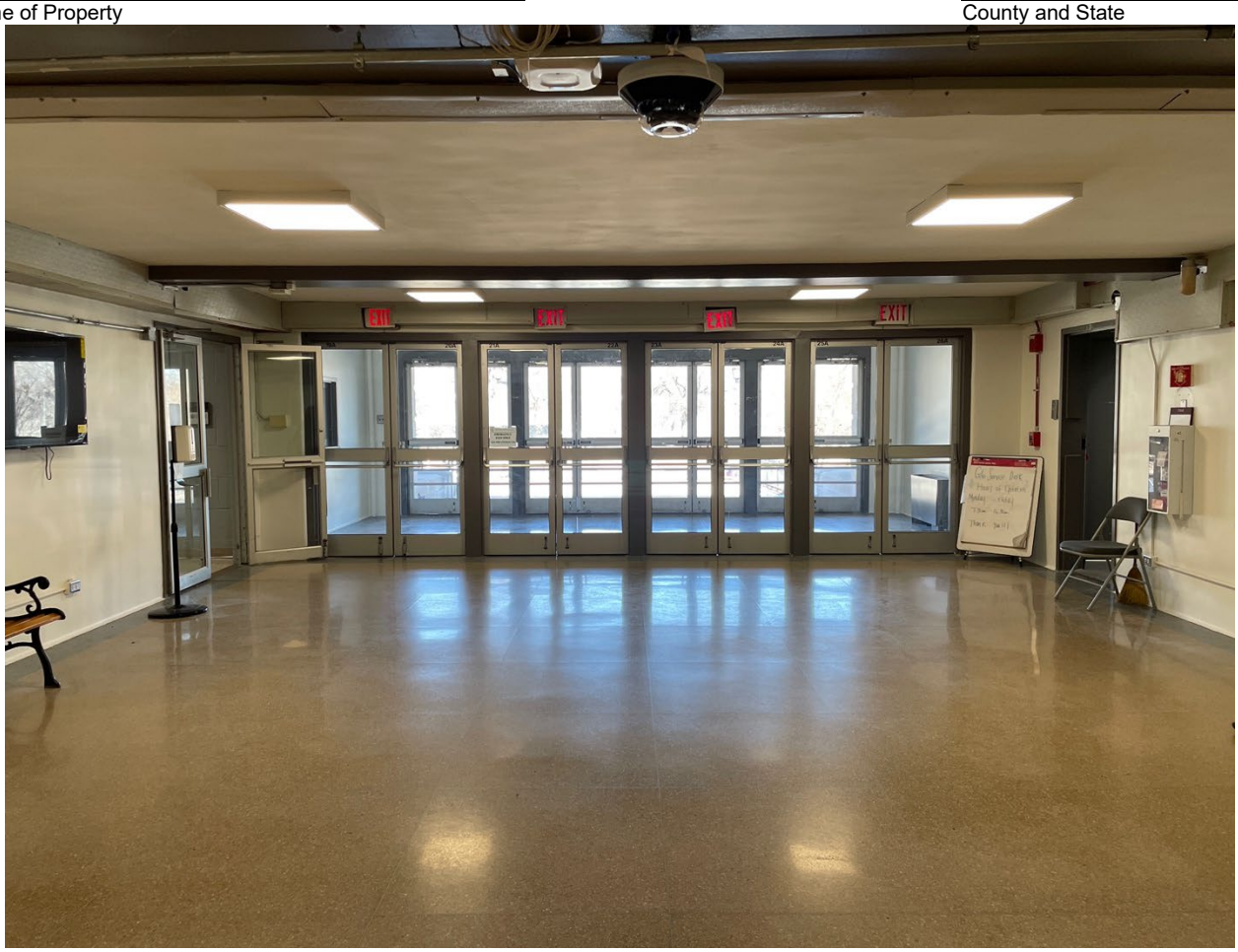


Photo 23: DC_DC National Guard Armory_023.tif: View looking north of drill hall lobby in the general headquarters located in the north wing



Photo 24: DC_DC National Guard Armory_024.tif: View looking downward and southeast of the engineers' lobby located in the east wing

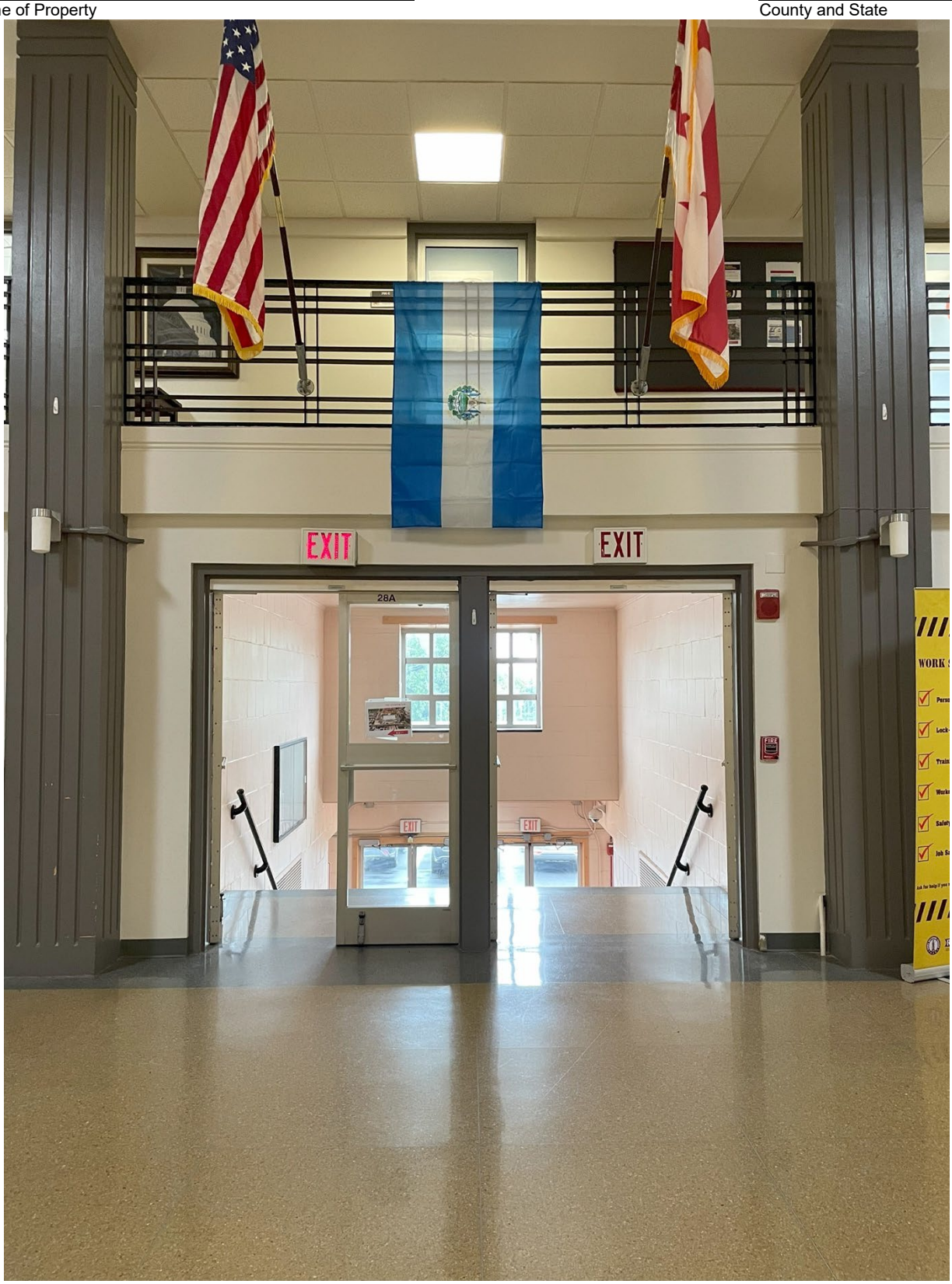


Photo 25: DC_DC National Guard Armory_025.tif: View looking east of the engineers' lobby vestibule located in the east wing



Photo 26: DC_DC National Guard Armory_026.tif: View looking west of the fireplace mantle in the engineer's assembly room located in the east wing



Photo 27: DC_DC National Guard Armory_027.tif: View looking southeast of the artillery lobby located in the south wing

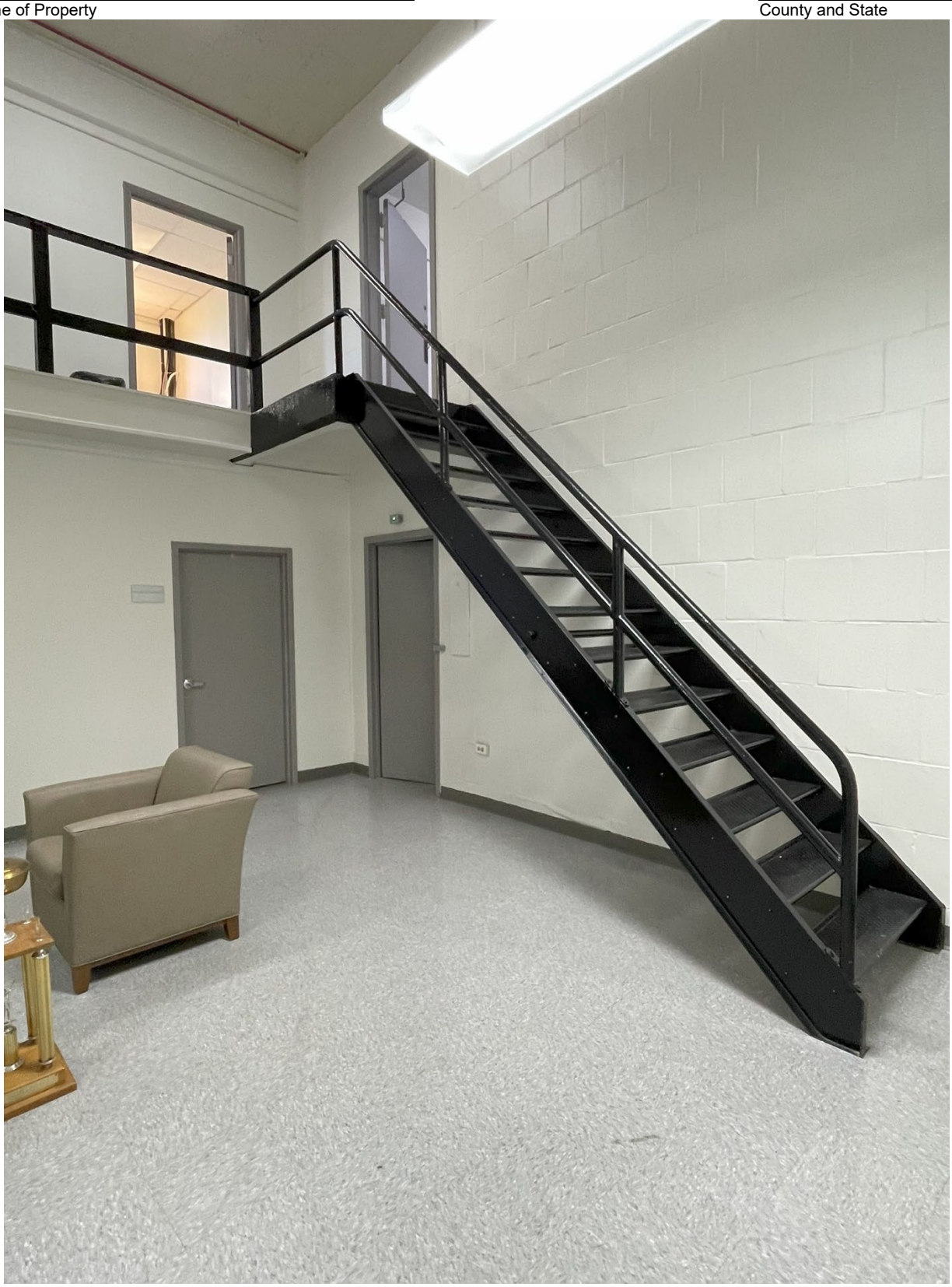


Photo 28: DC_DC National Guard Armory_028.tif: Detail of stairs found in double height company rooms



Photo 29: DC_DC National Guard Armory_029.tif: View looking southeast of chimney stack from inside hyphen connecting drill hall and artillery located in the south wing

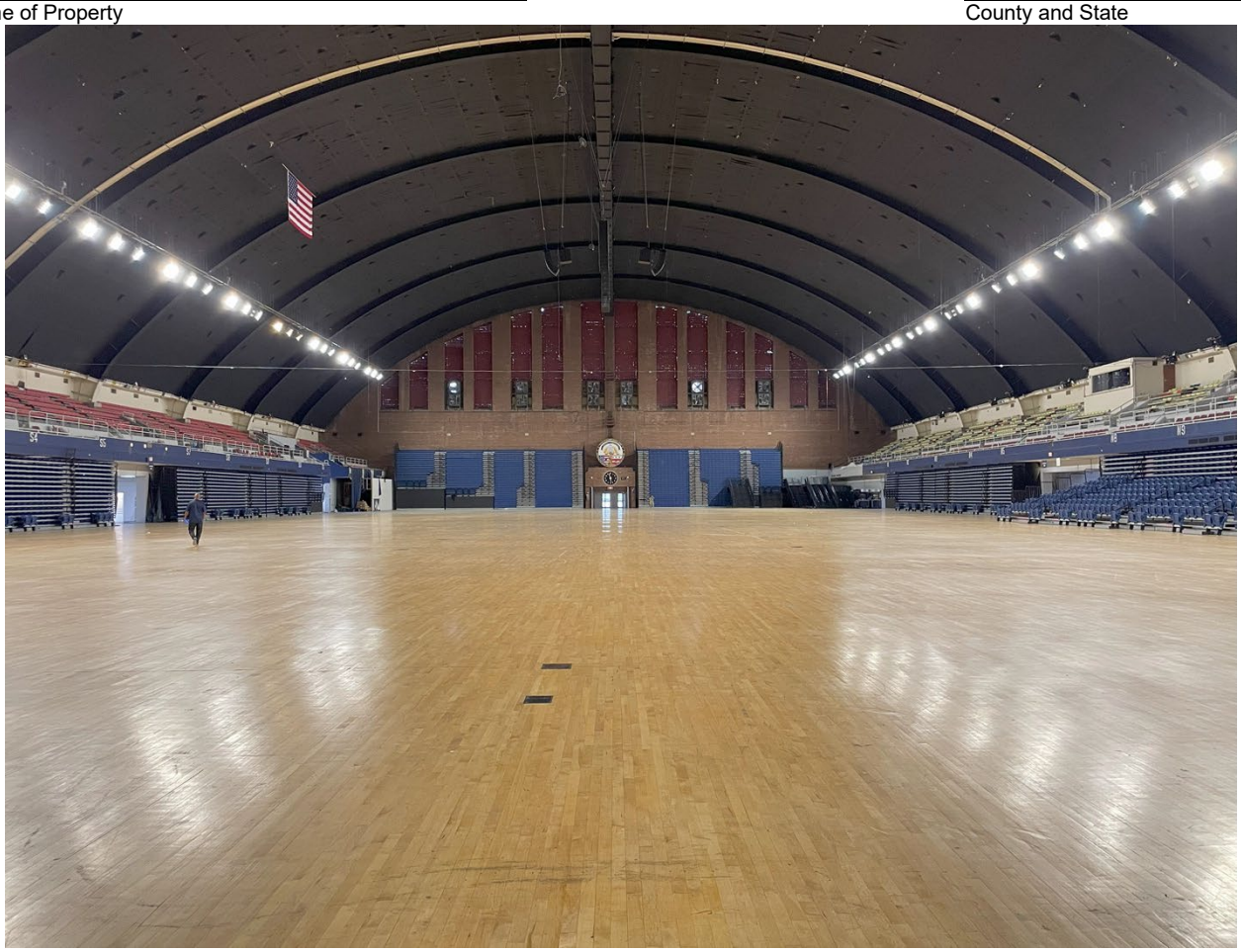


Photo 30: DC_DC National Guard Armory_030.tif: View looking west of drill hall



Photo 31: DC_DC National Guard Armory_031.tif: View looking west and skywards of drill hall

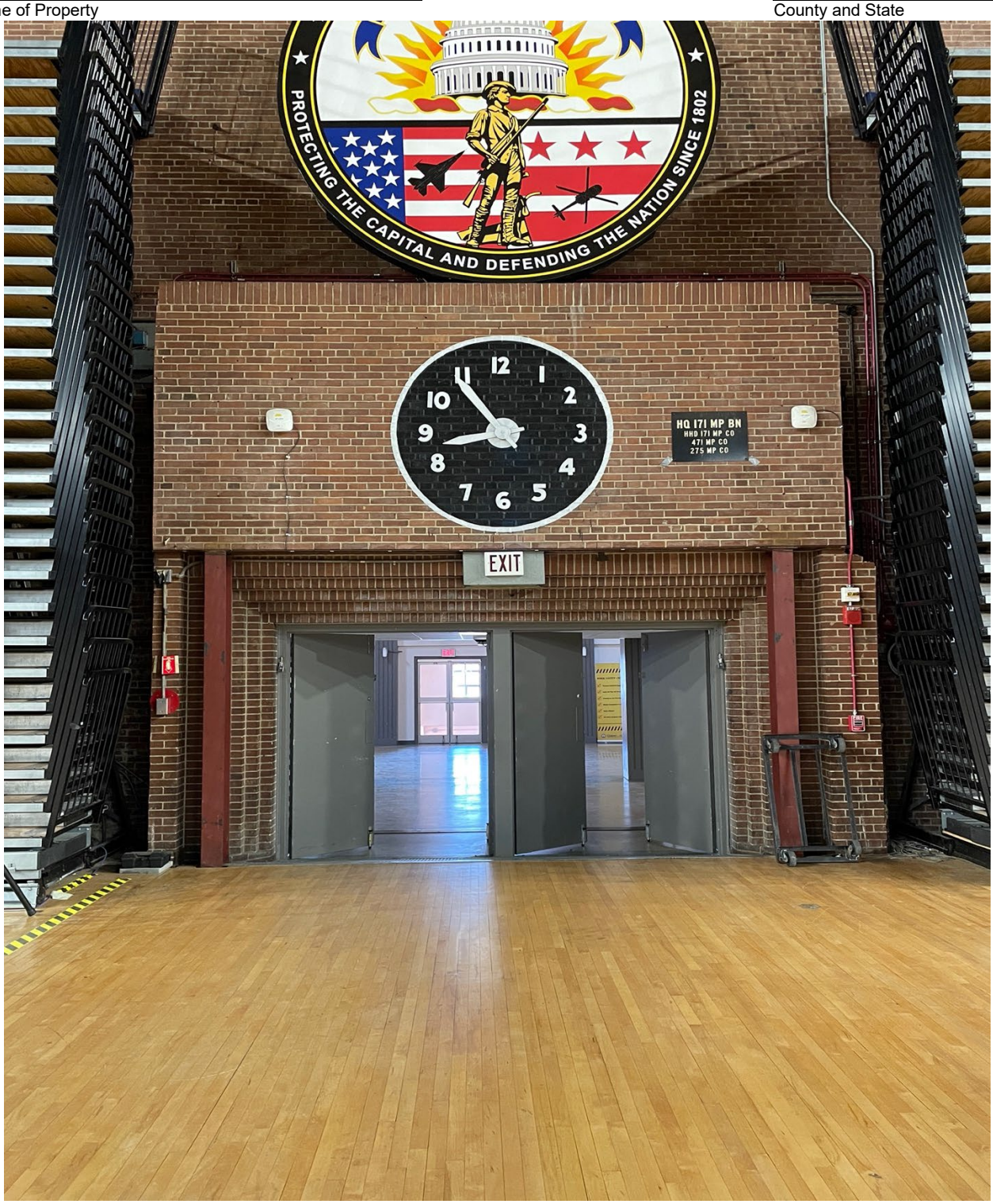
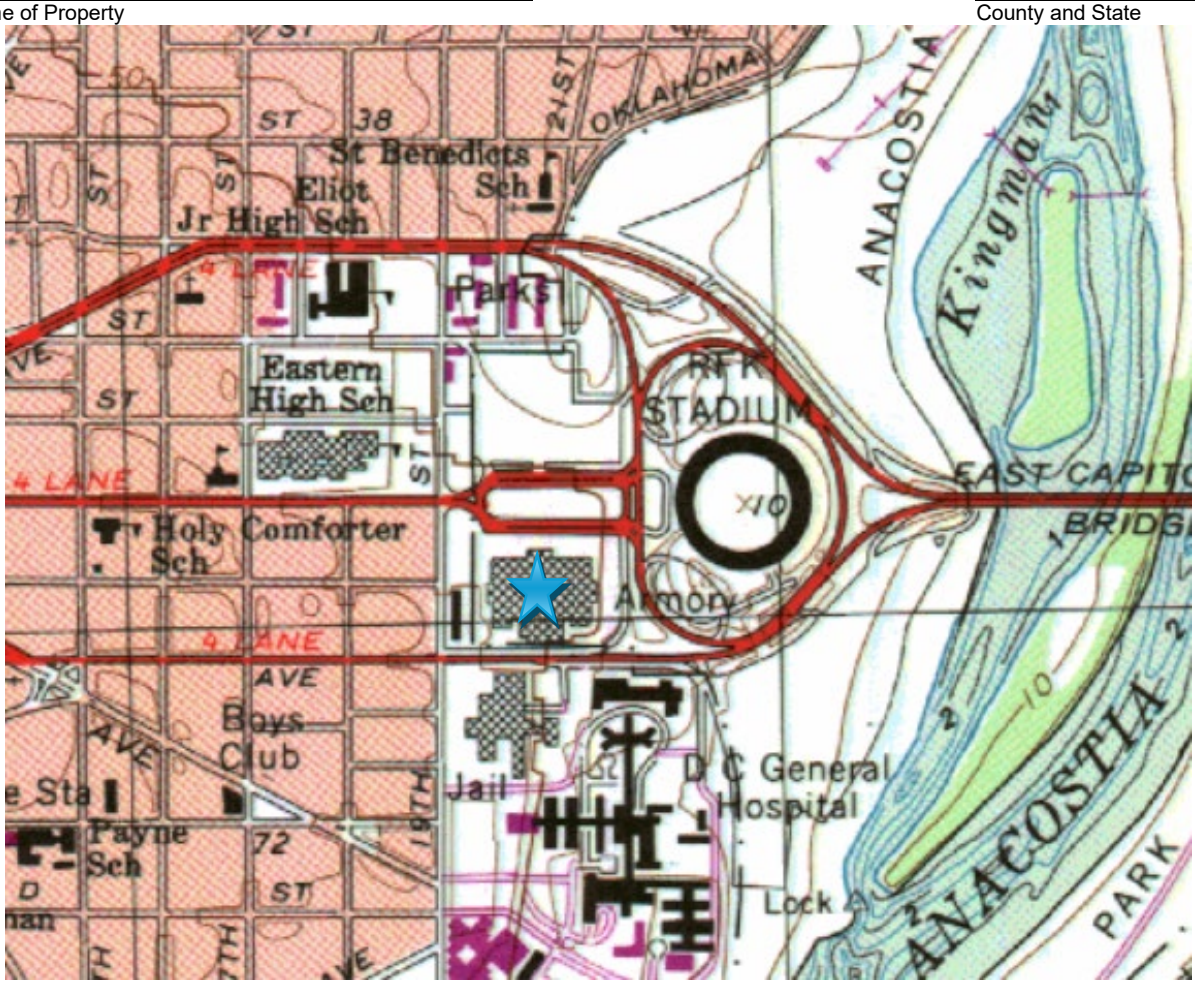


Photo 32: DC_DC National Guard Armory_032.tif: View looking east of east drill hall entrance

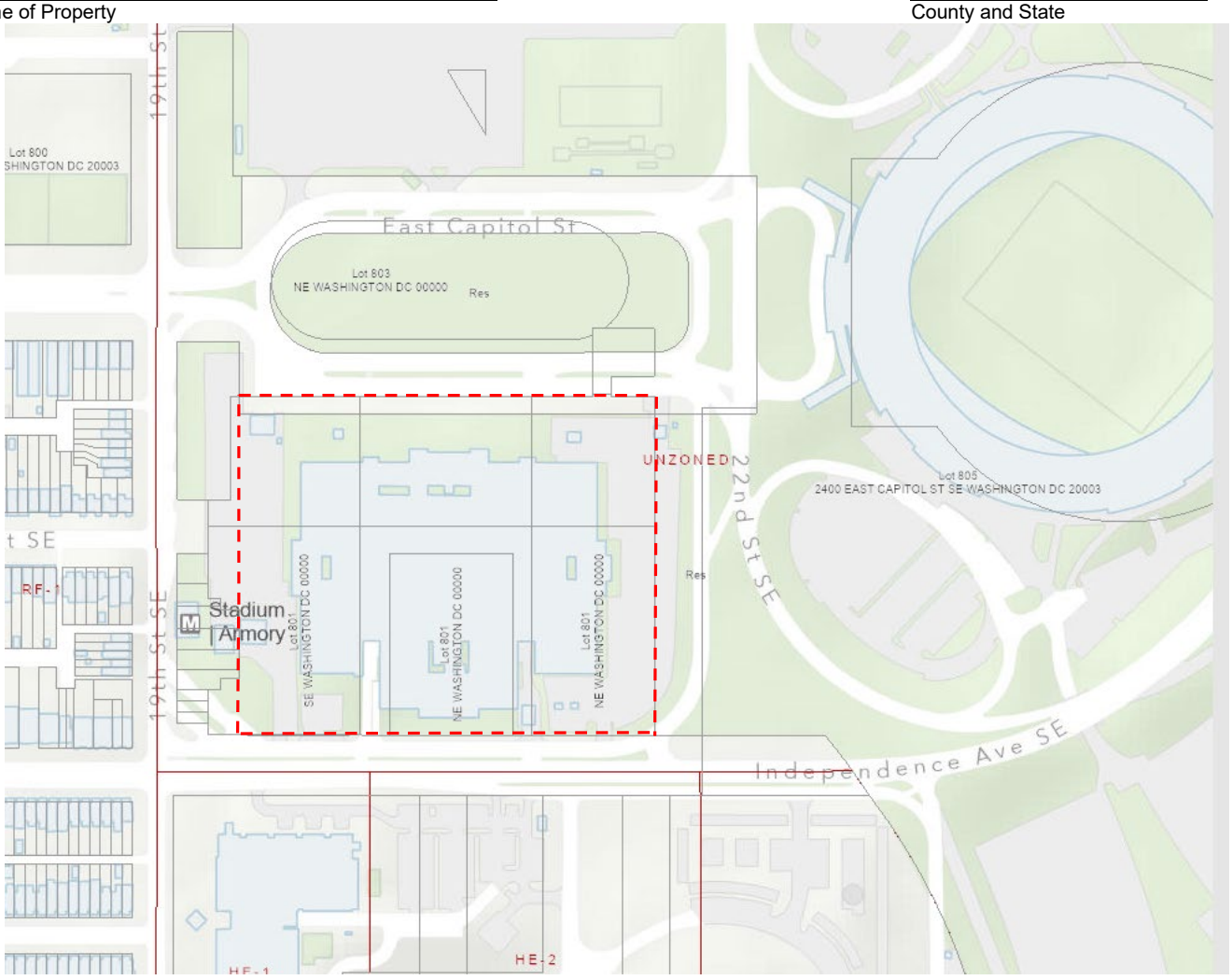


Photo 33: DC_DC National Guard Armory_033.tif: View looking northeast of garage level

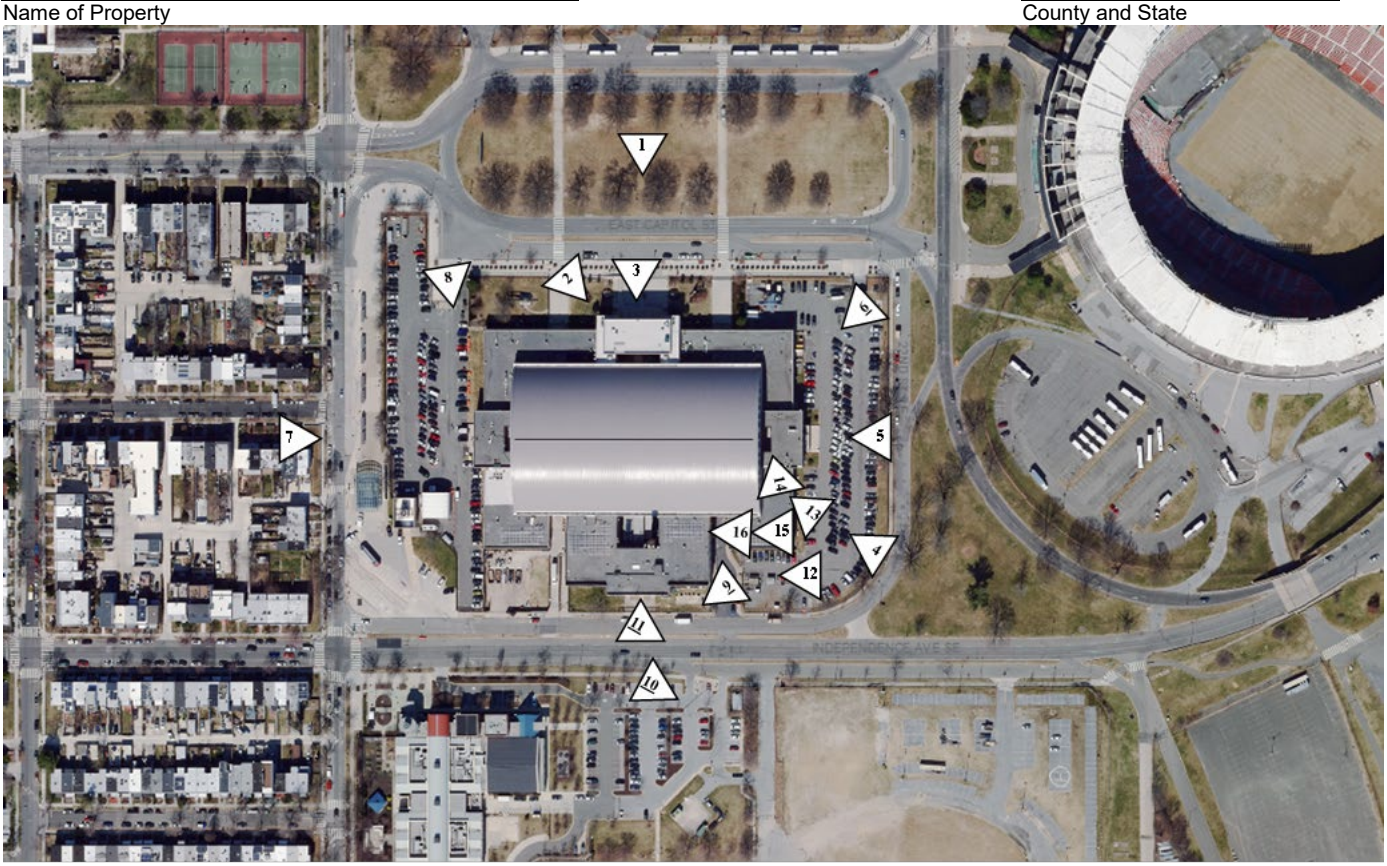


Map 1: Locational map showing District of Columbia National Guard Armory at 2001 East Capitol Street NE (Latitude: 38.88869, Longitude: -76.97552)

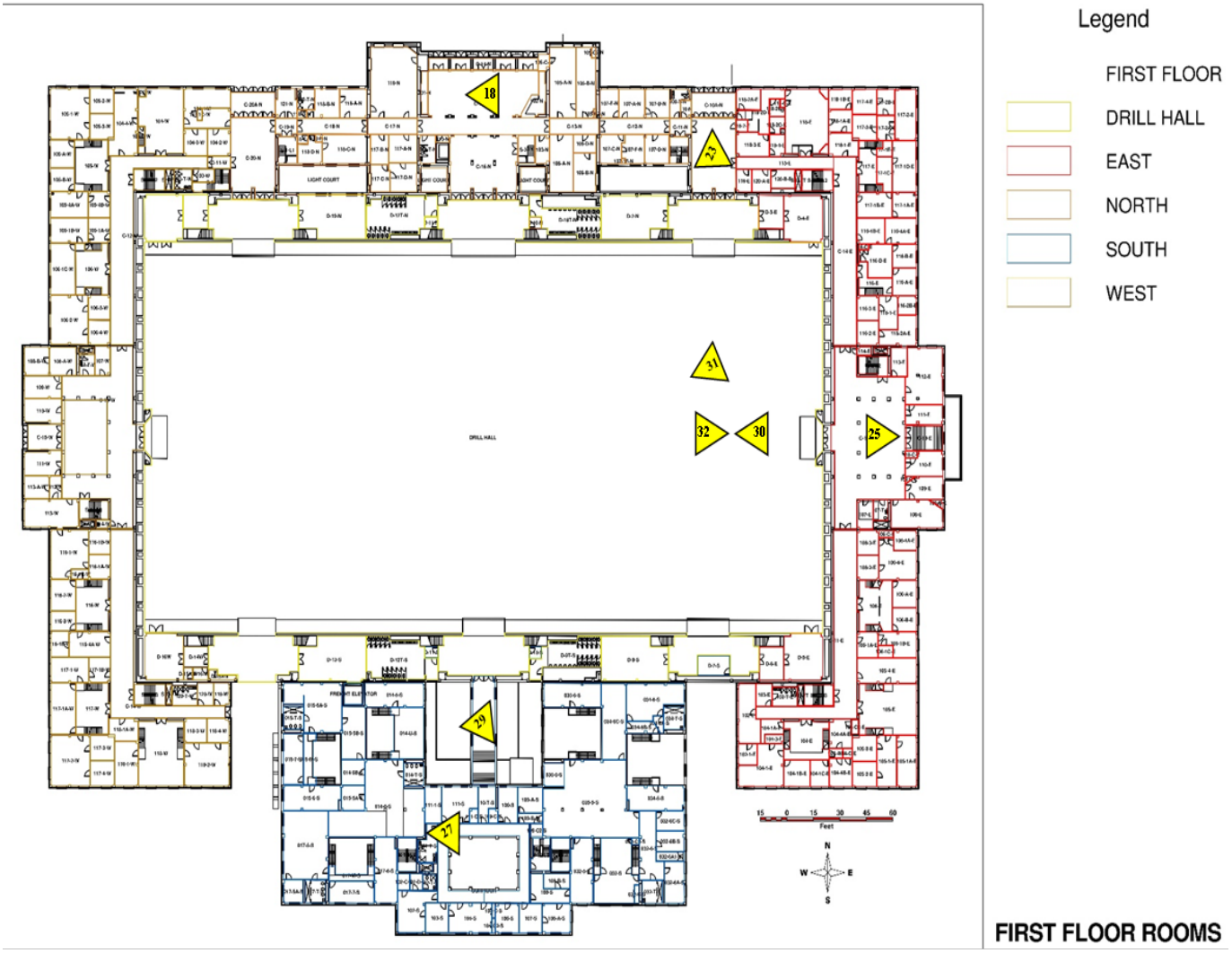
District of Columbia National Guard Armory | Washington, DC
Name of Property | County and State



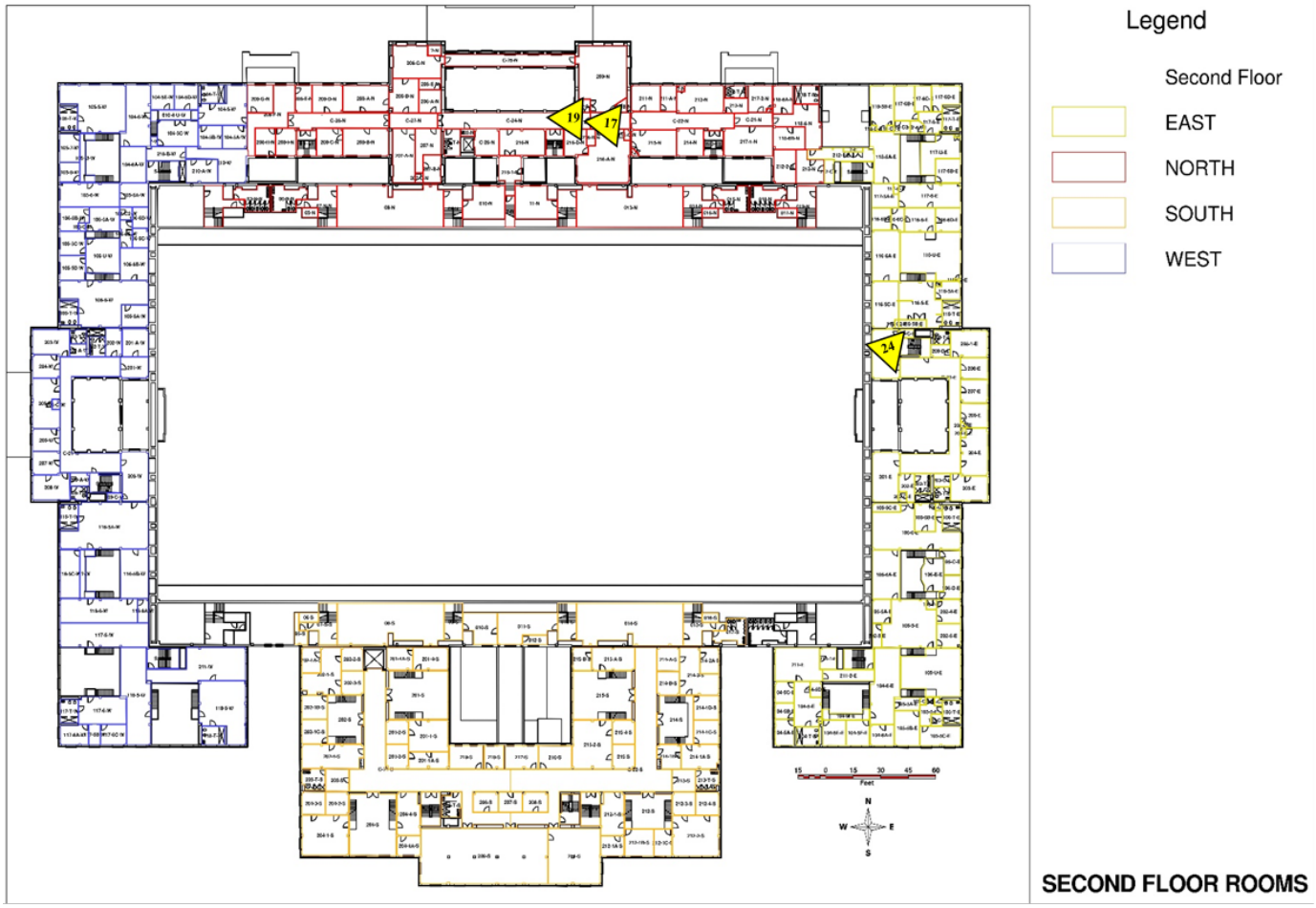
Map 2: Site map showing National Register Boundaries of DC National Guard Armory



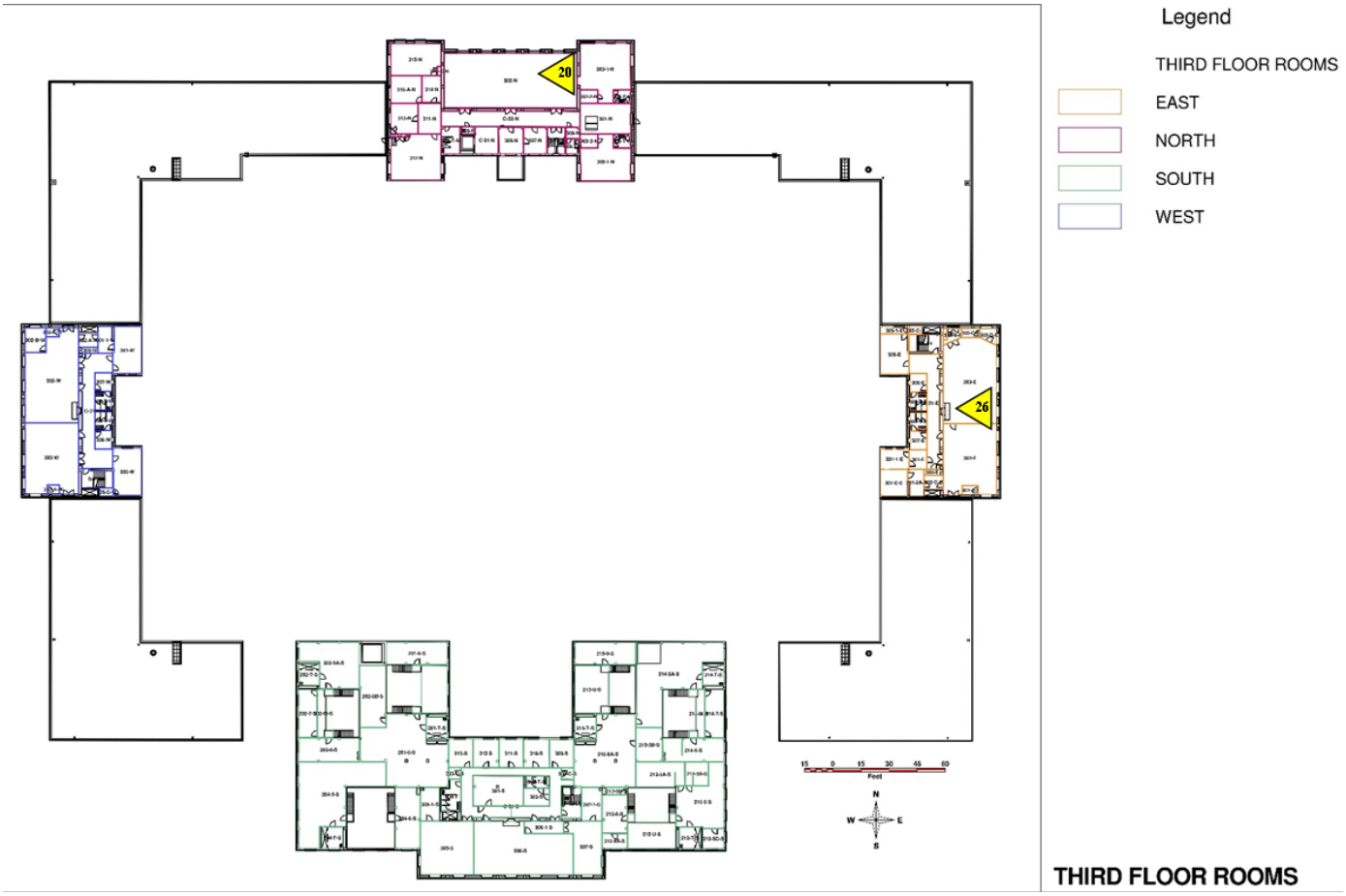
Map 3: Aerial view showing DC National Guard Armory and key to photographs



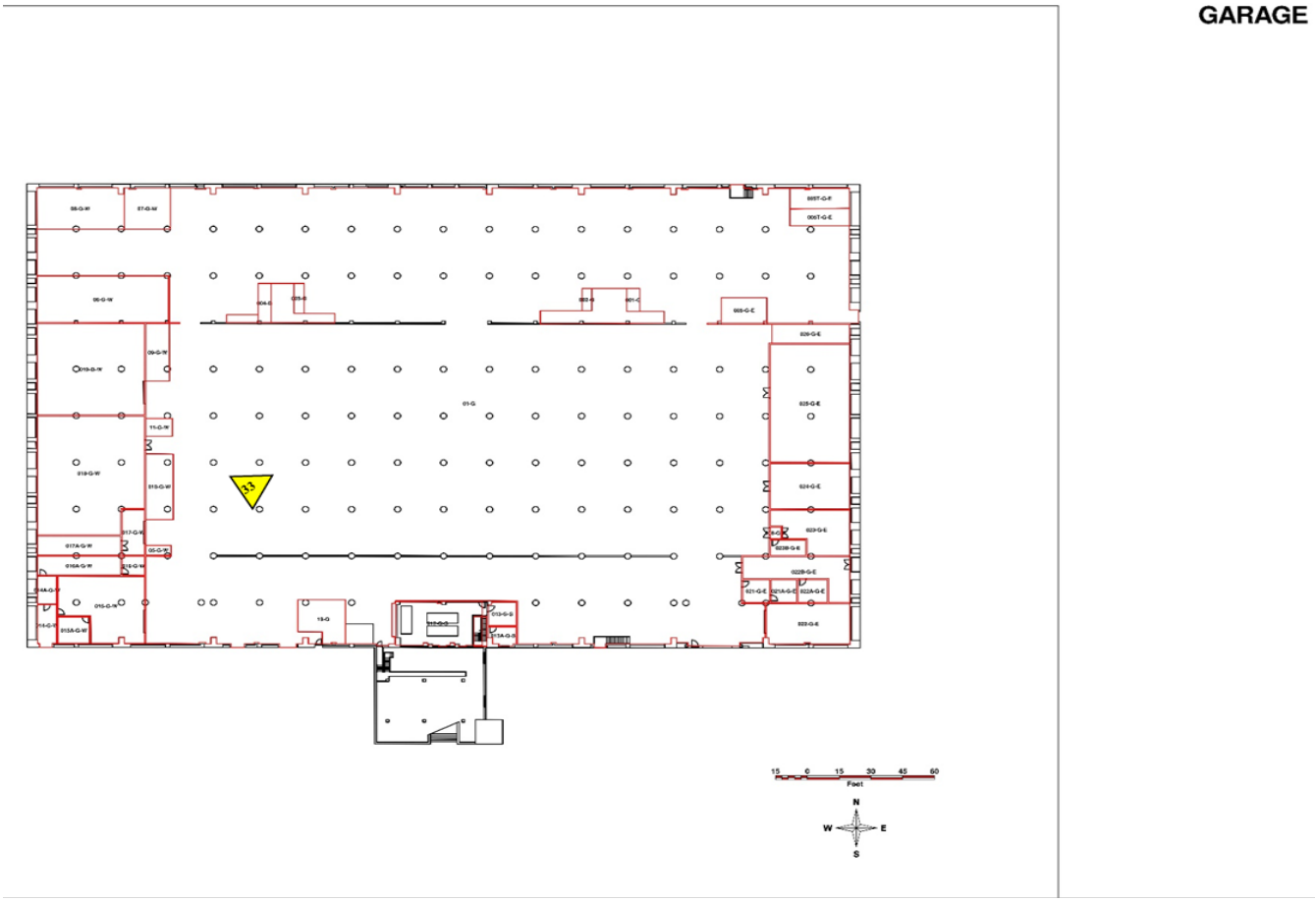
Map 4: Current first floor plan and key to photographs



Map 5: Current second floor plan and key to photographs



Map 6: Current third floor plan and key to photographs



Map 7: Current garage plan and key to photographs

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 100 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.