

RARITAN ARSENAL, UPHOLSTERY SHOP  
(Raritan Arsenal, Building No. 22)  
2890 Woodbridge Avenue  
Bonhamton vicinity  
Middlesex County  
New Jersey

HABS No. NJ-1061-L

HABS  
NJ  
12-BONTO.V,  
1L-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL OFFICE  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
200 Chestnut Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

RARITAN ARSENAL, UPHOLSTERY SHOP  
(Raritan Arsenal, Building 22)

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

USGS Perth Amboy, New Jersey Quadrangle  
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 18.554310.4484860

Significance: The Upholstery Shop is a part of the machine shop complex, which formed the industrial core of the Arsenal.

Description: This L-plan common bond brick building sits on a concrete slab foundation and is punctuated with thirteen bays of steel-frame industrial windows and metal doors on the east and west elevations. The shallow-pitched roof over the east two bays is supported by steel columns and beams beneath steel purlins, which in turn support lightweight precast concrete decking panels with built-up roofing on the exterior surface. The "ell" located at the northwest corner of the building is two bays wide and is sheltered by a frame shed roof. The west bay of this ell was originally a canopy for adjacent Building 19B supported by timber posts beneath steel beams (HABS No. NJ-1061-K) and the west wall of the ell was the exterior wall for Building 19B. Exterior building details include tile coping along the parapets, copper box gutters, pent roofs over steel doors, and concrete lintels and sills. The building is divided into two sections by a masonry partition wall. Toilet facilities located in the southeast corner of the building are enclosed by hollow tile walls and light is provided by a pyramidal skylight above. A half-ton capacity crane is located in the southwest corner of the building. The overall condition of the building is poor and the roof has collapsed in the north end of the building.

History: The 10,500 square foot building was constructed in 1941 (Dames & Moore 1993:7-4) to house utilities, a plumbing shop, an electrical shop, a tin shop, and a storeroom for storing cement and lumber (Raritan Arsenal History, Vol. 1 Part 2: Ch.3, p.5). The structure served several uses, which was common for the industrial buildings at the Arsenal. The structure is most commonly referred to as the automotive upholstery shop, but is also referred to as support offices and as the "Post engineers shop" (Metcalf & Eddy 1991: 4-6). In 1943 the building was referenced as Lumber and Materials Storage Building W-19, "W" signifying "warehouse," ("Oversize map" 1943) and in 1949 it was referenced as the Post Engravers Shops (Dames & Moore 1993:Appendix E).

It was determined in 1990 that nearly every element of the structure would need replacement in order to return it to usable condition. Therefore, demolition and construction of a new building would be more feasible than repair.

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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.

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.

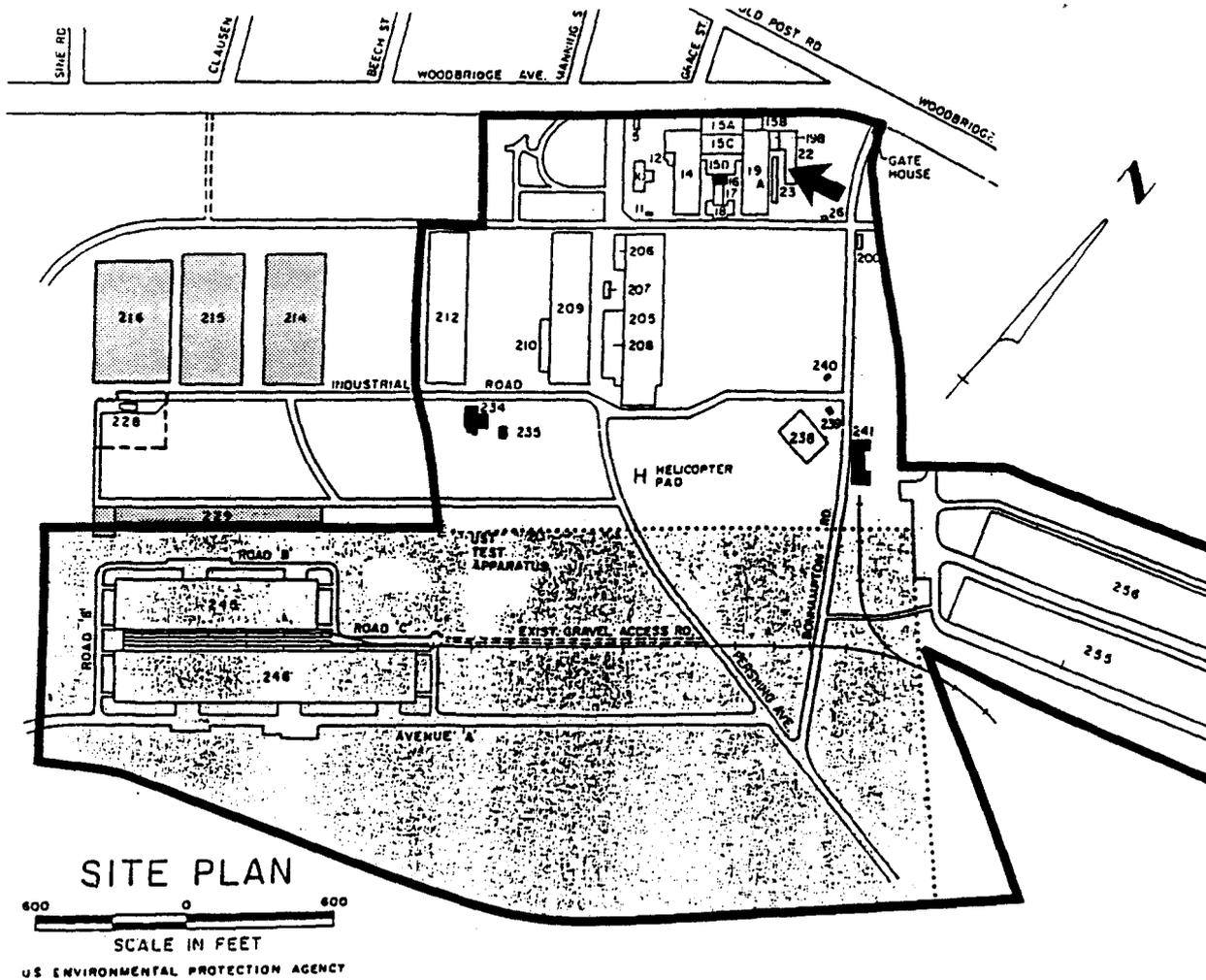
Oversize manuscript map "Raritan Arsenal Building Numbers, January 2, 1943." R.G. 156, Entry 646, Box 225, National Archives, College Park, Md.

Raritan Arsenal History, Vol. 1, Part 2, 1919-1942. R.G. 156, Entry 646, Box 225, National Archives, College Park, Md.

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

