

RARITAN ARSENAL, LUNCH ROOM
(Raritan Arsenal, Building 19B)
2890 Woodbridge Avenue
Bonhamton Vicinity
Middlesex County
New Jersey

HABS No. NJ-1061-K

HABS
NJ
12-BONTO.V,
IK-

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

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HABS No. NJ-1061-K

HABS
105
12-BONHTON, V,
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Location: 2890 Woodbridge Avenue, Bonhamton vicinity, Middlesex County, New Jersey

USGS Perth Amboy, New Jersey Quadrangle

Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 18.554300.4484860

Significance: The Lunch Room is a part of the machine shop complex which formed the industrial and manufacturing core of the Arsenal.

Description: The single-story building is constructed of stuccoed structural hollow clay tile and brick. There are just two exterior walls; the west wall is the east wall of Building 19A (HABS No. NJ-1061-J) and the east wall is shared with Building 22 (HABS No. NJ-1061-L). The west bay has a frame shed roof covered with rolled roofing material. The east bay rises several feet above the west bay and has an asphalt shingle frame gable roof with exposed rafter ends. The steel structural supports are set into the concrete slab floor. The south elevation of the west bay contains a rolling metal door; the east bay contains a large steel-frame industrial multiple-light window with a brick lintel and stuccoed sill. The north elevation of the west bay also contains a large industrial window; the east bay contains a smaller window and door. There are two metal rolling doors on the west interior elevation and one on the east interior elevation connecting the building to Buildings 19A and 22, respectively.

The building is in poor condition as the shed roof has fallen into the building; the former canopy along the east elevation has also failed. The north half of the building's interior is inaccessible due to the collapse of the roof.

History: The building was constructed in 1934 as a lunch room for the predominantly civilian employees in the adjacent shop buildings, Building 14 (HABS No. NJ-1061-D) and Building 19A (HABS No. NJ-1061-J) (U.S.E.P.A. 1992:23). The canopy along the east elevation was enclosed with the construction of Building 22 in 1941. The building was also used as a Paint Spray Shop in 1943 and as office space for the manufacturing/assembly plant. The building was identified as Building 108 in 1934 and Shop S-5 in 1943.

The structure originally had a frame canopy roof along the east elevation (formerly an exterior wall) supported by wood posts that mirrored the form and materials of the west bay of Building 19B. This canopy now forms the interior west bay of the ell of Building 22. The four bays of windows that filled this shared elevation have been filled with brick. The presence of the canopy is corroborated by a 1934 site plan of the site (Metcalf & Eddy 1991:Fig. 4-2).

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The building is owned by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and is currently vacant. In 1990 it was determined that the cost of repairing the building would outweigh the cost of demolition. Further deterioration of the building has raised serious safety concerns requiring that demolition be carried out.

Sources: Beatty, Harvey and Associates Architects, Building Demolition Docket. Prepared for United States Environmental Protection Agency, Edison, New Jersey, Region II, 1990.

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.

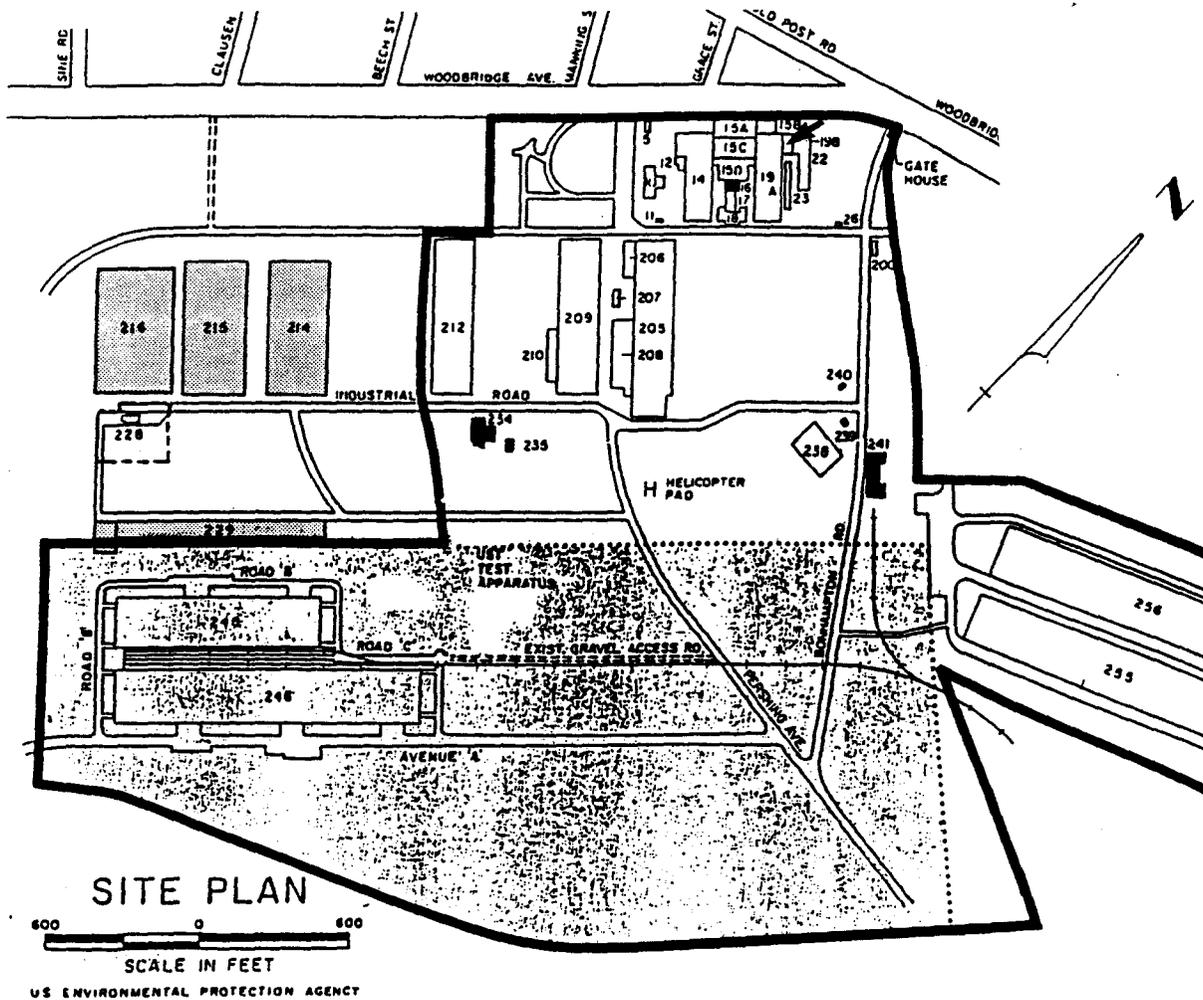
Oversize manuscript map "Raritan Arsenal Building Numbers, January 2, 1943." R.G. 156, Entry 646, Box 225, National Archives, College Park, Md.

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.

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

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SKETCH FLOORPLAN

