



Building 375  
HA-2184  
Aberdeen Proving Ground, Aberdeen Area  
1934  
Public-Restricted

Building 375 was built in 1934 on Lanyard Road as part of the Main Front weapons testing area in the Aberdeen Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground. The Main Front weapons testing area provided storage and preparation facilities for the weapons testing program at APG. Two rows of low, one-story brick warehouses are aligned along an east-west axis and comprise the storage and preparation facilities.

The Main Front Historic District is significant on a national level for its role in the testing and development of munitions and weapons from 1918 to 1945 (Criterion A). In addition, the Main Front was the site of significant contributions to weapons research and development during World War II.

The Main Front Historic District embodies the characteristics of a unique group of functional building types. Their specialized design and use reflects their association with weapons testing, research, and development activities from 1918 to 1945 (Criterion C). These built resources are related directly to a specialized activity that represents the primary mission of APG. The district retains its overall character-defining components and possesses sufficient integrity of design, materials, workmanship, association, and feeling to convey its historic significance.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HA-2184

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Building 375 (preferred)  
 other N/A

### 2. Location

street and number 375 Lanyard Road N/A not for publication  
 city, town Aberdeen Proving Ground, Aberdeen Area N/A vicinity  
 county Harford

### 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name U.S. Army Garrison Aberdeen Proving Ground  
 street and number 2201 Aberdeen Boulevard telephone 410-278-6756  
 city, town Aberdeen Proving Ground state Maryland zip code 21005

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Harford County Courthouse, Land Records liber folio  
 city, town Bel Air tax map tax parcel tax ID number

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
- Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Recorded by HABS/HAER
- Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
				<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b>	
				<u>N/A</u>	

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## 7. Description

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Inventory No. HA-2184

### Condition

excellent       deteriorated  
 good             ruins  
 fair               altered

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Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Building 375 was built in 1934 on Lanyard Road as part of the Main Front weapons testing area in the Aberdeen Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground. The Main Front weapons testing area provided storage and preparation facilities for the weapons testing program at APG. The Main Front is clearly defined by its linear arrangement of built resources and roadways. Two rows of low, one-story brick warehouses are aligned along an east-west axis. The development pattern was influenced by the siting of the testing range, which was used for all varieties of weapons testing. The Main Front embodies the characteristics of a unique group of functional building types. Their specialized design and use reflects their association with weapons testing, research, and development activities from 1918-1945.

Building 375, a building square in plan, measures 8'x8'; the interior storage space within the building measures 49 square feet. The foundation and the floor of the building are made of reinforced concrete. The walls are brick and laid in a common bond pattern. The roof is flat with a 15° pitch and is sheathed in 16 ounce copper; original blue prints indicate that rigid asbestos board was used as a substrate for the roof.

Other features attached to Building 375 include a copper downspout and gutter on the rear or south side of the building, a single entry with a protective armored door on the front or north side of the building, and a copper lightning rod and grounding system affixed to the ridge of the roof with a copper conductor line affixed to the front of the building to the right of the entry door.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. HA-2184

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

**Specific dates** 1918-1945 **Architect/Builder** Quartermaster Corps

**Construction dates** 1934

Evaluation for:

National Register  Maryland Register  not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

### Summary

Building 375 is a contributing element to the Main Front Historic District, which is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Building 375 possesses integrity of setting, feeling, and/or association to convey its association with the Interwar period of weapons testing at APG; it qualifies for NRHP significance under Criterion A. This structure retains significance for its specialized design under NRHP Criterion C.

### World War I and the Establishment of Aberdeen Proving Ground

The Army established Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) in 1917 to meet the expanding needs of its weapons testing program. The large expanse of open land on the peninsula of Bush Neck, combined with accessible transportation networks, fulfilled the requirements for a large-scale ordnance testing facility.

Work at the new facility included both acceptance testing, which test manufacturers' products before use by Army personnel, and experimental testing of new designs before quantity production was initiated. Ordnance fire was directed towards open impact areas located on Bush Neck. The early phased construction at APG was initiated in October 1917 and was supervised by the Ordnance Department. The east-west axial layout of the Main Front was established at this time. This arrangement forms a buffer between the open firing ranges to the immediate south and the operations and administrative core located to the north. The majority of the World War I facilities were built as temporary structures and comprised test facilities and warehouses to support firing operations.

Buildings within the Main Front survive primarily from the installation's permanent construction program undertaken during the 1930's and 1940's. The majority of World War I structures were replaced during the 1930's building campaign; the initial development established the linear plan that was maintained during these later building campaigns. The majority of the extant buildings within the Main Front were constructed during the inter-war permanent construction campaign. Eighteen buildings survive from this period, including Building 375. Many of these brick structures replaced wood-frame temporary facilities constructed during World War I. Most of these buildings were not built according to standardized plans because of their specialized functions; however, in the 1930's, the Quartermaster Corps designed a group of storage magazines and ordnance facilities for APG. These storage magazines, Buildings 375, 376, and 377, were constructed in 1934 and are located at the eastern end of the Main Front.

Building 375, originally built as a Ready Magazine, was first used for black powder storage. Ready Magazines are used for the storage of limited amounts of boxed and belted small arms ammunition, pyrotechnics, and similar fire-hazard materials. Items stored in Ready Magazines are stored on a temporary basis while awaiting transfer to individual units for use during live-fire exercises. In 1986, the use of Building 375 changed from a Ready Magazine to an Ammunition Storehouse, which is used for the storage of non-explosive

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Inventory No. HA-2184

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 0.001  
Acreage of historical setting 21.27  
Quadrangle name Spesutie

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Building 375 is situated on Lanyard Road approximately one-quarter mile northwest from the intersection of Lanyard Road and Mulberry Point Road. Building 375 is bounded on the northeast by Lanyard Road, on the southeast by Building 376, on the southwest by an unnamed service road, and on the northwest by Building 374.

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## 11. Form Prepared by

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name/title	Tracy Dunne Wieczorek / Allison C. O'Brien		
organization	MCFA, LLC / Lexatech Environmental Solutions	date	27 July 2007
street & number	Building E5771	telephone	410-436-7397
city or town	Aberdeen Proving Ground	state	Maryland

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Maryland Department of Planning  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600

# Maryland Historical Trust

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ammunition-related components, such as machine gun links, empty cartridge cases, and packing materials. In 1987, the building use changed to General Purpose Storage and, in 2001, the building was emptied of its contents and vacated.

The Main Front Historic District is significant on a national level for its role in the testing and development of munitions and weapons from 1918 to 1945 (Criterion A). In addition, the Main Front was the site of significant contributions to weapons research and development during World War II. From its establishment in 1917, APG was designated the Army's principal weapons testing and evaluation center. APG has continued in its role of premier ordnance research, testing, and development center within Army operations. The Main Front was designed to fulfill the proving ground's primary mission of performing development and post product testing activities for a multitude of munitions and weapons systems through World War II.

The Main Front Historic District embodies the characteristics of a unique group of functional building types. Their specialized design and use reflects their association with weapons testing, research, and development activities from 1918 to 1945 (Criterion C). These built resources are related directly to a specialized activity that represents the primary mission of APG. Designed as part of the Army's permanent construction campaign, these built resources illustrate the evolution of weapons testing operations at APG. Since the Main Front continues in its role as the primary research and testing center the building have undergone minimal alterations to their original design. The district retains its overall character-defining components and possesses sufficient integrity of design, materials, workmanship, association, and feeling to convey its historic significance.

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Green, Constance McLaughlin, Harry C. Thomson, and Peter C. Roots. *The Ordnance Department: Planning Munitions for War*. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.

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Thomson, Harry C. and Lida Mayo. *The Ordnance Department Procurement and Supply*. U.S. Department of the Army, Office of Military History, Washington, D.C., 1960.

76°07'30"  
°30'

404000m.E

405

406

HA-2184  
BUILDING 375, Main Front Historic District  
Aberdeen Proving Ground  
Harford  
Spesutie Quadrangle

N

1000m.N.

Swan Creek Point

SWAN CREEK

Plum Point

4371

Light

MIL RES (APPROX)

Course

Water tower

4370

Beacon

Woodpecker Point

Sewage disposal plant

Stack

Auto test course

Neds Island

4369

ABERDEEN

PROVING

Abandoned airport

Gas tank

Brier Point

NARROWS

UTIE

1°30"

Woodrest Creek

