



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
Bureau for Historic Preservation
Commonwealth Keystone Building, 2nd Floor
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0093
www.phmc.state.pa.us

August 2, 2001

Gary J. English
1504 Fairmount Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15221

Re: Civic Auditorium (Arena), Pittsburgh, Allegheny County

Dear Mr. English:

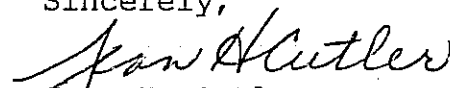
Your completed Pennsylvania Historic Resource Survey Form for the above named property has been reviewed by the Bureau for Historic Preservation. Based on the material submitted, it is our opinion that the property is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. A Specific Evaluation is enclosed.

The next step in the nomination process is the submission of a completed National Register Form to the Bureau for Historic Preservation. The National Register nomination Form and instructions are enclosed. The enclosed Specific Evaluation provides basic guidance which should be followed in preparing your nomination. The research, writing and typing of the form are responsibilities of the applicant. It is essential that the information is accurate and includes all required material discussed in the enclosed instructions. Because of the complexity of research and writing, you may wish to hire a professional consultant. (A list of consultants is available from the Bureau for Historic Preservation on request.)

Once an acceptable National Register form has been submitted to the Bureau, we will schedule the property for review by the Historic Preservation Board, a committee of professionals and citizens-at-large from across the Commonwealth. If approved, the National Register form will be sent to the National Park Service for approval and listing in the National Register.

Please note that the Bureau's Priorities for National Register Processing may affect the order in which we review National Register forms and schedule them for review by the Historic Preservation Board. If you have any questions on the nomination procedure or the completion of the National Register form, please write or call Greg Ramsey of my staff at (717) 783-9919.

Sincerely,


Jean H. Cutler
Director

cc: Angelique Bamberg, City of Pittsburgh, Historic Review Commission

Enclosure - NR Bulletin - Less than 50 year-old properties

JHC/gr

Specific Evaluation

Name: Civic Auditorium (Arena)

Location: Pittsburgh, Allegheny County

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A. Events

Area(s) of Significance: Community Planning and Development

Comment: Importantly associated with a major period of urban renewal in the City of Pittsburgh.

___ B. Individual

Area(s) of Significance:

Comment:

X C. Design/Construction

Area(s) of Significance: Architecture, Engineering

Comment: Featuring a stainless steel dome and retractable roof, the Civic Arena is a prominent landmark in Pittsburgh and an important example of mid-20th century architecture and engineering. Important example of a large multi-purpose sports/entertainment facility of its era.

___ D. Information Potential

Area(s) of Significance:

Comment:

Criteria Considerations: G - Properties that have achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Apparent Period of Significance: c. 1959-1961

Other BHP Comment:

Detailed instructions for completing National Register forms are contained in the Bureau's Pennsylvania Guidelines for Completing the National Register Form. Outlines for organizing the Narrative Description (Section 7) and Statement of Significance (Section 8) are provided on pages 6-8 and 10-11 of the manual. **Please follow these outlines!** Be sure to focus Section 7 of the National Register form on describing historic and current physical appearance of the property and to focus Section 8 on explaining the property's significance in relation to National Register criteria.

For significance under Criterion A, discuss the importance of the Civic Arena in the context of mid-20th century urban renewal in Pittsburgh. For Criterion C significance, discuss the building's architectural importance as a prominent example of design and engineering trends for this type of facility. Also, discuss the building in the context of the works and careers of its architects and engineers. Explain how the property meets the exception for properties achieving significance within the past 50 years.