

Virginia Department of Historic Resources PIF Resource Information Sheet

This information sheet is designed to provide the Virginia Department of Historic Resources with the necessary data to be able to evaluate the significance of the property for possible listing in the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. This is not a formal nomination, but a necessary step in determining whether or not the property could be considered eligible for listing. Please take the time to fill in as many fields as possible. A greater number of completed fields will result in a more timely and accurate assessment. Staff assistance is available to answer any questions you have in regards to this form.

General Property Information	For Staff Use Only DHR ID #: 105-0067
Property Name(s): <u>Clifton Forge Armory</u>	
Property Date(s): <u>1940</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Circa <input type="checkbox"/> Pre <input type="checkbox"/> Post Open to Public? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Limited <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Property Address: <u>Lowell Street</u> City: <u>Clifton Forge</u> Zip: <u>24422</u>	
County or Ind. City: <u>Clifton Forge (City) (Alleghany Co)</u> USGS Quad(s): <u>Clifton Forge</u>	

Physical Character of General Surroundings
Acreage: <u>1</u> Setting (choose one): <input type="checkbox"/> Urban <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> Suburban <input type="checkbox"/> Rural <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation Corridor
Site Description Notes/Notable Landscape Features: <u>The Clifton Forge Armory is sited on the north side of Lowell Street, in a predominantly residential area. The property is bounded by Smith Creek on the west side, and Clifton Forge High School is directly to the east.</u>
Secondary Resource Description (Briefly describe any other structures (or archaeological sites) that may contribute to the significance of the property: <u>There are no secondary resources.</u>
Ownership Category: <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-Local <input type="checkbox"/> Public-State <input type="checkbox"/> Public-Federal

Individual Resource Information
What was the historical use of this resource? Examples include: Dwelling, Grist Mill, Bridge, Store, Tobacco Barn, etc...
<u>Armory (Military facility)</u>
What is the current use? (if other than the historical use) <u>Recreational and Civic use.</u>
Architectural style or elements of styles: <u>Classical Revival</u>
Architect, builder, or original owner: <u>See below</u>
of stories <u>2.0</u> Condition: <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Poor <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Rebuilt <input type="checkbox"/> Renovated
Are there any known threats to this property? <u>Deterioration, infrequent use.</u>

Resource Component Information

Please answer the following questions regarding the individual components of the resource. If the component does not exist, answer "n/a." If you feel uncomfortable in answering the question, please leave the space blank. Photographs of the features can also help our staff identify specific feature components. Usually, priority is given to describing features on the primary (front) facade of the structure.

Foundation: Describe the foundation that supports the structure. Examples include piers, continuous brick, poured concrete.
Solid Concrete

Structure: Describe the primary structural component of the resource. Include primary material used. Examples include log, frame (sawn lumber), and brick. Also include the treatment, such as a particular brick bond or type of framing, if known.
Concrete, brick veneer

Walls: Describe the exterior wall covering such as beaded weatherboard or asbestos shingles.
brick veneer

Windows: Describe the number, material, and form of the primary windows. This includes the number of panes per sash, what the sashes are made of, and how the sashes operate (are they hinged or do they slide vertically) Have the windows been replaced?
Steel casement

Porch: Briefly describe the primary (front) porch. List the primary material, shape of the porch roof, and other defining details.
N/A

Roof: Describe the roof, listing the shape and the covering material.
Flat roof in front, parapet with concrete coping; bowed roof in back – over gymnasium. Both roofs have built-up membrane.

Chimney(s): List the number of chimneys and the materials used. Include the brick bond pattern if possible.
N/A

Architectural Description of Individual Resource: *(Please describe architectural patterns, types, features, additions, remodelings, or other alterations. A sketch of the current floor plan would be appreciated)*

1994 survey (DHR file): Intact, two story, brick veneered armory with rectangular plan. Reinforced concrete foundation. Front section has flat, parapeted roof with projecting center section. The projecting section has brick quoins and a tall, segmental arched entry, capped by a keystone. Double metal and glass doors with a tall transom. Symmetrical facade with steel-sash factory windows. Rear section has a bowed roof, brick pilasters, and steel sash factory windows. There is one, overhead loading bay in the center bay of the rear elevation. Built in 1940-1941 (corner date stone) and currently in good condition.

2010 update: The armory's description remains unchanged. It appears essentially the same today as it was when completed in 1941.

PIF photographs provided by Pat Persinger of Clifton Forge, and Dave Kepplinger of Alleghany County.

Significance Statement: Briefly note any significant events, personages, and/or families associated with the property. (Detailed family genealogies are not necessary.) Please list all sources of information. It is not necessary to attach lengthy articles or genealogies to this form. Normally, only information contained on this form will be posted for consideration by the State Review Board.

Summary

The Clifton Forge Armory is intact and located within a cohesive potential historic district. Essentially unaltered today, it was built in 1940 and 1941 by the City of Clifton Forge, the Federal Work Projects Administration, and the Commonwealth of Virginia on the eve of World War II. It was among the first federally-financed armories, and is one of only four known surviving armories in Virginia built under the New Deal program.¹ It appears to be eligible for the National Register under Criterion C for Architecture. The period of significance is from construction in 1940-1941. The armory is also the only military structure in Clifton Forge, and is potentially eligible under Criterion A for Military History, but further information on its military use(s) is needed.

Additional Discussion

The Clifton Forge Armory was among the first federally-financed armories erected under the auspices of the Roosevelt's Administration's New Deal. Previously the buildings were constructed with state funds or private donations. Communities in Virginia competed for monies for projects, and the state was the recipient of eight armories: in Blacksburg, Covington, Clifton Forge, Martinsville, Newport News, Roanoke, Staunton, and Winchester, only four of which still exist – Clifton Forge, Covington, Martinsville, and Winchester.

In addition to military use, armories such as the Clifton Forge example were built as public monuments, imposing symbols of military strength and governmental presence, and have served to inspire nationalism and community pride. They were also built to be adaptive to a wide variety of uses, such as serving as headquarters for civic emergencies, and for social activities, so as to become important assets to the communities in which they were built.

Because of the Clifton Forge Armory's historical associations and its well-preserved condition, the property is an exceptionally strong candidate for listing in the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places.

Notes

1. In 2009, DHR's Joanie Evans and Mike Pulice collaborated in an effort to determine the number of surviving WPA-funded armories in Virginia. Using a list of Public Works Administration projects provided by the National Archives and Records Administration, Evans and Pulice reached out to contacts in all of the Virginia towns listed as having armories, and received current information on each armory's status.

Legal Owner(s) of the Property (For more than one owner, please use a separate sheet.)

Mr. Mrs.
Ms. Miss Tracey Shiflett, Town Manager City of Clifton Forge
(Name) (Firm)

547 Main St. Clifton Forge VA 24422
(Address) (City) (State) (Zip Code)

townmgr@ntelos.com 540-863-2500
(Email Address) (Daytime telephone including area code)

Owner's Signature: _____ Date: _____
•• Signature required for processing all applications. ••

In the event of corporate ownership you must provide the name and title of the appropriate contact person.

Contact person: _____

Daytime Telephone: ()

Applicant Information (Individual completing form if other than legal owner of property)

Mr. Mrs.
Ms. Miss Mike Pulice DHR
(Name) (Firm)

Roanoke VA _____
(City) (State) (Zip Code)

michael.pulice@dhr.virginia.gov 540-857-7586
(Email Address) (Daytime telephone including area code)

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: April 29, 2010

Notification

In some circumstances, it may be necessary for the department to confer with or notify local officials of proposed listings of properties within their jurisdiction. In the following space, please provide the contact information for the local County Administrator or City Manager.

Mr. Mrs. Dr.
Miss Ms. Hon. Same as legal owner (above)
(Name) (Position)

(Locality) (Address)

(City) (State) (Zip Code) (Daytime telephone including area code)

Please use the following space to explain why you are seeking an evaluation of this property.

Would you be interested in the State and/or the Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credits? Yes No
Would you be interested in the easement program? Yes No