

The Hudson Armory, dedicated in 1910 for the Massachusetts Volunteer Militia, is similar to other armory buildings constructed across the Commonwealth around the turn of the 20th century, and identical to those in Hingham, Natick, and Newton by the same architects—James E. McLaughlin (architect for Fenway Park) and James Mulcahy of Boston. It was used by the Massachusetts National Guard for decades and by the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy for several years. The Town and wider community have also used it as a function hall and meeting space, hosting town meetings, dances, voting, and other events. It has been vacant since 2018.

HUDSON ARMORY HUDSON



Marking the southern gateway to downtown Hudson and overlooking the Assabet, the Armory is a prominent feature of the area. The building retains much of its historic layout, woodwork, wood floors, and even some fireplaces.

Resource at Risk

The Armory is included in MACRIS but currently has no designations or protections. There is a local historic district that covers downtown Hudson, but it stops a few properties away from the Armory at the Assabet River.

It is estimated that at least \$10 million is needed to do asbestos and lead remediation work, bring the building up to code, and install staging so that it can be used to generate income. Other pressing concerns include window weatherization/replacement and insufficient climate control.

What's Happening Now

Two years ago, the Hudson Cultural Alliance, a local non-profit, acquired the building from the Town of Hudson. Their plan for the building is to convert it into a cultural events space— the *Armory on the Assabet*. They have engaged an architect, have had drawings prepared to install staging in the drill shed and ancillary spaces throughout the rest of the building, and have already held fundraising events outside at the site. A tent was purchased in the past year to make it easier to host events such as dinners and outdoor movies to aid in fundraising.