

RARITAN ARSENAL, STEAM CLEANING SHOP S-3-B  
(Raritan Arsenal, Building 15B)  
2890 Woodbridge Avenue  
Bonhamtom Vicinity  
Middlesex County  
New Jersey

HABS No. NJ-1061-F

HABS  
NJ  
12-BONTO.V,  
IF-

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

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS  
NJ  
12-Bonhamton, N.J.  
IF-

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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: Steam Cleaning Shop S-3-B is significant as a support structure in the machine shops complex, which formed the industrial core of the arsenal.

Description: This buttressed reinforced poured concrete building consists of five bays on the north elevation and three bays on the east elevation. Two of these bays are infilled and stuccoed; the remaining three bays contain metal-frame industrial windows. The west elevation is the east former exterior wall of Artillery Shop 3-S-A, Building 15A (HABS No. NJ-1061-E). The south elevation is the north former exterior wall of Assembly Plant K-2, Building 19A (HABS No. NJ-1061-J) in which the windows have been removed and the bays infilled with brick. An approximately 10' wide concrete block loading dock is attached to the east elevation.

The shallow-pitched concrete panel roof is supported by steel I-beams. Cross-braced steel posts abut the south wall, but no such posts are visible along the north, exterior wall. The beams appear to rest directly on the poured concrete wall. A corrugated glass gable-peak skylight rests on a brick base. A single track of a one-ton capacity crane is located along the south wall.

History: Building 15B was constructed in 1946 as permanent construction (Metcalf & Eddy 1991: Appendix E). The building is also referred to as the Artillery Shop (Metcalf & Eddy 1991:4-6) 1946 Artillery Shop Annex (Dames & Moore 1993: Table 9) and the Instrument Shop (U.S.E.P.A. 1992:30). In most historic maps, Buildings 15A, 15B (HABS No. NJ-1061-F), 15C (HABS No. NJ-1061-G), and 15D (HABS No. NJ-1061-H) are depicted as one large building, labelled collectively as Building 15, and histories of the Arsenal often collectively list the activities of these four buildings. An undated photograph reproduced in Dames and Moore depicts a grit blasting booth along the south wall of the building. The windows in the north wall of Assembly Plant K2 (HABS No. NJ-1061-J) are visible behind this booth. The crane was installed in July 1946 over the degreaser tanks on the south wall (Dames & Moore 1993: Table 9).

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 it cannot presently be reused and renovation is not cost-effective.

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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.

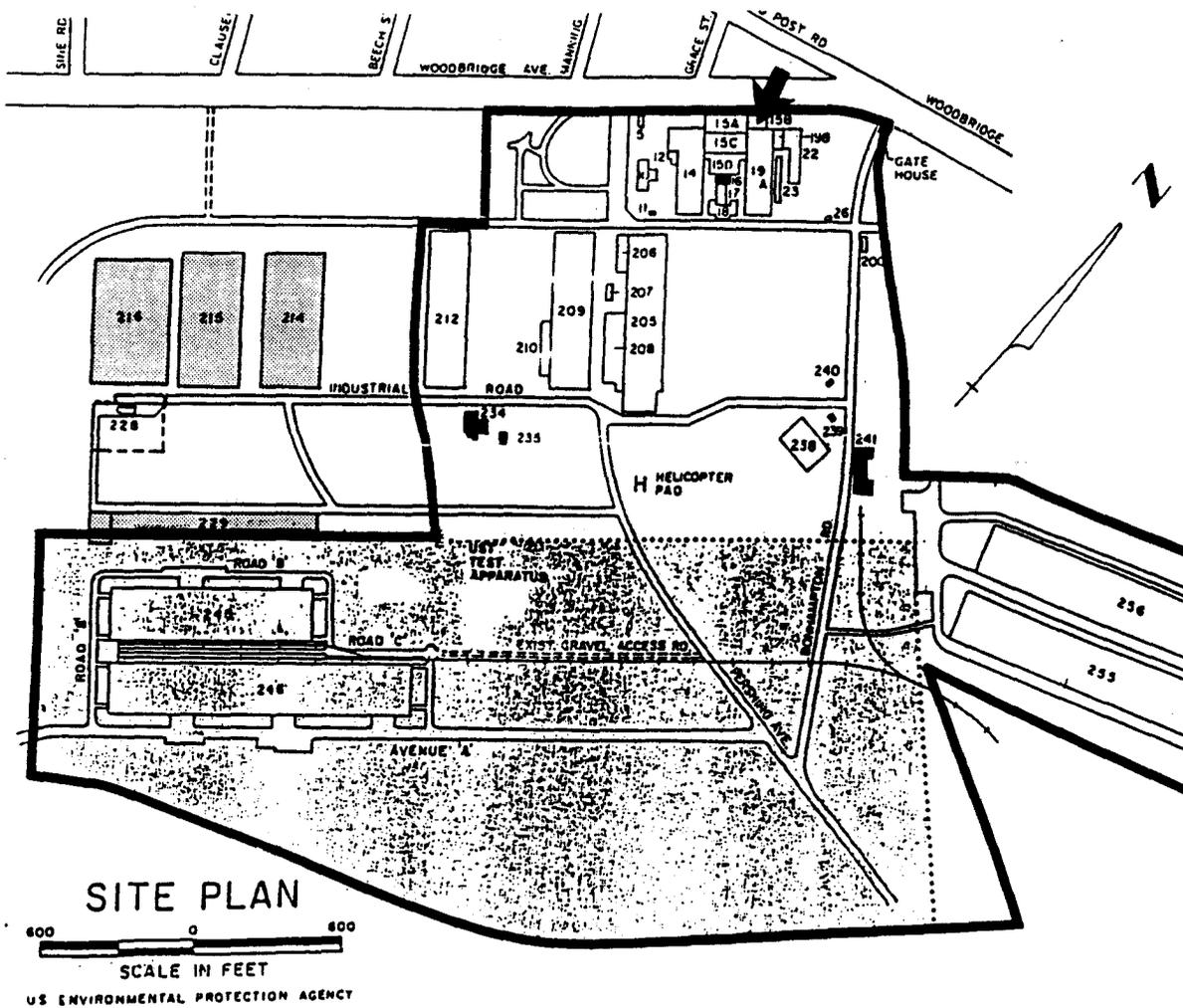
United States Environmental Protection Agency Region II, Gannett Fleming, Inc., Ecolsciences, Inc. Historic Resources Management Plan for the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Edison Facility, July 1992.

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

