

STATE OF VERMONT Division for Historic Preservation  VERMONT ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY*  Individual Property Survey Form	SURVEY NUMBER: (Assigned by VDHP)
	Listed in State Register <input type="checkbox"/> Date:
	Determined Eligible for State Register <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Date: 2009
	PRESENT FORMAL NAME: Winooski Armory
	ORIGINAL FORMAL NAME: Winooski Armory
COUNTY: Chittenden	PRESENT USE: Armory
TOWN: Winooski	ORIGINAL USE: Armory
ADDRESS: 255 Lafountain Street	ARCHITECT/ENGINEER: Whittier & Goodrich
COMMON NAME: Winooski Armory	BUILDER/CONTRACTOR:
PROPERTY TYPE: Building	DATE BUILT: 1955
OWNER: Vermont Military Department ADDRESS: Camp Johnson, Colchester	
ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE: Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Poor <input type="checkbox"/>
LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/>	STYLE: American International
GENERAL DESCRIPTION: <b>Structural System:</b> 1. <u>Foundation:</u> Stone <input type="checkbox"/> Brick <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Concrete Block <input type="checkbox"/> 2. <u>Wall Structure</u> a. Wood Frame: Post & Beam <input type="checkbox"/> Plank <input type="checkbox"/> Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Platform <input type="checkbox"/> b. Load Bearing Masonry: Brick <input type="checkbox"/> Stone <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete Block <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> c. Metal: Iron <input type="checkbox"/> Steel <input type="checkbox"/> d. Other: 3. <u>Wall Cladding:</u> Clapboard <input type="checkbox"/> Board & Batten <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle <input type="checkbox"/> Shiplap <input type="checkbox"/> Novelty <input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Shingle <input type="checkbox"/> Aluminum Siding <input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt Shingle <input type="checkbox"/> Vinyl Siding <input type="checkbox"/> Brick Veneer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stone Veneer <input type="checkbox"/> Other: 4. <u>Roof Structure</u> Truss: Wood <input type="checkbox"/> Iron <input type="checkbox"/> Steel <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Concrete <input type="checkbox"/> Other: 5. <u>Roof Covering:</u> Slate <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle <input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt Shingle <input type="checkbox"/> Sheet Metal <input type="checkbox"/> Built Up <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rolled <input type="checkbox"/> Tile <input type="checkbox"/> Standing Seam <input type="checkbox"/> Other: 6. <u>Engineering Structure:</u> 7. Other:	
<b>Appendages:</b> Porches <input type="checkbox"/> Towers <input type="checkbox"/> Cupolas <input type="checkbox"/> Dormers <input type="checkbox"/> Chimneys <input type="checkbox"/> Sheds <input type="checkbox"/> Ells <input type="checkbox"/> Wings <input type="checkbox"/> Bay Window <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	
<b>Roof Styles:</b> Gable <input type="checkbox"/> Hip <input type="checkbox"/> Shed <input type="checkbox"/> Flat <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mansard <input type="checkbox"/> Gambrel <input type="checkbox"/> Jerkinhead <input type="checkbox"/> Saw Tooth <input type="checkbox"/> With Monitor <input type="checkbox"/> With Bellcast <input type="checkbox"/> With Parapet <input type="checkbox"/> With False Front <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	
Number of Stories: 1 Entrance Location: Facing road (south elevation) Number of Bays: 9 x 8 Approximate Dimensions: 100' x 150'	
Criteria for Eligibility: A: Historic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B: Person <input type="checkbox"/> C: Architectural <input type="checkbox"/> D: Archeological <input type="checkbox"/>	
Integrity: Location <input type="checkbox"/> Design <input type="checkbox"/> Setting <input type="checkbox"/> Materials <input type="checkbox"/> Workmanship <input type="checkbox"/> Feeling <input type="checkbox"/> Assoc. <input type="checkbox"/>	
Areas of Significance: Military	

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## ADDITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL OR STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION:

*This 2020 survey form is an update to the 2009 survey form for the same building. In 2017, an addition was constructed at the east elevation. This new form will include a description of the addition, as well as the interior of the armory, which was not included in the original form. The attached 1954 and 2017 architectural drawings show the original design, 2017 demolition plans, and existing conditions of the building. Except for the addition, the exterior of the building has not been modified since 2009.*

This 1955 armory is a one-story, 13,950 square foot, American International Style brick building located at the northwest corner of Lafountain Street and Park Street in a densely-settled residential neighborhood of Winooski. There is a gravel parking area north of the building.

### Exterior

The building faces south toward Lafountain Street and has a modified rectangular footprint that is perpendicular to Lafountain Street. It is comprised of a two-story five bay deep drill hall that is encircled by a deep, one-story projection, except at the north end of the building, where the projection only partly wraps around the north elevation to allow for a large truck bay centered on the drill hall wall. The rectangular footprint is also offset by a small addition that has been constructed at the east elevation. The building sits on a concrete slab on grade, and has cavity walls of concrete block faced with brick veneer, flat roofs on steel trusses, and no architectural ornamentation. The addition has horizontal metal cladding.

The first story of the front (south) elevation has an off-center four-bay wide recess with a right-hand doorway containing double-leaf metal framed glazed doors, and three regularly-spaced horizontal window openings that have been infilled with metal paneling and paired aluminum siding vertical windows. To the right of the recess, there are three regularly-spaced horizontal window openings that have been infilled with metal paneling and square horizontal windows.

The first story of the east elevation has a slightly off-center doorway with a flat-roofed replacement entry porch and a wood door with an upper vertical pane. Just to the left of the door, there is a vertical window of three horizontal panes, and the addition is to the left of the window. It has two small vertical windows at the east elevation, and a door at the north end. The left end of the elevation lacks fenestration. To the right of the entryway, there are three large horizontal window openings that have been infilled with metal paneling and paired aluminum sliding windows, and three small original multi-pane metal horizontal windows. The east elevation of the drill hall clerestory has five regularly-spaced large horizontal window openings that have been infilled with metal paneling and paired aluminum sliding vertical windows.

The first story of the west elevation has six large horizontal window openings infilled with metal paneling (with no windows), and the west elevation of the drill hall clerestory matches that of the east elevation. The first story of the exposed part of the north elevation of the drill hall has a truck bay with a large rolling metal door. To the left of this there is a tall tapering brick chimney. The first story of the projection to the left of the truck bay has a metal door and two small original multi-pane metal-framed horizontal windows. The first story of the

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projection to the right of the truck bay has three small original multi-pane metal horizontal windows.

### Interior

The interior floor plan consists of a large rectangular two-story drill hall (originally called an assembly hall) surrounded by several one-story rooms of various sizes that are accessed from the drill hall. The small lobby is accessed from the recessed front porch and leads directly to the drill hall. There are three small offices at the front of the building, storage and mechanical rooms at the rear and west sides, and men's and women's latrines, a kitchen, and offices at the east side. The 2017 addition contains a female latrine.

The interior has painted concrete block walls, with some wood-framed partition walls and metal cages added to the rooms at the west side. The drill hall has a concrete slab floor and an exposed roof structure of steel deck trusses supporting a corrugated metal roof underlayment. The lobby has ceramic tile flooring, and the doorway to the drill hall contains double-leaf metal doors with small square windows. The storage rooms have concrete slab floors and gypsum-board ceilings, except the rooms at the west side, which have exposed reinforced concrete ceiling beams supporting wood roof decking, and the offices have wall-to-wall carpeting and gypsum board ceilings. The men's latrine has a concrete slab floor, and the original metal stalls, toilets, urinals and sinks. The new women's latrine and ADA toilet room have synthetic tile flooring, gypsum-board partition walls, suspended tile ceilings, and new stalls and fixtures. The kitchen has synthetic tile flooring and replacement wood cabinetry. The interior doorways contain metal doors.

### Construction Chronology

The armory was constructed in 1955, and is mostly intact, with the exception of the replacement of most of the original windows and the construction of the 2017 addition. The first story windows that have been infilled were originally triplets of horizontal panes; the smaller windows had two panes each and the larger windows had three panes each. The windows at the west elevation, which lit an interior firing range, were protected on the interior by double-leaf steel shutters. The drill hall's clerestory windows were originally triplets of four-pane horizontal windows. The window alterations date to 1983 and were undertaken at all of Vermont's Cold War armories in order to improve energy efficiency.

The addition was constructed in 2017 in order to provide the appropriate facilities for female guard members and an ADA-compliant bathroom. The addition caused the removal of two horizontal window openings; as noted in the 2009 survey, one had been previously blocked up on the interior, and the other contained paired two-pane awning windows.

A comparison of the 1954 and 2017 drawings show that the original floor plan is virtually intact. Exceptions include the addition of a few partition walls in the west storage room – originally a firing range, as mentioned above – that stretched from the front of the building to the rear wall of the drill hall, and a partition wall in the original locker room in the southeast corner. Minor alterations to the building's finishes include the replacement of the original "quarry tile" flooring in the lobby and the installation of carpeting over asbestos tile flooring in the original offices west of the lobby.

RELATED RESOURCES: (Describe) n/a

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Winooski Armory is one of sixteen Vermont Army National Guard (VTARNG) armories that were constructed from the early 1950s to the early 1970s as part of a State armory construction program. These armories were built based on three different designs for three different building campaigns. The Ludlow and Winooski armories were constructed first. They were the first armories constructed in Vermont since 1932, and the first armories of the Cold War era. They have almost identical designs that were produced by the architecture firm of Whittier & Goodrich of Burlington. Roland Whittier and Julian Goodrich maintained a partnership from 1947-1954. Other government projects of their design include numerous public schools such as the Montpelier High School and St. Johnsbury Junior High School, and two Burlington fire stations.

The Winooski Armory plans were completed in 1954, and the building was constructed from 1954 to early 1955. The general contractor was Reed & Stone of Essex Junction, who built numerous government and private buildings in the area between the 1940s and 1980s, including other 1950s examples such as the VTARNG armories in Burlington, Williston and Enosburg Falls, the Maintenance Shop at Camp Johnson (VTARNG headquarters), and the Winooski High School.

According to a February 1955 article in the *Burlington Free Press*, which reported on the dedication ceremony of the armory, the armory contained “an orderly room for each of the two units stationed there, an office for the commanding officer of each unit, two security rooms for the storage of security items, and four-point rifle range which can be partitioned off for classrooms.” The armory has been used for non-tactical formation training, classroom training, supply storage, and administration. The building housed two units; the Headquarters Battery, 206<sup>th</sup>, Field Artillery Battalion, and Service Company, 172<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment. Today, it houses Charlie Company, a medical unit; and the 186<sup>th</sup> Brigade Support Battalion, 86<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade Combat Team, a mountain unit. The armory has also served the public as a location for community meetings and town voting, as well as trainings and trade fairs.

The Winooski armory helps depict the history of the Vermont Army National Guard, as well as Vermont's Cold War history, a time when the United States military was reorganized due to the perception of an imminent attack by the U.S.S.R. The Cold War was the first period in American history that the Federal government provided financial assistance to state armories, and the construction of this armory was part of the third building boom of armory construction in U.S. history, which followed the end of the Korean War in 1953. The severe modern appearance is typical of 1950s armories, not just in Vermont, but throughout the United States. The Federal funding was accompanied by Federal design guidelines for National Guard armories.

The Vermont Division for Historic Preservation determined that the sixteen Cold War era armories that were documented in 2009 are individually eligible for the State and National Registers of Historic Places. They are eligible under Criterion A as they contribute to the military history of Vermont. They are excellent examples of the American International style, which is uncommon in Vermont, and retain much of their historic integrity. However, due to the alteration of the original window openings and the loss of the original large multi-pane

windows, one of the most important features of the building, the building has lost architectural significance, and does not qualify for Criterion C. The Winooski Armory's significance remains as described in the original survey. The 2017 addition was reviewed by the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation and was found to have no adverse effect on the historic significance of the building.

**REFERENCE CITATIONS:**

*Biennial Report of the Adjutant, Inspector, and Quartermaster General of the State of Vermont for the Two Years from 1 January 1955 to 31 December 1956.*

*Burlington Daily News.* February 10, 1955.

*Burlington Free Press.* June 19, 1954.

Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company, et al. "Final Army Historic Context, Army National Guard, National Guard Bureau," June 2008.

Doane, John Q., Architect. Architectural Drawings for Winooski Armory, Women's Latrine Addition. 2017.

*Military Department, State of Vermont, Biennial Report,* 1 July 1982 to 30 June 1984.

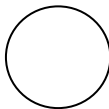
*Newport Daily Express.* August 9, 1954.

The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. "Historic Inventory Survey of Army Reserve Facilities Throughout New England." 1995.

*Vermont Sunday News.* July 25, 1954.

Whittier & Goodrich, Architects. Blueprints for the Winooski Armory. Burlington, VT: 1954.

MAP: (Indicate North in Circle)  
See attached



**SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:**

- Open  Woodland
- Scattered Buildings
- Moderately Built Up
- Densely Built Up
- Residential  Commercial
- Agricultural  Industrial
- Roadside Strip Development
- Other:

RECORDED BY: Paula Sagerman

ORGANIZATION: Consultant to Vermont Military Department

DATE RECORDED: December 11, 2020



Section of Vermont Natural Resources Atlas Town Parcel Map.  
Star indicates location of Winooski Armory.

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*Photos taken in October 2020 unless otherwise noted*



1. Facing west on LaFountain St. Armory on right.



2. Facing northwest toward front/south elevation

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3. Facing north toward front/south elevation



4. Facing northwest toward south and east elevations

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5. Facing northwest toward south and east elevations



6. Facing west toward east elevation

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7. Facing northeast toward west and front/south elevations



8. Facing northeast toward porch at front/south elevation

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9. Facing north toward front entryway



10. Facing west toward front porch

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11. Facing west toward east elevation



12. Facing southwest toward east and rear/north elevations

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13. Facing southwest toward addition and east elevation



14. Facing west toward original windows at east elevation

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15. Facing south toward rear/north elevation



16. Facing southeast toward rear/north and east elevations

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17. Facing southeast toward rear/north and east elevations



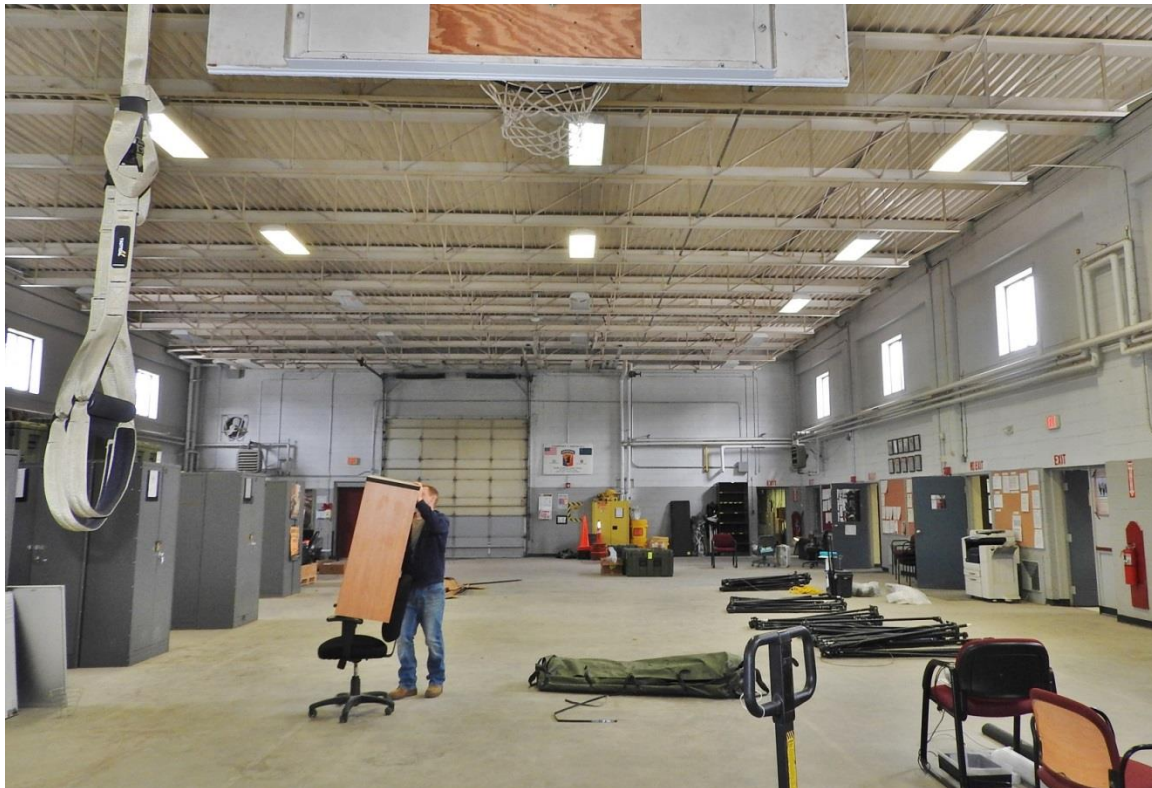
18. Facing south in lobby

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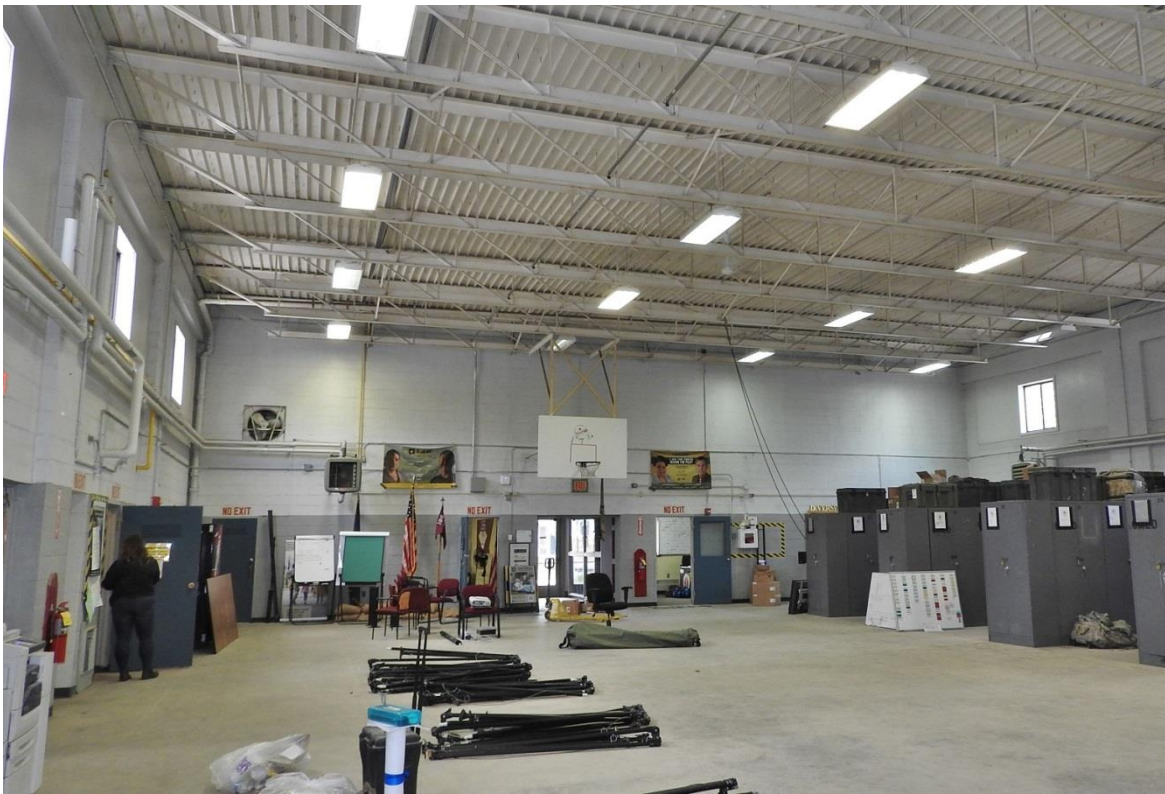
19. Facing north in lobby



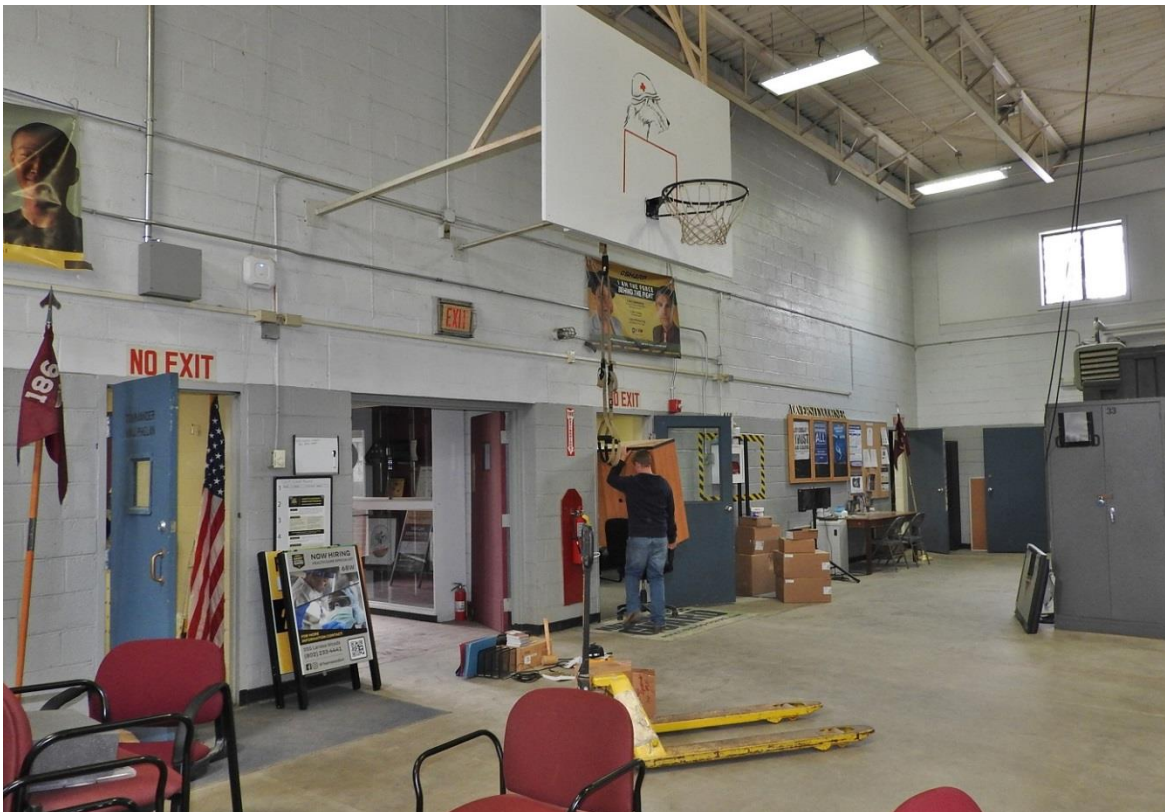
20. Facing north in drill hall

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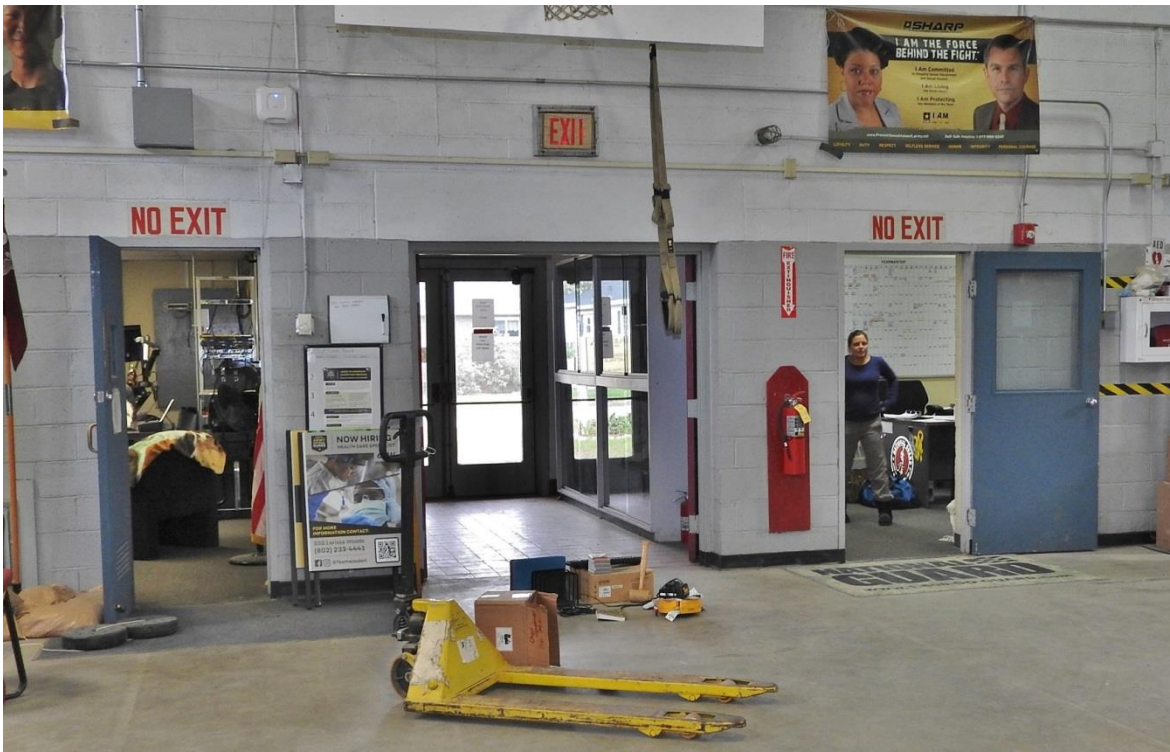
21. Facing south in drill hall



22. Facing southwest in drill hall

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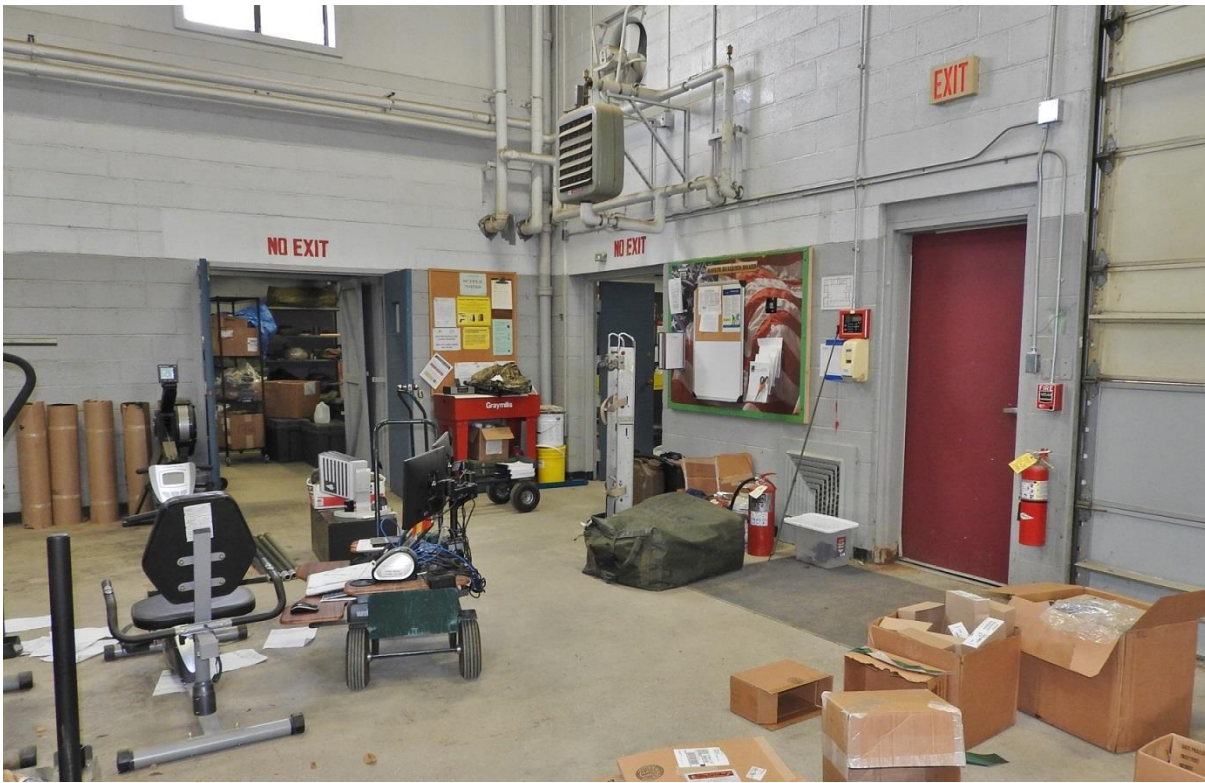
23. Facing south from drill hall toward lobby



24. Facing northeast in drill hall

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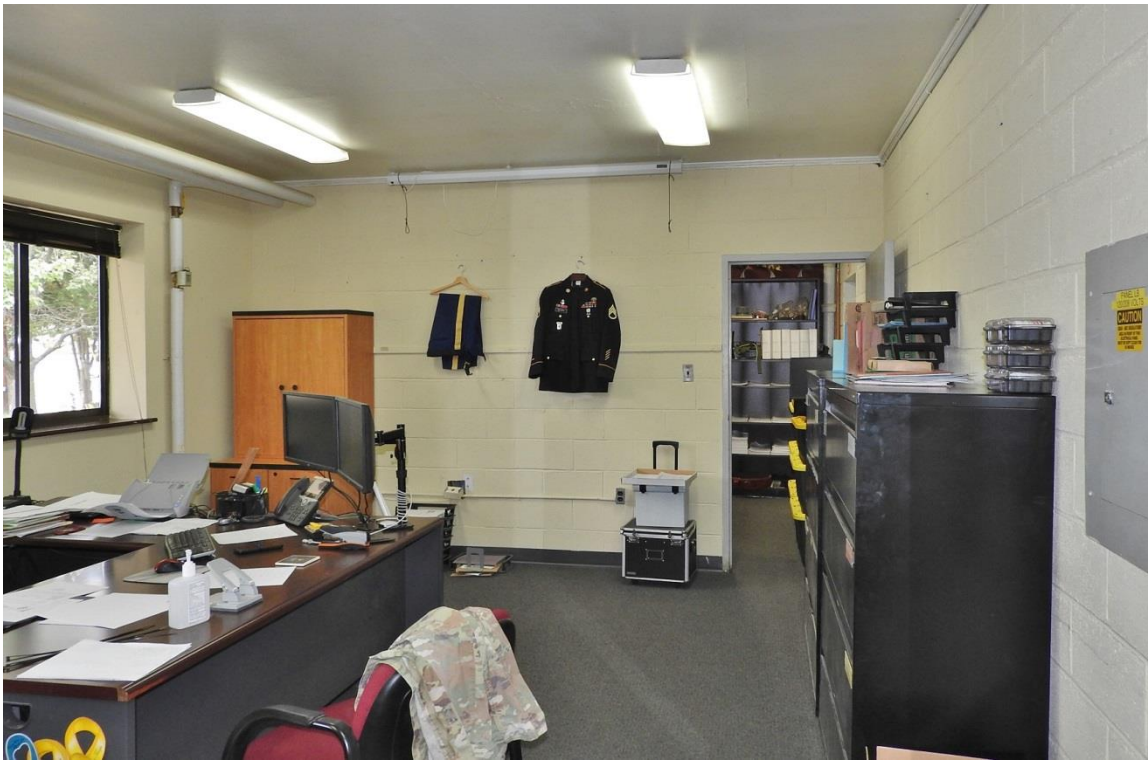
25. Facing northwest in drill hall



26. Detail of drill hall roof structure

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27. Facing west in office west of lobby

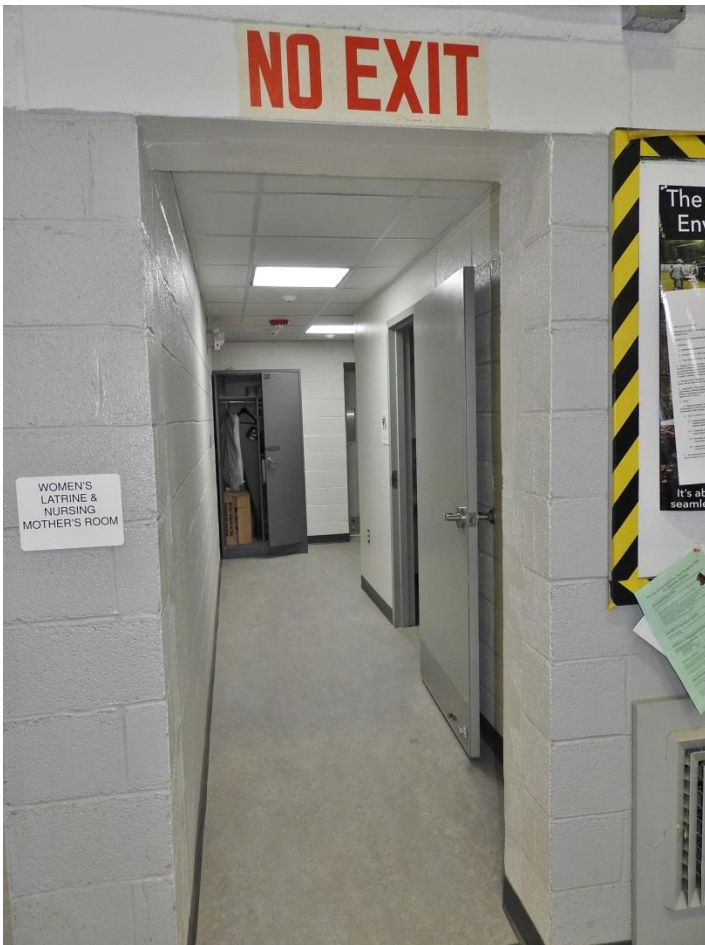


28. Facing east in men's latrine

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29. Facing north in men's latrine



30. Facing east toward hall to women's latrine

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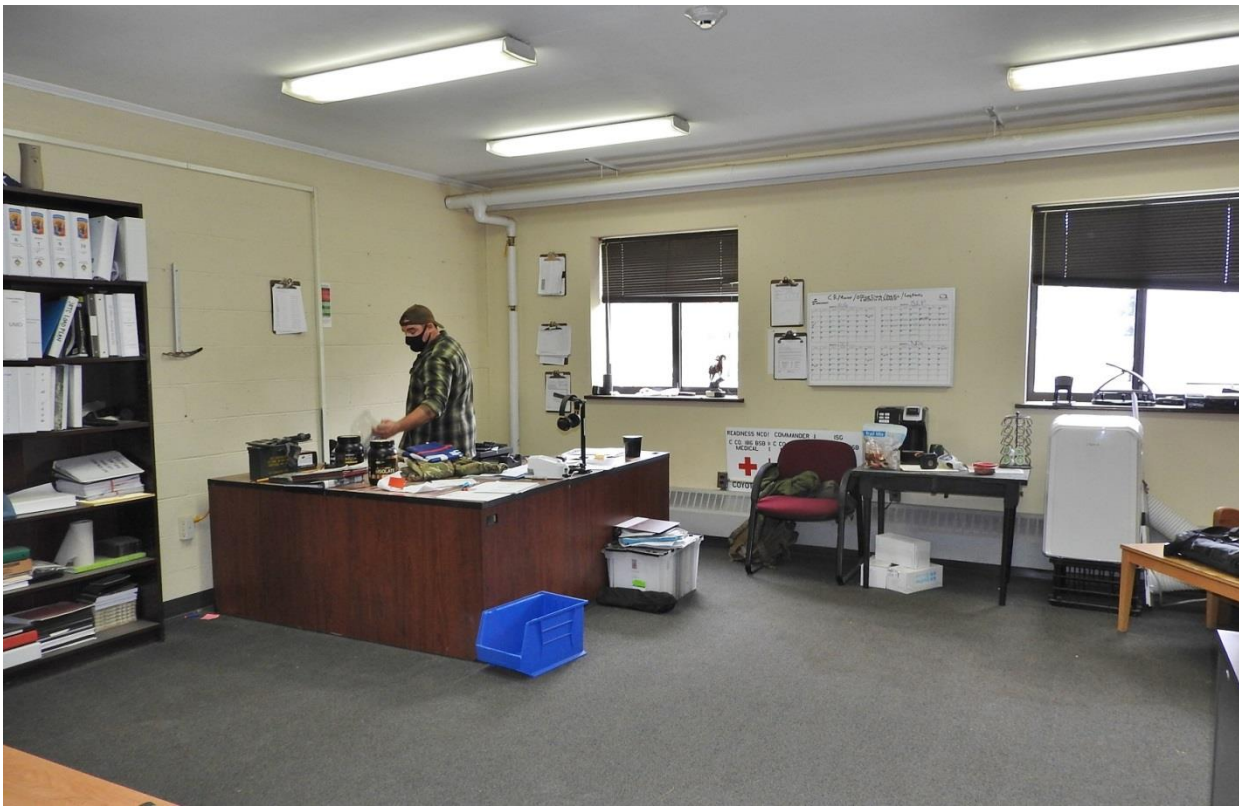


31. Facing south in women's lavrine



32. Facing east in kitchen

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33. Facing northeast in administrative office on east side of building



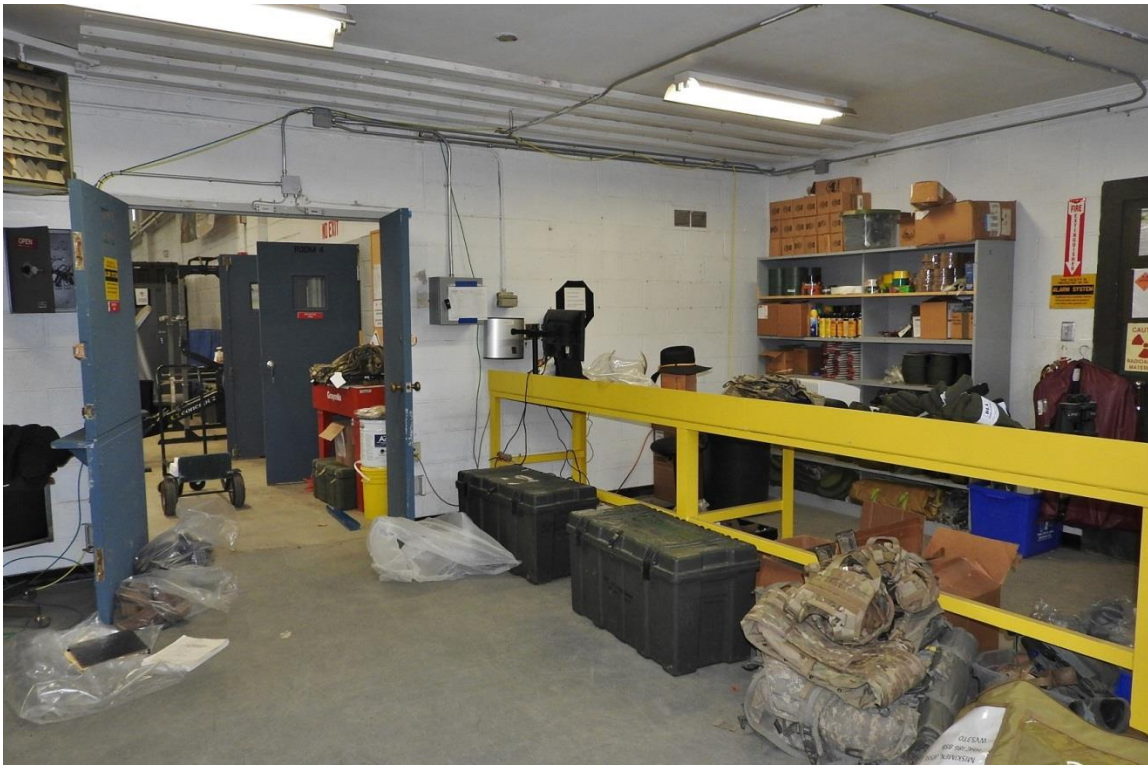
34. Facing northeast in medical logistics room on east side of building

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35. Original window at east elevation



36. Facing southwest in supply storage room at northwest corner of building

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37. Facing west at north end of west storage room



38. Facing south in west storage room

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39. Facing southeast in west storage room



40. Facing northwest toward front/south and east elevations, 2009.

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41. Facing northwest toward east elevation, 2009



42. Facing southwest toward east and rear/north elevations, 2009

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