

Local

# Media to acquire armory

■ The National Guard is looking for a new home base as borough officials entertain proposals for the prime spot.

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Times Correspondent

**MEDIA** - After months of low key negotiations, officials announced last week that the National Guard will be leaving its longtime base in the State Street armory - and the borough will acquire the site.

The state will allocate a maximum of \$1.2 million to move the National Guard unit to another location, Mayor Bob McMahon said at council's June 15 meeting. Officials are negotiating for a new site in a neighboring municipality.

Media will pay the state for the armory itself and any renovation costs. McMahon said officials are looking for funding sources for the project but expect to have the deal done in a month.

McMahon said he's "real happy" about acquiring the site, which is situated between two new restaurants and has the potential to become a hot property and great attraction.

The building itself has historical significance and a marker to prove it. Built in 1907 for a military unit called the Cooper Rifles, it has housed Company M, 111th Infantry of Pennsylvania. The architecture has been described as Tudor Revival.

The armory has two levels of 7,000 square feet each, with another 1,000 square feet on an upper floor which could possibly be expanded.

McMahon said trial balloons are being sent up to see what kind of use might suit residents and visitors alike.

"We've already had many suggestions - a farmers'



Times staff photo by ERIC HARTLINE

**The Media armory on State Street dates to 1907. Officials have to secure funding to purchase the site from the**

market, unique retail, museums of different types or a 'mini-Longwood Gardens' with a continuous garden display, or some type of mixed use. One thing I would like to see is an area staffed by volunteers in the front to welcome people to Media and give out information," McMahon said.

Whatever is decided, McMahon believes the use should lend itself to being open evenings to attract the more 500

people who could be dining in the borough nightly.

During the planning of downtown revitalization, McMahon speculated the process could take two to five years before seeing results.

He revised his thinking last week, saying the borough has moved faster than he'd expected and that the acquisition of the armory is one more important step.