

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes
no

Property Name: Ellicott City Army National Guard Armory Inventory Number: HO-1128
 Address: 4244 Montgomery Road (MD 103) AKA BG Thomas B. Baker Readiness Center Historic district: yes no
 City: Ellicott City Zip Code: 21043 County: Howard
 USGS Quadrangle(s): Ellicott City
 Property Owner: State of Maryland, Military Department Tax Account ID Number: 1402256770
 Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 312 Tax Map Number: 24
 Project: MD 103 Widening Agency: MD State Highway Administration
 Agency Prepared By: MD SHA
 Preparer's Name: Jon Schmidt, Consultant for Date Prepared: 09/04/2013
 Documentation is presented in: DOE Form
 Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: Eligibility recommended Eligibility not recommended
 Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G
 Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:
 Name of the District/Property: _____
 Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: yes no Listed: yes no
 Site visit by MHT Staff yes no Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

The Ellicott City National Guard Armory, also known as the Brigadier General Thomas B. Baker Readiness Center, is located at 4244 Montgomery Road in Ellicott City, Howard County. The armory is home to a unit of the 58th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, headquartered in Towson, Baltimore County. Completed in 1953, the Armory was designed by Laurence Purdy Sangston and built by the W.H. Ward construction company. Sangston was principal architect of the State of Maryland's Department of Public Improvement from 1948 to c. 1971. A five-bay garage addition was constructed at the rear of the armory during 1954 and 1955.

The two-story building exhibits some elements of the Art Deco style and is influenced by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) designs for institutional buildings. Sangston worked with the WPA earlier in his career. The building is a variant of Sangston's standard design for nine National Guard Armories that were built in Maryland between 1949 and 1955.

The armory is on the south side of Montgomery Road (MD 103), a location strategically selected because it adjoins Columbia Pike (US 29). Oriented toward the north, the armory is situated near the northern end of a rectangular 6.17 acre parcel. The lot is primarily flat with a neatly manicured lawn in front. A row of pin oak trees runs along the property boundary adjacent to

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW
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 Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services: *Jim Tealman* Date: 10/10/13
 Reviewer, National Register Program: *[Signature]* Date: 10/10/13

Montgomery Road. Ginkgo trees line the front of the armory, with a Sweet Gum tree planted at either end. Behind the armory, a large paved lot for vehicle and equipment storage is enclosed by a chain-link fence fitted with barbed wire at the top. The property is accessed via a paved drive lined with London Plane trees at the eastern end of the parcel. A second entry at the western end of the parcel leads to a rectangular parking area northwest of the armory. The historic boundary consists of the entire 6.17 acre tax parcel number 312 as depicted on the 2012 Tax Map 24 for Howard County.

The armory is a rectangular two-story, 11-bay, masonry building constructed of reinforced concrete and steel faced with red brick laid in seven-course common bond. The façade is framed by a limestone-panel cornice along the roof parapet and a concrete-panel water table. The concrete was likely employed as a money saving element. The outside bays project eight inches forward from the rest of the façade. The primary entry is situated at center, marked by a paneled surround that projects forward from the façade and extends vertically above the second story of the building. The majority of the paneling is composed of limestone, but off-coloring distinctly identifies the bottom row as concrete. The actual entrance is a pair of simple, flat-panel wood doors. The frieze above the door features a relief of 15 arrows pointing down. The words "Maryland National Guard BG Thomas B. Baker Armory" are fixed at the top of the entry. Flagstaffs project from either side of the door bear the American and Maryland flags. Fenestration is regular and symmetrical and consists of replacement, paired one-over-one metal sash windows throughout with a ribbon of three one-over-one metal sash above the central entry. Each window is adorned with a projecting concrete sill. The original windows were replaced between 2006 and 2007, funded by a \$100,000 appropriation from the Maryland General Assembly.

The twelve-bay, west elevation is composed of three parts: the ten-bay original structure, a one-bay section of the garage addition and a one-bay addition to the garage at the southern end. Identical to the façade, the red-brick elevation features a concrete-panel water table and limestone-panel cornice. There are two entries in the eighth bay – a flat panel metal door at the first story and a two-light glass and metal door fitted with one-light sidelights at the second story. The second story door is adorned with a brick lintel and accessed via a brick and sandstone staircase that runs along the elevation. Fenestration is regular and symmetrical and consists of replacement paired one-over-one metal sash. Several first story windows have been replaced by high-efficiency air conditioning units installed in 2006 or 2007. The offset, one-bay section of the garage is noteworthy for the absence of a concrete water table. Otherwise, the elevation is similar to the main block of the building, featuring a set of paired one-over-one metal sash windows and a limestone cornice. A small, one-bay, one-story addition with a flat roof projects forward from the southern end of the garage. The west elevation is composed of red brick laid in seven course common bond and features a parapet wall capped with a concrete cornice.

The six-bay, east elevation is composed of three parts: the five-bay garage addition, the one-bay addition to the garage and the one-bay section of the main building behind it. There are two pedestrian entrances in the south elevation: a pair of two-panel metal doors recessed within the south elevation of the main building and a flat-panel metal door on the addition to the garage. The other entrances on the elevation are five vehicle service bays in the garage section. Each service bay contains a steel roll-up door fitted with six glass lights. The only other fenestration on the elevation is a fixed, one-light metal window fitted with interior security bars on the addition to the garage.

The eight-bay, south elevation is composed of two parts: the five-bay main block and three-bay garage addition. The primary entrance at the center of the elevation is a roll-up metal door that provides access to the drill hall. The entry is set within a large limestone-paneled surround that projects forward from the elevation and is similar in appearance to the armory's main entrance. The frieze above the door is adorned with a relief of fifteen arrows pointing down, above which "M.N.G." is carved into the limestone. There are two additional entries on the elevation: a two-panel metal door to the south of the main entry and a pair of six light over louvered-panel metal doors in the northern bay. Fenestration is irregular and asymmetrical and consists of replacement one-light fixed and paired one-over-one metal sash windows. The gambrel roof above the drill hall rises above the flat roof atop the administrative and garage portions of the armory.

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Non Contributing Buildings

A one-story, gable-front, standing seam metal storage building is situated southwest of the armory. The generic building appears in aerial photographs as early as 1993 and was likely constructed around that time.

Context

Maryland Army National Guard

The National Guard is a volunteer military organization active in each state in the nation. Individual units can be mobilized by the state or federal government. The Militia Act of 1792 stated that all men between the ages of 18 and 45 were part of the nation's second line of defense. The Maryland Army National Guard dates to 1634 and two militia captains in St. Mary's City. They fought as the Maryland Militia in the Battle of Long Island in 1776, defended the city of Baltimore during the World of 1812 and participated in the Mexican-American and American Civil Wars. After the Civil War, the National Guard Association modernized state militias into National Guard units.(1) In 1903 the Dick Act standardized the organization, structure, armaments and discipline across all National Guard units and allowed for direct integration with the US Army.(2) The National Defense Act of 1916 increased funding to implement federal standards for training, officers, and instructors.(3) During World War I, the Maryland National Guard fought as part of the 29th Infantry Division in France. In World War II, Maryland National Guard Troops participated in the D-Day landings at Omaha Beach and fought across northern France and into Germany.(4) In 2005, the 58th Infantry Brigade was deployed to the American Gulf Coast as part of the humanitarian relief effort following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. In 2007, troops were deployed to Iraq as part of the Global War on Terror. Members of this unit also served in Afghanistan and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. This was the brigade's largest combat deployment since World War II.(5)

Maryland National Guard Armories

The 1950 edition of the Maryland Manual listed 22 state-owned National Guard armories, including the 5th Regiment Armory in Baltimore City.(6) In that year, of the state's 23 counties only Calvert, Charles, Garrett, Howard, and St. Mary's counties did not have a permanent National Guard installation. At the same time, each of the three most populous counties – Baltimore, Prince George's and Montgomery – had two armories. During the military reorganization following World War II the Maryland Military Department embarked on a concerted effort to construct new facilities, replace outdated ones and maintain a National Guard presence in every county seat in the state. The goal of this reorganization was to enhance military preparedness and prepare for the national security concerns of the nuclear age.

In 1947, the Maryland General Assembly passed a \$560,000 bond act – called the Armory Loan – for the construction of nine new armories and alterations to five more.(7) New armories were to be constructed in Oakland, Frostburg, Ellicott City, Greenbelt, La Plata, Leonardtown, Prince Frederick, Catonsville, and Glen Burnie with additions to be made to existing facilities in Towson, Silver Spring, Hyattsville, Cumberland and Hagerstown. Matching federal funds were made available by the National Defense Facilities Act of 1949.(8) Even so, the funding was insufficient for the needs of the construction program, and the Armory Loan was amended to allocate funding for the construction of the five highest priority armories: Oakland, Frostburg, Ellicott City, Greenbelt and La Plata.(9) Construction of the Leonardtown, Prince Frederick, Catonsville and Glen Burnie armories was funded separately.

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All nine armories were designed by Maryland Department of Public Improvements Architect Laurence Sangston. While similar in design and appearance, none of the armories are identical. Each design was tailored to the spatial and military needs of the regiment, brigade or battalion. The main block of each armory has a central lobby area with the remainder divided between administrative, educational and recreational spaces. A first floor lounge area in each armory is outfitted with wood paneling and a stone fireplace. Opposite the lounge are the recruiting and administrative offices and small classrooms. The second story space of each armory is divided differently, but generally contains a training room, the commander's office, additional classrooms, and offices. The largest room at all of Sangston's post-World War II armories is the drill hall. In some facilities the hall easily outsizes the administrative space. This may reflect a mid-century emphasis on fitness in the life of a National Guard soldier. Incorporated into the building plan behind the main block, the hall is used for drill, exercise, staging, storage, meetings, and – in peace time – community events. The armories also include additional amenities such as rifle ranges, supply offices, kitchen facilities or warehouses as warranted.

Sangston's mid-century armories were a design departure from the state's existing National Guard facilities at that time, which were constructed during the first three decades of the twentieth century. The state's earliest armories in Baltimore (1901) and Pikesville (1903) were individual medieval-fortress-type designs by the architectural firm Wyatt and Nolting.(10) These armories served as the state's only National Guard facilities until the onset of World War I, when a series of nearly identical armories were built. The armories in Frederick (1913), Bel Air (1915), Elkton (1915), Hyattsville (1918), Westminster (1918), Centreville (1926), Hagerstown (1926), Crisfield (1927), Easton (1927), Kensington (1927) were all designed as T-shaped, castellated fortresses.

The persistence of the fortress design in Maryland appears to have been a local anomaly. Robert M. Fogelson writes in "America's Armories: Architecture, Society and Public Order" that the medieval fortress armory design had fallen out of favor nationally by the first decade of twentieth century.(11) In much of the nation, medieval designs gave way to neoclassical armories between 1910 and 1930.(12) Nonetheless, Maryland's fiduciary responsibility to the public and conservative architectural tastes resulted in 10 castellated armories constructed between 1913 and 1927. It was not until the Chestertown Armory was constructed in 1931 that the basic design evolved. While the Chestertown Armory still resembles a fortress, its design employs the smooth surfaces and vertical emphasis of Art Deco. Absent are the imposing crenellated towers and heavy masonry of the earlier armories. Two years later, the Towson Armory (1933) was built with a unique design that further blurred the line between fortress architecture and Art Deco.

Laurence Sangston's first realized design for the Maryland National Guard was for the Denton Armory, completed in 1938. The last armory built in Maryland prior to America's involvement in World War II, Sangston's design stands apart from the earlier T-shaped armories as well as the Chestertown and Towson armories. The armory features a central two-story administrative section flanked by one-story wings with a one-story drill hall running adjacent to the rear of the building, rather than extending linearly. The Denton Armory's design incorporates such Gothic Revival elements as a lancet arched entry, brick buttresses, and multi-paned casement windows. Elements of design such as a projecting central entry, a water table at the base of the building, and the drill hall incorporated as part of the building are also found in Sangston's mid-century armories.

By the time he was named Principal Architect of the Maryland Department of Public Improvements in 1948, Sangston had been a practicing architect for 24 years. Born October 19, 1902 in New York City, he attended Columbia University, the Otis Art Institute and Johns Hopkins University.(13) After short stints working for the firms Sugarman and Berger (1924-25), Pennington and Lewis (1926), and W.L. Stoddard (1927), Sangston opened his own eponymous firm in 1927. A biography submitted to the American Architects Directory in 1960, lists among his principal works the Sea Island (Georgia) Company Casino and Pool (1928), the Sea Island Company Administration Building and Game Hunting Lodges (1929), and the Princess Anne College Waters Dining Hall (1950).(14) Sangston's most noteworthy contributions to architecture, however, are military in nature. In

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addition to the mid-century armories and the Denton Armory, in 1941 Sangston worked with the WPA to design the Maryland Air National Guard Hanger in Baltimore. (15)

Aside from being an architect, Sangston also served in the Maryland National Guard and the US Army.(16) He entered the Maryland National Guard in 1934 as a 2nd Lieutenant and served until 1941, rising to the rank of Captain. In that year he entered the US Army Reserves, retaining his rank as a Captain. After Pearl Harbor, Governor Herbert O'Connor appointed Major Sangston the inspector of military equipment and facilities. At the conclusion of his active duty service in 1947, Sangston continued to serve in the reserves through the 1950s, retiring as a Colonel.

Sangston also maintained a membership in the American Institute of Architects (AIA) from 1947 through 1960. He left the professional organization to join the fledgling Society of American Registered Architects (SARA), founded in 1956. At the time more cosmopolitan than the AIA, SARA welcomed all professional architects as members. Sangston was admitted to the organization as a fellow, meaning he was recognized for "outstanding ability, performance and distinguished dedication to the profession of architecture and to the Society."(17) He was elected Second Vice President of the national organization in 1960. Sangston was also a member of the Maryland Society, Sons of the American Revolution where he served as president from 1960 to 1962.(18) He is credited with establishing the society's color guard in 1962. In 1982 Sangston endowed a scholarship in his name at the University of Maryland. The scholarship is awarded annually to one or more students in good standing in the Architecture Program pursuing a certificate in Historic Preservation and shares the donor's lifelong interest in Georgian and Colonial Revival architecture.(19) Sangston died in 1987.

Out of the ten armories that Sangston is credited with designing, only six remain in service to the Maryland National Guard - Catonsville, Ellicott City, Glen Burnie, Greenbelt (P.G.:67-36), La Plata (CH-548), and Prince Frederick (CT-801). Ellicott City was the third constructed under the 1947 Armory Loan. The first two armories built were in Oakland and Frostburg. Both of those facilities are now owned by local governments and operate as community centers. The Denton Armory is also a community center. Therefore, the Ellicott City Armory is the oldest Sangston designed armory remaining in service to the Maryland National Guard.

On May 16, 1999, the Ellicott City Armory was renamed in honor of Brigadier General Thomas Benton Baker, who served as Assistant Adjutant General of the Maryland Army National Guard from 1989 until his retirement in 1997.(20) Baker was appointed to the National Guard's highest position by Maryland Governor William Donald Schaefer. He began his 40-year military career as a private in 1957 and was commissioned a second lieutenant after graduating from officer candidate school in 1960. He transferred from the US Army to the Maryland Army National Guard in 1976. A member of the Boy Scout Council of Maryland and the World War II Memorial Commission, Baker died Thursday September 12, 1998.

Evaluation

The Ellicott City Armory is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criterion A for its association with the reorganization of military priorities at the beginning of the Cold War. Research shows that the Ellicott City Armory was constructed as part of a statewide and nationwide effort to upgrade old and construct new military facilities. The goal of this campaign was to improve national security and enhance military preparedness. Through the Armory Loan of 1947, the Maryland National Guard financed the construction of nine new armories across the state between 1948 and 1955. These facilities were all based upon a design by Department of Public Improvements Principal Architect Laurence Prudy Sangston. The third armory constructed as part of this building campaign, the Ellicott City Armory is the Maryland National Guard's first permanent facility in Howard County. The armory's location at the intersection of Montgomery Road (MD 103) and Columbia Pike (US 29) was

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strategically selected for its proximity to major transportation routes. Two additional armories designed by Sangston have already been determined eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A. The La Plata Armory (CH-548) on August 14, 2000 and the Green Belt Armory (P.G.: 67-36) on October 12, 2000.

The persons most closely associated with the Ellicott City Armory are architect Laurence Purdy Sangston and Brigadier General Thomas Benton Baker. According to National Park Service Guidance, architects are represented by their works, which are considered under Criterion C. On May 16, 1999, the Ellicott City Armory was renamed the Brigadier General Thomas B. Baker Armory. The facility was renamed in honor of Brigadier General Baker after his death and research has been unable to associate any significant actions of Baker's productive life with the Ellicott City Armory. For this reason, the Ellicott City Armory is not eligible under Criterion B.

The Ellicott City Armory is emblematic of the armories constructed for the Maryland National Guard following World War II. Nine armories were constructed initially and each is a variation of a design produced by Laurence P. Sangston. These armories are located in Oakland, Frostburg, Ellicott City, Greenbelt, La Plata, Leonardtown, Prince Frederick, Catonsville and Glen Burnie. The armories in Oakland, Frostburg and Leonardtown have been decommissioned and currently operate as community centers. The Ellicott City Armory is the oldest of these facilities remaining in service, enhancing the resource's integrity of feeling and association. The pronounced central entry, building form including the integrated drill hall, and use of brick, sandstone and limestone embody the distinctive characteristics of Sangston's post- World War II armory designs. These elements contribute to the Ellicott City Armory's integrity of materials, workmanship and design. Sangston's planned landscape consisting of a manicured lawn, specifically placed trees, and curved drives and walkways remains largely intact. The facility continues to be situated along a major transportation, as was the intention when the site was selected. These characteristics comprise the resource's integrity of setting and location. As a distinctive example of a post-World War II armory, the Ellicott City Armory is eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C.

The Ellicott City Armory was not evaluated under Criterion D as part of this investigation. The historic boundary consists of the entire 6.17 acre tax parcel number 312 as depicted on the 2012 Tax Map 24 for Howard County.

Footnotes

- (1) Weidlich, R., C. Novelli and S. Moffett. MHT State Historical Sites Inventory Form, CH-548 "La Plata National Guard Armory," 2000. www.mdihp.net. Accessed 8/16/2013.
- (2) Weidlich, R., C. Novelli and S. Moffett. La Plata National Guard Armory.
- (3) Weidlich, R., C. Novelli and S. Moffett. La Plata National Guard Armory.
- (4) "History of the Maryland National Guard." MDNG: History. Accessed 4 Sept. 2013. www.md.ngh.army.mil/xhtml/organization/history/history.html
- (5) "History of the Maryland National Guard."
- (6) "An Abundance of Armories." The Sun. December 7, 1951, p. 20. ProQuest Historical Newspapers.

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Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

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Reviewer, National Register Program

Date

Web. Accessed August 16, 2013.

(7) "Nine Armories in Maryland's Military Plan." The Sun. July 18, 1948, p. 24. ProQuest Historical Newspapers. Web. Accessed August 16, 2013.

(8) "Nine Armories in Maryland's Military Plan."

(9) "Nine Armories in Maryland's Military Plan."

(10) Moore, Susan. MHT State Historical Sites Inventory Form, BA-2080 "Pikesville National Guard Armory," 2000. www.mdihp.net. Accessed 8/16/2013.

(11) Fogelson, Robert M. America's Armories: Architecture, Society, and Public Order. Cambridge, MA: Harvard UP, 1989, p. 188.

(12) Fogelson, Robert M. America's Armories: Architecture, Society, and Public Order, p. 189.

(13) "American Architects Directory." 2nd Ed. NY: Published under sponsorship of AIA by R.R. Bowker, 1962. www.aia.org. Accessed 16 August 2013

(14) "American Architects Directory," p. 612.

(15) "Mammoth Hangar Nearly Completed." The Sun. December 28, 1941, p. 13. ProQuest Historical Newspapers. Web. Accessed 16 August 2013.

(16) "American Architects Directory," p. 612.

(17) "Society of American Registered Architects." SARA. Accessed 16 August 2013. www.sara-national.org

(18) Raburg, Christopher J. "Maryland Society, Sons of the American Revolution. "MDSSAR – Color Guard," 2013. Accessed 21 August 2013. www.marylandsar.org/about_MDSSAR/Color-Guard

(19) University of Maryland. "Laurence P. Sangston Architectural Scholarship Fund," 2011. Accessed 4 September 2013. http://advancement.umd.edu/celebration/showscholarship.php?main_id=266

(20) "Thomas B. Baker 63, National Guard General." The Sun. September 17, 1998. Newsbank Obituaries and Death Notices. Accessed 8/29/13.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended

Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G

MHT Comments:

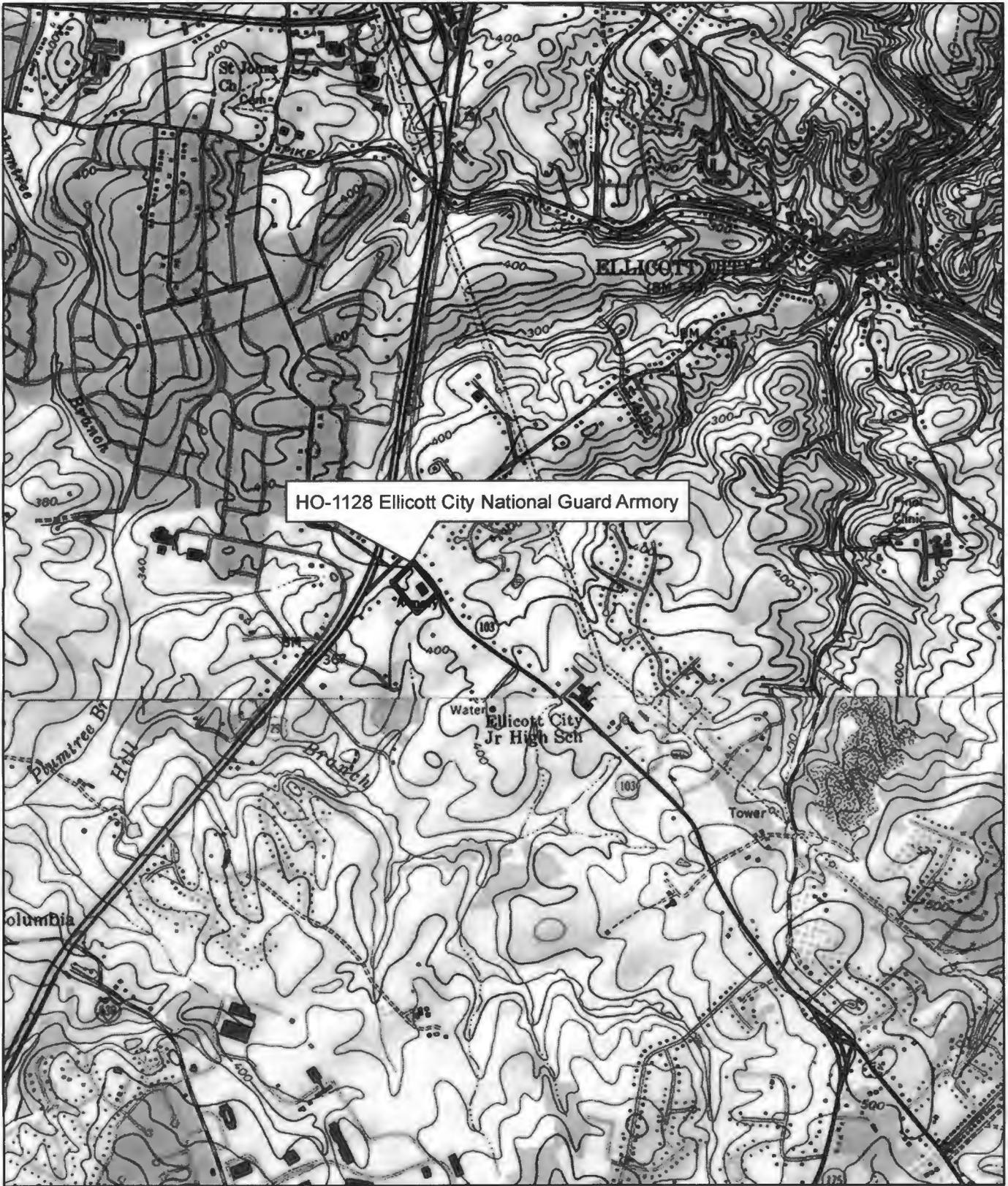
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Reviewer, National Register Program

Date

Cultural Resource Location Map



HO-1128 Ellicott City National Guard Armory

4244 Montgomery Road

Tax Map 24, Parcel 312

Howard County

USGS Ellicott City Topo Quad

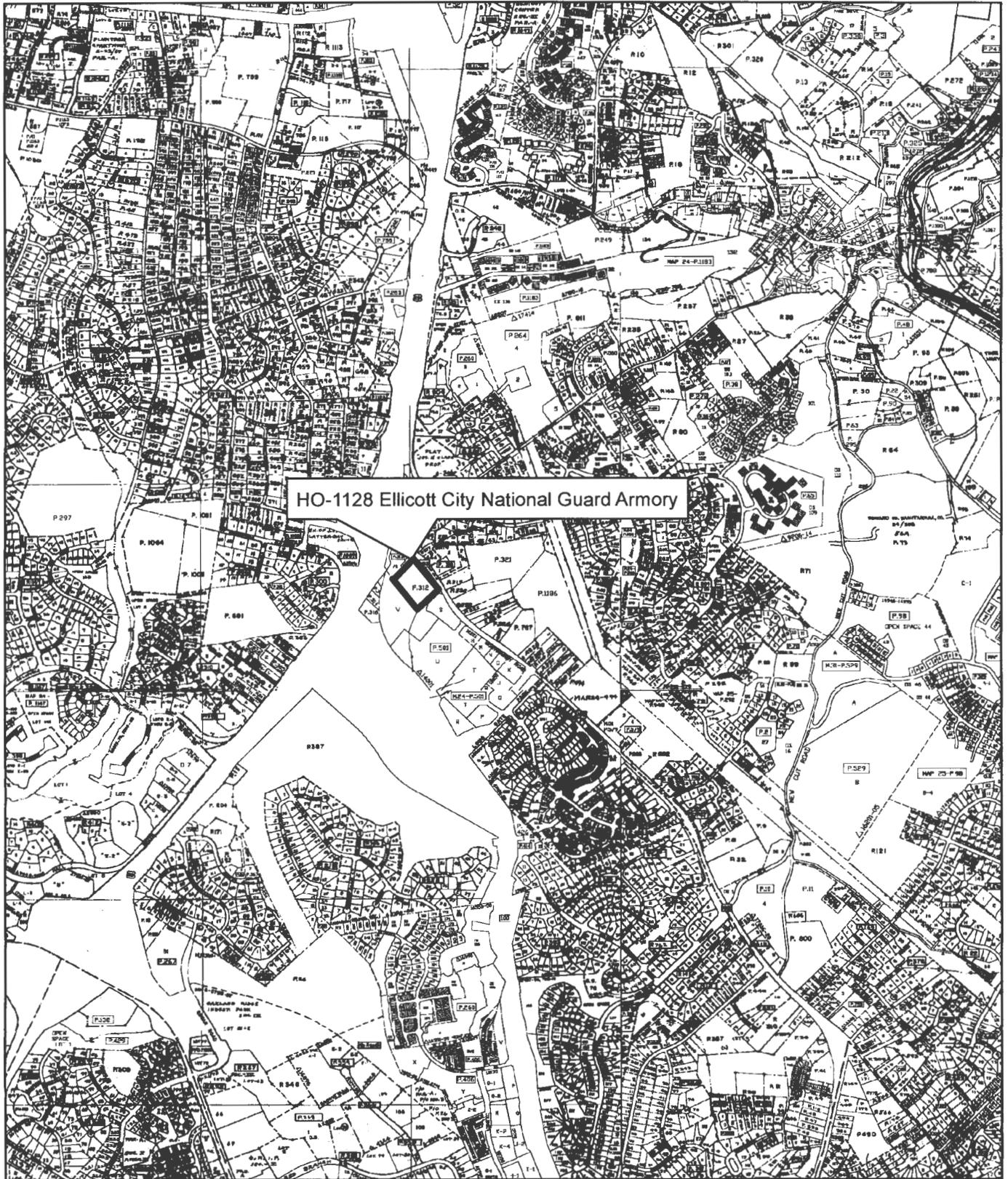
August 28, 2013

1:24,000

0 1,250 2,500 5,000 Feet



Cultural Resource Location Map



HO-1128 Ellicott City National Guard Armory

4244 Montgomery Road
Tax Map 24, Parcel 312
Howard County
USGS Ellicott City Topo Quad

August 28, 2013
1:24,000

0 1,250 2,500 5,000 Feet

Maryland State Highway Administration
Cultural Resources Section
Photo Log

Project No.: HO227A21

Project Name: MD 103 Widening from US 29 to Long Gate Mall

MIHP No.: HO-1128

MIHP Name: Ellicott City National Guard Armory

County: Howard

Photographer: Jon Schmidt

Date: August 21, 2013

Ink and Paper Combination: Epson UltraChrome pigmented ink/Epson Premium Luster Photo Paper

CD/DVD: Verbatim, CD-R, Archival Gold

Image File Name	Description of View
HO-1128_2013-08-21_01	View of the north elevation of the Ellicott City National Guard Armory, looking southwest
HO-1128_2013-08-21_02	Oblique view of the façade showing the projecting entry, looking east
HO-1128_2013-08-21_03	Detail view of the entry, looking south
HO-1128_2013-08-21_04	View of the west elevation, looking east
HO-1128_2013-08-21_05	Detail view of the south elevation, looking northeast
HO-1128_2013-08-21_06	View of the east elevation showing the entry to the drill hall, looking west
HO-1128_2013-08-21_07	View of the interior of the drill hall, looking west.
HO-1128_2013-08-21_08	View of the plaque at the interior of the entry identifying date of construction, architect, and builder.



HO-1128

ELLCOTT CITY NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY

HOWARD CTY, MD

PHOTOGRAPHER: JON SCHMIDT

DATE 8/21/2013

DIGITAL FILE: MD SHA

VIEW OF THE NORTH ELEVATION OF THE ELLCOTT CITY NATIONAL
GUARD ARMORY, LOOKING SOUTHWEST.

HO-1128_2013-08-21_01.TIF

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ELLCOTT CITY ARMY NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY

HOWARD COUNTY, MD

PHOTOGRAPHER: JON SUTMIST

DATE: AUGUST 21, 2013

DIGITAL FILE: MID SHA

OBLIQUE VIEW OF THE FACADE SHOWING THE PROJECTING ENTRY, LOOKING EAST.

HO-1128-2013-08-21-02.TIF

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MARYLAND ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

BG THOMAS B BAKER

ARMORY

4244 MONTGOMERY RD

15



HO-1128

ELLICOTT CITY ARMY NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY
HOWARD COUNTY, MD

PHOTOGRAPHER: JON SCHMIST

DATE: AUGUST 21, 2013

DIGITAL FILE: MD SHA

DETAIL VIEW OF ENTRY, LOOKING SOUTH.

HO-1128_2013-08-21_03.TIF

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HO-1128

ELLCOTT CITY ARMY NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY

HOWARD COUNTY, MD

PHOTOGRAPHER: JON SCHMINT

DATE: AUGUST 21, 2013

DIGITAL FILE: MD SHA

VIEW OF THE WEST ELEVATION, LOOKING EAST

HO-1128_2013-08-21_04.tif

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HO-1128

ELLICOTT CITY ARMORY NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY

HOWARD COUNTY, MD

PHOTOGRAPHER: JON SCHMIDT

DATE: AUGUST 21, 2013

DIGITAL FILE: MD SKA

VIEW OF SOUTH ELEVATION LOOKING NORTHEAST.

HO-1128_08-21-2013_05.tif

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HO-1128

ELLCOTT CITY NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY

HOWARD COUNTY, MD

PHOTOGRAPHER: JON SCHMIDT

DATE: AUGUST 21, 2013

DIGITAL FILE: MD SHA

VIEW OF THE EAST ELEVATION SHOWING THE ENTRY TO THE DRILL HALL,
LOOKING WEST

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HO-1128

ELLIOTT CITY ARMY NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY

HOWARD COUNTY, MD

PHOTOGRAPHER: JON SCHMIDT

DATE: AUGUST 21, 2013

DIGITAL FILE: MD SNA

VIEW OF THE INTERIOR OF THE DRILL HALL, LOOKS WEST.

HO-1128 - 08-21-2013 - 07. TIF

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MARYLAND NATIONAL GUARD
ELLCOTT CITY ARMORY

1952 - 1953

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS

NATHAN L. SMITH
LAURENCE P. SANGSTON

DIRECTOR
PRINCIPAL ARCHITECT

CONTRACTOR

W. H. WARD CONTRACTORS, INC.

HO-1128

ELLIOTT CITY ARMORY NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY

HOWARD COUNTY, MD

PHOTOGRAPHER: JON SCHMIDT

DATE: AUGUST 21, 2013

DIGITAL FILE: MD SHA

VIEW OF THE PLAQUE AT THE INTERIOR OF THE ENTRY
IDENTIFYING DATE OF CONSTRUCTION, ARCHITECT AND BUILDER

HO-1128-08-21-2013_08.TIF

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Memo to file

December 8, 2015

From: Casey Pecoraro
Inventory Registrar

Re: HO-1128
Ellicott City National Guard Armory

The following materials, prepared on an Addendum to Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form and dated April 21, 2015, supplement the Determination of Eligibility form prepared in 2013. The Maryland Historical Trust does not have a Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form on file for this resource.

Addendum to Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-1128

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Name of Property: Ellicott City National Guard Armory

Location: Howard County

MD SHA determined the Ellicott City National Guard Armory to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criteria A and C in 2013. The Ellicott City Armory is eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A for its association with the reorganization of military priorities at the beginning of the Cold War. MHT concurred with SHA's eligibility determination on October 21, 2013. In March 2015, questions arose regarding the age of particular elements of the planned landscape, which is identified as an element that contributes to the significance of the armory. Additional research was conducted to identify the age of the existing landscape, examine if the landscape contributes to the significance of the armory, and determine if this new information impacts the armory's NRHP eligibility.

Additional research has shown that the trees lining MD 103 along the northern edge of the armory property were not planted at the time of construction, as originally thought. A comparison of historic aerial photographs from 1957, 1966 and 1971 with photos and articles from the Ellicott City Times and State Roads Commission Right-of-Way Plats from 1953, 1965 and 1968 has shown that the curb line of MD 103 has changed at least twice since the armory was built. The pin oaks along MD 103 were most likely planted after 1973 when the roadway was widened for the final time or when the parking spaces were added in the shoulder.ⁱ

An article from the September 11, 1952 Ellicott City Times reports, "The front of the building will face on Montgomery Road, and there will be a parking lot and lawn with a flagpole."ⁱⁱ Newspaper photographs from April and November 1953 do not show any trees planted in front of the armory.ⁱⁱⁱ Thus, the trees currently in place do not replicate an original designed landscape. Attempts to locate the original plans for the armory through the Maryland State Archives, Maryland Department of General Services and Maryland Military Department were not successful.

It was also discovered that owing to the availability of funding, the Ellicott City Armory was built in two different stages. Land for the new armory was purchased for \$6000 from Mr. and Mrs. Wakefield. The original site contained 3 acres and was purchased with a \$4000 contribution from Howard County and a \$2000 donation from private citizen Charles E. Miller.^{iv} After a year of negotiations, the site selection committee selected the lot at the junction of Montgomery Pike and Columbia Road in part because the location would "enhance the armory's addition to Howard County's architectural beauty."^v Prior to construction, the cost was estimated not to exceed \$140,000.

In an interview for the January 20, 1949 edition of the Ellicott City Times, Major General Milton A. Reckford, Adjutant General of the Maryland Military Department described the plans for the new Ellicott City Armory. "The building will be constructed of cinder and concrete block, faced with brick, and will

Prepared by: Jon Schmidt, MD SHA Consultant

Date: April 21, 2015

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Location: Howard County

undoubtedly be set back from the road a sufficient distance to provide for ample parking, if and when the drill hall is used for community meetings.”^{vi} The first portion of the armory built contained the drill hall, motor vehicle storage, repair shop, secure storage vaults, and offices.^{vii} Today, these elements comprise the rear of the armory. All of these facilities were within a 60 feet by 144 feet footprint that paralleled MD 103 at a broad setback.^{viii} Work began in April 1949 by Baltimore-based Piracci Construction and was scheduled to last 120 days.^{ix} The facility was completed on time. As promised at the beginning of the year by General Reckford, the building was constructed of brick, steel and concrete. The headline of the August 11 edition of the Ellicott City Times read, “First Section of Armory Ready for 121st Engineers.” As the Maryland National Guard’s first permanent facility in Howard County, the new armory was stocked with equipment transferred from armories in Pikesville and Laurel, Camp Ritchie near Emmitsburg and additional items stored temporarily in the Ellicott City Elementary School gymnasium.^x At that time, it was reported that the administrative section of the building would be added “to the northeast wall of the building in the very near future.”^{xi}

The first published photograph of the new armory appeared on the front page of the August 25, 1949 edition of the Ellicott City Times.^{xii} Opening ceremonies were planned for fall 1949, but do not appear to have been held until 1953 after the entire armory was completed. Bids for the construction of the administrative section were opened on April 8, 1952 and construction began later than spring.^{xiii} This section of the armory took more than one year to complete. At the time the contract was awarded, the work was to include seventeen garages along the northwest property line.^{xiv} These garages were never erected, but the planned construction explains the large, level field northwest of the armory.

At the time of construction, the administrative section included three lounges, offices for staff, classrooms, a rifle range and supply room.^{xv} A wood floor and tile walls were added to the previously built drill hall and storage building, suggesting the original facility was rudimentary and functional. The finished structure was two stories high and measured 165 feet by 109 feet, the same dimensions as today. The armory was completed in July 1953 and fully staffed shortly thereafter. A dedication ceremony was held November 8, 1953 complete with speeches from Governor Thodore R. McKeldin and Major General Milton A. Reckford, Adjutant General of the Maryland National Guard.^{xvi} The Ellicott City Times heralded the new armory as one of the first in the nation completed following World War II. Research has been unable to determine if this claim has merit or is rooted in community pride. Shortly after the armory was completed additional land was purchased for a proposed expansion that never came to fruition.

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Including regular maintenance and a minor rehabilitation project in 2006 and 2007 to install air conditioning and new windows, no major alterations or renovations to the Ellicott City Armory have taken place. As a result the armory possesses excellent historical integrity, but it does not meet current anti-terrorism security standards.^{xvii} As part of evaluating readiness and security needs, in spring 2015 the Maryland Military Department is in the preliminary planning stages of consolidating the armories in Catonsville and Ellicott City at a new facility to be constructed in Sykesville.^{xviii} There are no finite plans for the proposed project. At this time, the prospects for the continued service of the Ellicott City Armory are unknown.

ⁱ State Military Department to State Highway Administration. 24 August 1973. Howard County Recorder of Deeds. Liber 659 Folio 307. www.mdlandrec.net. Accessed 26 March 2015.

ⁱⁱ "Armory Here Will Be First Completed." Ellicott City Times, Vol. 112, No. 27: September 11, 1952; Microfilm, Collection of Pratt Central Library. Accessed 24 March 2015.

ⁱⁱⁱ Untitled Photo. Ellicott City Times, Vol 113, No. 5: April 23, 1953; Microfilm, Collection of Pratt Central Library. Accessed 24 March 2015.

Also, "Governor Will Speak At New Armory Dedication Sunday." Ellicott City Times, Vol. 113, No. 44: November 5, 1953; Microfilm, Collection of the Pratt Central Library. Accessed 24 March 2015.

^{iv} "\$6000 for New Armory." Ellicott City Times, Vol. 109, No 2: January 13, 1949; Microfilm, Collection of the Pratt Central Library. Accessed 24 March 2015.

^v Ibid.

^{vi} "Federal Inspector Is High On Praise Of Local Unit." Ellicott City Times, Vol. 109, No. 3: January 20, 1949; Microfilm, Collection of the Pratt Central Library. Accessed 24 March 2015.

^{vii} "Construction Of Armory On Montgomery Road Started." Ellicott City Times, Vol. 109, No. 14: April 7, 1949; Microfilm, Collection of the Pratt Central Library. Accessed 24 March 2015.

^{viii} Ibid.

^{ix} Ibid.

^x "First Section Of Armory Ready For 121st Engineers." Ellicott City Times, Vol. 109, No. 32: August 11, 1949; Microfilm, Collection of the Pratt Central Library. Accessed 24 March 2015.

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^{xi} *ibid.*

^{xii} Untitled Photo. Ellicott City Times, Vol. 109, No. 34: August 25, 1949; Microfilm, Collection of the Pratt Central Library. Accessed 24 March 2015.

^{xiii} "State To Award Contract For Final Work At Armory." Ellicott City Times, Vol. 112, No. 7: April 3, 2015; Microfilm, Collection of the Pratt Central Library. Accessed 24 March 2015.

^{xiv} "Armory Here Will Be First Completed." Ellicott City Times.

^{xv} "State To Award Contract For Final Work At Armory." Ellicott City Times.

^{xvi} "Governor Will Speak At New Armory Dedication Sunday." Ellicott City Times.

^{xvii} Terrio, Captain Thomas. April 16, 2015, Telephone Interview.

^{xviii} "Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and Maryland State Military Department." State Clearinghouse for Intergovernmental Assistance, Inter-agency Work Session at the Springfield Hospital. Unpublished Notes from Planning Session, February 2, 2015. Sykesville: 2015.

**Maryland State Highway Administration
Cultural Resources Section
Photo Log**

Project No.: HO227A21

Project Name: MD 103 Widening

MIHP No.: HO-1128

MIHP Name: Ellicott City National Guard Armory

County: Howard

Photographer: Jon Schmidt

Date: 8/21/2013

Ink and Paper Combination: Epson UltraChrome pigmented ink/Epson Premium Luster Photo Paper

CD/DVD: Verbatim, CD-R, Archival Gold

Image File Name	Description of View
HO-1128_2013-08-21_01.TIF	View of the trees along the northern edge of the Ellicott City National Guard Armory property, looking west.
HO-1128_2013-08-21_01.TIF	View of the trees lining the eastern entrance to the armory, looking south.
HO-1128_2013-08-21_01.TIF	View of the trees at either side of the walkway to the central entry, looking south.



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Ellicott City National Guard Armory

HOWARD COUNTY

PHOTOGRAPHER: JON SCHMIDT

DATE 8/21/2013

DIGITAL FILE: MID SHA

VIEW OF TREES ALONG NORTHERN EDGE
OF PROPERTY, LOOKING WEST.

HO-1128 - 2013-08-21 - 01.TIF

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HO-1128

ELLCOTT CITY NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY
HOWARD COUNTY

PHOTO: JON SCHMIDT

8/21/2013

DIGITAL FILE 9-MID SHA

VIEW OF TREES LINING EAST ENTRY,
LOOKING SOUTH.

HO-1128-2013-08-21_02.TIF

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HO-1128

ELLIOTT CITY NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY

HOWARD COUNTY

PHOTO: JON SCHMIDT

8/21/2013

DIGITAL FILE: MD SAA

TREES AT EITHER SIDE OF CENTRAL
ENTRY, LOOKING SOUTH.

HO-1128-2013-08-21_03.TIF

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