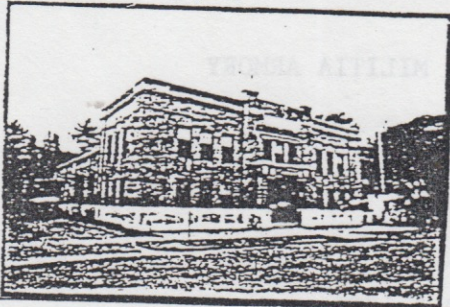


REPORT NO. 93-1



# 1993 REUSE STUDY OF THE NAVAL MILITIA ARMORY IN PINE CITY, MINNESOTA

A COOPERATIVE PROJECT OF CITY OF PINE CITY AND THE MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

\*\*\*\*\* A SPECIAL EVENT TO "KICK OFF" THE AUGUST 30-31, 1993 REUSE  
STUDY OF THE NAVAL MILITIA ARMORY IN PINE CITY \*\*\*\*\*

7:00PM --- PINE CITY CITY HALL COMMUNITY ROOM

"THE IMPORTANCE OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS IN YOUR  
COMMUNITY NOW AND IN THE FUTURE"

Presenters: Charles Nelson - Historical Architect with the Minnesota  
Historical Society STATE HISTORICAL PRESERVATION OFFICE

Britta Bloomberg - Deputy Historical Preservation Officer For  
the Minnesota Historical Society and Director of the STATE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

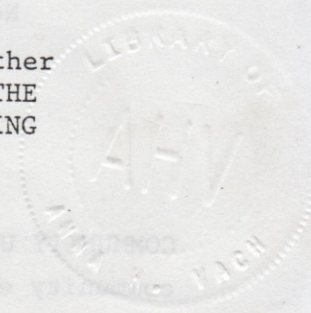
Moderator" Larry Granger - Principal Investigator for The Reuse Study of  
The Naval Militia Armory of Pine City and 1992-93 Project  
Manager of the North West Company Fur Post Planning and Research  
Project

THIS SESSION will provide you with an interesting look at:

- \*\* "JUST WHAT MAKES A BUILDING OF HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE  
AND SOMETHING THE COMMUNITY SHOULD CARE ABOUT"
- \*\* "WHAT ARE THE HISTORICAL BUILDINGS OF IMPORTANCE IN PINE  
COUNTY AND EAST CENTRAL MINNESOTA?"
- \*\* WHAT CAN A COMMUNITY DO TO PRESERVE AND MAINTAIN ITS  
HISTORIC BUILDINGS?"

AND ABOUT 8:15PM or so ... YOU CAN SPEAK UP ABOUT WHAT YOU THINK  
SHOULD HAPPEN TO THE PINE CITY NAVAL MILITIA ARMORY.

This question is being studied by a special team brought together  
by the CITY OF PINE CITY and THE MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY. THE  
TEAM WILL BE DEVELOPING A SERIES OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND PRESENTING  
THEM TO THE COMMUNITY IN THE LATTER PART OF SEPTEMBER, 1993.





REPORT NO. 93-1

A BRIEF PROFILE OF THE PINE CITY NAVAL MILITIA ARMORY

BUILDING DIMENSIONS

Original construction 1914  
Remodeled , repaired or altered 1940,1961,1972

North 2 story section 28'  
South 111' - auditorium and garage

Southwest 75.4 feet garage  
Basement under north portion

Approximate Interior areas	Main Floor (north)	1710 sf
	Main floor (south)	6720
	Southwest garage	3350
	Balcony & 2nd floor	2820
		<u>14600sf</u>

HISTORY

- July 30,1914 ARMORY COMPLETED and designated a MINNESOTA NAVAL MILITIA ARMORY
- 1ST UNIT STATIONED WAS 3RD Division-7th NAVAL AREA (held summer training on Lake Superior - practiced life saving on Cross Lake)
- April 6,1917 MINNESOTA NAVAL MILITIA ordered to mobilize for World War I ... After the war, the Pine City unit was not reformed. Armory was vacant until 1924
- May 29, 1924 BATTERY E, 2nd Battalion, 125th Field Artillery was mustered into the Minnesota National Guard and stationed in Pine City. Equipped with horse drawn 75mm guns from World War I.
- 1936 Horses were replaced by trucks for towing guns
- February1941 Battery mobilized for federal service
- February1943 Battery shipped out for European theatre of war.
- November1946 A "new" unit, Battery C,257th Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion was assigned to Pine City Armory
- 1977 NEW ARMORY BUILT and Naval Militia Armory became property of school district before being sold to City

COMMUNITY USE OF ARMORY .. throughout its history, the armory was used for community events including basketball games, dances, funerals and parties.



HISTORIC NAME: Pine City Naval Militia Armory

COUNTY: Pine

CURRENT NAME:

CITY/TWP: Pine City

LEGAL DESC.: Original townsite of Pine City  
Block 7  
Lots 5, 6, and 7

ADDRESS: First Avenue east of  
railroad tracks

CLASSIFICATION:

CONDITION:

SIGNIFICANCE:

THEME/S:

Building X

Excellent X

Local X

Primary      Military     

Structure     

Good     

State X

Secondary     

Object     

Fair     

National     

Others     

District     

Deteriorated     

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes X No      Restricted X

PRESENT USE:

VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes X No     

Classrooms and Gymnasium

OCCUPIED: Yes X No     

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1914

ORIGINAL USE: Armory

ORIGINAL OWNER: State of Minnesota

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Duluth firm of Kelly  
and Williams

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Pine City Public School System  
Pine City, MN 55063

ACREAGE: Less than one acre X

LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: Pine County Historical Society  
Askov, MN 55704

UTM REFERENCE:

Pine City Quad. 15

FORM PREPARED BY: Mark Haidet

15 / 502700 / 5074740

DATE: March 1980

DESCRIPTION:

The Pine City Naval Militia Armory occupies three lots in a residential neighborhood east of Pine City's business district. Cross Lake is several hundred feet east of the building.

The armory, designed by the Duluth architectural firm of Kelly and Williams in 1913, is a rectangular brick and concrete structure. A two story rectangular office area occupies the front with a gymnasium-drill space attached to its rear. The office area is constructed of higher grade brick thus creating a difference in color between the two sections. The concrete foundation rises approximately three feet above grade.

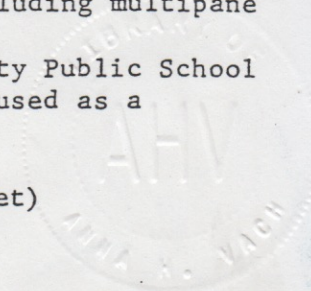
The hipped roof office area is topped by a simple brick parapet and cornice. A tall brick chimney is located at the southwest corner. The central entrance, adorned by transom and side lights, is situated in a projecting portal. Two inscription stones and a pair of decorative cartouches are located in the central portion of the front facade. Fenestration is symmetrical, piercing the building with sets of three three-over-one double hung windows. Pilaster strips separate the windows in each group with the exception of those windows above the central entrance. The original crenelated brickwork above the door and the parapet has been removed or capped by cement.

The single story gymnasium-drill space is covered by a low-pitched gable roof. Five large segmental arched openings defined by brick pilaster strips are located on the east side. A large door originally located in the central opening has been replaced with a smaller service door and the larger opening has been infilled; the remaining four openings contain three multipane double hung windows. Similar openings on the west side have been removed, boarded over, or have had window replacements. A brick belt course consisting of headers is located above the windows.

Two brick garage additions (ca. 1930s<sup>1936</sup> and 1940) have been added to the rear and west sides of the armory. Both have many of the features of the original structure, including multipane windows and a raised concrete foundation.

Blueprints for the armory and additions are in possession of the Pine City Public School System, the present owner of the structure. The building is presently being used as a gymnasium and for adult education.

(see continuation sheet)





SIGNIFICANCE

The Naval Militia building in Pine City is significant as the first of two armories erected by the state of Minnesota solely for the use of the state's naval militia.<sup>1</sup> The Minnesota Naval Militia, organized in 1903, was located exclusively in Duluth for ten years. In 1913, the Third Division was established in Pine City. Members of the unit trained in the armory's gymnasium and on Cross Lake several hundred feet east of the armory; they also participated in annual training excursions on the Great Lakes. When the United States declared war on Germany on April 6, 1917, the naval militia was the state's first armed force mobilized for action. The Third Division, consisting of 35 officers and enlisted men, embarked on April 8 for Philadelphia and service on the Atlantic Ocean. The division disbanded after the war due to the lack of local interest. The armory, a center of community activities since its construction in 1914, housed a national guard unit for nearly five decades before being sold to the city's school system in 1977. The building is also significant as one of the first armories to be completed under a 1913 state law which provided state financial assistance for construction of local armories.

<sup>1</sup> The other armory, constructed in 1916, is located in Crosby.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Holbrook, Franklin F. and Livia Appel. Minnesota in the War with Germany.  
2 vols. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society, 1928. Vol. 1, pp. 69-73.

Kunz, Virginia Brainard. Muskets to Missiles: A Military History of Minnesota. St. Paul: Minnesota Statehood Centennial Commission, 1958.  
pp. 132-135 and Appendix A.

Pine County Pioneer. 1913-17.

*Pine Plover* -







# CITY OF PINE CITY

OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR  
300 - 5TH STREET  
PINE CITY, MINNESOTA 55063

TELEPHONE: 612 629 2575  
FAX: 612 629 6101

October 1, 1993

Ann Vach  
Route 2, Box 216  
Pine City, Minnesota 55063

RE: Pine City Naval Militia Armory Reuse Study

Dear Ann:

On behalf of the City of Pine City and the Reuse Study Team from the Minnesota Historical Society, I want to express our deep appreciation for the work you did in helping us assemble the history of the Naval Militia Armory.

Your work was invaluable in bringing to light the interesting history of this building and caused others in the community to become interested as well. For this we are extremely grateful. Thank you.

Your very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jane Robbins".

Jane Robbins, Mayor  
City of Pine City

