

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	NWB.2995
Historic Name:	Newburyport Army National Guard Armory Garage
Common Name:	Newburyport Emergency Management Agency Offices
Address:	57 Low St
City/Town:	Newburyport
Village/Neighborhood:	
Local No:	82-8
Year Constructed:	1951
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	No style
Use(s):	Administration Office; Maintenance Facility; Other Governmental or Civic; Parking Garage
Significance:	Architecture; Military; Politics Government; Social History; Transportation
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asbestos Shingle Wall: Brick Veneer; Concrete Cinderblock Foundation: Poured Concrete



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

This file was accessed on: Tuesday, October 29, 2019 at 9:50: AM

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number

82/8

USGS Quad

Newburyport
West

Area(s)

Form Number

2995

8208

NWB. 2995

Town Newburyport

Place (neighborhood or village) _____

Address 57 Low Street

Newburyport, MA 01950

Historic Name Newburyport Armory Garage

Uses: Present Garage

Original Garage

Date of Construction 1951

Source Newburyport Daily News

Style/Form Modern functional

Architect/Builder Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation Concrete Slab

Wall/Trim Brick/Metal

Roof Corrugated Asbestos Boards

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures None

Major Alteration (with dates) None

Condition Excellent

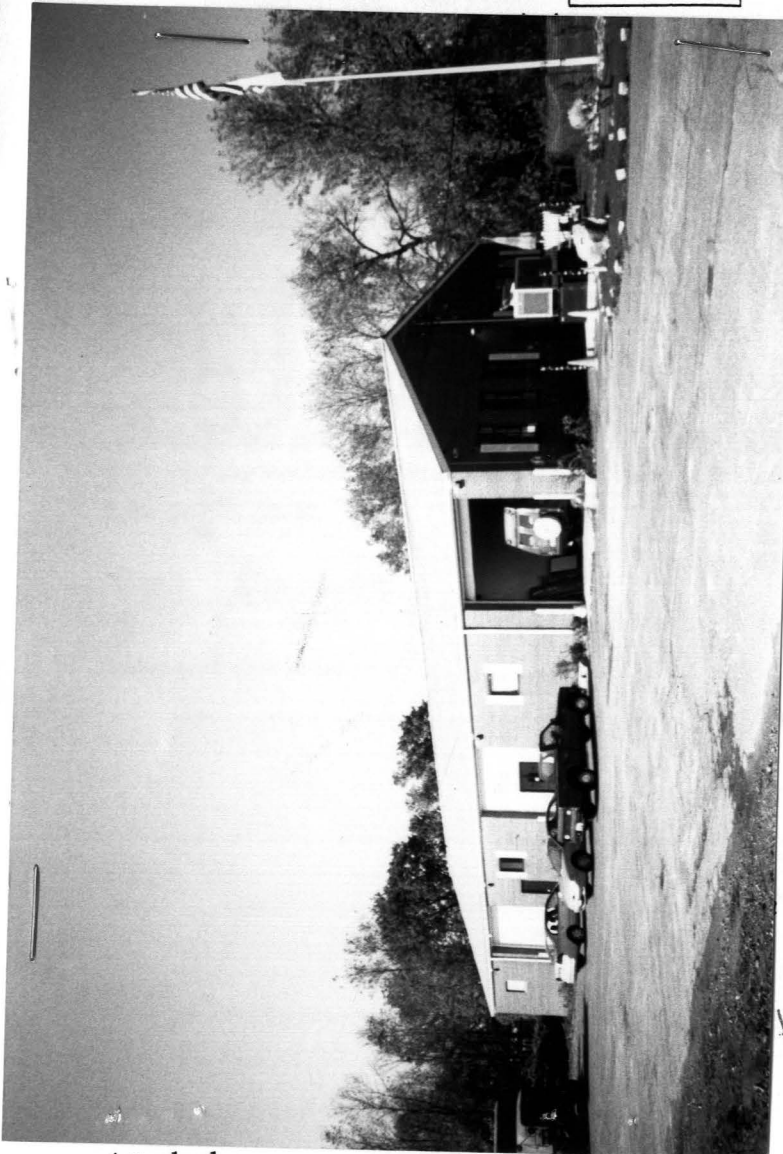
Moved No Yes Date _____

Acreage 19.0

Setting Adjacent to Newburyport Armory

Set back from street approximately 30 feet in mixed

commercial/residential/school area



front & side elevation

Attached

Recorded by Edward Stanley

Organization Boston Affiliates, Inc.

Date (month/day/year) 11/22/02

RECEIVED

FEB 03 2003

Follow Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey Manual instructions for completing this form.

MASS. HIST. COM. M.

BUILDING FORM

NWB. 2995

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION see continuation sheet

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The detached garage located approximately fifty yards from the west side of the Newburyport Armory at 57 Low Street is a large, brick-walled, rectangular utilitarian structure. As with the Armory building, the garage is located in a mixed commercial/residential area and is set back approximately fifty feet from the street. Resting on a concrete slab foundation, the brick-veneered concrete block walls of the gable-end structure rise approximately fifteen on each side and are capped by a corrugated asbestos board roof. The north gable end of the building contains six large rectangular metal-framed window openings, the four left containing metal-framed fixed sash while the two right are of plate glass. The long, east side of the garage contains three large bays, the two end ones containing high metal overhead doors. The central bay is partially bricked over to accommodate a small, metal entry door. Square, metal-framed fixed windows punctuate the walls between the three bays; the rear window is boarded up. The south gable end of the building contains a raised band of six square, metal-framed windows with concrete sills above blank wall space; a newer metal door provides entry on the right side of the wall. The west side of the structure has a raised band of five windows of the same design as the south wall although spaced farther apart.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE see continuation sheet

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

The Newburyport Armory garage was constructed in 1951 in response to the need for housing the growing number of vehicles and other equipment acquired by the Massachusetts Army National Guard unit stationed in Newburyport, Company D, 101st Engineer Battalion. The National Guard had its roots in the citizen-soldier ethos of the New England colonial volunteer militia, separate from any regular standing army. The first three regiments of militia in Massachusetts were the North, East and South Regiments, organized by a law passed in 1636. Much of the Revolutionary War army under George Washington was made up of militiamen. After the Revolutionary War, when the United States Constitution's divisions of state and federal power were being tested, militias were maintained by the states to counterbalance the potential power of the regular standing army. In 1781, the first Massachusetts militia law was enacted which organized forces into a Train Band of service-eligible men and an Alarm List of reserves. After the War of 1812, independent volunteer companies formed, primarily in Boston and surrounding areas. By the 1830s, these companies had degenerated into social groups, and the less effective of these were disbanded. In 1840, the Massachusetts General Court reorganized the state militias into the Massachusetts Volunteer Militia (MVM), composed of three divisions and six brigades. Under this act, the MVM effectively constituted Massachusetts' own armed forces under the control of the Governor, and overseen by the Adjutant General. Support and housing for individual companies was the responsibility of the host communities. Newburyport's militia units, reorganized periodically under various names (Washington Light Guard, Washington Artillery, Cushing Guard), occupied a variety of rented facilities until the passage of the Armory Act of 1888.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES see continuation sheet

Carrier, John S. *History of Newburyport, Mass., 1764-1905*. Newburyport, MA: published by the author, 1906.
Fogelson, Robert M. *America's Armories: Architecture, Society and Public Order*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1989.

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town
Newburyport

NWB. 2995
Property Address
57 Low Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s)	Form No.
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HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (Continued)

Numerous MVM companies, including Newburyport's Cushing Guard, were among the first troops to see service in the Union forces in the Civil War. After the conflict, the state militias deteriorated, but by the 1870s support grew in Massachusetts for a reassessment of militia forces, and by the late 1880s changing forces in urban America including growing crime, civil disorder, labor unrest, and class strife culminated in greater militia support and passage of the Massachusetts Armory Act of 1888. This Act established an Armory Commission of three people charged with the acquisition of armories in cities in which two or more militias were located. It was at this time, in 1893, that a wooden armory building (demolished prior to 1950) was built on Merrimack Street in Newburyport.

During the Spanish-American War of 1898, the MVM, including a Newburyport unit, saw combat action on several fronts in both Cuba and Puerto Rico. Between the end of this conflict and 1916, the militia was called out for many state activities, and their main use was in controlling civil unrest, mainly during industrial strikes, and in assisting during major fires. In 1916, the organizational structure of the MVM changed with the nationalization of all state militias under the National Defense Act, which created the modern National Guard and the associated Massachusetts unit. This Act, along with a reorganization of MVM under the Act of 1907, clearly foreshadowed the national movement toward the consolidation and modernization of National Guard units and their integration with the regular army.

World Wars I and II saw heavy participation of the Massachusetts National Guard. During World War I, the Massachusetts units comprised the bulk of the 26th Division (the "Yankee Division"), which was composed of units from throughout New England. Major combat involvement occurred at the St. Mihiel, Meuse River and Marne fronts. World War II campaign credits of the Massachusetts National Guard include distinguished action in the Pacific (New Caledonia, Guadalcanal) and Europe (Lorraine, "Battle of the Bulge," and the Saar and Moselle regions of Germany). The Korean War saw eight Massachusetts Guard units called to active duty. After World War II, federal funding increased for the National Guard and following the Reserve Forces Act of 1955, the Guard became more fully integrated into the Army; by 1960, Guard recruits were required to complete Army basic training. Also in this period, federal and state governments began to share the cost of new armory construction at a ratio of 75 to 25 percent, respectively. This funding procedure remains in place today and has resulted in the construction of thousands of utilitarian armories.

After World War II, the use of truck convoys for trips to training areas supplanted the use of trains for this practice, thus occasioning the construction of a number of utilitarian garages at Massachusetts armories or associated with Guard units. In the small and densely settled city of Newburyport at this time, the unit's vehicles were stored in a City public works barn, and other equipment in the basement of City Hall. Anxious to have the new facilities, the City donated to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for use as National Guard property only, a lot in the "Common Pasture" section of Newburyport, the Powder House Hill lot. Situated on this lot, directly to the rear of the armory is the Powder House (MHC #903), a one-story, round brick-walled building with conical roof that was built in 1822 to satisfy the ammunition storage needs of the municipality, replacing a colonial-era powder house on the Mall.

NWB. 2995

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town
NEWBURYPORT Property Address
57 LOW ST.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (Continued)

Federal funds in the amount of \$160,000 were granted to the state of Massachusetts in 1950 specifically for the construction of garages and Operations Maintenance Shops (OMS). The latter was one of the original functions of the Newburyport Armory garage, with facilities for vehicle repair as well as fuel pumps. While Federal funding for the construction of the Newburyport Armory was delayed by the Korean War, the garage was built in 1951 to satisfy the immediate equipment storage needs for the local Guard unit. A garage very similar in plan and construction to this garage was built for the Hingham armory in 1949.

Since 1998, the Newburyport Armory garage has been the headquarters for the Newburyport Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), a municipal department charged with planning for evacuation due to hurricanes, snowstorms and problems associated with the nearby Seabrook, New Hampshire nuclear power plant. The armory still uses one bay of the garage as well as the fenced lot for storage.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (Continued)

Hollister, Susan. "Imagery and Armories: The Castles of the Massachusetts Volunteer Militia." Unpublished manuscript, 1985.
Massachusetts Army National Guard. "Massachusetts Army National Guard Statewide Armories Survey." Privately printed report, 1987.
Newburyport Daily News, August 22, 1950 (vol. 73, no. 195), p.1. "Prospects for Armory Here Called Bright."
Newburyport Daily News, August 31, 1950 (vol. 73, no. 203), p. A-1, A-6. "Early Powder House Preceded Present Newburyport Building."
Newburyport Daily News, September 1, 1955 (vol. 78, no. 204), p.1. "May Take Powder House Apart for Removal to Bartlet Mall."
Newburyport Daily News, December 14, 1956 (vol. 79, no. 291), p.1. "Dedicate Armory."
Newburyport Daily News, September 21, 1970 (vol. 93, no. 218), p.1, 12. "Print Schedule in Armory Blast."
Newburyport Daily News, September 29, 1970 (vol. 93, no. 225), p 1, 12. "Weary Gilday Waited for Arrest."
Newburyport Daily News, October 14, 1970 (vol. 93, no. 237) p.14. "5 Indicated in Armory Theft."
PAL (Adams, Cherau and Kierstad) for Massachusetts Army National Guard. "Massachusetts Army National Guard Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan." Privately printed report, 2002.

NWB.2995

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Community Property Address
NEWBURYPORT 57 LOW ST.

Area(s) Form No.

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National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

- Individually eligible Eligible **only** in a historic district
- Contributing to a potential historic district Potential historic district

Criteria: A B C D

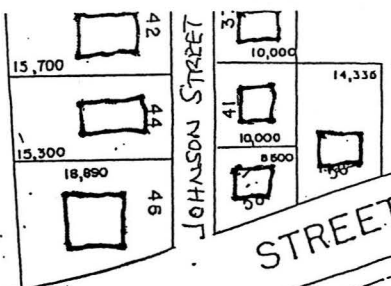
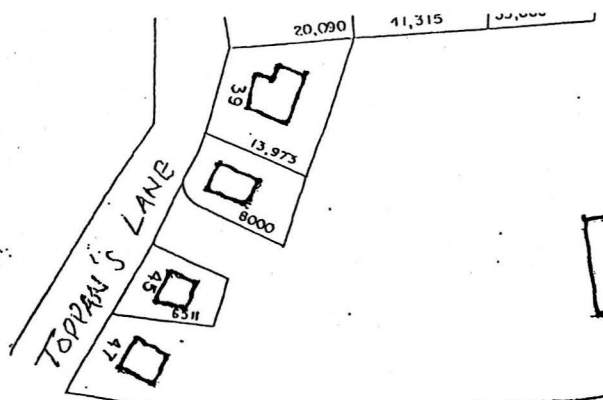
Criteria Considerations: A B C D E F G

Statement of Significance by Pauline Chase-Harrell, Boston Affiliates, Inc.
The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

The Newburyport Armory Garage possesses integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. It appears to meet Criteria A (Military and Social History) and C (Architecture/Community Planning and Development) for National Register listing at the local level of significance. It is significant as a representative generally of the reorganization and modernization of the National Guard in the post-World War II period, and specifically of the increasing use of truck convoys as transportation to training maneuvers.

In relation to Criterion A, its construction in 1951 was made possible by the increased federal funding for armory facilities which reflected the increased integration of the National Guard into the national defense structure in this period, when US military forces were being reorganized to meet the changing needs of the emerging Cold War. In relation to Criterion C, its functional modern design is typical of Cold War era armory facilities in general, and more specifically of the spate of National Guard garages and armories constructed in Massachusetts in the 1950s; and its siting on open land at the periphery of the old city is characteristic of post-war trends in community planning.

NWB. 2995





NWB. 2995

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

March 13, 2003 William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Ms. Susan T. Goodfellow
Massachusetts National Guard Environmental and Readiness Center
Building 1204, West Inner Road
Camp Edwards, MA 02542-5003

**RE: Hingham Armory and Garage, Hingham; MHC#32433
Methuen Armory and Garage, Methuen; MHC#32434
New Bedford Armory, New Bedford; MHC#32435
Barnstable Armory, Hyannis; MHC#32436
→ Newburyport Armory, Garage and Powderhouse, Newburyport; MHC#32437**

Dear Ms. Goodfellow:

Staff at the Massachusetts Historical Commission have received the updated inventory forms you submitted for the above referenced properties. The MHC understands that the Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) is planning future construction projects at its facilities in Hingham, Methuen, New Bedford, Hyannis and Newburyport, and as part of the planning process, is seeking National Register eligibility opinions for the above referenced properties. The MHC's National Register evaluation team evaluated the properties at a recent meeting and have the following comments.

The MHC concurs with your opinion that the properties meet the criteria of eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A & C on the local and/or state level and for the Barnstable Armory and the Newburyport Armory, with Criteria Consideration G on the local, state and/or national levels.

The MHC looks forward to receiving and reviewing the upcoming projects related to the above referenced buildings.

These comments are offered to assist in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (36 CFR 800) and M. G. L. Chapter 9, Section 26-27C, as amended by Chapter 254 of the Acts of 1988 (950 CMR 71.00). Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Brona Simon
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Massachusetts Historical Commission

xc: Hingham Historical Commission
Methuen Historical Commission
New Bedford Historical Commission
Barnstable Historical Commission
Newburyport Historical Commission

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