

Schuylkill Arsenal
2620 Gray's Ferry Avenue and Peltz Street
Philadelphia
Philadelphia County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-1540

HABS
PA,
51-PHILA,
578-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

SCHUYLKILL ARSENAL

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Location: 2620 Gray's Ferry Avenue and Peltz Street, Philadelphia,
Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania.

The Schuylkill Arsenal was the nation's third arsenal. Construction was initiated in 1799 and continued for many years. With the establishment of the nearby Frankfort Arsenal in 1836, the arsenal was converted to a manufacture and depository of clothing and equipment. It later became the principal clothing and equipment depot in the east. It was shut down in 1961, and all of its twenty-three buildings were demolished in 1962.

See also separate HABS files for the arsenal's earliest buildings.

For more information, see the following sources:

Original Architectural Drawings

Drawings of the Schuylkill Arsenal by B.R. Evans, 1882. Historical Society of Pennsylvania, 1300 Locust Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

National Archives, Washington, D.C. Inquire if drawings of the arsenal are available for study

Early Views

Old photos showing the arsenal on file at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, 1300 Locust Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

National Archives, Washington, D.C. For old photographs of the arsenal

Bibliography

Primary and unpublished sources:

National Archives, Washington, D.C. Various records pertaining to the Schuylkill Arsenal from the files of the Adjutant General's Office (Record Group 94), the Office of the Inspector General (Record Group 159), and the Office of the Quartermaster General (Record Group 92). Records include letters, storekeeper orders, inspection books, reports, seamstress books and other documents

Secondary and published sources:

Brandt, Francis Burke, and Gummere, Henry Volkmar. Byways and Boulevards in and about Historic Philadelphia. Philadelphia: Corn Exchange National Bank, 1925

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Hammersly, Thomas H.S. Complete Regular Army Register of the United States for One Hundred Years (1779 to 1879). Washington, 1880.

Risch, E. Quartermaster Support of the Army- A History of the Corps, 1775-1939. Washington, D.C.: Quartermaster Historian's Office, Office of the Quartermaster General, 1962

Scharf, Thomas and Westcott, Thompson. History of Philadelphia 1609-1884. Philadelphia: L.H. Everts and Company, 1884. Vol. II, pp. 1014-1015

A Guide to the Lions of Philadelphia, Comprising a Description of the Places of Amusement, Exhibitions, Public Buildings, Public Squares & c. in the City; and of the places of Public Resort and Objects of Interest and Curiosity in the Environs. Philadelphia: Thomas T. Ash and Company, 1837

Newspaper articles:

The Philadelphia Inquirer. Today Magazine article on the arsenal, July 8, 1962

The Evening Bulletin. Articles on the arsenal, February 5, 1958, May 8, 1962

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