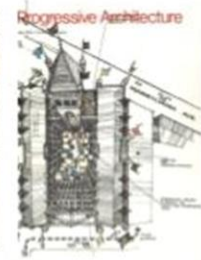




Threads in the Fabric of Community

Chestertown

Newnam Armory



## RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

THOMAS KOCUBINSKI, RA

# 'The Mission'...for today

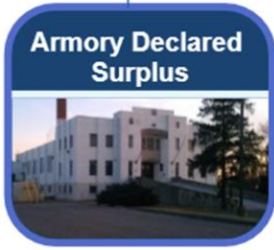
Present the **History of the Circa 1931 Chestertown Armory** as an *Historic Resource* in the Architectural, Military & Community Contexts of Chestertown & Kent County.

- Part 1      The **Building**
- Part 2      The **Military**
- Part 3      The **Community**
- Part 4      The **Designations**



STATE ARMORY, CHESTERTOWN, MD.

## Part 1. The Building

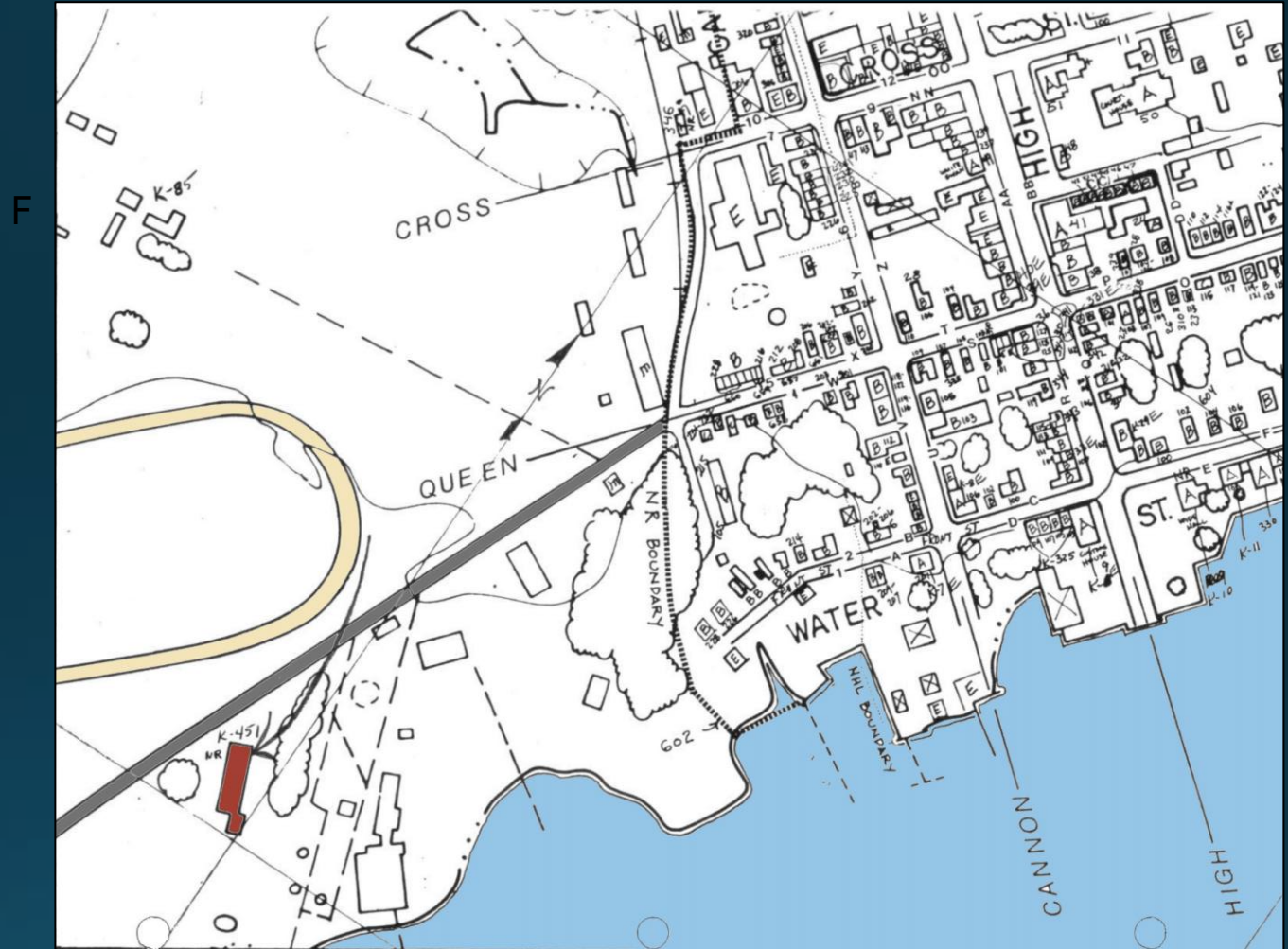


# The Armory Timeline

## □ The BUILDING LOCATION

Southwesterly of town on Quaker Neck Road and west of the Chester River.

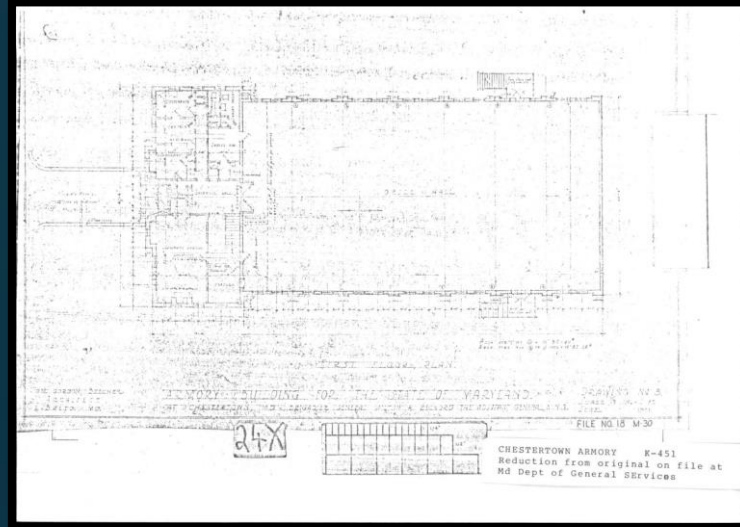
The 3.5 - acre parcel was bought in 1929 by the Maryland Military Dept.



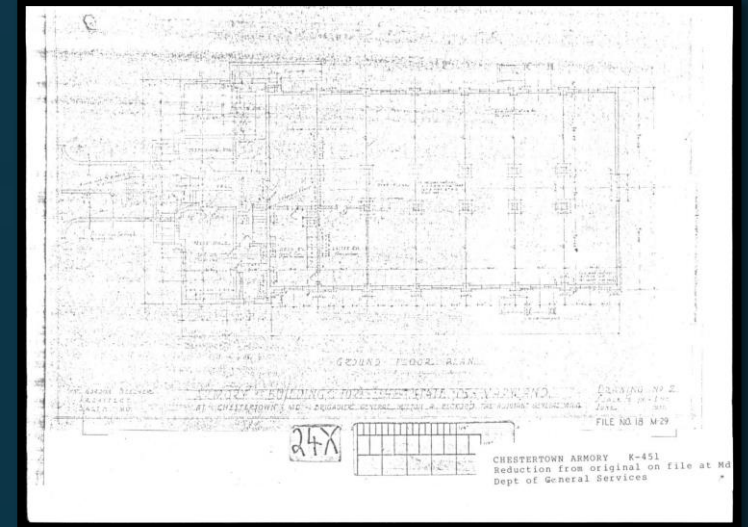
Location Plan

# □ The BUILDING DESIGN PLANS

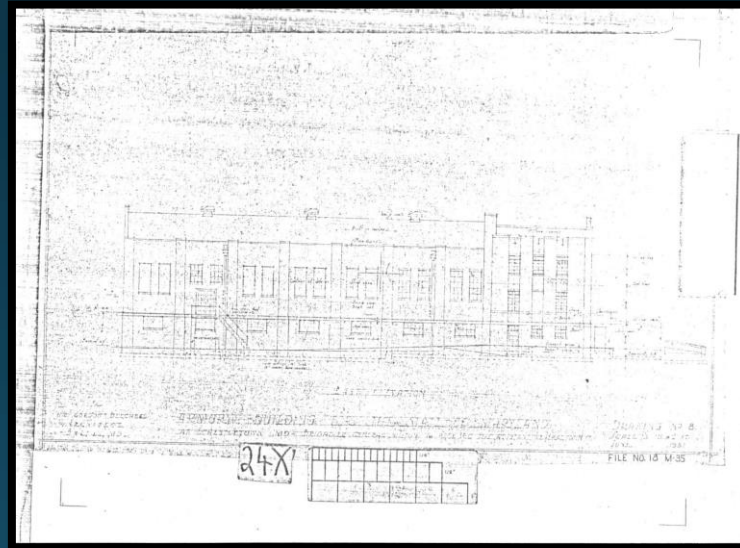
'T' shaped floor plan with 32'x67' Head House & 61'x 112' open, 7-bay Drill Hall, built over an exposed basement ground floor level - total approx. area of 19,600 sq ft. Construction started in 1930 at a cost of \$47,000.



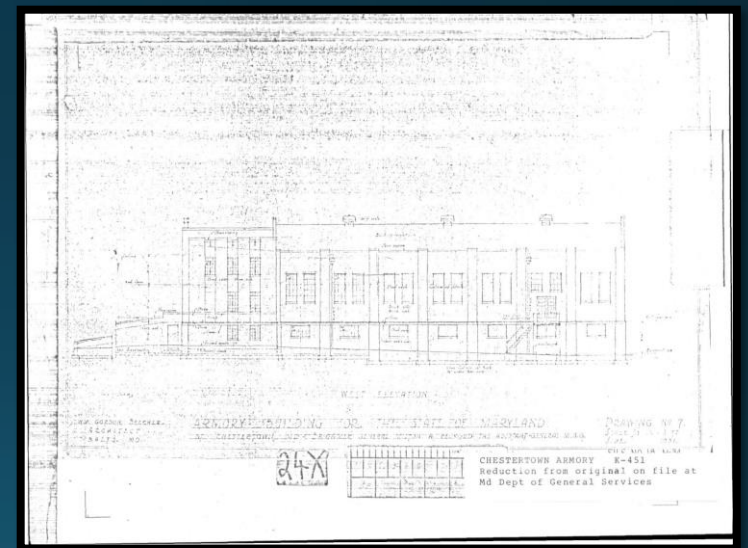
First Floor Plan



Ground Floor Plan



North Side Elevation



South Side Elevation

# □ The BUILDING ELEVATIONS

*'Economic driven simplicity  
having modern, classic & fortress  
influences with art deco accents'*

## Primary Exterior Materials

- Poured concrete foundation wall
- Brick veneer painted
- Cast stone window inset - Gothic influence
- Casement steel windows
- Curved panelized entry doors
- Poured concrete ramp [firing range below]
- Rolled membrane roof, pitched
- Steel exit stairs



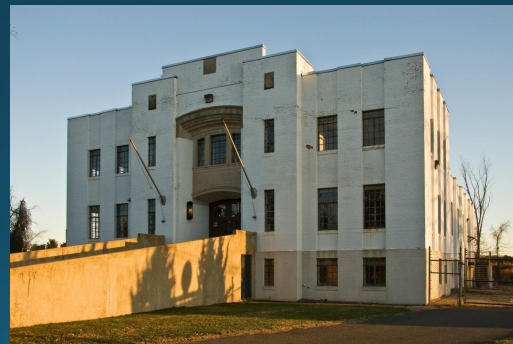




# □ The BUILDING STRUCTURE & INTERIOR CONSTRUCTION

## Highlights

- Segmented steel roof structure
- Wood plank roof deck
- Masonry exterior walls with plaster finish
- Poured concrete floors supported by concrete beams and columns
- Wood floor finish at drill hall
- Steel stairs
- Poured concrete balcony with integral seating
- Poured concrete basement foundation walls



# The BUILDING'S NOTEWORTHY FEATURES

## Architectural Highlights

- Two-story angled and curved entry niche
- Three-part cast stone Gothic inspired projected window bay
- Arch topped and panelized double entrance doors
- Banded cast in-place lettering above entrance
- Medieval inspired light fixtures and angled flagpoles with decorative finials
- Cast stone façade accent panels
- Deep red rich brick color with colored mortar
- Free-span structural steel roof structure with knee bracing
- Ground floor level poured concrete 'plinth'

## Career Highlights

- > President Herbert Hoover dedicated his Washington, DC memorial for President James Buchanan, 1930
- > American Art Magazine, Vol. 21, 1924, mentioned Mr. Beecher as a “Who’s Who” in American Architecture
- > Planned the quadrant planting schemes at the Washington Monument
- > Designed the Emerson Hotel, Baltimore’s most prestigious hotel
- > Accomplished land planner hired by the Roland Park for the second planned residential development in the nation
- > Long association with famous Baltimore sculptor, Hans Schuler whose statues grace Washington, DC and Baltimore
- > Designed both the studio and house for Hans Schuler
- > Included in the publication “Century of Baltimore Architecture”, 1957 by the American Institute of Architects
- > Designed numerous residences in Baltimore’s Roland Park for prestigious clients

# William ‘Gordon’ Beecher, Architect

Baltimore, Maryland 1877 - 1963

*“a very, very capable architect with a great deal of talent”*

## □ The EMERSON HOTEL

Built at the busy downtown corner of Baltimore and Calvert Streets in Baltimore, the building was designed to mimic New York's famous Plaza Hotel.

The exceedingly popular 17-story Emerson opened in 1911 and closed in 1969. It was demolished in 1971 and replaced by a bank building.



## □ The CATONSVILLE PRESBYTARIAN CHURCH

The fellowship hall and tower were built in 1921 and the sanctuary in 1928.

The fellowship hall is skillfully handled by balancing the large volume with towering windows and the choir loft punctuated by three oculus windows.

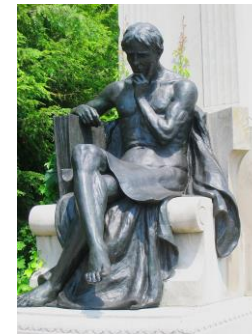
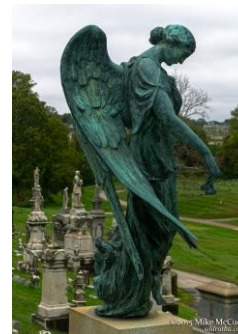
The hall is transformed into a spiritual experience by flooding the space with natural light, curving the ceiling and carving the window tops into the curve.



## □ The STUDIO & RESIDENCE for HANS SCHULER

Hans Schuler was a talented and renowned Baltimore sculptor. Dubbed the 'Monument Sculptor', his works adorn both Washington, DC and Baltimore.

Mr. Beecher designed the studio as an apprentice architect and was later asked by Schuler to design the attached residence due to his respect for the architect. The Schuler House and Studio are listed on the National Register and currently houses The Schuler School of Fine Arts.



## □ The JAMES BUCHANAN MEMORIAL

Dedicated in June 1930, a bronze and granite memorial to President Buchanan in the southeast corner of Meridian Hill Park Northwest, Washington, D.C.

Mr. Beecher collaborated with renown Baltimore artist Hans Schuler who designed the sculptures.

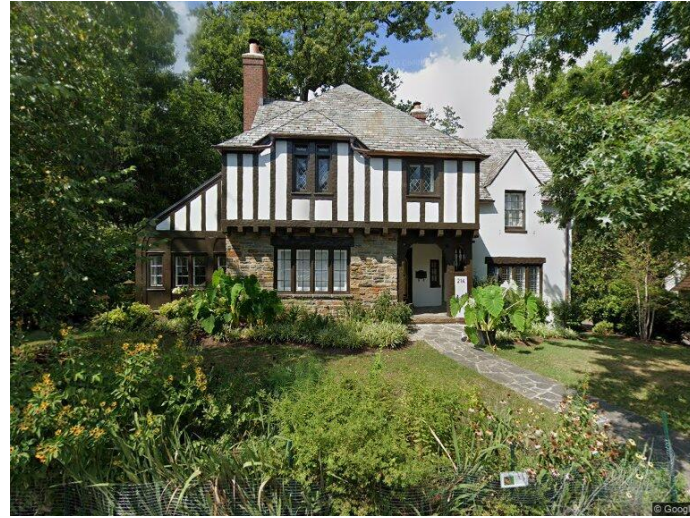
Notice the exploration with clean crisp lines and minimal detailing that was to manifest in the 1931 Chestertown Armory design.



## □ The STEWART RESIDENCE

Located at the Olmsted planned Roland Park outside of Baltimore, the house was built in 1928 for a physician. Influenced by the half timber and gothic styles, the dwelling evokes a quiet confidence as it settles into the sloping site.

The design showcases Mr. Beecher's skills across the spectrum of building types, from large to small. The hand of a very talented architect here and at the Chestertown Armory.







STATE ARMORY, CHESTERTOWN, MD.

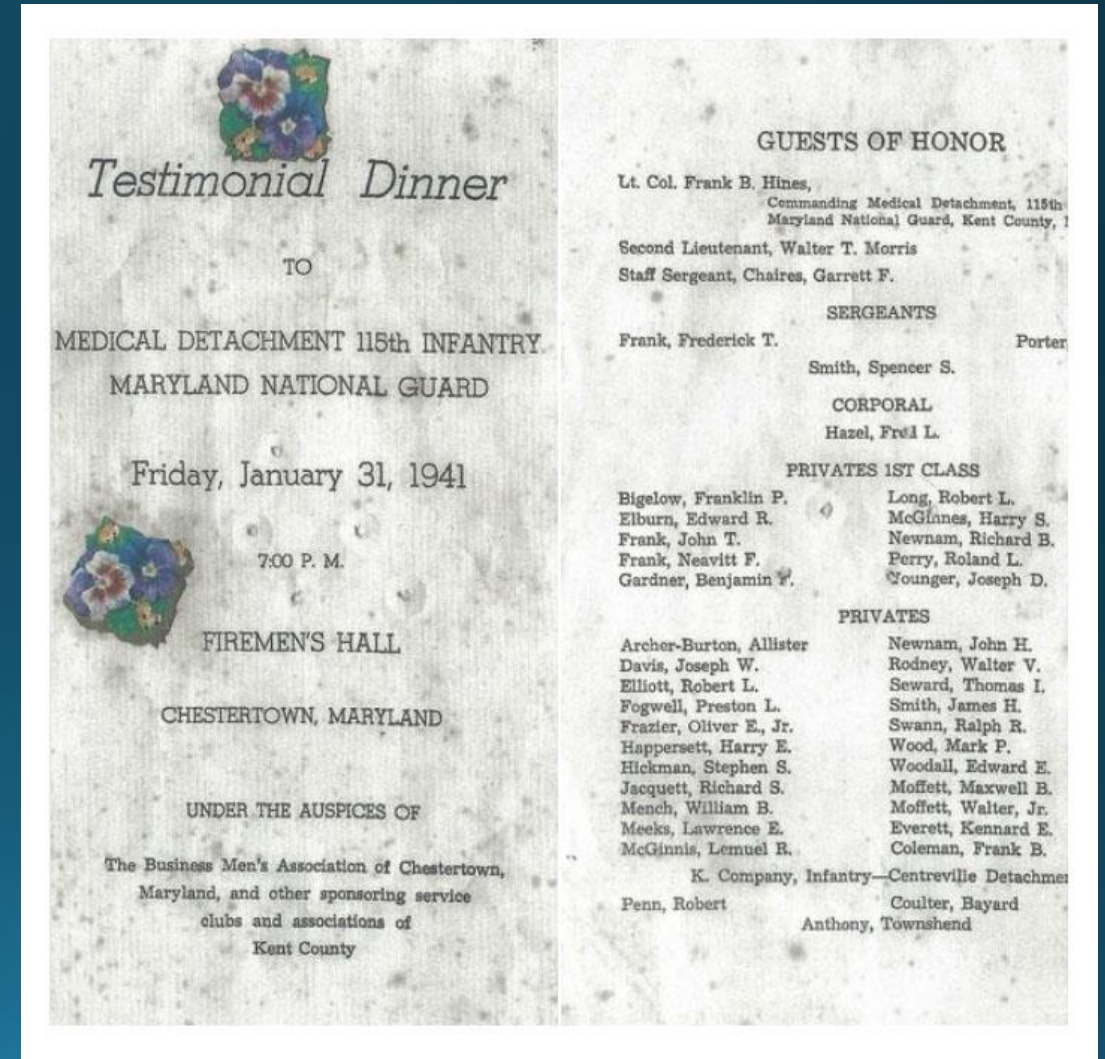
## Part 2. The Military

# ☐ TRAINING and DEPLOYMENT CENTER

The Chestertown Armory trained and deployed US Army MEDICOS to treat and evacuate the wounded in the fierce frontline actions.

THE MEDICAL DETACHMENT was honored by the community with a testimonial dinner on January 31, 1941, before the young men were inducted into the Army and shipped off for combat and medical training at Fort Meade.

The rooster provides a good idea as to who these men were on that winter day in January 1941. In due time, they would be part of the great D-Day invasion with sights on Omaha Beach, Normandy, facing horror while creating history.



# ☐ CHESTERTOWN ARMORY in WWII

The men of Chestertown's Armory were the 29th Infantry Division, 115th Infantry Regiment, Company G.

The 29th Division – '29, Let's Go' - played a major role in WWII. (Saving Private Ryan). They were a medical attachment that landed on the beaches of Normandy, D-Day 1944.

"Unarmed, they go into the thick of battles to give first aid to the wounded risking their own lives..."

Silver & Bronze Star & Purple Heart citations too many to note. Heroism beyond the pale.

With The U. S. Armed Forces

Medicos Practised First Aid In England



The above scene taken in England while our troops were on maneuvers is typical of the work many Kent County soldiers are doing as members of the Medical Corps with the 115 Infantry 29th Division now in France. These boys unarmed, go into the thick of the battles to give first aid to the wounded and many tales of heroism have come from their exploits. The only medico in the picture that we can identify is Staff Sergeant E. Ringold Elburn, second from the right.



S-Sgt. E. Ringold Elburn  
S-Sgt. E. Ringold Elburn son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter T. Elburn of near Chestertown is a member of the Medical Corps of the famous 29th Division, which has played a great part in the success of our troops.

Pfc. Richard D. Elburn  
Pfc. Richard D. Elburn, brother of S-Sgt. Ringold Elburn is a member of a Tank Destroyer Battalion and has just recently landed in England according to a letter received by his family.

# SGT. JOHN H. NEWNAM

The CHESTERTOWN NEWNAM ARMORY is named for Sgt. John H. Newnam, native son of Chestertown and WWII hero.

John H. Newnam, affectionately known as "Blimp," was a remarkable figure in Chestertown with a deep commitment to service. Born in Chestertown in 1921, he dedicated his life to selflessly serving his nation, community, and family. His extraordinary contributions led to the posthumous dedication of the Chestertown Armory in his name, a testament to his legacy of unwavering dedication and service.



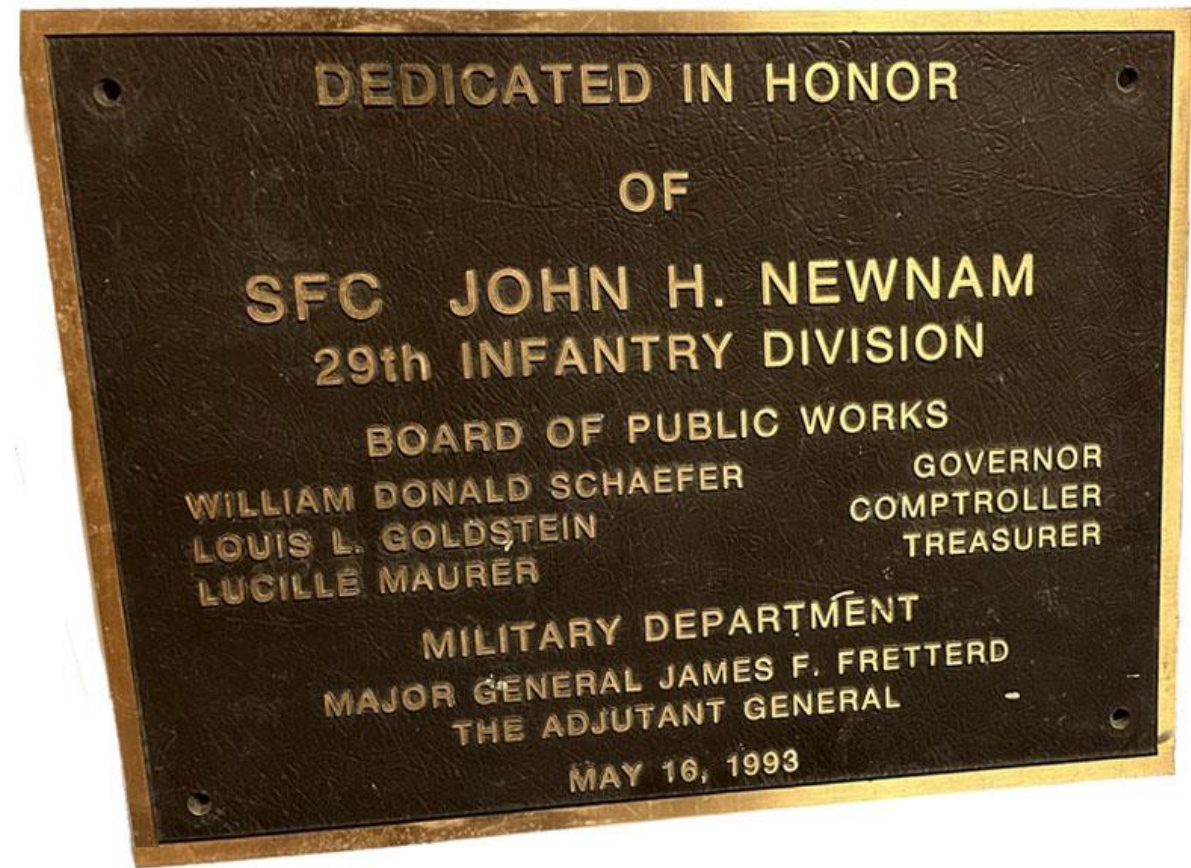
John H. Newnam, also known as "Blimp," was born in Chestertown, Maryland, in 1921 (though he later confessed to being born in 1922 to enlist in the military). He dedicated his life to service, serving for nearly four decades with the Maryland National Guard, with seven years in active duty and thirty-three as a reservist. Notably, he played a crucial role in World War II, landing on Omaha Beach during the D-Day invasion, and continued to serve after being wounded. In his civilian life, he excelled in his career at the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company of Maryland, was actively involved in community organizations like the Lions Club, and was a devoted family man.

John's legacy lives on through his dedication to family, service to the Maryland National Guard, and contributions to the Chestertown community. The Chestertown Armory, where he devoted much of his life, was posthumously dedicated to him in 1992, and a plaque in his honor was installed. His impact extended to generations of soldiers and numerous events at the Armory, serving as a lasting inspiration for future generations to value selfless service and dedication.

## □ Dedication of the **CHESTERTOWN ARMORY**

The Chestertown Armory was dedicated to John H. Newnam, a place where Newnam poured his heart and soul into various events, elevating its special significance in the community. His dedication to the Armory and what it represented was the catalyst for its posthumous dedication in 1993.

A plaque was affixed to the Armory in his honor, and the dedication ceremony was presided over by then Maryland Governor Donald Schaefer.



# 1<sup>st</sup> SGT. EDWARD RINGGOLD ELBURN

1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Edward Ringgold Elburn was highly decorated, receiving both the Bronze Star and Purple Heart for action in France. During the midst of heavy artillery barrage near Bohars, Sgt. Elburn and two other Maryland men risked their lives to save the wounded as shells burst around them.

Their actions were described as a stirring display of courage and devotion, earning them all the Bronze Star. At St. Lo, Sgt. Elburn received facial injuries by shrapnel, was patched up and returned to tend the wounded despite his own wounds, earning him the Purple Heart.



## 29th Division Medics Awarded Bronze Battle Stars For Action

29th Infantry Division; Germany.—It has just been announced at this headquarters that the following enlisted men, surgical technicians attached to an infantry battalion, have been awarded the bronze star medal for "meritorious achievement in action":

Sgt. (T-3) Philip E. Hogue, Deton, Md.

S/Sgt. Edward R. Elburn, of Kennedyville, Md.

Sgt. (T-4) James R. Smith, of Chestertown, Md.

During the drive on Bohars, in the vicinity of Tremebouct, France, these enlisted men treated two wounded men in the midst of heavy artillery barrage. It was soon ap-

parent to them that more than first aid was necessary if the lives of these wounded soldiers were to be saved, so without hesitation they carried them to the battalion aid station for evacuation. This feat was one of remarkable courage, for enemy shells burst all around them as they proceeded for several hundred yards at tremendous risk to their lives; they had absolutely no cover or concealment.

Unquestionably their action saved the lives of both casualties. This stirring display of courage and devotion to duty was observed by many members of the forward companies, and it served as an inspiring example of superb determination and fortitude.

# □ Dedication of ELBURN HALL

On December 5, 1993, the drill hall at Chestertown Armory was named ELBURN HALL in honor of 1<sup>st</sup> SGT. (RET) Edward Ringgold Elburn.

Major General James F. Fretterd, the Adjutant General of Maryland, conducted the ceremony commemorating the dedication and service of the local hero.



ELBURN HALL DEDICATION  
CHESTERTOWN ARMORY  
DECEMBER 5, 1993

PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION OF THE MASTER OF CEREMONIES	MAJOR JEROME JANKOWIAK EXECUTIVE OFFICER 2-115TH INFANTRY (L)
OPENING REMARKS AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS	LIEUTENANT COLONEL DONALD H. COX JR. COMMANDER 2-115TH INFANTRY (L)
PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS	COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR RONALD CHRISTOPHER 2-115TH INFANTRY (L)
INVOCATION	CHAPLAIN CEVERT LEWIS MARYLAND DEFENSE FORCE
INTRODUCTION OF MAJOR GENERAL JAMES F. FRETTERD THE ADJUTANT GENERAL, STATE OF MARYLAND	LIEUTENANT COLONEL COX
REMARKS	GENERAL FRETTERD
THE UNVEILING OF THE PLAQUE	GENERAL FRETTERD LIEUTENANT COLONEL COX
INTRODUCTION OF FIRST SERGEANT EDWARD RINGGOLD ELBURN	LIEUTENANT COLONEL COX
REMARKS	FIRST SERGEANT ELBURN
INTRODUCTION OF COLONEL (RETIRED) JAMES W. MEIKLE	LIEUTENANT COLONEL COX

# SGT. PHILIP E. HAGUE

SGT. PHILIP E. HAGUE, another decorated hero deployed from the Chestertown Armory. Sgt. Hague also distinguished himself in action near Bohars with Sgt. Elburn and Sgt. Smith for which he also received the Bronze Star.

During the D-Day invasion, his commander asked that he keep a diary of their first few days upon landing on Omaha Beach. We wish we had it to preserve more history of the 29th and role of the Chestertown Armory.

## Awarded Medal



S|Sgt. Philip E. Hague, of the Medical Detachment of the 115th Infantry, U. S. Army, has a Bronze Star Medal awarded "for heroic achievement in military operations against the enemy on the 27th of August, 1944, in Brittany, France". Sergeant Hague has been overseas 26





# SGT. LEMUEL 'ROL' McGINNIS

SGT. LEMUEL R. McGINNIS, known as "ROL", was awarded the Bronze Star for action near Villiers Fossard, France.

On July 1, 1944, during concentrated enemy shelling, Rol assisted in the evacuation of casualties from the battlefield earning him the medal for extraordinary action and service performed in an armed conflict, thus distinguishing himself as a local hero.



# SGT. JAMES E. SMITH

SGT. JAMES E. SMITH, received the Bronze Star for meritorious bravery in action near Bohars, France as a Medico helping to save the lives of wounded while under heavy artillery shelling along with Sgt. Elburn and Sgt. Hague. His devotion to saving lives at the risk of his own is stirring.

Another local hero to be remembered and honored deployed from the Chestertown Armory.



## □ THEIR LEGACY

The article illuminates the stellar devotion to service and commitment to duty exhibited by the brave men of the Armory.

At the bottom are the names of the 14 who at the time had achieved 4 years of service with many awarded the silver or bronze medals and purple hearts. Simply incredible. Some had fallen as casualties in the line of duty.

**All 35 of the original detachment are true heroes who ensured the freedoms we enjoy today.**

### *Kent Contingent Passes Landmark*

**14 of 35 in Original De-  
tachment on Rolls Of  
Blue, Gray Division**

CHESTERTOWN, Md., Feb. 26—  
(Special).—According to word re-  
ceived during the past week from  
a war correspondent who is with the  
famous 29th Division of the United  
States Army overseas, 14 Chester-  
town men now serving with a medi-  
cal detachment recently reached the  
fourth anniversary of their  
service.

The contingent started with 35  
men but since that time 21 have  
been dropped from the rolls, either  
through transfer, discharge, or as  
casualties.

Many of the men remaining have  
been awarded Silver or Bronze Stars  
or Purple Hearts. The medical men  
attend the wounded and while carry-  
ing no weapons have seen consid-  
erable frontline action. Still with  
the detachment after four years of  
service are:

Technical Sergt. Mark P. Wood, Staff  
Sergt. Frederick T. Frank, Staff Sergt.  
Edward R. Elburn, Staff Sergt. Lemuel R.  
McGinnis, Technical Sergts. Philip E.  
Hague, Richard B. Newman, Harry S. Mc-  
Ginnis, Franklin P. Bigelow, Joseph D.  
Younger, John H. Newnam, Maxwell B.



## □ FRANCE and the 115<sup>th</sup> INFANTRY REGIMENT

The **Corix de Grieve**, France's most distinguished medal for heroism in combat was awarded to the 115<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment.

The Unit was recognized for their bravery and sacrifices in the Liberation of France, particularly their actions at Saint Lo, Normandy, July 1944.



## □ EPILOGUE

A granite memorial outside of the Armory bears witness to the service of the 115th from 1941-1944. Inscribed is the following.

“IN GRATEFUL TRIBUTE to the men of the medical detachment of the 115th Infantry Regiment Maryland National Guard, both living and dead this shrine is dedicated. THEIR VALIANT EFFORTS HELPED PRESERVE FREEDOM IN AMERICA.”





## Part 3. The Community

# The Community Events

## HOSTED BY THE ARMORY!!!

The Chestertown Armory hosted many significant and fun events for decades.

The armory provided a 'Community Center' and a popular destination for Chestertown, Kent County and the region.

The most popular events were the Christmas and Antique and Farm Shows, the Cotillion Ball, Dances and a variety of Sporting Events.

The memories are precious, and the stories need to be retold – *threads in the fabric of Community.*

# Community DANCES

The Chestertown Armory hosted popular dance events for various ages and music tastes. The large drill hall with wood floor was a perfect venue for ballroom to rock n' roll dancing! Big name orchestras and recording artists filled the hall with music. Among the more popular events were....

- Cotillion Club Balls
- Washington College Dances
- Uptown Club Music Acts & Dancehall
- Charity Dances
- Square Dances
- Monthly Youth Dances
- Chestertown HS Proms & Dances



The current officers of the Chestertown Cotillion Club are pictured at the club's recent 60th anniversary celebration. From the left, they are Daniel Presso, Ruth Wilson, Beverly Schaubert, Darryl Calloway (president), Lucia Calloway, Ann Sutton (vice president), Richard Follin and Paul McDonald (treasurer/secretary). Not pictured: Betty Mohler.

## Cotillion celebrates 60 years

**CHESTERTOWN** — The Chestertown Cotillion Club held its first dance in 1933, at the Chestertown Armory. Sixty years later, the club still holds formal dances with live orchestras. Three times annually, sometimes with a full meal included, and the members still wear



Dancers of the Chestertown Cotillion Club began their 60th anniversary dance celebration with a special "snowball" dance to the tune "The Anniversary Waltz."

To celebrate its 60th anniversary, the club held a dance at the American Legion, just outside of Chestertown, on May 4. Carl and Betty Cooper, the longest-serving members still active in the club today, joined the Cotillion in 1954.

Carl Cooper shared some of his treasured memories as part of the anniversary celebration. The club is one of the oldest ballroom dance organizations on the Delmarva Peninsula. For information on joining, call 419-928-3883 or 419-928-5169.



The first of a series of dances of the holiday season was held Thursday, December 16, 1943 in the Chestertown Armory sponsored by the Chestertown Unit of the Maryland State Guard. On Friday, December 17, the senior class of the Chestertown High School gave its annual dance at the Chester River Yacht and Country Club, prior to which Mrs. Harold S. Gould entertained at a buffet supper at her home Holly Hollow near Chestertown in honor of Miss Ann Burris, senior, and Mr. Robert Bemizer. On Christmas Eve the Lynch Minute Men Company will give a dance in the Chestertown Armory and on New Year's Eve Frank Jarman Post American Legion will give a dance in the Armory for which arrangements are under direction of Adjutant Norman E. Peterson reported The News Journal, December 18, 1943, on page 18.

**Officials of Company G, Maryland National Guard, will bring nationally known dance bands to Chestertown for its monthly dances in the Chestertown Armory, provided the project receives public support, it was announced today by Capt. James C. Field, commander. The first dance of the series will be held in the armory on Thanksgiving night, Nov. 27, and will feature the music of Bob Harry and his orchestra, consisting of 13 musicians and Miss Dorrie Dexter, vocalist. Mr. Harry headed the 324th ASF Band during World War II when it broadcast for 26 weeks over a world-wide network. The second dance of the series will be given in the armory on New Year's Eve.**



**CHARLIE SPIVAK** "The Man Who Plays The Sweetest Trumpet In The World" and his orchestra will play for a dance at the Chestertown Armory May 12.

## Thanksgiving Dance

**Chestertown Armory**  
Thursday, November 27, 1947

Dancing 9 to 1

Featuring

**Bob Harry's Orchestra**

One of the biggest name bands  
Ever to Appear on the Shore

**Admission** \$4.00 per couple Tax Incl.  
\$2.50 per person

For Table Reservations Phone Chestertown 137-R  
Or Write Co. G., Md. Natl. Guard, Chestertown

The News Journal (Washington, Delaware) - Wed, Nov 6, 1944

## Armistice Ball To Aid Legion

**Chestertown Benefit to Be Held Friday Night; Youth Fellowships Organized**

**CHESTERTOWN, Md., Nov. 8—(Special).**—The only demonstration in celebration of Armistice Day in Chestertown will be a big dance sponsored by Frank Jarman Post, American Legion in the Chestertown Armory on Friday night instead of on Saturday evening, the usual time for the celebration.

The proceeds will be applied to a fund being raised for the equipment of the post's new Memorial Home.

The Star Democrat (Sharon, Maryland) - Fri, Oct 14, 1943

## Melvin Price and his Santa Fe Rangers From WBOC

Announce the following dances and shows

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15—Dance 8:30-12 P. M.** At the new Elck food building, Preston, Md. Sponsored by the Preston Fire Company.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16—Dance 8-12 P. M.** At Golden Eagle Hall, Ridgeley, Md.

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21—Dance 9-12 P. M.** At Island Casino, Stevensville, Md. Also including Oct. 27 and every Thursday except Oct. 31.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22—Show and Dance.** At Passwater Hall, 9:30-12 P. M. Near Stadsleville, Md.

**MORE DATES IN THE NEAR FUTURE**  
**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23—Dance.** At the new Elck food building, 8:30-12 P. M. Preston, Md. Sponsored by the Preston Centennial Celebration.

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21—At Easton Theatre. Midnight Show.**

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8—Dance.** 8:30-12 P. M. At Chestertown Armory, Chestertown, Md.

SAVE THIS AD FOR YOUR ENTERTAINMENT



# Community SHOWS

The Chestertown Armory offered popular seasonal and annual shows for the community. Instead of traveling long distances to shop and learn, the venues came to town for all to enjoy! Among the more popular events were....

- Christmas Shop
- Antique Show
- Flower Show
- Farm Show
- Auto Show
- County Fair



The News Journal (Wilmington, Delaware) · Fri, Oct 8, 1948

A large list of entries is foreseen for the Fall Flower Show of the Chestertown Garden Club, according to Mrs. Grace B. Maxwell general chairman. The show will be held at the Chestertown Armory on Thursday, Oct. 14 from 3 until 9 p. m.

The Baltimore Sun (Baltimore, Maryland) · 7 Oct 1984

**OCTOBER 11-13**  
**Christmas Shop at Chestertown Armory.**  
 Shops from five states. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Contact Mrs. I. J. Profaci, 1-778-0270.

The Baltimore Sun (Baltimore, Maryland) · Fri, Nov 5, 1937

**AUTO SHOW ARRANGED**  
 Event To Be Staged At Chestertown From Nov. 11 To 13  
 Chestertown, Md., Nov. 4—Officials of the Chestertown Volunteer Fire Company have completed plans for holding an automobile show in the Chestertown armory from November 11 to 13, in which automobile dealers and business men of the city are cooperating. The exhibit will be featured by a display of 1938 models of cars sold by dealers in Chestertown and vicinity, as well as by commercial exhibits.

The News Journal (Wilmington, Delaware) · 12 Nov 1941

**Armory Filled For Farm Show**

**Chestertown Exhibits Open Tomorrow: Churches To Hold Special Services**

CHESTERTOWN, Md., Nov. 12—(Special)—The Chestertown Armory is being filled today with the largest exhibit in the history of the annual event for the opening of the annual Kent County Country Fair, which will open tomorrow afternoon. And continue through Saturday evening.

Mrs. Jesse D. Maxwell, general chairman of a county-wide committee which is arranging the plans for the fair, said today that the display will be the largest in the history of the annual event. In addition to the usual exhibits, there will be a special display in the basement of the armory, which will be one of the most attractive features.

The fair is being sponsored by the Woman's Auxiliary of the Kent and Queen Anne Hospital for its benefit.

County Agent J. D. McVean and his office force have been busy recently sending application forms to farmers of the county for their payments under the 1941 AAA Soil Conservation program. The county agent reported yesterday that approximately 630 of the more than 700 farmers in the county will be entitled to benefit payments this year.

Chet Langdon of Huntingdon, Pa., governor of District No. 160 of Rotary International, made his official visit to the Chestertown Rotary Club at its weekly dinner meeting here on Monday evening. In his address Governor Langdon spoke of the progress which has been made in his district during his incumbency in office.

Rollison Baxter, president of the local organization, presided at the after-dinner program.

C. Julian Coleman, director of



The Capital (Annapolis, Maryland) · Thu, Apr 30, 1970

**Antiques shown in Chestertown**

The National Guard Armory in Chestertown will be busy this week when thirty antique dealers from Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, Pennsylvania and New York move in for the first annual Spring Antiques Show and Sale May 1-3.

All antiques at this show will be for sale and will run the gamut from 18th century pieces to Nouveau in price ranges to please everyone from the budget-minded newlyweds to the affluent antique lovers and collectors.

Antiques for today's pleasure and tomorrow's investment will be in abundance and will include fine signed cut glass, art glass, oriental items, hard to find pattern glass, paperweights, etc. Doll collectors will love the fine selection of antique dolls, doll houses and miniature furniture.

There'll be a beautiful set of Ironstone Tea Leaf Lustre, complete service for twelve people.

Furniture, both primitive and woods, ready to place in the best sets of magnificent English chippendale chairs - or a set of ten and one a set of six.

Dealers specializing in antique jewelry will have a large selection of unusual jewelry and with Mother's Day just a week away, this is an excellent time to purchase Mother's Day gifts. Items that will interest the true antique collector are coins, banks, Indian artifacts, Kentucky rifles, bottles, rare Lancaster rifle made by Gibbons, Circa 1845 and a carved scrimshaw powder horn, Circa 1843.

Hours of the show will be from 11 A.M. to 10 P.M. on Friday and Saturday, May 1st and 2nd; and from 11 A.M. to 6 P.M. on the last day, Sunday, May 3rd.

**ANTIQUES** — Unusual what-not stand, mahogany with mirror, mahogany tilt-top table with serpentine feet and small leather covered doll's trunk will be exhibited for sale by Kocivar's Antiques, Manheim, Pa. at the Antiques Show and Sale at the Chestertown Armory May 1-3. Thirty dealers from five states will be exhibiting.

**VICTORIAN** — This satin glass pitcher and four tumblers and walnut Victorian table with marble top will be exhibited by Callie Coleman of Elkton, Md. at the Antiques Show and Sale at the National Guard Armory in Chestertown.

# Community CHARITIES & FUND RAISERS

The Chestertown Armory hosted a variety of charity benefits which served to knit the community in common service to others. Types of charity events were....

- Hospital Auxiliary
- American Legion
- March of Dimes
- Homemakers Council
- Chestertown Vol. Fire Co.

The News Journal (Wilmington, Delaware) · Wed, Nov 8, 1944

## Armistice Ball To Aid Legion

### Chestertown Benefit to Be Held Friday Night; Youth Fellowships Organized

CHESTERTOWN, Md., Nov. 8—(Special).—The only demonstration in celebration of Armistice Day in Chestertown will be a big dance sponsored by Frank Jarman Post, American Legion in the Chestertown Armory on Friday night instead of on Saturday evening, the usual time for the celebration.

The proceeds will be applied to a fund being raised for the equipment of the post's new Memorial Home.



The Baltimore Sun (Baltimore, Maryland) · Thu, Oct 24, 1940

## American Legion Plans Chestertown Banquet

### National Defense Program To Be Main Topic For Discussion At Dinner Nov. 11

[Special Dispatch to The Sun]

Chestertown, Md., Oct. 23—Harry S. Jarman, of Galena, commander of Frank Jarman Post here, is completing the program for the annual American Legion banquet, which will be held in the Chestertown Armory on Armistice Day evening, Monday, November 11.

Mr. Jarman has extended an invitation to every ex-service man in the county to attend the function. The national defense program will be the principal topic for discussion.

A prominent speaker from outside of the county is being sought to deliver the principal address. Plans are being made to entertain one hundred or more guests at the dinner.

The Star-Democrat (Easton, Maryland) · Fri, Oct 9, 1981

### Kent & Queen Anne's Hospital Auxiliary 1981 Christmas Shop

Chestertown Armory

Thursday, Oct. 15 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	Friday, Oct. 16 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.	Saturday, Oct. 17 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
---------------------------------------	-------------------------------------	---------------------------------------

Luncheon & Bar From 11:30 a.m.  
Patrons Night: Wednesday, Oct. 14

For the benefit of Kent & Queen Anne's Hospital Birthing Room

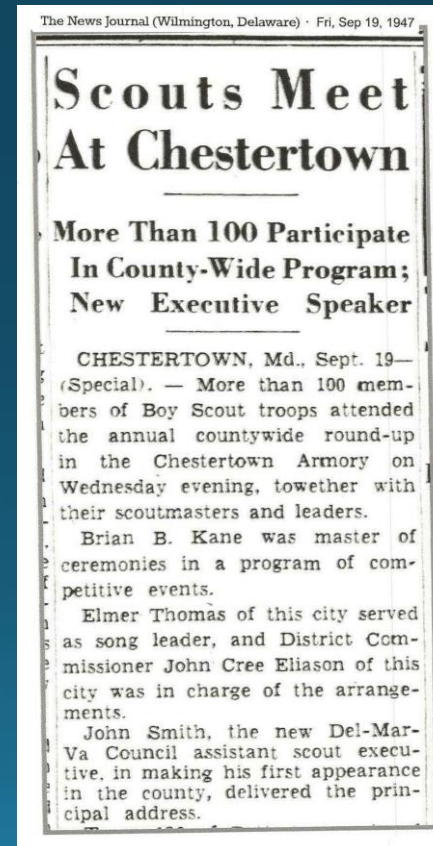
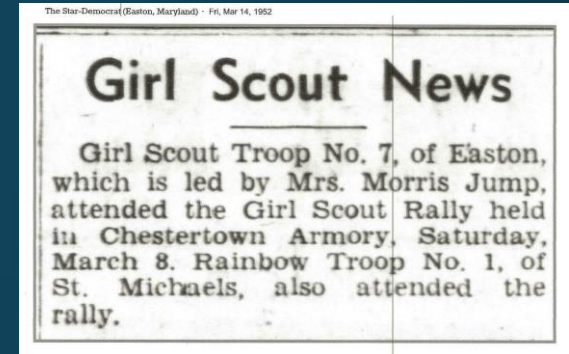
Admission \$1.00 for Adults \$ .50 for Children  
One Admission Good For All Day

Bring This Ad With You And Get 50 Cents Off On Entrance Fee

# Community YOUTH EVENTS

The Chestertown Armory routinely hosted a variety of youth activities and events for the community and region. The more popular were....

- Chestertown HS Proms
- Girl Scouts
- Boy Scouts
- Miss Kent Contest
- 4H Fairs
- Youth Fellowships



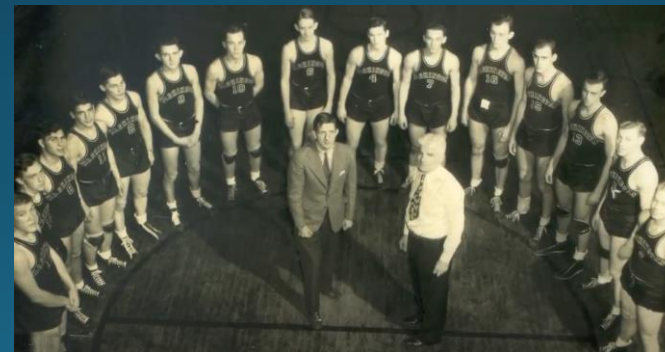
# Community SPORTS

The Chestertown Armory hosted popular sporting events for local teams while promoters brought professional sport entertainment to the community. The large drill hall with balcony made an ideal space for spectators and promoters wanting to make a buck. Among the more popular events were....

- Washington College Basketball
- Kent High School Basketball
- Community Leagues
- Boxing
- Wrestling

Denton Journal (Denton, Maryland) - Sat, Jan 12, 1935

**BASKETBALL**  
**WASHINGTON COLLEGE**  
 vs.  
**WESTERN MARYLAND**  
**Saturday, January 12th**  
**8.15 p. m.**  
**CHESTERTOWN ARMORY**  
**Admission, 40 cents**



The Star-Democrat (Easton, Maryland) - Fri, Jan 17, 1936

**ALL STAR CARD**  
**BOXING and WRESTLING!**  
 TWO GOOD AMATEUR BOUTS  
**CHESTERTOWN ARMORY**  
**Monday, Jan. 20, at 8.30 p. m.**

<b>FOUR ROUNDS</b> <b>JOE BESSICK</b> Betterton — 135 Lbs.	<b>FOUR ROUNDS</b> <b>BENNY WILLIAMS</b> Betterton — 150 Lbs.
<b>KID EWING</b> Easton — 135 Lbs.	<b>BILLIE DOYLE</b> SMYRNA, DEL. — 145 Lbs.

**SEMI-FINAL—SIX ROUNDS**  
**BOB COSDEN** vs. **JOHNNY KREIG**  
 Cordova — 150 Lbs. Baltimore — 160 Lbs.  
 Cosden Says He Will Stop Kreig's K. O. String

**MAIN BOUT—EIGHT ROUNDS**  
**TOM VETRA** vs. **WILD BILL MATTHEWS**  
 Deals Island — 186 Lbs. Baltimore — 200 Lbs.  
 Here's the heavyweight fight the fans have been looking for. It promises to be a knockdown and drag-out scrap.

**ONE HOUR WRESTLING BOUT**  
**ACE BROCKMAN** vs. **BUDDY McQUADE**  
 Baltimore — 175 Lbs. New York — 175 Lbs.  
 These boys have met before and always turn in a great show.

Ringside \$1.00 General Admission 75c Women and Children 40c  
 REDS SMITH, Matchmaker.

## The Music Acts

### BIG-NAME MUSIC ACTS AT THE ARMORY!!!

The Chestertown Armory hosted popular recording artists during its heydays from the 60's into the 70's that couldn't be accommodated at Chestertown's Uptown Club.

The biggest event was when James Brown came to town, perhaps resulting in a few stress cracks in the old walls.

Community history is invaluable, the memories are precious, and the stories need to be retold – *threads in the fabric of Community.*

# JAMES BROWN

## The Recording Artists

*'I Feel Good'*



# Little Richard

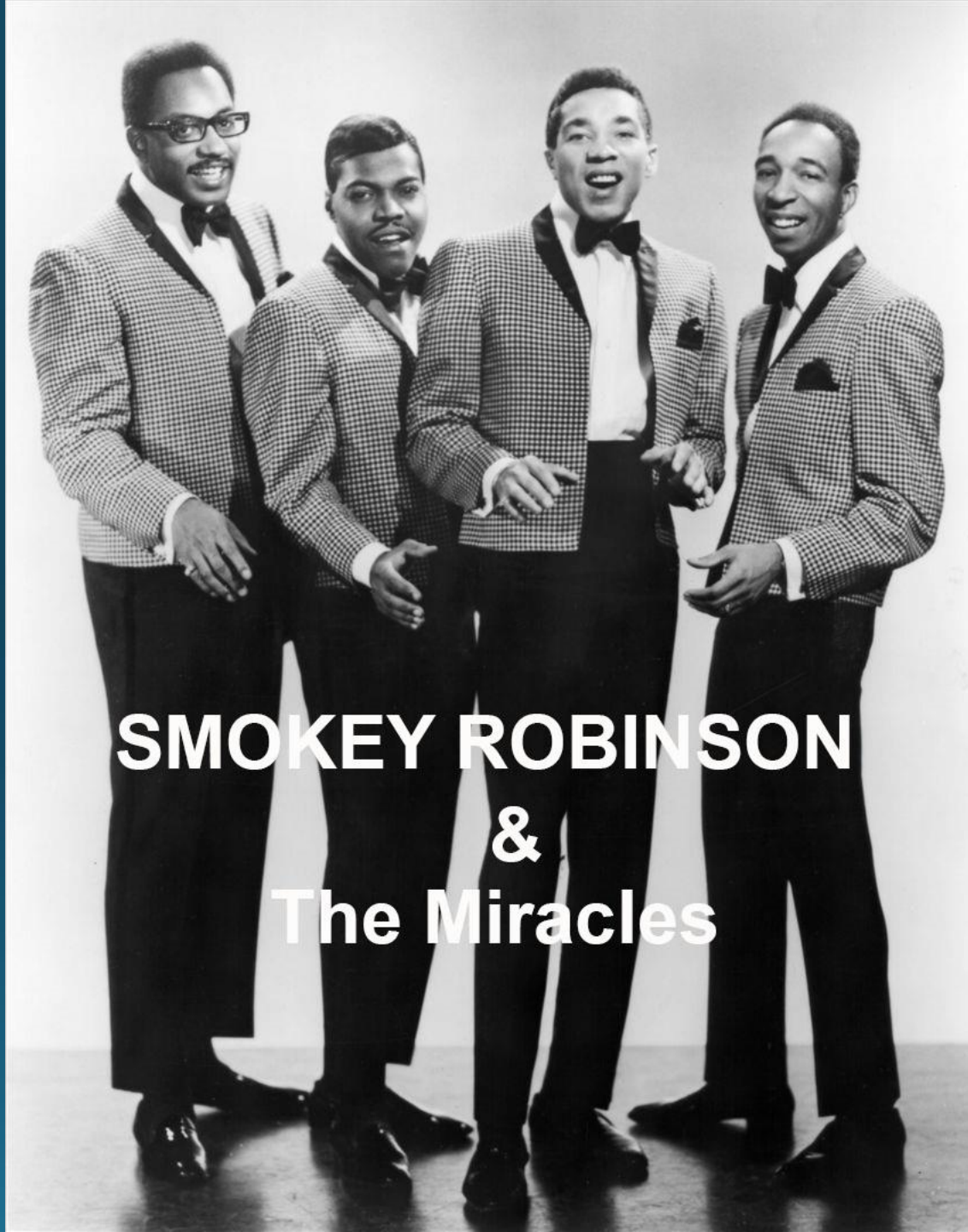
## The Recording Artists

*'Good Golly Miss Molly'*



# The Recording Artists

*'The Tracks of My Tears'*



**SMOKEY ROBINSON  
&  
The Miracles**



# The Recording Artists

*'Heat Wave'*



**Martha and the Vandellas**

# PRESERVATION & COMMUNITY

*“There may have been a time when preservation was about saving an old building here or there, but those days are gone. Preservation is in the business of saving communities and the values they embody.”*

*Richard Moe, National Trust for Historic Preservation*



## Part 4. Historic Designations

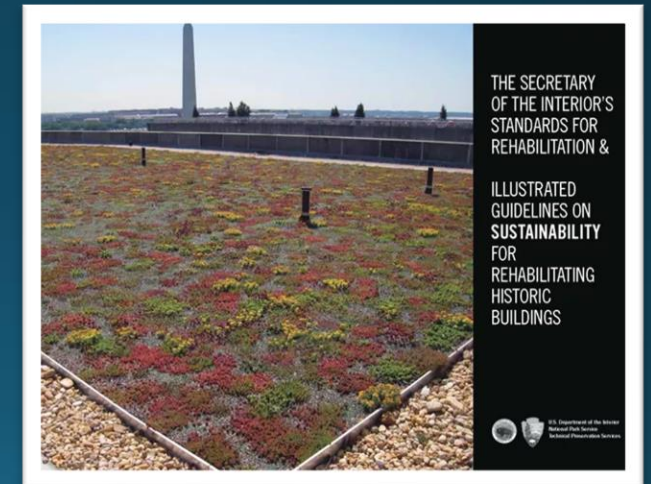
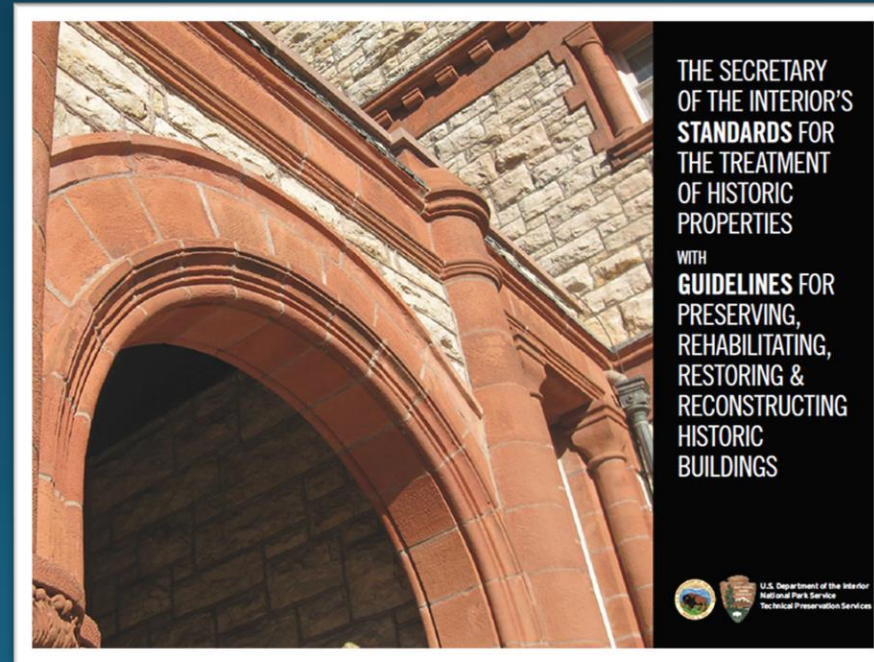
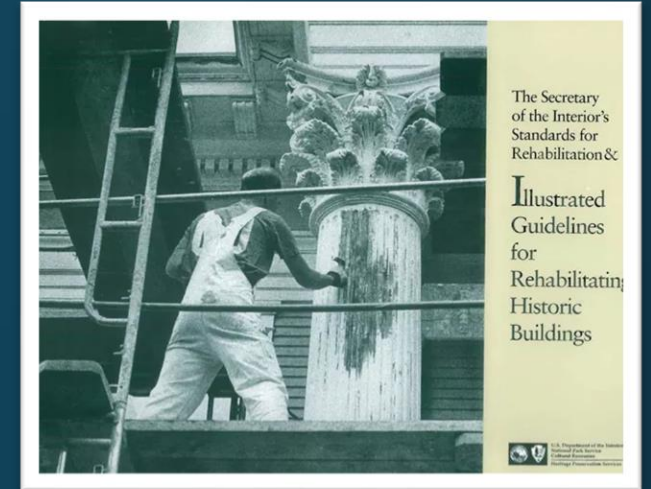
# HISTORIC DESIGNATIONS

- NATIONAL REGISTER of HISTORIC PLACES
- STATE DESIGNATED STRUCTURE
- CHESTERTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT
- CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURE STATUS



# The HISTORIC DESIGN STANDARDS

Historic Preservation Act  
1966





# ARCHITECTURAL RELEVANCE

*'Showcases the competing influences of Classicism and Modernism of the time with Art Deco influences...'*

## Highlights

- Emulates a medieval fortress
- Modern design minimalism
- 2 two-story projected towers defining the entry
- Two story recessed arched bay with double door entry
- Gothic styled segmented cast stone window bay
- Cast stone inset accents
- Clean 'punched' window openings

# The FAÇADE

*Let us read the Armory Façade.  
What does it tell?*

The facade, designed in 1931 with its formidable massing and economy driven simplicity, reflects the mood of the nation post-depression and a nation shifting to a wartime footing.

*– it tells the story of its time. A signpost in the journey of the country \**

- *\* Sec. of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, Item 3 - states 'Each property shall be recognized as a physical record of its time, place and use'.*
- *It doesn't have to be 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century, it doesn't have to look like downtown, but must be distinguishable of its time.*





# NATIONAL TRUST for HISTORIC PRESERVATION

PRESERVATION MAGAZINE will include the Chestertown Armory in the Winter 2023/2024 Issue.

The Armory is to be featured in the 'Transitions' section, under the subsection titled 'Threatened'.

The **Editorial Staff** showed great interest not only in the building but its deep and meaningful connections to the community and region.





# Repurposing HISTORIC BUILDINGS

“Older buildings offer more than attractive design and symbols of the past. They can help make our neighborhoods more prosperous, affordable, healthy, and sustainable.”

Ensuring that local policies actively promote building reuse is critical to strengthening the economic, social and environmental well-being of America’s cities and towns.”

*National Trust for Historic Preservation*

The ‘Armory Hotel’  
Bozeman, Montana  
c 1941 / Fred Fielding Willson, Arch.



“Historic places are where our lives, memories, and stories began. They connect us to the past, anchor us to the present, and lead us into the future. These places inspire us to create a stronger community and nation, because they belong to all of us.” *National Trust for Historic Preservation*

Thank you

**Thomas Kocubinski, RA, AIA**

Architect & Planner

Visit Facebook 'Repurpose the Chestertown Armory'