

T-484

Easton Armory

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

All material is property of the Maryland Historical Trust.

Last Updated: 04-05-2004

Easement

T-484
Easton Armory
40 South Harrison Street
Easton
Public

1927

Sir Walter Scott would have approved of the Easton Armory, a crenelated brick and stone structure inspired by medieval fortifications. The main block is laid in Flemish bond with dark headers; the remaining brickwork is finished in common bond. The monumentally treated main entrance is topped by a segmental arch and flanked by towers projecting from the plane of the facade. From the rear of the main block extends a 12-bay gymnasium; it has six buttresses on each long elevation and is topped by a corbeled cornice with brick dentils. The building served as an armory until it was acquired by the Department of Natural Resources in 1976 as the eastern regional headquarters for the Natural Resources police.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Easton Armory
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
40 South Harrison Street, corner South Harrison & South Sts.
CITY, TOWN
Easton
STATE
Maryland
VICINITY OF
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Department of Natural Resources
Telephone #:
STREET & NUMBER
Tawes State Office Building
CITY, TOWN
Annapolis
VICINITY OF
STATE, zip code
Maryland 21401

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Talbot County Courthouse

Liber #:
Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Easton

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Armory in Easton, located at the corner of South Harrison and South Streets diagonally opposite Christ Episcopal Church, is a brick structure trimmed in stone and emulating a mediaeval fortification. It is two stories in height and rests on a full basement. The entrance facade and the main block are executed in Flemish bond with glazed headers. The remaining brickwork is common bond (six courses of all-stretchers between single courses of all-headers).

The symmetrical South Harrison Street, main entrance facade is seven bays wide and consists of the following elements, reading from northwest corner to southwest corner: a slightly projecting strip buttress; a two-bay section, flush with the wall plane, of 4/5 casement windows; a substantially projecting tower where strip buttresses flank 2/6 casement windows; a segmentally arched central doorway; a repeat of the tower; a repeat of the two 4/5 casement windows; and finally an identical strip buttress.

The strip buttresses contain two setbacks at levels corresponding to the molded watertable and the dentilled cornice and two stone caps at the top of the parapet and corresponding to the level of the sills of the second story windows. The section of wall broken by the two windows at first, second and basement story levels is also characterized by three crenelles executed in brick with stone coping. The 4/5 casement windows feature flat arch lintels, composed of bricks, laid vertically side by side, and heavy projecting stone sills. On the first story windows, the lintels form part of the watertable with indentations below each corresponding to the width of the window. At basement level are two windows, also casement but 3/3 sash.

The tower section consists of still narrower casement windows, 2/5 on the first and second story levels, which are topped by flat arch brick lintels and flanked by deeper strip buttresses. The setbacks on these buttresses are at the level of the heavy projecting stone lintel of the second story window and at a height midway between the belt course which the towers interrupt and the crenelles of the adjacent two bay wide section. The watertable runs continuously across the tower accommodating the lintel of the first story 2/5 casement window in the same fashion as the adjacent two bay side section. A stone panel, lozenge-shaped, exists in the central section of the tower in the area between the upper stone capped setbacks and the two crenelles which crown the composition. Just below the base of the crenelles the wall widens with the raked stone edges of a strip of stone which separates the crenelles from the strip buttresses and central panel of the tower. These two crenelles are also executed in brick with stone coping on their lower portions only. Between the two crenelles right below this lower coping is centered a small square, decorative stone panel. At basement level is a 3/3 casement window with flat arched brick lintel to match the other foundation level windows described above.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

The middle bay of the facade is characterized by a large, commodious, segmentally arched doorway executed in brick with stone keystone. Beneath this arch the double doors themselves are recessed 2-3'. A flight of nine concrete steps approaches the entrance which occurs on first story level. A segmental stone arch with multiple molded band trim surmounts the brick arch. This stone arch in turn forms the bottom of a large stone panel, rectilinear except for this bottom edge, which contains a smaller plaque identifying the structure. Atop this stone panel but recessed again to the plane of the 2 window section is the largest window in the facade, at second story level, and consisting of three casement windows, each $2/5$, which adjoin one another and are topped by a lintel of bricks laid vertically (like the other lintels) distinguished by a stone keystone. In this central entrance bay, the stone cornice resumes at the top of the second story level (having been interrupted by the towers). Placed between the two crenelles which crown this section of wall is a large stone plaque which depicts the seal of the State of Maryland. The crenelles and parapet are again executed in brick with stone trim.

The remainder of the facade, the south tower and the two window section and the concluding strip buttress complete the symmetrical composition, detailed exactly like their counterparts to the north.

The South Street facade of the armory's main block is three bays wide, framed by strip buttresses at each corner and consisting of three $2/5$ casement windows on first story level and three $2/3$ casement windows at basement level. These are separated by a stone watertable treated exactly as it is in the front facade, with this stone strip recessed below each first floor window to form the sills of these windows. Above these three windows are two windows at second story level which are placed above the un-fenestrated portion of wall below; these two windows, characterized by heavy, protruding stone sills, are topped by the same horizontal, flat-arched brick lintels. The whole composition is unified by a stone dentilled cornice which like the watertable breaks forward to accommodate the projecting buttresses. The roofline is distinguished by stone caps on the buttresses and two pairs of crenelles with stone coping flanking a wider central portion of wall containing a rectangular stone panel.

Adjacent to and to the east of this section is the one story portion of the facade which masks the gymnasium space; its roofline meets the crenellated section just below the cornice. The appended section is twelve bays in length consisting of $3/5$ casement windows at first floor level. Six brick piers, each with three setbacks, occur every 2 windows along the length of this elevation. Each window is characterized by projecting brick sills and flush, flat arch brick lintels. The brickwork on this facade is common bond with six courses of all-stretchers between single courses of all-headers. Beyond this series of windows and brick piers is a recessed section of wall with a foundation level entrance.

The cornice of the longitudinal elevations of the armory is characterized by brick dentils (3 headers wide) enlivening the frieze (8 dentils between each pier) between two courses of bricks below the eaves and three rows of corbelling, one course wide.

The rear facade of the building is tripartite with identical flanking end bays, containing double doorways at first story level accessible via a flight of ten steps, and at second story level 2/5 casement windows. All of these apertures are topped by flat arch brick lintels and the windows possess projecting stone sills. Simple brick pilasters project at the inside boundaries of these two bays framing the central section which is articulated by a single 5/4 casement window with projecting brick sill located midway between 1st and 2nd story levels. A brick watertable separates this level from the two 3-pane horizontal strip windows on foundation level which have brick sills and abut the watertable along their top edge.

The north longitudinal elevation is identical to the south one described above except for a small shed addition at the east end in place of a basement entrance.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1927 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Easton Armory was built in 1927 and served as an armory until acquisition by Department of Natural Resources. DNR moved its eastern regional headquarters for the Natural Resources police in on 3 February 1976. (The eastern region includes all Eastern shore counties from Cecil to Worcester.)

The building continues to be used annually by the organization Ducks Unlimited for Easton's Waterfowl Festival, and DNR conducts hunter safety courses in the structure.

Besides these community functions, this building is an integral, mediaevalizing member of the historic town of Easton and will be incorporated in the proposed Easton historic district.

Recommendation: Continue present usage of building by DNR as Natural Resource police facility.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

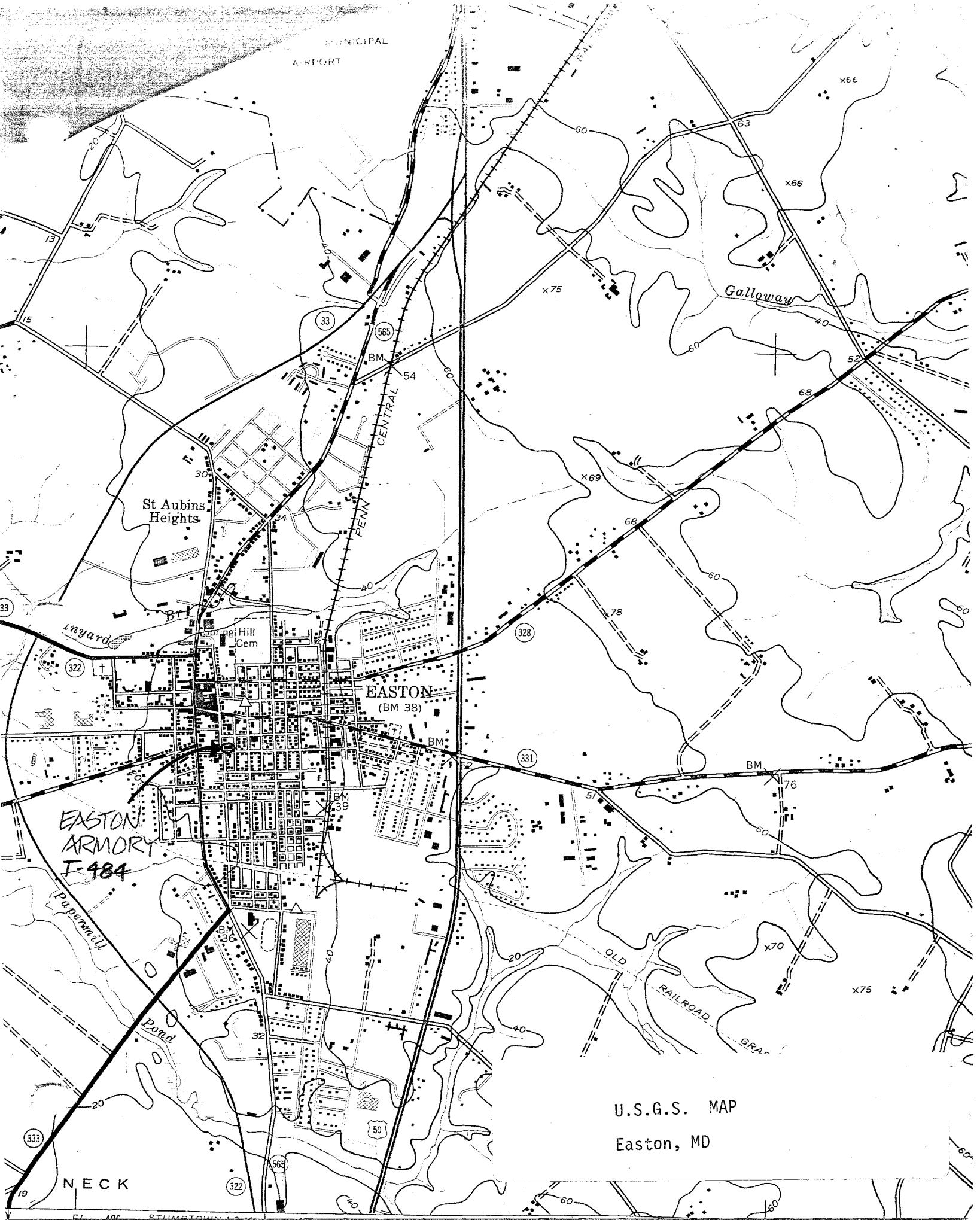
11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Ellen K. Coxe, Historic Sites Surveyor	
ORGANIZATION Maryland Historical Trust	DATE September 1979
STREET & NUMBER 21 State Circle Shaw House	TELEPHONE 269-2438
CITY OR TOWN Annapolis	STATE Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory 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
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



MUNICIPAL
AIRPORT

St Aubins
Heights

EASTON
(BM 38)

EASTON
ARMORY
I-484

U.S.G.S. MAP
Easton, MD

NECK



NATIONAL RESOURCES POLICE

T-484

Easton Armory

40 South Harrison Street

Easton



16 x 1.88

75% 484

T-484

EASTON ARMORY

So. Harrison & South Streets, Easton

Southwest elevation

10/79

E.K. COXL