

APR 29 1982

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only
received JUL 6 1982
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic New Hampshire State Union Armory

and/or common Hermsdorf Manufacturing Building

2. Location

street & number 60 Pleasant Street not for publication

city, town Manchester vicinity of congressional district # 1

state N.H. 03101 code 33 county Hillsborough code 011

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<u> </u> occupied	<u> </u> agriculture <u> </u> museum
<u> </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u> </u> private	<u> </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<u> </u> commercial <u> </u> park
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational <u> </u> private residence
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment <u> </u> religious
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u> </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<u> </u> government <u> </u> scientific
	<u> </u> being considered	<u> </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industrial <u> </u> transportation
	<u> </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<u> </u> no	<u> </u> military <u> </u> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Manchester Housing Authority

street & number 34 Fir Street

city, town Manchester vicinity of state N. H. 03101

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Hillsborough County Courthouse
 Hillsborough County Record of Deeds

street & number 19 Temple Street

city, town Nashua state N. H. 03062

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Request for Determination of Eligibility See attached also (page A)
title has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date May 1980. federal state county local

depository for survey records Manchester Housing Authority

city, town Manchester state N. H. 03101

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCERS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page A

6 Title: Historic Planning Study

Date: 1978

Depository for Survey Records:

Manchester Historical Association
129 Amherst Street
Manchester, N. H. 03101

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>n/a</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

(Information in this section taken directly from source cited in Block # 9)

The Hermsdorf Building was constructed as the first New Hampshire State Armory and is a detached brick complex with two principal elements. The head house, a two story rectangular building fronting on Pleasant Street is fifteen bays wide and five bays deep. The facade faces north and the longitudinal axis of the building is oriented east-west. Constructed of sand-cast red brick laid in common bond with red-tinted mortar, the main block has a massive projecting two-story pavilion surmounted by a heavy stepped parapet of decorative concrete aggregate. Wide brick engaged pilasters enframe the central pavilion and visually support the parapet. The fortress-like main entrance is composed of a massive rock-faced granite segmental arch with the doors in antis. The building has a heavy water table of decorative concrete aggregate carried all around the perimeter immediately above the basement windows. A more narrow sill course of rock-faced granite repeats this horizontal line beneath the first floor windows. The roof is a deck-type covered with asphalt.

The second element of the complex is a large drill hall which fronts on West Central Street and is three stories in height. This building is characterized by a gable roof covered with green slate with copper and ferrous sheet metal flashings. The longitudinal axis of this structure is oriented north-south and the building is eighteen bays deep and eleven bays wide on the south facade. Because of the slope, the south facade is three stories, thus permitting an at-grade entrance to the basement level.

The facade is composed of a flat, gabled wall plane devoid of decorative features except for the corbelled profile at the eaves of the east and west entablatures and a very narrow water table of brick dividing the basement and drill hall floor levels. The wall plane is relieved however by a projecting central pavilion, two stories in height with a modestly stepped parapet. While this element is monumental in scale, it is clearly subordinate to the pavilion dominating the north facade. Three round-arched windows articulate the gable above the central pavilion and provide natural illumination for the drill hall floor. A massive flat arch of rock-faced granite with quoined pilasters enframes the portal to the basement at the base of the central pavilion.

(Continued)
Page B

**United States Department of the Interior
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date entered

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Item number

Page B

7 (continued)

The drill hall is also constructed of sand-cast brick laid in common bond with red-tinted mortar. The east and west elevations of the building have full-height slit windows which are paired. This design element diminishes the large scale of the drill hall and serves to relate the building well to surrounding neighborhood.

Important decorative elements include rock-faced granite window sills which articulate the fenestration for the whole of both buildings and wrought iron window gratings on lower level windows. The head house has massive quoins of brick at each of the four corners and the first floor windows within the engaged pilasters flanking the front entrance are recessed into the brick to suggest embrasures. The heavy decorative concrete aggregate cornice is supported by several courses of corbelling and is surmounted by a parapet wall with a copper cap. Beneath the eaves of the drill hall roof is a plain corbelled entablature.

Significant interior features from the period of original use are numerous. 95% of the original floor plan remains intact including the stair in the main block, door and window trim, varnished wainscotting and grained ceiling beams in the function rooms upstairs in the northwest corner. A cobblestone fireplace stands in the northeast corner room on the first floor. Floors in both the head house and drill hall are polished maple hardwood. A balcony serves as a transitional point and entry for viewing of the drill hall from the second floor of the main block. A compass rose is painted upon the floor of the balcony and appears to be an original feature. Wall murals of a nautical theme adorn the north gable wall of the drill hall at this level. Looking southward from this platform, one can observe the construction of the modified Fink trusses at eye level as well as the entire field of the drill hall floor. The drill hall roof is sheathed with heavy matchboard planking.

The interior of the basement level contains rows of posts which constitute the support for the drill hall floor. The principal uprights have wooden shear caps and the entire area has been whitewashed. Evidence of the 1906 fire which charred approximately 25% of the posts and ceiling is also visible. The northeast corner of the drill hall basement has been partitioned while the floor plan of the main block basement appears to be the original configuration. A vaulted passageway which penetrates the east wall of the boiler room, now sealed, is said to have connected the armory via a subterranean tunnel with the building which formerly stood on the lot across the former alley (now

(Continued page C)

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date entered

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Item number

Page C

7 (continued)

the delivery lane for the truck loading dock attached to the east wall of the drill hall). The foundation is granite with a brick top course.

The most unusual design feature of the basement complex area is the fold-away posting system incorporated in the basement ceiling near the grade-level entry on the south end. Four steel posts, approximately 2" in diameter with an eye and shackle on the hinged upper end, were used during drills or assemblies to provide added strength to the drill hall floor when this surface was fully loaded. When needed, the steel posts could be swung down 90 degrees from their storage position and wedged at the bottom when perfectly vertical. In the storage position, the hinged posts are supported by an iron rod which was slid beneath the posts perpendicularly to each end and in turn carried by the rod and turnbuckle system spanning the ceiling over the aisle. The rod and turnbuckle system, with cast iron spreaders, appears to have been necessitated by the extreme span of the aisle ceiling.

The most significant alterations to the property occurred in conjunction with the conversion of the complex for use as a plastics manufactory. Slit windows on the east elevation of the head house and the west elevation of the drill hall were removed and bricked in while similar changes were made to the facade. Here, large horizontal fixed metal sash were introduced within the second floor wall plane interrupting the rhythm of the original design. Sheet metal ductwork and exhaust vents were also added on the south facade, east elevation of the head house and midway along the drill hall wall on the west side. The original massive oaken doors and iron gates which secured the entry to the head house on the north side have also been removed. All of these changes were made after 1941 when the building had been declared obsolete as an armory.

Structurally, there have been two elements added which, while serving the building's recycled purpose, do not contribute to the integrity of the original design. These include the concrete truck loading dock appended to the east side of the drill hall and the overhead garage door entrance introduced at street level on the south elevation. This is the lowest site elevation and was the location of the backstop for the former indoor firing range. Overall however, the property retains most of its original design integrity, and is clearly recognizable as an expression of period military architecture.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1904 **Builder/Architect** Col. Alfred A. Collins

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) (Source: See Block # 9)

Architecture: The New Hampshire State Union Armory was designed as a variation of the Romanesque architectural style. The signature of the building is clearly its massive, arched entry portals of stone masonry but the balance of the design of the main block is understated. The south facade is strongly reminiscent of the Richardeonian Romanesque style with its broad flat wall planes and round-arched gable windows. The Armory retains 85% of its original design integrity and has borne moderately reversible alterations. The building is clearly recognizable interiorly and exteriorly for the use it was originally designed to serve.

Military: The Armory is significant in the military history of The State of New Hampshire because it was the first such facility constructed by the State government in an effort to centralize disparate local units of the National Guard and state militia. Previously, regimental companies trained at different locations throughout Manchester. The design of the building incorporated assembly, drill, storage, headquarters, and fortification functions.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Closs, Christopher W. Request for Determination of Eligibility - The National Register of Historic Places " New Hampshire State Union Armory". Prepared for the Manchester Housing Authority, May, 1980.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 0.99

Quadrangle name Manchester South, NH

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	9	2	9	8	9	6	0	4	7	6	2	2	5	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property is on City map and parcel number 630/2 and is approximately 192' X 225' in size.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Richard P. Weaver, Redevelopment Planner

organization Manchester Housing Authority

date June 16, 1981

street & number 34 Fir Street

telephone 603-625-8936

city or town Manchester

state New Hampshire 03101

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

Commissioner, Dept. of Resources & Economic Development

title NH State Historic Preservation Officer

date June 28, 1982

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register



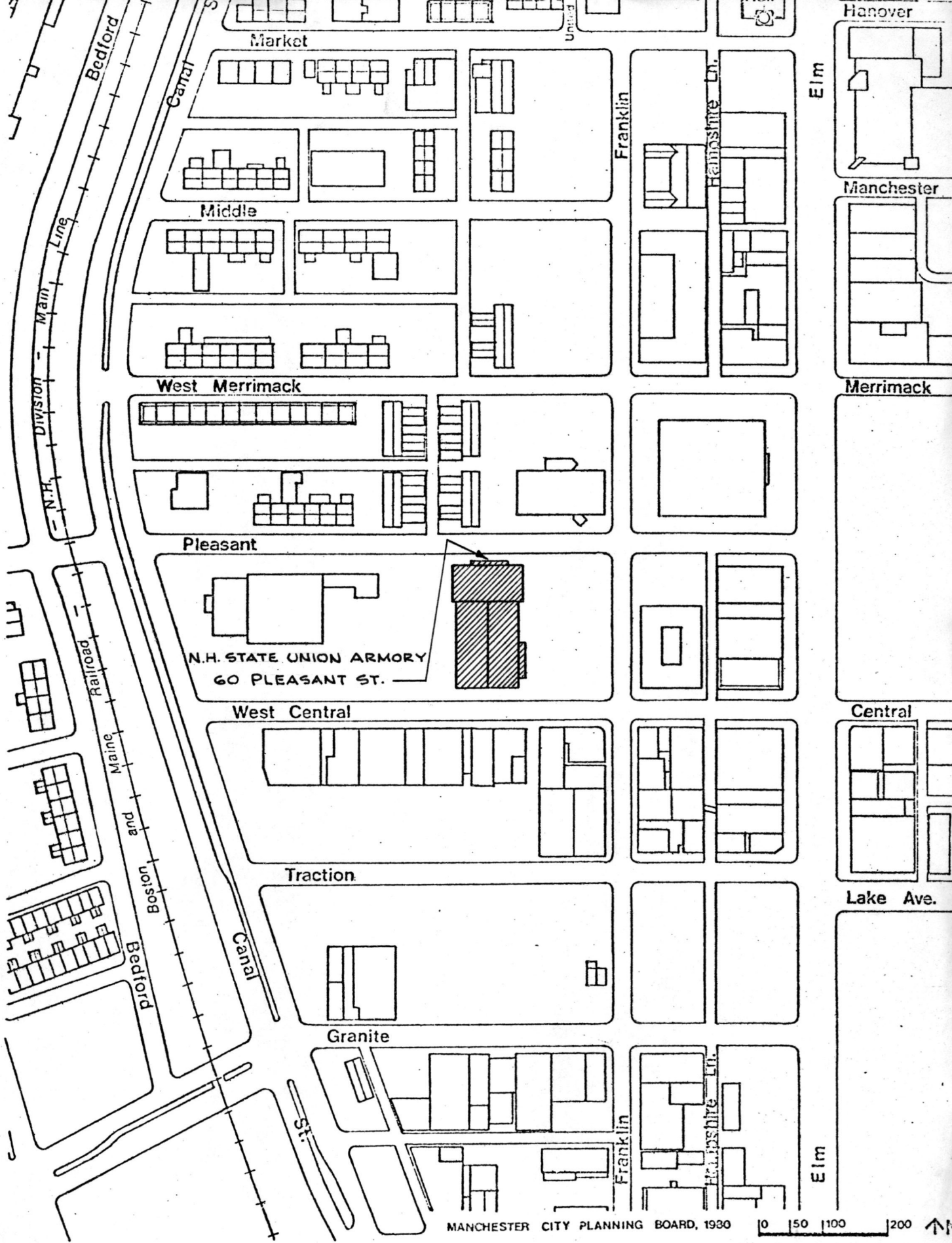
date 8-10-82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: 

date 8/9/82

Chief of Registration



Location Map

Substantive Review
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

82004993

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

New Hampshire State Union Armory, Hillsborough
County, NEW HAMPSHIRE,

Working No. 7/6/82-1949

Fed. Reg. Date: 2.1.83

Date Due: 8/14/82 - 8/20/82

Action: ACCEPT 8-10-82
 RETURN
 REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria accept A&C
Reviewer Patrick Andrus
Discipline Historian
Date 8/9/82
see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: technical corrections cited below
 substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input 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

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Area of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property _____
Quadrangle name _____
UMT References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:
_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



PRIVATE PROPERTY
NO PARKING AT ANY TIME

PRIVATE PROPERTY

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM: NEW HAMPSHIRE

Historic Name: NH STATE UNION ARMORY
Common Name: HERMSDORF MANUFACTURING BUILDING
NR District: N/A
Address: 60 Pleasant Street
City/Town/State: Manchester, NH
Photographer: Richard Weaver

*6/24/82 - appearance has
not changed*

Negative with: Manchester Housing Authority
34 Fir Street, Manchester, NH
Description: South and East facades showing concrete block addition

Photographer facing N NE E SE S SW W NW Photo Date: July 16, 1981 Photo Number / of 6

New Hampshire State Union Armory
60 Pleasant Street
Manchester, N.H.

South and east facades showing
concrete block addition
Photographer facing N-W

July 16, 1981



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM: NEW HAMPSHIRE

Historic Name: NH STATE UNION ARMORY
Common Name: HERMSDORF MANUFACTURING BUILDING
NR District: N/A
Address: 60 Pleasant Street
City/Town/State: Manchester, NH
Photographer: Richard Weaver

Negative with: Manchester Housing Authority
34 Fir Street, Manchester, NH 03104
Description: North and West Facades

*6/24/82 - appearance has
not changed*

Photographer facing N NE E SE S SW W NW Photo Date: July 16 1981 Photo Number 2 of 6

New Hampshire State Union Armory
60 Pleasant Street
Manchester, N.H.

North and west facades
Photographer facing SE

July 16, 1981



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM: NEW HAMPSHIRE

Historic Name: NH STATE UNION ARMORY
Common Name: HERMSDORF MANUFACTURING BUILDING
NR District: N/A
Address: 60 Pleasant Street
City/Town/State: Manchester, NH
Photographer: Richard Weaver

*6/24/82 - appearance has
not changed*

Negative with: Manchester Housing Authority
34 Fir Street, Manchester, NH
Description: South facade of assembly hall

Photographer facing N NE E SE S SW W NW Photo Date: July 16, 1981 Photo Number 3 of 6

New Hampshire State Union Armory
60 Pleasant Street
Manchester, N.H.

South facade of assembly hall
Photographer facing N

July 16, 1981




BANK OF
NEW HAMPSHIRE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

STOP

PRIVATE

20

274509

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM: NEW HAMPSHIRE

Historic Name: NH STATE UNION ARMORY
Common Name: HERMSDORF MANUFACTURING BUILDING
NR District: N/A
Address: 60 Pleasant Street
City/Town/State: Manchester, NH
Photographer: Richard Weaver

*6/24/88 - appearance has
not changed*

Negative with: Manchester Housing Authority
34 Fir Street, Manchester, NH
Description: Subject building and surrounding area

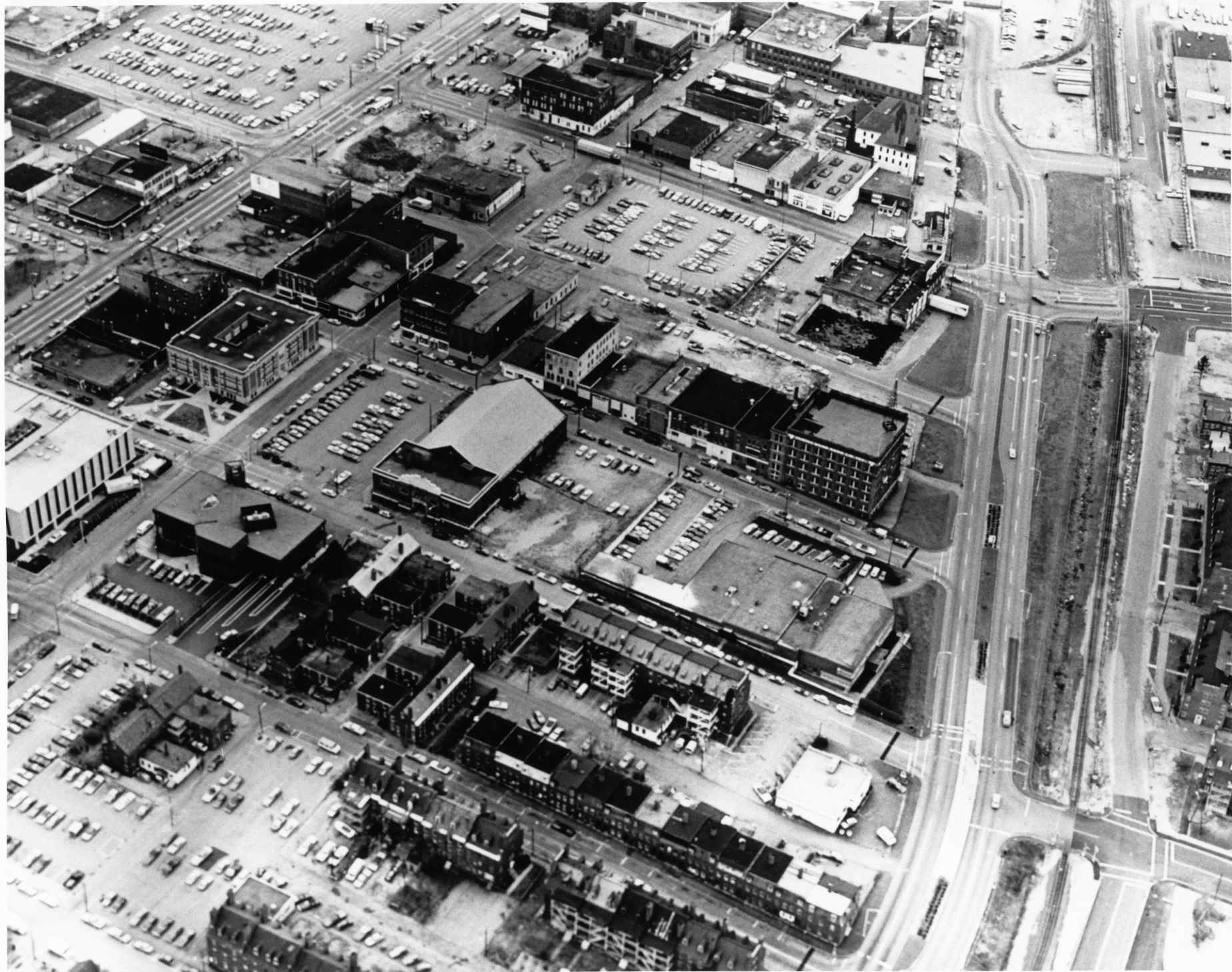
Photographer facing N NE E SE S SW W NW Photo Date: August 1981

Photo Number *11* of *6*

New Hampshire State Union Armory
60 Pleasant Street
Manchester, N.H.

Subject building and surrounding area
Photographer facing SW

August 7, 1981



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM: NEW HAMPSHIRE

Historic Name: NH STATE UNION ARMORY
Common Name: HERMSDORF MANUFACTURING BUILDING
NR District: N/A
Address: 60 Pleasant Street
City/Town/State: Manchester, NH
Photographer: Christopher Closs

*6/24/88 - appearance has
not changed*

Negative with: Manchester Housing Authority
34 Fir Street, Manchester, NH
Description: Aerial view of subject building and surrounding area

Photographer facing N NE E SE S SW W NW Photo Date: April 1980

Photo Number 5 of 6

New Hampshire State Union Armory
60 Pleasant Street
Manchester, N.H.

Aerial view of subject building and
surrounding area

April, 1980



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM: NEW HAMPSHIRE

Historic Name: NH STATE UNION ARMORY
Common Name: HERMSDORF MANUFACTURING BUILDING
NR District: N/A
Address: 60 Pleasant Street
City/Town/State: Manchester, NH
Photographer: Richard Weaver

*6/24/82 - appearance has
not changed*

Negative with: Manchester Housing Authority
34 Fir Street, Manchester, NH
Description: North and East facades of headhouse

Photographer facing N NE E SE S SW W NW Photo Date: July 16, 1981 Photo Number 6 of 6

New Hampshire State Union Armory
60 Pleasant Street
Manchester, N.H.

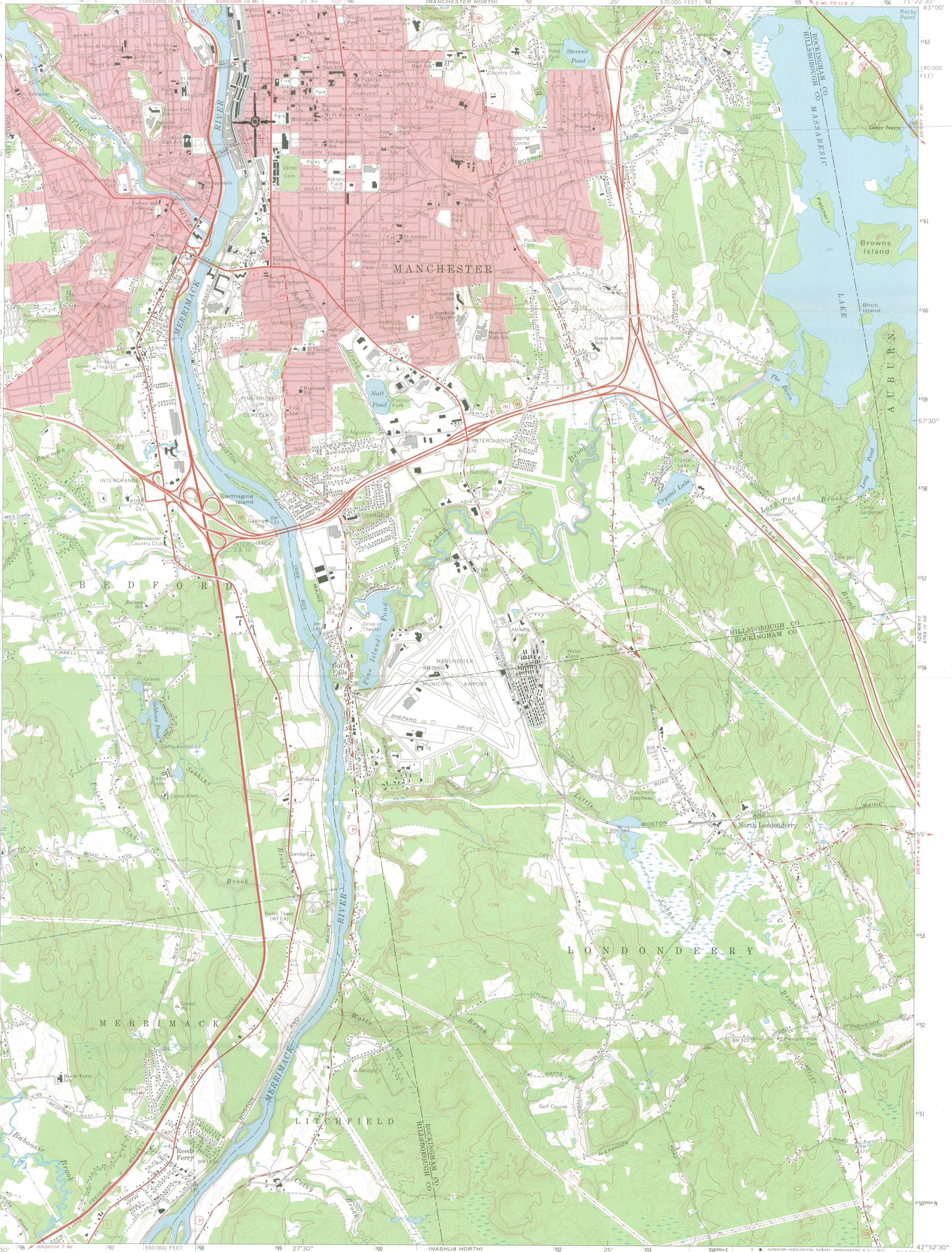
North and east facades of headhouse
Photographer facing SW

July 16, 1981

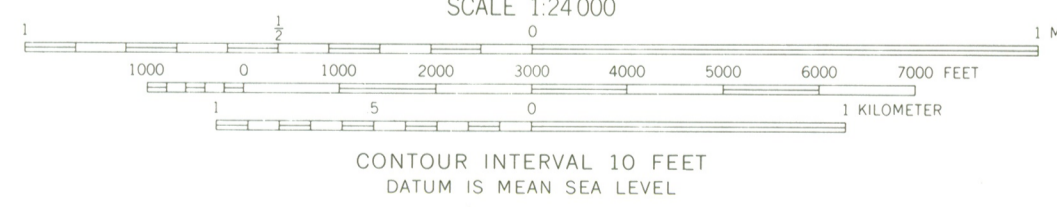
N.H. State Union
Armory
60 Pleasant Street
Manchester, NH
03101

UTM_ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A 19	2 98 940	47 65 200
B		
C		
D		

NAME: NH STATE UNION ARMORY
NR DISTRICT: N/A
CITY/TOWN/STATE: Manchester, NH



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and New Hampshire Geodetic Survey
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1965. Field checked 1968
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on New Hampshire coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 19, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, all weather, hard surface	Light duty road, all weather, improved surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface	Unimproved road, fair or dry weather

 Interstate Route
 U.S. Route
 State Route

MANCHESTER SOUTH, N. H.
NW/4 MANCHESTER 15' QUADRANGLE
N4252.5—W7122.5/7.5

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

1968
AMS 6769 IV NW—SERIES V812



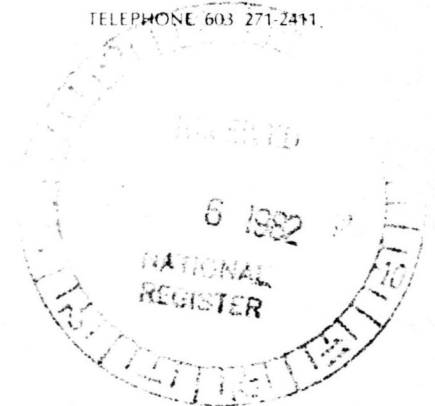
NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT of RESOURCES and ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

TELEPHONE 603 271-2441

GEORGE GILMAN
COMMISSIONER

June 25, 1982

Carol Shull, Acting Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
US Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20240



Dear Ms. Shull:

As New Hampshire State Historic Preservation Officer, I am pleased to nominate the following properties to the National Register of Historic Places:

- Amherst Village Historic District, Amherst, NH
- East Derry Historic District, East Derry, NH
- Eastern Slope Inn, North Conway, NH
- Franklin Falls Historic District, Franklin, NH
- Jaffrey Mills, Jaffrey, NH
- Charles E. Tilton Mansion, Tilton, NH
- Chamberlin House, Concord, NH
- Kimball Castle, Gilford, NH
- ✓ NH State Union Armory, Manchester, NH
- T.L. Thorpe Building, Manchester, NH
- The Milford Cotton & Woolen Manufacturing Co., Milford, NH

The National Register Inventory-Nomination forms have been reviewed and approved by the NH State Historic Preservation Review Board. The owners and officials have been notified and any comments received are enclosed.

In cases where photographs were taken more than six months ago, it has been noted that the appearance has not changed.

Sincerely,

George Gilman, Commissioner
NH State Historic Preservation Officer

GG:cc

- cc: Robert W. Crouter
- Claire S. Larrabee
- Robert B. Kantack
- Kathryn M. Kuranda
- Robert B. Stephenson
- Justine B. Gengras

- cc: Mrs. Robertson Page
- David Ruell
- Richard P. Weaver
- Richard Candee
- Cynthia Milliken

Enclosures



DATE

8/9/82

TELEPHONE REPORT

TIME OF CALL

AM
PM

1. CALL TO: FROM (Name)

Christine Zonda

2. ADDRESS (Tel. No. if needed)

NH SHPO

3. SUBJECT, PROJECT NO., ETC.

re: N.H. State Union Armory - Manchester

4. DETAILS OF DISCUSSION

The state used a xerox of a nomination form because they were out & were advised by someone at the N.R. to xerox a form. Carol Skull approved allowing us to accept this copy in this instance.

NAME OF PERSON PLACING/RECEIVING CALL

TITLE

OFFICE

Patrick Andrews

National Register