

RARITAN ARSENAL, ARTILLERY SHOP S-3-A
(Raritan Arsenal, Building 15A)
2890 Woodbridge Avenue
Bonhamton Vicinity
Middlesex County
New Jersey

HABS No. NJ-1061-E

HABS
NJ
12-BONTON,
IE-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
Philadelphia Support Office
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

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Location: 2890 Woodbridge Avenue, Bonhamton vicinity, Middlesex County, New Jersey

USGS Perth Amboy, New Jersey Quadrangle
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 18.554290.4484860

Significance: Artillery Shop S-3-A is significant for its contribution to World War II tank and artillery production. The poured concrete structure is an unusual construction type amid the brick and frame structures that were more common at the Arsenal.

Description: This buttressed poured reinforced concrete gable-roof building consists of nine bays on the north elevation and 3 bays on the east and west elevations; the south wall is the former exterior north wall of Building 15C (HABS No. NJ-1061-G). The clearspan north bay contains a riveted truss supported by steel I-beams. The south row of posts is set into the concrete slab floor. The north row of posts abut the concrete exterior wall and are set into three-foot high bases. The roof is constructed of reinforced concrete panels. The roof is pierced by a skylight flush with the roofline and a clerestory encircles the structure. The skylight and windows are corrugated glass reinforced with wire. The south bay has a shallow-pitched roof and is supported by the north wall of Building 15C and the south row of posts. An industrial-sized rolling metal door is centered on the north wall. This opening aligns with the openings in Building 15C, allowing access from Building 15D (HABS No. NJ-1061-H).

History: The construction of the building was begun in August 1944 with an expected occupancy date of January 1, 1945. It was designed by the Office of the Post Engineer, as per a history of the Arsenal during World War II, and constructed at an estimated total cost, exclusive of the equipment, of \$55,000.00. The steel work was fabricated by the Post Engineer and erected by "his forces." Four thousand square feet of corrugated glass was installed in the skylight (Raritan Arsenal History July-Sept. 1944: 462). The building presently contains few clues as to its use, with the exception of a tank boring target on the east wall, used to align gun barrels with their sighting mechanisms. The building was referred to as the Art Shop in 1959 (Dames & Moore 1993: Appendix E) and as the Heavy Gun Shop in 1964 (U.S.E.P.A. 1990: Appendix E) and as the Radiator Section (Metcalf & Eddy 1991: Appendix E).

The building is owned by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S.E.P.A.) and is vacant. The U.S.E.P.A has decided to demolish the building because the building cannot presently be reused and replacement is not cost-effective.

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HABS No. NJ-1061-E
(Page 2)

Sources: Dames & Moore. Archival Search Report Former Raritan Arsenal, Edison, New Jersey, Volumes 1 and 2, Prepared for the Army Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District, Kansas City, Missouri, July 1993.

Metcalf & Eddy. Archives Search Report for Raritan Center and the General Services Administration Area, Prepared for the Army Corps of Engineers, Huntsville Division, Huntsville, Alabama, December 1991.

Quarterly Historical Report of the Various Departments of Raritan Arsenal, October, November, and December 1944, Vol. IX, 1 October 1944 thru 31 December 1944. R.G. 156, Entry 646, Box 230, National Archives, College Park, Md.

Raritan Arsenal History 1 July 1944 thru September 1944, Vol. VIII. R.G. 156, Entry 646, Box 230; National Archives, College Park, Md.

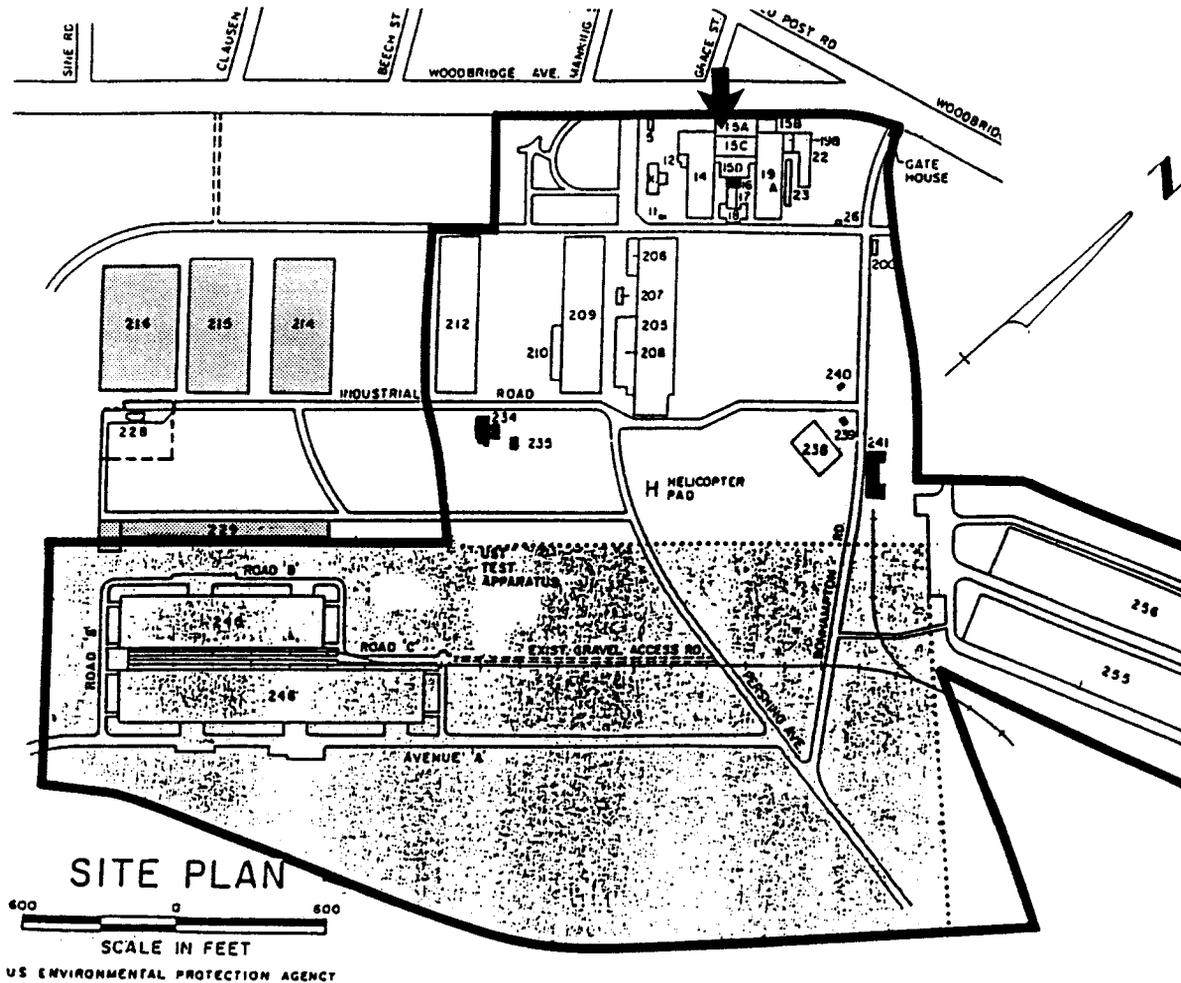
United States Environmental Protection Agency Region II, Gannett Fleming, Inc., Ecolsciences, Inc. Historic Resources Management Plan for the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Edison Facility. July 1992.

United States Environmental Protection Agency Region II, Gannett Fleming, Inc., Ecolsciences, Inc., and Historic Sites Research. Stage I Cultural Resources Survey United States Environmental Protection Agency Edison Facility, Edison Township, Middlesex County, New Jersey, October 1990.

Historian: Stacy E. Spies, Richard Grubb & Associates, October, 1996

PROPERTY PLOT PLAN

Map of the U.S.E.P.A.-owned property which includes part of the former Raritan Arsenal. Arrow points to subject building. Map is altered from Figure 2 of the Stage 1 Cultural Resources Survey, United States Environmental Protection Agency Edison Facility, Edison Township, Middlesex County, New Jersey, 1990.



KEY:	
	- EPA BOUNDARY
	- BUILDINGS OWNED BY MIDDLESEX COUNTY COLLEGE
	- BUILDINGS RECENTLY DEMOLISHED

SKETCH FLOORPLAN

