

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: New Haven Armory

Other names/site number: Goffe Street Armory

Name of related multiple property listing:
 N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 270-290 Goffe Street

City or town: New Haven State: CT County: New Haven

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this ___ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide ___ local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D

<p>_____ Signature of certifying official/Title:</p> <p>_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	<p>_____ Date</p>
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<p>In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
<p>_____ Signature of commenting official:</p> <p>_____ Title :</p>	<p>_____ Date</p> <p>_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- Defense: arms storage
- Defense: National Guard facility
- Social: meeting hall
- Social: clubhouse
- Social: civic

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- Social: meeting hall
- Social: clubhouse
- Social: civic

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19th and Twentieth Century Revival: Romanesque Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Red brick

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Built from 1928-1930, the former New Haven Armory (*aka* Goffe Street Armory) is located at the edge of the Dixwell neighborhood in the mid-size City of New Haven, New Haven County, Connecticut, about a mile northwest from Yale University's main downtown campus and the historic New Haven Green. The approximately 155,000 square-foot monolith takes up most of its 2-acre lot, and the design is influenced by both traditional armory "fortress" architecture and the Romanesque Revival style. The building consists of three main parts: a u-shaped head house that wraps around a massive drill hall (standard parts of urban armories), plus an additional wing, built specifically and exclusively for the Second Company Governor's Foot Guard, which extends from the west end of the facade about 75 feet. Defining details include heavy Flemish bond mottled brickwork, with a basket-weave design above entrances, buttress-like pilasters, blind arcades resembling corbelling and machicolation beneath a molded cornice, use of rounded arches, and narrow window openings. Corner blocks resembling towers echo the medieval fortification of earlier urban armories, however these same elements are more streamlined and geometric, reflecting the Art Deco period in which it was built. Low relief panels alternate with slightly protruding pilasters to create a more Modern/ Art Deco interpretation of towers and buttressing. All exterior architectural features and interior layout, including the rooms, hallways, doorways, and stairways also remain intact. The armory carries not only integrity in its location, setting, design, and materials, but in use, and thus feeling and association.

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Narrative Description

Setting

The Goffe Street (*aka* New Haven Armory) is located catty corner from James Hillhouse High School, between primarily residential Hudson and County Streets, and across the street from DeGale Field (*aka* Goffe Street Park), an extension of Beaver Pond Park to the north. This is a primarily residential, but increasingly civic and recreational area located between the commercial thoroughfares of Dixwell and Whalley Avenues in the mid-size City of New Haven, Connecticut. These streets radiate northwest from the historic New Haven Green, the civic center of New Haven, which shares commercial and municipal buildings with the 18th and 19th century Gothic Revival buildings of Yale University. Interstates 95 and 91 serve as boundaries to the downtown's south and east respectively. The armory sits between the boundaries of two NR districts (Winchester Repeating Arms to northeast and Dwight Street to south) and was listed in the SR in 1988. The building faces Goffe Street, which runs diagonally northwest, so the lot is trapezoidal in shape, and the building appears to sit at an angle along Goffe Street, but it is actually situated flush between Hudson and County Streets (east and west, respectively) and the rear of the building abuts the New Haven Correctional Center to the south. A 4-foot-high iron perimeter fence in the front and a 7-foot-high chain-link fence along the sides and rear surround the property (Figures 1 and 2).

Exterior

The Military Romanesque Revival, armory is a primarily three-four story, rectangular brick masonry building constructed between 1928-1930 (Photographs 1 and 2, Figures 3 - 5), designed by Architects Payne and Keefe with Dwight Smith, constructed by Abbadessa and Brothers, Inc. The 200 by 253 feet building sits upon a site the size of half a city block. The terrain is sloped so that the back end of the ground floor extends below grade. The main entrance tower anchors the headhouse in the center of the facade. The u-shaped headhouse wraps around the enormous drill hall on three sides including the façade and east and west wings, which run along County and Hudson Streets respectively (Figure 5). The drill hall extends over the headhouse by a full story. As throughout the headhouse, the five sections of the front elevation alternate between recessed and projected surfaces, with the center block serving as the four-story, entry tower and extending about 15 feet past the rest of the facade.

The central, visually dominant, 4-story, 3-bay entry tower of the headhouse protrudes out from the rest of the façade. It features an entablature with a traditional molded Tuscan cornice and dentil-adorned frieze. The words "STATE ARMORY" are engraved across the central architrave, with a single circular grated window on either side. This tower serves as the principal entrance, and features an entryway made up of three identical arches set in a slightly recessed central bay arcade that frames three sets of recessed double metal doors tucked at the back of the vestibule. A series of brick voisseurs mimic a curved arch above three jack arches, with the aforementioned basketweave-style brickwork filling the tympanum spaces. Six narrow, double-hung windows run across the middle bay of the first and second floors, with the first-floor

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windows elongated, and extending the length of the floor. The third-floor features the decorative machicolated corbelling above and below an arcade of 8 double-hung windows set within each arch. The two bays that frame the entry fall flush from the cornice, but because they protrude slightly from the middle bay, they resemble single buttresses or pilasters. Within each of these side bays is a double machicolated arch, which, in turn, creates a 4-story, slightly recessed vertical panel of single, narrow, elongated, double-hung windows (Photograph 3-4).

The three-story east and west sections of the headhouse symmetrically flank the entry tower. Protruding corner blocks of the headhouse and each wing echo the 3-bay, recessed arches, corbelling design, and general fenestration of the center entry tower (Photograph 5). In addition to being slightly taller, these corner blocks further suggest tower-like features including narrow elongated windows and arched doorways, as well as iron balconies on their side elevation (Photograph 6). A part of the original design, the Foote Guard wing (west) extends forward from the west end of the main façade by about 75 feet, taking advantage of the trapezoidal lot framed by Goffe Street. This additional wing maintains the same pattern as the headhouse of recessed and protruding bays. Its west “tower” mimics that on the far east side of the facade, except that a single entryway, set within a round brick arch, replaces the lower floor windows in the central bay (Photograph 7).

The main two floors of each of the wings’ elevations (Photographs 8, 9, 10) continue the corbelled design motif and fenestration of the façade, including sets of four long, vertical, evenly spaced double-hung windows, per floor, per bay, save the corner towers (Photograph 11). Fenestration throughout all three elevations of the headhouse include narrow, vertical, double-hung windows across the north, west, and east elevations. The windows are all set in a recessed space created between pilasters (resembling shallow buttresses) and beneath the corbelling. Each window is framed by lintels of vertical, soldier-course brick and molded concrete sills. Most of the windows on the ground/first-floor are faced with window grills. The east (County Street) elevation consists of three sections: the east end tower block of the headhouse, the 8-bay east wing, and part of the drill hall, where two bays are identical, each with a 48-light metal sash window at the upper level, (Photograph 12). The west elevation (Hudson Street) is nearly identical, but with the additional Foot Guard wing built off the west side of the façade contributing an additional five bays.

The middle block of the rectangular-form building, cradled within the “U” of the head house and its wings, is a massive space (designed and used as a drill shed). It rises a full story above the headhouse wings, peeking over the façade, but it is visible only from a distance or certain angles from Goffe Street. This block extends beyond the wings in the rear by about 48 feet and two bays. Two garage doors near the rear of the west elevation of the central drill hall block lack second floor windows and feature large brick arched door frames and infill paneling, meant for large vehicles and equipment (altered in later years to accommodate newer garage doors) (Photograph 13).

The roofline and foundation unite all of the headhouse elements. A stepped brick cornice and flat parapet with limestone coping caps the roofline of the building wings. A limestone parapet defines most of the flat roof, which is covered in asphalt (Photograph 14-15). A raised

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foundation across the entire footprint is made of smooth cut ashlar brownstone blocks (Photograph 16).

The fenestration changes on the rear, extending along the south elevation of the building. The south elevation features 14 shallow, buttress-like pilasters, ten across the back/south elevation, and the others wrapping around the rear of the east and west elevations. The pilasters provide bearing for an elaborate web of large steel, crescent trusses that support the roof without additional beams (Photograph 17). Upper floor 16-light casement windows with industrial metal sash, are set between each of these bays on the second floor. These windows still operate with a steel vinyl-clad crank located inside the drill hall (Photograph 18).

Interior

Like the exterior, the interior of the headhouse bears many original features, including the floor layout and circulation space. Dozens of rooms and offices in the over 155,000 square feet building line the exterior walls, and a long, u-shaped corridor runs the entire length of the headhouse and through its east and west wings on each main floor (Figures 6-9). A symmetrical foyer on the ground floor features two sets of front office rooms and built-in ticket windows with booths. Beyond the booths are two sets of principle staircases that run up both sides of the entry tower to the upper floors behind the ticket booths and storage space beyond a set of double doors (Photograph 19). The staircases are metal with concrete risers and small metal newel posts and balusters (Photograph 20). Other smaller stairwells, located in other parts of the building connecting parlors and equipment rooms, are industrial tubular steel rails and stanchions (Photograph 21).

The remainder of the ground floor of the headhouse features storage, training, dining, and recreational space (Figure 3). The space on the west side of the headhouse features one area divided into three rooms, formerly a club/game/bar room with an inner corridor and latrines that leads into the former kitchen and dining area of the Foot Guard wing (Photograph 22-24). The west wing along Hudson Street is divided into three main areas that once served as the furnace, coal room (later caretaker's workshop) (Photograph 25), and storage space for the Navy militia. The ground floor on the east side of the headhouse is similarly divided, but into two main rooms formerly used by the company bands (Photograph 26), a stairway, and a former equipment room occupying the east-side corner tower.¹ The east wing extending along County Street is divided into six irregularly shaped rooms. These formerly served as latrines, and the kitchen and main mess hall, which retain original cabinetry (Photograph 27-28).

The second and third floors of the headhouse and its wings are of a similar basic layout to the first/ground floor, but the rooms are divided more symmetrically (Figures 7 and 8). The second-floor provided space for two regimental headquarters, and 16 company rooms (8 on each wing of the first floor), as well as social rooms (Photographs 29). Behind the main central staircase on both the second and third floors, a triple soldier-course, brick-framed arcade (Photograph 30-31) separates the platform on the main stair from the corridor that runs along the drill hall. Three sets

¹ Carrano, October 7, 2019.

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of double wood doors in the main corridor and two sets around the corner in the side wings open onto the drill shed floor and spectator's gallery, respectively (Photograph 32). In front of the main staircase on the second and third floors of the entry tower, is a former conference room and two offices are located on each side. The office doors identify the occupant.² On the front-facing east side of the headhouse are rooms that formerly housed the officer clubs and remnants of the bar areas remain. In a former bar area for the Foot Guard band on west side of the headhouse are the remains of two frescos, nestled within two *trompe l'oeil* arches (date unknown) remains. They depict the Second Company Governor's foot guard's wife and drum corps in full regalia (Photograph 33). This area leads into the locker rooms and bathrooms located in the third floor of the Foot Guard wing. The room in the corner of the east tower was the New Haven Grays' room which once featured elaborate wood paneling (Figures 12, 13, Photograph 34). Within the second floor of the east wing along County Street are five sets of offices off a long hallway, originally for each unit Commander (one large room and two smaller rooms).³ The 118th Medical Regiment occupied the offices in the west wing of the Armory's second floor along Hudson Street (Photograph 35).

The third-floor layout of the main headhouse and wings repeats the general layout of the second floor. The rooms, however, contained mainly supply and equipment space, as well as additional offices and social space, most recently used as classrooms (Photograph 36). The office rooms in the third floor of the entry tower served as headquarters for the 102nd Regiment.⁴ The caretaker's apartment occupied the top (fourth) floor of the entry tower.

The Foot Guard wing was designed as a separate, albeit attached, space for this unit's exclusive use. As mentioned, an area for the former kitchen and dining hall make up the ground floor, while an open, largely unobstructed space takes up the entire second floor of the Foot Guard wing. It was originally designed as an elaborate ballroom with details like a fireplace, murals, wood paneling, and chair rails (Figure 11, Photograph 37-38). The front, north end of the second-floor wing has two rooms flanking a small hall that were once the Commandant's office (also used by the Governor, when in town) and a small, one-room museum about the Foot Guard.

The center space of the armory is the largest area of the building. The ground floor served and continues to serve as storage for each unit ("supply row" was defined by a large room of several cages, Photograph 39-41). The east side featured a rifle range. The vast 32,560 square foot, unobstructed space in the drill hall is located on the second floor due the grading of the land. The hardwood floor of the drill hall is laid across a six-inch reinforced concrete slab. The drill hall ceiling features a complex web of ten crescent steel trusses spanning its ceiling (Photographs 42-44). A u-shaped spectator's gallery hugs the north end of the drill hall width and along the sidewalls for three bays (Photograph 45).

² The offices were designated for the Chaplain, the Sargent Major, the Commander, and the Executive Officer.

³ Carrano, October 7, 2019.

⁴ Carrano, October 7, 2019.

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Integrity

The New Haven (*aka* Goffe Street) Armory building possesses a great deal of integrity in important areas. It remains intact in its location, setting, exterior design, materials, and workmanship. The exterior and interior design includes the consistent interior layout, and with its overall function as a community center, it maintains the integrity of feeling and association. The Armory has undergone some repairs, but few major alterations in its almost ninety years of existence. While much of the interior decoration and detailing is compromised, a single row of soldier course bricks lines doorways and other openings, with original oak doors and glazed transoms remain prominent features throughout the headhouse. Natural brick lines the bottom section of the halls and stairways, with plaster concrete walls above, and oak molding and chair rails (Photograph 46).

The Connecticut legislature reviewed a request for an unspecified repair in 1941.⁵ The National Guard maintained the original wood drill shed floor in pristine condition through regular washing and waxing, but during the blizzard of 1978, the U.S. Army sent an engineer unit with heavy equipment to assist with the snow removal. The Guard then decided to stain, rather than wax the floor.⁶ The National Guard replaced the original 6-over-6 light wooden double-hung windows with metal sash around the early 1990s. They expanded the drill shed entrances on Hudson, and replaced the doors to allow for larger equipment. Many of the interior finishes, plaster walls, woodwork in company rooms and offices is damaged but intact. Most of the identifying labels on the office door windows are still legible. In the early 2000s, the National Guard lay a new concrete slab over the floor in the western rear of the drill hall to accommodate the large equipment through the garage.

When the armory closed around 2009, and the City of New Haven gained possession, veterans from the 102nd Regiment removed a portrait of Sargent Stubby, the 102nd regiment's famous war dog, as well as the furnishings and restaged the room for exhibit in the West Haven Veteran's Museum and Learning Center circa 2010.⁷ WPA murals feature the Foot Guard's most famous lore: Benedict Arnold's famous march to the New Haven Green to demand the keys to the powder house on the eve of the Revolution. Around 2010, original light fixtures and wood paneling were removed to Yale University, the West Haven Veterans Museum, and the new Foot Guard headquarters at the armory in Branford, Connecticut. Likewise, the Foot Guard removed the murals, designed specifically for this ballroom space, to Yale University for restoration and then to the Branford Armory for storage.

For the last decade, various agencies from City of New Haven have primarily used the space for storage of all types of equipment, large and small, including the New Haven Police Department in the lower floors of the building. The rooftop parapet on the east side of the drill hall collapsed due to the heavy snowfall and buildup in 2010-2011, damaging the roof and damaging the plaster

⁵ "Bids Asked on Repair of New Haven Armory," *Hartford Courant*, June 22, 1941.

⁶ Larry Carrano, October 7-8, 2019.

⁷ Geoffrey Rossano, "Connecticut's Historic National Guard Armories: Architectural Survey and Management Plan," Individual Armory Histories, Volume II, (Connecticut Military Department, Connecticut Historical Commission, 1995), 328-344.

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interior walls on the east side of the drill hall. Water leaking from the roof also damaged the ground floors. Paint is peeling, particularly on the floor, and less so on walls and ceilings throughout the building interior, but aside from the décor of the New Haven Grays Room and Foote Guard ballroom, the layout and major design elements, including most hardware, wood doors, and decorative trim are all still visible and intact. Once tended flower gardens on the Hudson and County Road elevations are overgrown with weeds, but there is a garden outline of the East side. A community arts group installed partitions in the Foote Guard ballroom space for a public art exhibit, and a banner for another non-profit covers much of the entry tower façade.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Military
Social History
Architecture

Period of Significance

1930-1979

Significant Dates

1930
1970
1972

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

African-American

Architect/Builder

Payne and Keefe, Architects
Smith, Dwight, Associate Architect
Abbadessa and Brothers, Inc, Builder/Contractor

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The New Haven Armory is significant at the state level under Criterion A in the category of Military History due to its multiple uses as a headquarters, social center, and storage facility for New Haven's Second Company Governor's Foote Guard (an arm of the Connecticut state militia) and the 102nd Regiment of the National Guard, as well as several other military units, for nearly 80 years. From the end of its construction in 1930 through 2009, the armory has served as a center for military preparations and disaster relief, and as a clubhouse for those serving. The building is also significant at the state level in the category of Social History as a host for large community, state, and regional celebrations and events over several decades. This includes New Haven's African American activist community, who in the 1970s, continued to work for social and economic justice in the later years of the Civil Rights Movement (Criterion A, Criteria Consideration G). The armory meets Criterion C in the category of Architecture because it is Connecticut's largest example of the "new-style" armory, built at the tail end of the era for this building type. The New Haven Armory on Goffe Street not only reflects the size, mass, and grandeur of urban armories of the late 19th century, but rather than the defensive fortress quality of those earlier armory designs, it emphasizes community outreach through a prominent entryway. Similar to other buildings designed by the architectural firm Payne and Keefe, this style is a deliberate recognition and embrace of merging military and community use, and a departure from earlier armory designs across the state and country.

The period of significance runs from its construction in 1930 to 1979. It meets Criteria Consideration G for its association with the events surrounding the Black Panther rally and the annual Black Expo, sponsored by the Black Coalition of New Haven, held there through the 1970s. While the Armory remained in use for its original purposes through 2009, the military history after 1971 and civic uses outside of the aforementioned African American civil rights activities, do not meet the criteria consideration for exceptional significance. The period of significance for the military and social history from 1971 to 2009, beyond that of African American civil rights activities, could be reevaluated once it reaches the 50-year age threshold.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Criterion A: Military

The New Haven Armory meets Criterion A for its associations with the twentieth-century military history of the State of Connecticut as home to several National Guard units and a space for performance of military duties and the holding of community and military social events. The history of America's urban armories merges the heritage of voluntary "citizen soldier" militias with rapid urbanization in the North in the late-nineteenth century. Industrializing cities across the Midwest and Northeast built hundreds of armories, many of which resembled medieval castles and fortresses. As both an original colony, and then a manufacturing center of New England in the late 19th/ early twentieth centuries, Connecticut manifested different examples of

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this building type at various eras. The 1928 to 1930 construction of the New Haven Armory on Goffe Street fell on the tail end of a national armory building boom. The middle of the interwar period became a pivotal time in American military history, because it witnessed the end of the volunteer militia and the beginnings of a standing, national military. The local National Guard used the space to store weapons and large equipment, to assemble national guard forces, practice military maneuvers, and to provide office and gathering space for military officers to plan events and strategies. At the same time and throughout the nation, the urban armory expanded a tradition of hosting community-based activities. This building includes all of the features that distinguish the building type: it served as a military facility, a clubhouse for guardsmen to maintain morale, and as a “civic monument to convey power, pride, and patriotism;” it consists of an administrative building as well as a drill hall; and the design resembles Medieval Gothic military architecture (Figure 10).⁸

Connecticut’s National Guard traces its history back to the Connecticut militias, who organized across the colonies in opposition to large standing armies. In response to the Quartering Act in 1765 and an incident known as the Boston Massacre in 1770, many colonists believed that such state-sponsored military units threatened the individuality of free people and their natural rights. Militia units (late called guard “companies”) were therefore community-based, and they trained in rented or public spaces.

In addition to these militias, Connecticut boasted additional units known as the Governor’s Guard, founded on the eve of the American Revolution. The first rendition of the Governor’s Guard began in Hartford in 1771 as a distinguished military unit to escort, protect and serve at the pleasure of the Governor. However New Haven, as a co-capitol of Connecticut at the time, wanted its own Governor’s Guard to formalize an honorable military presence for official ceremonial duties and escort Governor as he travelled between capitols. The Second Company was organized in December of 1774, distinguishing itself through its uniforms and equipment. It also boasted an elite membership including well known revolutionaries. First members included nationally significant historic figures like Benedict Arnold, Ethan Allen, Aaron Burr, as well as those important to Connecticut, James Hillhouse and Thaddeus Beecher. The unit eventually fought in the American Revolution in at least 26 battles. While the guard unit included many Loyalists, Arnold famously led a group to demand the keys to the powerhouse in order that Connecticut could join the Massachusetts militias at Lexington. Eventually the guard units split between “Horse Guard” and “Foot Guard.” In New Haven, an armory on Orange Street housed the Horse Guard, but the armory on Meadow, and eventually on Goffe Street, shared its space between the 102nd National Guard Regiment and the Second Company Governor’s Foote Guard, and eventually several other guard units. Now New Haven’s oldest, continually operating organization, the Foot Guard was part of the state’s local defense.

State and local governments rented spaces for administrative purposes and/or ammunitions storage. The militias conducted military exercises and drills in open public spaces, sent members to war, assisted in police duty, and in suppressing riots, but also performed ceremonial duties such as entertaining Presidents and city guests, as well as participating in civic and patriotic

⁸ Nancy Todd, “Studying Armories,” p.10.

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celebrations. Connecticut militias organized and sent troops to fight for the Union during the Civil War.⁹

These largely volunteer militias grew increasingly fraternal, ceremonial, and autonomous, but the state could still call upon them to serve. In her book *New York's Historic Armories*, Nancy Todd summarized that state militias before the Civil War served as “a military body charged with ensuring both domestic and international peace,” as well as “a civic entity whose responsibilities included appearing at both somber and festive public events,” and in many cases a fraternal organization for members the urban middle and upper classes.”¹⁰ It was these upper classes that increasingly feared the restlessness of the working class (many immigrants) and amidst the wave of labor unrest that followed the rise of big business and wealth discrepancy of the Gilded Age, armories became a common part of the urban landscape in industrializing cities, particularly across New England and the Midwest. Industrialization created the domestic conditions for civic and labor unrest often resulting in strikes and street riots. The Panic of 1873, and the loss of jobs and wages accompanying it exacerbated labor unrest, often resulting in violence. In 1877, the Baltimore and Pittsburgh Railroad reduced the railway worker wages and in solidarity, the New Haven’s city laborers demonstrated on the Green. In 1878, New Haven specifically experienced considerable labor unrest and strikes, such as bricklayers’ efforts to increase wages.¹¹

With the growth of manufacturing, strikes only became frequent. By the 1880s, cities and states built physical structures, known as armories, to house militia equipment and activities. Late nineteenth century armories aimed to intimidate onlookers and provide protection for local militia to defend the city and help maintain order. Standard features included an administration building (headhouse), a drill hall (a large, enclosed space for regimental exercises), storage rooms, crowned towers, turreted roofs massive, machicolated cornice, bronze gate, bronze portcullis, with a solid oak door. Construction of New Haven’s Meadows Street Armory in 1882 (in the castellated style known as “Military Gothic”) followed twenty-five strikes in 1881. The city experienced one hundred and forty-four more increasingly violent strikes in 1886. In the spring of that year, strikes in New Haven crippled the carriage industry as workers demanded more pay and shorter working hours.¹²

The passage of the Militia Act of 1903, also known as the “Dick Act,” during the Theodore Roosevelt administration changed the nature of the state militia as a basis for the American military. The Spanish-American War had revealed the need for fit American armed forces ready for mobilization, and the new legislation essentially created today’s version of the National Guard, the army’s official reserve force. By the early twentieth century, the federal government could now fund the education and training of guard officers and received federal grants to modernize equipment. The National Defense Act of 1916 provided further federal control and

⁹ Starr, Harris Elwood. *Second Company, Governor's Foot Guard: Souvenir History, 1775-1950*. New Haven: M.H. Davidson Co., 1950. [CSL Call Number UA118.G6 S722 1950]

¹⁰ Nancy L. Todd, *New York's Historic Armories: An Illustrated History*. SUNY Press, 2006.

¹¹ Valerie Ann Polino, “New Haven and the Nation 1865-1900 A Social History Labor, Immigration, Reform,” <http://teachersinstitute.yale.edu/curriculum/units/1979/3/79.03.07.x.html>, Yale University, accessed September 15, 2019.

¹² Rossano and Donohue, 5.

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financial support on the National Guard.¹³ New York City built seven armories between 1900-1920, and Connecticut saw a similar boom across the state.¹⁴

However, after World War I, armories increasingly reflected the civic role of the National Guard. As much as they primarily served as military facilities for storage, assembly, and planning, armories also became stable urban centers for community activities of all types. Political Scientist Douglas Rae argues in his work *The City* that clubs were integral players in developing New Haven, its identity, and its governance (what he calls the “civic fauna” of “urbanism”). For years, U.S. historians of this time period have characterized such “voluntary organizations” as building “social capital” by providing forums for support, a sense of loyalty and connectedness, and democratic citizen participation. This was especially true for members of the working class, specifically in the Dixwell Avenue neighborhoods, who often did not have a direct link to the formal city government.¹⁵ By 1920, the Second Company of the Governor’s Foot Guard in New Haven (and its band) served a largely ceremonial purpose at inaugurations as a color and honor guard at Founders’ Day celebrations, often traveling to other towns and states to perform their duties. The National Guard units as well were “proactive community organizations in their hometowns and cities, and their armories began to function as civic centers, particularly after World War I...”¹⁶ It is within this context that the State of Connecticut built the New Haven Armory on Goffe Street.

With the desire to professionalize the National Guard and accommodate larger modern field artillery, citizens and guardsmen in New Haven began clamoring for a new armory as early as 1913, citing their current facility as “unsanitary” and “inadequate.” A decade later, the armory on Meadow Street failed to conform to code and by 1923, it suffered from structural issues.¹⁷ Finally, in 1925, State Senator Rollins Woodruff introduced a bill to appropriate just \$300K, based on a promise that Governor Hiram Bingham, who only served one day, but mentioned the new armory in his inaugural address. The bill was referred to the Military Affairs Committee, who endorsed the construction in February of 1925. Unfortunately, a combination of politics and budgetary concerns continued to delay support for an appropriation.¹⁸

Urban redevelopment forced the General Assembly’s hand. A *Hartford Courant* article claimed that the Meadow Street armory has been in danger of collapse for years in spite of efforts to strengthen existing beams. Additionally, and even more critically, it stood in the way of street

¹³ William M. Donnelly, “The Root Reforms and the National Guard,” <https://history.army.mil/documents/1901/Root-NG.htm>, accessed September 9, 2019.

¹⁴ Cassim Shepard, “The Armory and the City: Civic Spaces of the National Guard,” Architectural League of New York, Sept 18, 2013. <https://urbanomnibus.net/2013/09/the-armory-and-the-city-civic-spaces-of-the-national-guard/>, accessed September 9, 2019.

¹⁵ Douglas Rae, *The City*, 155-63.

¹⁶ Todd, 36; Cassim Shepard, <https://urbanomnibus.net/2013/09/the-armory-and-the-city-civic-spaces-of-the-national-guard/>, accessed September 15, 2019.

¹⁷ “New Haven Men Ask for a New Armory,” *Hartford Courant*, March 26, 1913; “New Haven Armory Must be Changed to Conform to Code,” *Hartford Courant*, November 13, 1923.

¹⁸ “Bingham Proposals Embodied in Bills,” November 21, 1925; “Military Authorities Endorse New Armory,” Feb 11, 1925; “No New Armory for New Haven,” May 13, 1925

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extension plans to relieve traffic and allow better approach into the city. The extension of Orange Street and other street improvements necessitated the demolition of the 1883 building. Lastly, the whole structure was no longer able to accommodate the contemporary needs of the National Guard. The newspaper reported a meeting between Governor Trumbull, New Haven Mayor John B. Tower, Col. Isaac Ullman, and the Director of Public Works P.F. McGovern met with Governor John H. Trumbull at the Mayor's office.¹⁹ On February 9, 1927, the Military Committee requested \$1,000,000 for the New Haven Armory. In the meantime, the city condemned the Meadow Street Armory and moved several pieces of equipment to Hartford.²⁰ In March, new armory advocates, including New Haven's Mayor John Tower, pressured Hartford by insisting that New Haven's need for a new armory was a necessity to keep ranks filled. By the end of April, the legislature finally appropriated \$700K on the condition that New Haven secure the new site (much to the Mayor's chagrin).²¹

The General Assembly required that the new building accommodate the Second Company of the Governor's Foote Guard. The legislature appointed the New Haven Armory Commission in 1927.²² On May 22, 1928, the New Haven Armory Commission and county legislators agreed upon a county-owned site on Goffe Street—facing Beaver Ponds Park, and in a neighborhood with theaters, police substations, firehouses, churches, and schools.²³

The process for selecting an architect is not clear from the records, but Major General Morris B. Payne of a New London Architectural firm, Payne and Keefe, who designed several armories of the period, took over the construction of the New Haven Armory.²⁴ Payne himself had advocated for the new building as the commander of the 43rd Division of the National Guard and served as Quarter Master General under Governor Trumbull.²⁵ The guard needed a large, interior drill hall primarily to practice regimental maneuvers, as well as offices for military leadership and administration, and instructional classrooms. However, Payne and Keefe also designed the interiors to serve as social space for the military units' "downtime," featuring lounges, bars, clubhouse rooms, and ballrooms with carved ceilings, paneled walls, hardwood floors—luxury

¹⁹ "Governor Aids Plans for New Haven Armory," October 6, 1926; "City Hope for New Armory Renewed," October 10, 1926; "New Armory is Urged for New Haven, March 13, 1927.

²⁰ "Rural Roads More Valuable," *Hartford Courant*, Feb 15, 1927.

²¹ "New Armory is Urged for New Haven, March 13, 1927; "Legislature will Spend \$42,000,000; 700k appropriated for New Haven armory," and "New Haven May Furnish Armory Site," April 28, 1927.

"New Armory is Urged for New Haven: Outcome of Fight for Structure to Replace Present quarters Anxiously awaited: Military Necessity Legislators told: Difficulty experienced in Keeping ranks of Units Filled because of Inadequate space. The old site building holding up extension of Little Orange and urban street improvements.

²² Special Acts and Resolutions of the State of Connecticut ..., Volume 20, Part 1. "An Act Creating a Commission on the Erection of a State Armory in the City of New Haven, 1927. Members included George M. Cole of Hartford, Lewis L. Field of West Haven, Pierpont B. Foster of Hamden, John D. Jackson of New Haven, and Frank W. Waters of Middlebury.

²³ "Choose Site for New Armory in New Haven," *Hartford Courant*, May 22, 1928.

²⁴ Various articles, Nov 27, 1928, *The Hartford Courant*; December 7, 1928, December 21, 1928, December 28, 1928; "Excavating the Armory," <http://campuspress.yale.edu/excavatingthearmory/new-haven-urban-diagram/>, September 19, 2019.

²⁵ "Military Authorities Endorse New Armory," February 11, 1925.

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features shared by the finest clubs. A popular, local New Haven Architect Dwight Smith assisted. The expansive, new armory built on the outskirts of the city, included many of these features and accommodated the request for the Second Governor's Company Foot Guard unit through its specifically designed a western wing. The Foot Guard appointed a decorations committee of twenty-one people, giving them a sizable \$25,500 to furnish the luxurious second-floor lounge (Figures 12 & 13).²⁶

Fifteen years after the initial request, the legislature's Finance Board voted to raze the old armory on Meadow Street once military units moved onto Goffe Street. In the summer of 1930, units made preparations to move to the new \$700,000 Armory site. The New Haven Grays (102nd Infantry) moved in September with much ceremony and a two-mile parade on September 21. The Brigadier General James Haggerty read an order, and a representative from each company closed the door, lowered the flag, and marched to the new armory to take possession. The oldest living veteran from each unit locked the company doors to the tune of Taps. The militia marched behind band and field music—45 pieces, as well as a color guard who raised the flags at the new armory as the units took possession of the new facility. Major Clifford Perkins and 35 members of the Putnam Phalanx attended, as well as 55 men from 5th battalion Naval Reserve.²⁷ This move brought with it a formal recognition of the Second Company Foot Guard as part of the organized militia. Governor John Trumbull attended, and a banquet followed at the Hotel Taft.²⁸

While the state built the armory primarily to house the first battalion of the 102nd regiment of the Connecticut National Guard and the 2nd Company of the Governor's Foot Guard in a separate wing, several other companies also took up residence at various times, including the 102nd Infantry Band, the 118th Medical regiment and late Medical Battalion, and briefly, the Naval Militia (until 1940). Each guard unit occupied one large room with two smaller rooms, one for the Company Commander occupied one and the First Sargent and his clerk occupied the other. The designs included rooms for equipment storage, space for military band rehearsals, and several social rooms, including bars and game rooms (Figures 11-13). On February 16, 1931, the they hosted the inauguration for Governor Wilbur L. Cross, as well as the state's Tercentenary Ball in 1935, at the Armory. For over seventy years, the drill shed served as a multipurpose space for national guard military training and maneuvers, rifle-shooting practice and competitions, and special military events. The Foot Guard wing gave the Second Company Governor's Foot Guard ample space to practice their formations and performances than they had ever enjoyed (Figures 14, 15).²⁹

²⁶ Starr, Harris Elwood. *Second Company, Governor's Foot Guard: Souvenir History, 1775-1950*. New Haven: M.H. Davidson Co., 1950.

²⁷ July 25, 1930; August 26, 1930; "Mayor invited to the Ceremony," Sept 20, 1930; "The Foot Guard expected to move into Goffe Street in Fall" August 8, 1930; "New Haven Has Armory Dedication," *Hartford Courant*, September 22, 1930.

²⁸ "Guard Units of State in Good Shape," *Hartford Courant*, September 23, 1930.

²⁹ Carrano, October 7, 2019; Starr, 142; "National Guard Court Tournament Starts tonight" *Hartford Courant*, March 6, 1931; New Haven Auto Show, *Hartford Courant*, Feb 1930; "14th annual military basketball tournament," HC March 26, 1934; New Haven Matches Set New Record for Entries in Small Bore Shooting, HC March 18, 1934, "85 Rifle Teams at Annual Meet," HC March 8, 1935, "New Haven rifle Team Holds Lead," March 10, 1935; 6th annual Gallery Team Championship of the State Rifle Association. (beat following year) March 8, 1935.

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Unlike the other units stationed at the armory, the Second Company Governor's Foot Guard spent the Great Depression and World War II years serving largely ceremonial purposes across the state, with those not serving in the armed forces playing civilian roles in the war efforts, and using the Goffe Street Armory as storage space and for home base in between military duties.³⁰ In 1932, the Foot Guard hosted a 4000-person ball and reception to celebrate the bicentennial of George Washington's birth.³¹ Works Progress Association muralists contributed works specifically designed for the armory. Local artist Salvatore Millici painted the 2'.5" x 6' *Demanding the Keys to the Power House* in 1937. The *bas relief* plaster and paint work depicted Captain Benedict Arnold before he infamously betrayed George Washington. Arnold led several of the Second Company Governor's Foot Guard to the New Haven Green to demand the keys to the powder house on April 22, 1775. He and the rest of the 2nd Company Governor's Foot Guard marched to Massachusetts with the gun powder and inaugurated New Haven's entry into the American Revolution. Millici painted the scene to hang over the mantle of the fireplace in the Governor's Footguard Lounge.³² Salvatore Demaio painted two 3' x 10' murals in 1938 titled *New Haven and Second Company Footguard History* to flank Millici's piece above the mantle. Both sides were divided into three vignettes. The left side showed scenes of New Haven colonists with the original nine square town green in the middle. The right side illustrated the Governor's Foot Guard at the Battle of Quebec, a map of Boston Harbor in the center, and at the Battle of Groton Heights, on the left.³³ After World War II, the National Guard's duties evolved to restoring peace and order after riots and other events, and assisting civilians during natural disasters such as floods and hurricanes through rescue and providing food and shelter (Figure 11).³⁴

New Haven's military units retained association with the building, still occasionally hosting the governor whenever he or she was in town, until 2009, when the Second Company Governor's Foot Guard left the Goffe Street Armory for Branford after 75 years of continuous occupancy. Per the initial agreement, when the State relinquished the building's use as an armory, ownership reverted to the City of New Haven.

³⁰ Starr, 142-146.

³¹ William J. Prendergast, *Two Hundred Years: The Second Company Governor's Foot Guard, 1775-1975*, 35.

³² Millici, who also has murals in Hamden High School and the City of New Haven Free Public Library, left New Haven High School to go to work during the Great Depression, but he completed his high school degree at night school. He later attended Yale on scholarship and earned his BFA degree in 1932. Laura Macaluso, Federal Art Project/ WPA Inventory. Department of Cultural Affairs, City of New Haven, and the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism, December 2010; "Bas Relief of Epic Event Completed for Foot Guard," *New Haven Register*, October 1937. "New Haven Boy Works Hard for Fame as Sculptor," *New Haven Register*, July 1935; "Murals Adorn Goffe Street Armory" and "Colorful New Frieze in Foot Guard Lounge," unknown source.

³³ Other artwork in the armory included a John D. Whiting oil painting of *Sargent Stubby*, who as mascot of the 102nd became the military's most decorated canine, that hung in the museum.

Connecticut Military Department, <https://portal.ct.gov/MIL/MAPO/History/People/Stubby-the-Military-Dog>, accessed September 20, 2019.

³⁴ Robert M. Fogelson, *America's Armories: Architecture, Society, and Public Order*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1989; Carrano, October 7, 2019.

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Criterion A: Social History

The New Haven Armory also meets Criterion A in the category of Social History for its association with major events in the City of New Haven. The Goffe Street Armory essentially functioned as a convention center before there was such building type, even as the state made plans to expand its National Guard units and dedicate the building exclusively to their occupancy. Since the date of its construction and throughout the mid-twentieth century, the armory not only served as the venue for the military's social events, like its annual military ball and basketball tournaments, but as the site for political victory celebrations for city officials. In addition, it became a popular venue for nationally known entertainment from Frank Sinatra and the Tommy Dorsey Band at the annual Musician's Ball, to a Soul Show in 1967 starring several big names of the day, the latter sponsored by an African-American organization. The ballroom transformed to include banquet seating.³⁵ Drill shed decorations would often resemble a garden with white lattice arches and artificial flowers around the floor perimeter (Figures 14, 15).³⁶

Additionally, the drill shed was large enough to hold two basketball games at the same time. Hill House and Commercial High Schools played all of their games at the armory, which also hosted the New England Championship play offs for years as well. The public continued to stage dog and car shows, as well as antique, sportsmen, and home shows in the drill shed, at least one of which featured a full-sized Cape Cod-style house in the 1940s. Two high school bands used the drill shed during inclement weather. Parking for these events was at Bowen Field with buses transporting people to and from the armory.³⁷ Political conventions, inaugural balls, the New Haven Auto show, shooting competitions, music concerts, dances, Navy ROTC, political events, dog shows, crafts shows, boat shows, and even high school sporting events took over the space for decades. The Navy used the space to review its Yale ROTC unit. By the 1960s, local schools used the space for after school recreational activities including tennis, volleyball, basketball, golf, folk dancing, track and field.³⁸

³⁵ Starr, 142; "National Guard Court Tournament Starts tonight" *Hartford Courant*, March 6, 1931; New Haven Auto Show, *Hartford Courant*, Feb 1930; "14th annual military basketball tournament," *HC* March 26, 1934; New Haven Matches Set New Record for Entries in Small Bore Shooting, *HC* March 18, 1934, "85 Rifle Teams at Annual Meet," *HC* March 8, 1935, "New Haven rifle Team Holds Lead," *HC* March 10, 1935; 6th annual Gallery Team Championship of the State Rifle Association. (beat following year) March 8, 1935; "Big Entry for Dog show," *HC*, November 4, 1935; Military Affairs committee considering the concentrating of all Naval militia units to New Haven—near water." Feb 27, 1937. "More Time requested on New Armory," *HC*, April 2, 1937; "Azotolan, "Canine Comments," *Hartford Courant* December 23, 1939; "New Haven Party Marks GOP Sweep," January 13, 1953; "Hillhouse Defeats Hartford," *HC* January 31, 1951; "Yale Navy ROTC Unit Holds its Final Review," *HC* March 11, 1941 Sinatra concert, 1940; 1941 Navy ROTC final review; GOP celebration party; Dixwell Neighborhood Redevelopment Plan, Feb 1968; dog show City Kennel club, 1968 Nautical event and Craft show, 1969; "Food Show Attendance" *HC*, October 23, 1950; Tony Consiglio and Franz Douskey, *Sinatra and Me: The Very Good Years*, Tantor Media, 2012; Tommy Janette, *Happy Daze and Tommy and the Rivas: 1960s Rock and Roll*, Bloomington, IN; IUniverse, 2017.

³⁶ Carrano, October 7, 2019.

³⁷ Carrano, October 7, 2019.

³⁸ New Haven Plans to Use Armories for Recreation, *Hartford Courant*, March 18, 1965.

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From 1970 into the twenty-first century, the armory continued to serve a variety of uses for the community. The facility became a temporary homeless shelter in 1986, and became a Hurricane Katrina donation center in 2005. In 2009, the state transferred the military units to Branford and relinquished ownership to the city of New Haven. Since 2012, like other former armories across the Northeast and Midwest, the building continued service as a community center due the large, open, and unobstructed spaces for events and exhibition for organizations like *Artspace*. With its smaller meeting rooms, and its proximity to three non-profit affordable housing developers, this resource continues to house a branch of the New Haven Free Public Library system, a teen center, a regional fieldhouse, and a small business services center.³⁹

Criterion Consideration G: Properties that have Achieved Significance within the last 50 years

The New Haven Armory on Goffe Street is additionally significant under Criterion A with Criteria Consideration G for its role in the “second revolution” of the African American civil rights movement (*aka* the Black Power movement). It achieves this first through the Black Panther organization, and followed by efforts of the Black Coalition of Greater New Haven to achieve economic justice for through community and economic development.⁴⁰ The events at the building in the 1970s expands the building’s historical significance to New Haven’s African American community by serving as the site of local and regional political, economic, and social civil rights activism. In particular, it represented the federal and state governments’ perceptions that such groups threatened peace and democracy during the Cold War era and pushed back on radical activities with military force, often employing national guard troops against civilian protesters, and often resulting in violence. Soon afterwards, the local African-American community then claimed the armory space to celebrate Black political and economic achievement.

Following New Haven’s race riots in 1967, which occurred in close proximity to the Goffe Street Armory in the Dixwell and Newhallville neighborhoods and in which National Guardsmen intervened, the city’s “May Day” rally on May 1, 1970 was one of the most significant events of the Black Power Movement, the militant strand of the African-American Civil Rights Movement originally formed to counter police brutality and work to empower Black communities. Across the country during the late 1960s and early 1970s, national guard troops deployed to anti-war and civil rights protests, often ending in tragic violence, such as at Kent State University in Ohio a few days after the events of May 1 in New Haven. The purpose of the “May Day” rally near the downtown New Haven Green was to raise money and support eight members of the para-military group known as the Black Panther Party, who were facing murder and kidnapping trials. The New Haven Black Panther Defense Committee and supporters believed the accused could not get a fair trial at the Superior Court Building in downtown New Haven. The city anticipated at least 20,000 people, of all races. Nationally known peace activists Abbie Hoffman, co-founder of the Youth International Party (Yippies), beat-poet Alan Ginsberg, and famed pediatrician and New Haven native Dr. Benjamin Spock participated. At Yale University, with the support of University President Kingman Brewster, Jr. and many members of the faculty, students went on strike in

³⁹ Elihu Rubin, et. al, New Haven, Academy, and ArtSpace New Haven, “Excavating the Armory,” <http://campuspress.yale.edu/excavatingthearmory/new-haven-urban-diagram/>, accessed September 15, 2019

⁴⁰ “Civil Rights in America,” National Park Service, 2012.

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support of the rally, voting to offer food and shelter to rally participants and serve as crowd marshals. While Yale welcomed the protesters and worked to ensure a peaceful rally, the highly visible military build-up at the Goffe Street Armory contradicted such efforts. The events at the armory mirrored how the national and state governments viewed the Black Panthers and their allies, assuming any gathering would result in violence and riots.

The New Haven Armory on Goffe Street served as “ground zero” for the state and federal governments’ response to radical groups like the counter-culture and Black Power movements, who they characterized as militant enemies of the state. Anticipating violence on May 1, 1970, Governor John Dempsey, and with the urging of United States President Richard Nixon and Vice President Spiro Agnew, activated the New Haven Grays, the armory’s 102nd regiment. The guardsmen assembled at the armory as “Task Force Bravo” to support local and state police in guarding against rioting during the Black Panther rally, happening less than two miles away at the New Haven Green and the Yale University campus. Guardsmen from Waterbury, Stamford, and Greenwich joined the 102nd to total 3,000, with more standing by in Branford. There, superiors provided the troops with ammunition, gas grenades, and instructions to expect over 50,000 people and not to hesitate to use weapons if you feel the need as officers of the state. The Governor had the authority to order all troops to action at the request of the mayor. Still acting on rumors of potential violence, Governor Dempsey requested an additional 4,000 federal troops (army paratroopers and marines) from North Carolina who stationed in Chicopee Falls, Massachusetts, while the marines went to Quonset Point Naval Air Station in Rhode Island. The military set tanks on roads leading into New Haven on the morning of May 1.⁴¹ The rally that day drew 15,000-20,000, fewer protesters than organizers anticipated, with isolated instances of vandalism. As protesters grew frustrated with the military presence, they began throwing bottles at guardsmen. Police employed tear gas on the crowds in response.

But remarkably, in spite of the military build-up of state and national forces, the campus and local community efforts to maintain calm at the massive rally adjacent to Yale University proved successful, even just fifteen days after violence on Harvard University’s campus, and four days before the infamous shooting of four students at Kent State University in Ohio. Some observers, including historians, have characterized the military build-up as an attempt by the Nixon administration, urged by J. Edgar Hoover’s Federal Bureau of Investigation, to actually provoke violence and turn national sentiment against groups it perceived as militant and dangerous, like the Black Panthers. After the rally, about 500 of the 3,000 guardsmen remained assembled in New Haven for the remainder of the murder trials.⁴²

Only two years later, the local Black community reclaimed the New Haven Armory, also known as the Goffe Street Armory, as a space to celebrate and promote African-American culture and entrepreneurship. The Black Panther trial and May Day rally provided impetus for other groups in New Haven to address the inequality that the Black Panthers stressed, especially the need for

⁴¹ Joseph Treaster, “National Guard Alerted for Panther Rally Duty,” *New York Times* April 29, 1970; Homer Bigart, *The New York Times*, “US Troops Flown in for Panther Rally,” May 1, 1970; Homer Bigart, “Guard is Leaving Calm New Haven in Wake of Rally,” *New York Times*, May 4, 1970; Paul Bass and Douglas Rae, *Murder in the Model City: The Black Panthers, Yale, and the Redemption of a Killer*, 152.

⁴² Bass and Rae.

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community services and economic programs. While the Black Panthers advocated for, nationalism, opportunity and economic independence (but without disavowing violence), the African American civil rights and Black Power movements entailed many different factions and strategies toward achieving equality. African American leaders from nearly twenty community groups, including the NAACP, the Urban League, and the Hill Parents Association (HPA), united under the moderate Black Coalition of Greater New Haven following the riots in 1967. The Coalition worked successfully to maintain calm in the community following events like Martin Luther King's assassination and the May Day rally. And in 1972, the Coalition organized the annual "Black Expo," a satellite cultural event reflective of similar events in cities across the United States throughout the Black Power era, at the New Haven Armory on Goffe Street.⁴³

The group was inspired by Chicago's Black Expo, a promotional festival featuring and supporting African American products, businesses, and culture. In 1971, the Reverend Jesse Jackson left the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the civil rights group in which he worked alongside Martin Luther King Jr. in its economic unit, over how to incorporate the Black Expo event. Under the philosophy of "civil economics," Jackson organized expositions in Philadelphia, New York City, and Chicago under a new organization known as PUSH (People United to Save Humanity) with similar economic and political goals expressed by the Black Coalition of Greater New Haven group: "The business of America is business and we, as blacks, want to become part of that business." But while the press characterized these events as politically controversial in other cities, New Haven's organizers largely avoided those descriptions and the press focused on the Black Expo's goals of economic development.⁴⁴

Black Expo brought Black people together from across New England to the New Haven Armory for three days to discuss and advance common economic, political, and social concerns from across the spectrum of African-American civil rights movement's activities. In addition to formulating a strategy for the 1972 elections, Expo leaders also hoped that the event would help introduce Black businesses to major corporations and create sustainable working partnerships.

The annual event, which recalled the World Fairs of the early twentieth century that featured, promoted, and celebrated cultural, economic, and political advances of nations, attracted thousands to the Goffe Street Armory through the 1970s when such civil activities began to wane. The first Expo in 1972 honored Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and hosted several seminars, including one on health care and the prison system, for 30,000 people. The next year in 1973, the event focused exclusively on business and jobs, and attracted 50,000, and featured Republican Senator Lowell Weicker, Jr. By 1977, attendance has fallen to about 15,000.⁴⁵

⁴³ Williams, *Black Politics/ White Power*, 92-93, 162.

⁴⁴ Stephanie Christensen, "Operation PUSH," December 13, 2007 from Blackpast.org, accessed October 25, 2020, <https://www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/operation-push-people-united-serve-humanity/>.

⁴⁵ "Ex-Rights Leader Organizes Own Group, PUSH," December 19, 1971; "Black Expo Set for New Haven," *Hartford Courant*, May 21, 1972; "Black Exposition draws 50,000" *Hartford Courant*, October 2, 1973; October 14, 1977; Paul Bass and Douglas Rae, *Murder in the Model City: The Black Panthers, Yale, and the Redemption of a Killer*, BasicBooks, 2006; "Sixth Black Expo gets Underway," *Hartford Courant*, Oct 14, 1977 "Black Expo," *Hartford Courant*. October 19, 1979; Ian Rocksborough-Smith, *Black Public History in Chicago: Civil Rights Activism from World War II in to the Cold War* (Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2018), 115-16; Daniel Y. Stewart, *Black New Haven, 1920-1977: Colored People, Negroes, Black, Afro-Americans*, New Haven: Advocate Press, 1977.

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Criterion C: Architecture

The New Haven Armory meets Criterion C in the category of Architecture because it is an extraordinary example of the armory designs built in the late 1920s by Payne and Keefe, as well as the largest and features a particularly vast unobstructed space in the vaulted drill shed, noteworthy for its steel truss work. While many states built few armories after this period, these designs departed from earlier castellated and medieval, fortress-like design, intending to function not only as a training and social facility for the state military units, but as a community center as well. Morris B. Payne, Payne and Keefe's principle and himself a Quartermaster General in the National Guard, himself reflected this dual identity and function. Payne's firm, in which he served as a civil engineer, designed several public buildings across the state including most of the state's armories throughout the inter-war period of similar material and modern, streamlined style in Middletown, Waterbury, Manchester, and Bristol.

A design competition for Hartford's Armory and Arsenal had helped this design shift to what some interpreted as a more "dignified reflection of the modern army." By 1910, both guardsmen and the most prominent architects desired to "get away from the battlement type armory to more of a public building type" and many embraced the Art Deco aesthetic by the 1920s.⁴⁶ Payne and Keefe thus responded to this trend away from medieval aesthetic toward the modern. The more streamlined design, reflecting the Art Deco aesthetic seen in the armory built in Minneapolis, distinctly departed from the castellated, rock-faced fortress design of its Meadow Street predecessor (built in 1883). Each of Payne and Keefe's armory buildings featured a dominant central block with flanking wings, balanced fenestration of narrow, vertical six-over-six double hung windows, roofline parapet, and molded cornice. The New Haven Armory on Goffe Street is noteworthy for its massive scale, second only to the armory in Hartford (1907-09). It did not feature the elaborate castellated cornice seen on Meadow Street, but rather suggested the armory and Romanesque Revival tradition through the courses of decorative brick corbelled arches.⁴⁷ The style is a cross between the fortress-style of the 19th century armory and a bold urban civic building typical of the early twentieth century. Unlike earlier armories, the large entry tower more resembles that of a public civic building, than a fortress or castle.

Furthermore, the drill shed was the largest, unobstructed space in New Haven for decades, making it ideal for a large range of events. Payne and Keefe enlisted the most current engineering techniques to span enormous stretches of this unobstructed space, echoing the streamlined style of contemporary train stations and exhibition halls. Brick and steel piers/pilasters held up exposed steel truss work, made up of ten crescent trusses. This interior structure provides a dramatic aesthetic for the largest unobstructed space in the city, allowing events impossible to hold in other venues.

⁴⁶ Robert Fogelson, *America's Armories*, 184-89; As quoted in Fogelson, 188.

⁴⁷ "Lt. General Payne Found Dead," HC, February 1, 1961, Rossano and Donohue, 27-28; Questionnaire for Architects' Roster or Architects qualified for Federal Public Works, April 29, 1946, American Institute of Architects Archives.

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In addition to the large space and entryway, the entrance foyer with built-in ticket windows is evidence that the designers of the space always anticipated hosting social and cultural events. Multiple meeting rooms, offices, lounges, vast lobby, and circulation routes accessing points all around the drill hall implied more of a community and administrative purpose, than a defensive one.⁴⁸ With its large size, elaborate architectural features, and important historical associations, the New Haven Armory on Goffe Street has become a central piece of the community for almost ninety years.

⁴⁸ Rossano and Donohue, 27-28; Questionnaire for Architects' Roster or Architects qualified for Federal Public Works, American Institute of Architects Archives, April 29, 1946.

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Williams, Yohuru. "The New Haven Black Panther Trials," in Elizabeth J. Normen, Stacy K. Close, Katherine Harris, and William Frank Mitchell. *African American Connecticut Explored* (Middletown: Wesleyan University Press, 2014), 350-357.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Connecticut State Library, New Haven Museum Library

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): Listed in State Register, 1988

New Haven Armory
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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.17

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 41.190613

Longitude: -72.562187

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The nominated property includes a trapezoidal-shaped parcel identified as Parcel ID 20784, (Mblu 320/ 0299/ 00200) in the City of New Haven, Connecticut GIS and assessment data. It is bordered on the north by Goffe Street, 320 feet; on the west by Hudson Street, 403 feet; on the south by land occupied by a New Haven Correctional Facility, about 320 feet; and on the east by County Street, 385 feet. See Figure 2.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries reflect the physical and legal description of the historic and present property lines of the building's original lot.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Leah S. Glaser, Historical Consultant

organization: _____

street & number: 78 Spring Glen Terrace

city or town: Hamden state: CT zip code: 06517

e-mail lsglaser@att.net

telephone: 203-623-9706

date: November 5, 2019

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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Maps and Figures

New Haven Armory
270 Goffe Street, New Haven, CT

Latitude: 41.190613°
Longitude: -72.562187°



Figure 1: Location Map. Latitude: 41: 190613; Longitude: -72.562187.

New Haven Armory
Name of Property

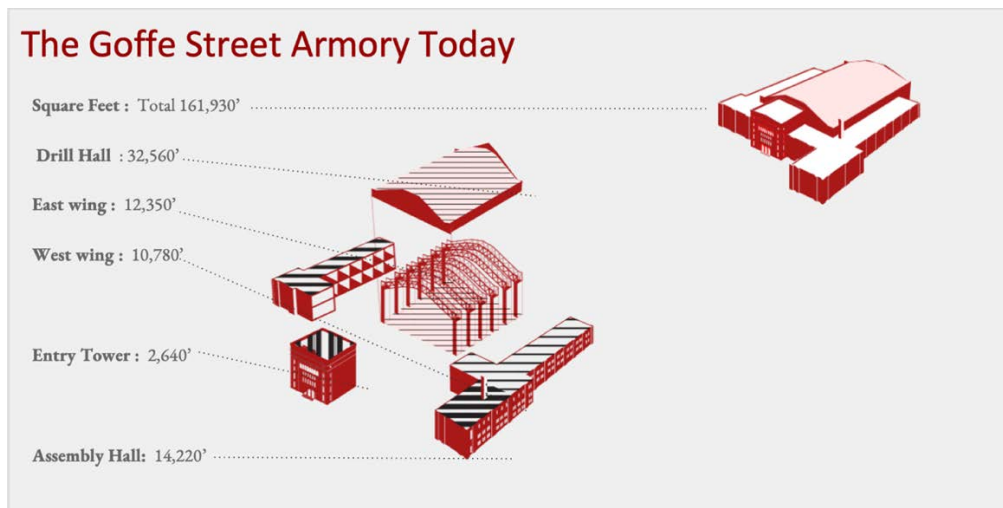
New Haven, CT
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New Haven Armory 270 Goffe Street, New Haven, CT

Latitude: 41.190613°
Longitude: -72.562187°



Figure 2. Site Plan.



New Haven Armory
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Figure 3. Sketch of Armory Parts and Use, Precedent Study, Elihu Rubin, Fran Xavier, and Kathryn Arffa, The Armory Community Advisory Committee, February 21, 2018.



Figure 4. Sanborn Map, 1960, New Haven Library and Museum, New Haven, Connecticut.

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Figure 5. Facade, Facing South (*Google Earth*, September 2019).

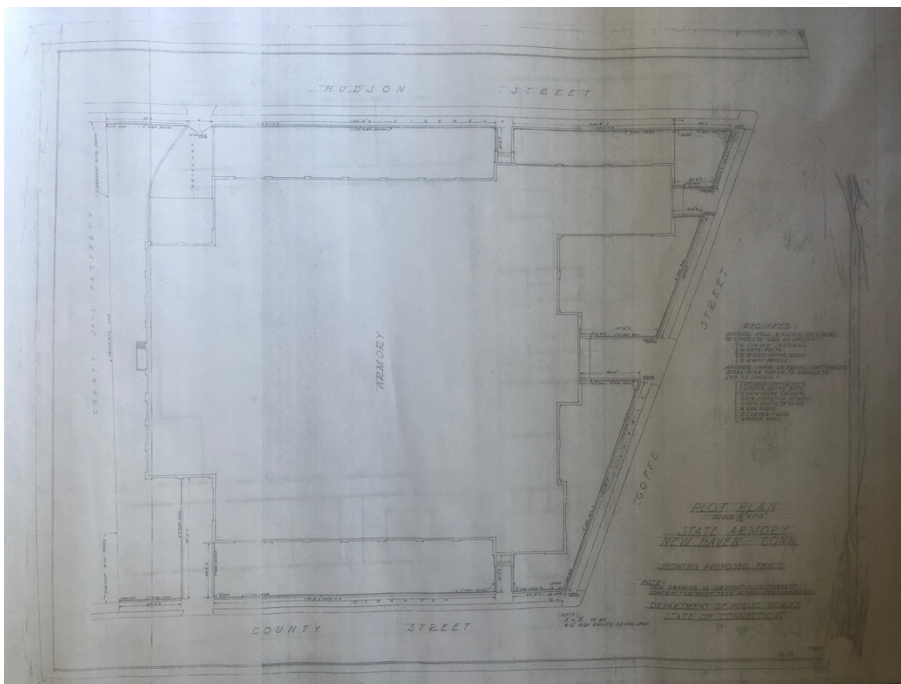


Figure 6. Labeled plan of Building Layout, Sapienza and Lessig Architects and Planners, Bureau of Public Works, State of Connecticut, February 21, 1986.

New Haven Armory
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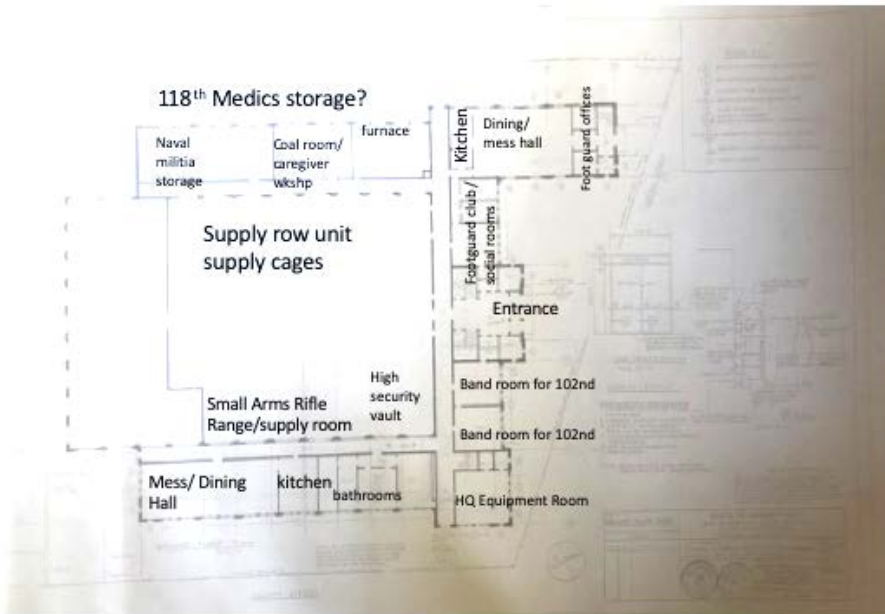


Figure 7. Plan of Building Layout, historic room use. Drawing of Ground/First floor, Sapienza and Lessig Architects and Planners, Bureau of Public Works, State of Connecticut, February 21, 1986.

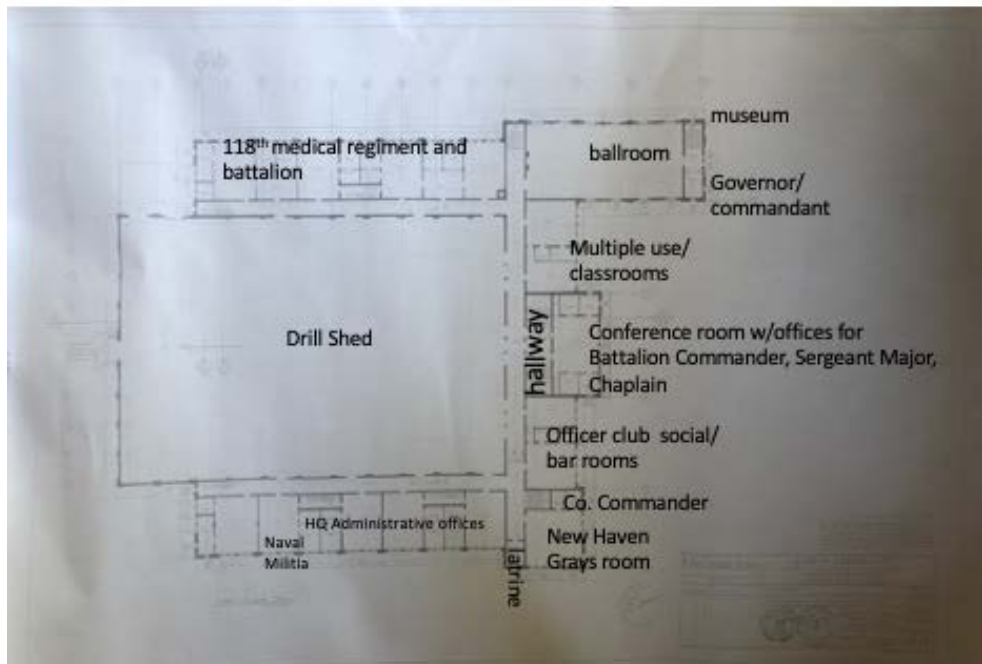


Figure 8. Plan of Building Layout, historic room use. Drawing of Second (labeled First) floor Sapienza and Lessig Architects and Planners, Bureau of Public Works, State of Connecticut, February 21, 1986.

New Haven Armory
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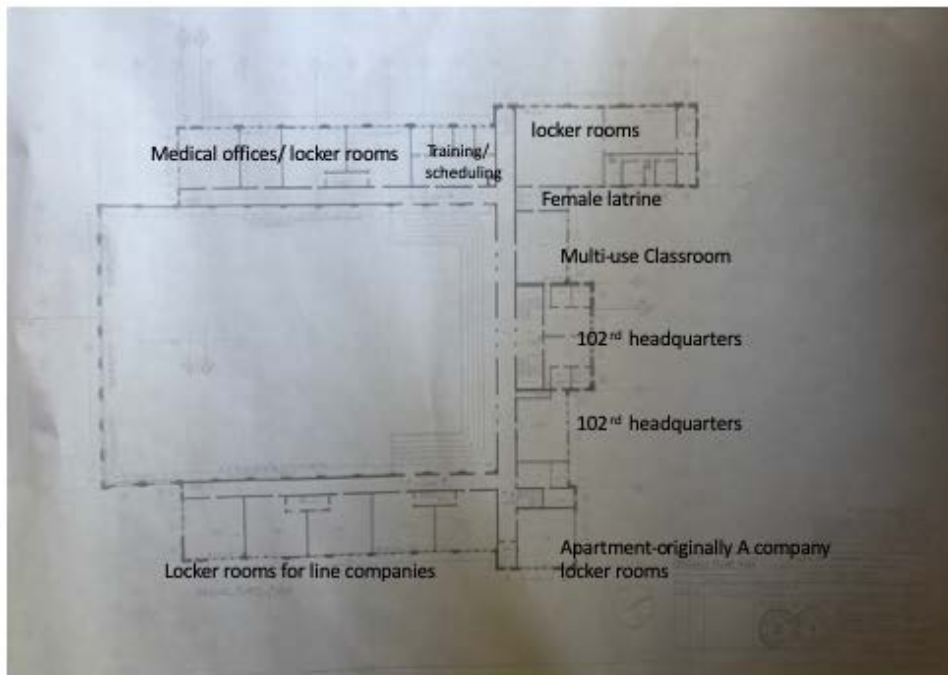


Figure 9. Plan of Building Layout, historic room use. Drawing of Third (labeled Second) floor, Sapienza and Lessig Architects and Planners, Bureau of Public Works, State of Connecticut, February 21, 1986.

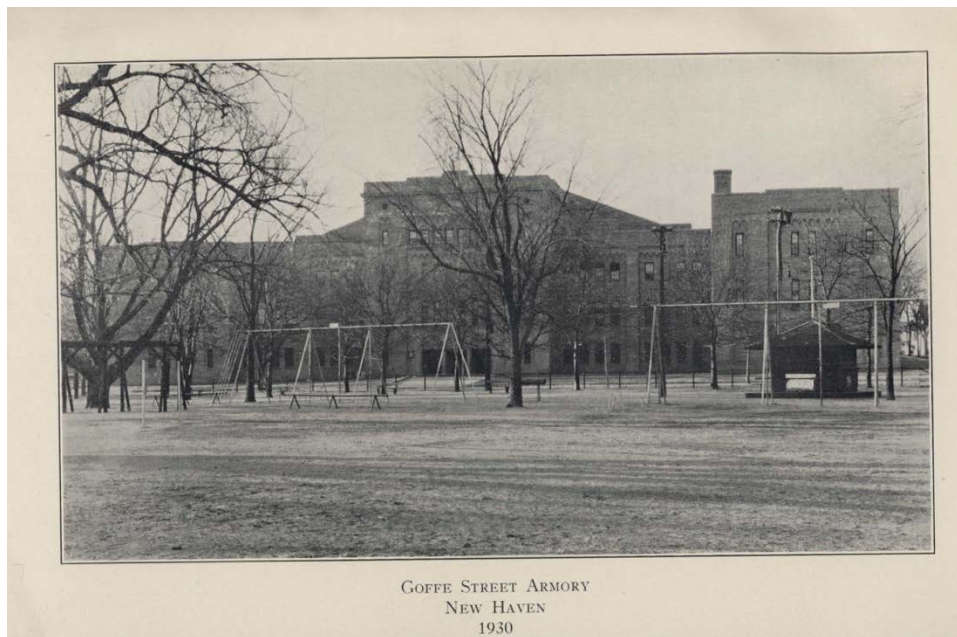


Figure 10. Historic Photograph of New Haven/ Street Armory, from Adjutant General's Report, Hartford, Connecticut, 1932.

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Figure 11. Foot Guard Ballroom with WPA Murals, n.d.



Figure 12. New Haven Grays Room, Second Floor, Photo in New Haven Museum, New Haven, CT, date unknown, Rogers Studio.

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Figure 13. New Haven Grays Room, Second Floor, New Haven Museum, New Haven, CT, date unknown, Rogers Studio.



Figure 14. Drill Shed, decorated for the Junior Promenade, date unknown.

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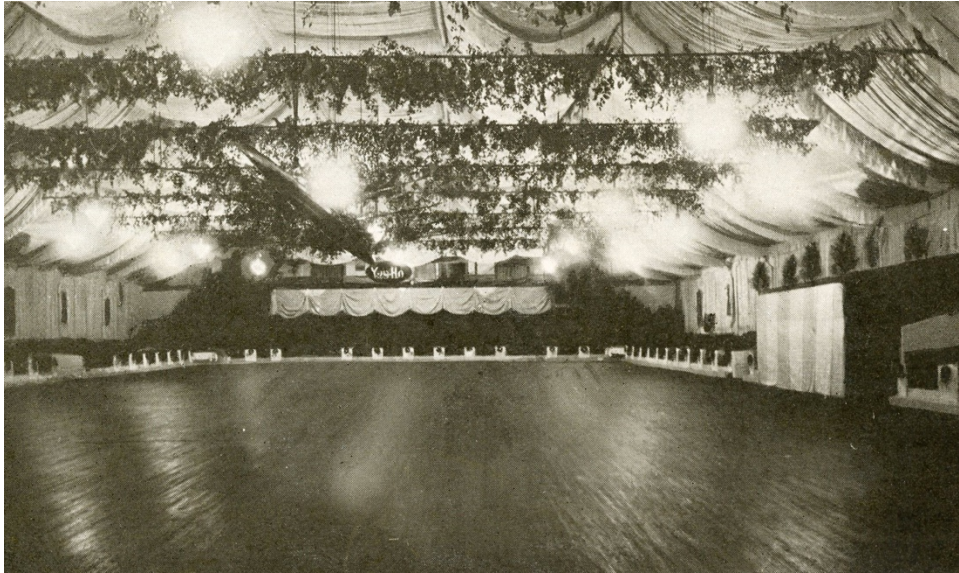


Figure 15. Drill Shed, decorated for event, date unknown.

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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: New Haven Armory/ Goffe Street Armory

City or Vicinity: New Haven

County: New Haven

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Bill McMullen and Karen Lang Rogers

Date Photographed: 2009 and January 2020

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 1 of 46

Façade, North Elevation, facing South.

Photo 2 of 46

Façade, facing Southeast down Goffe Street.

Photo 3 of 46

Façade Entry Tower, facing South. Bill McMullen, City of New Haven, 2009.

Photo 4 of 46

Entry Tower, facing South.

Photo 5 of 46

East Corner Tower, East Elevation, Facing West.

Photo 6 of 46

West Elevation Tower, Foote Guard Wing, Balcony.

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Photo 7 of 46

Foot Guard Wing West Façade /Tower, Facing Southeast.

Photo 8 of 46

West elevation, facing Northwest.

Photo 9 of 46

East elevation looking West, East Tower.

Photo 10 of 46

Foot Guard Tower facade and West elevation, facing Southeast.

Photo 11 of 46

East Tower, facing Southwest.

Photo 12 of 46

Rear of East elevation.

Photo 13 of 46

Rear of West elevation with garage entry to Drill Hall.

Photo 14 of 46

Roof, 2009.

Photo 15 of 46

Roof Parapet, 2009.

Photo 16 of 46

Foundation.

Photo 17 of 46

South Elevation looking East.

Photo 18 of 46

Rear casement windows, facing Southwest from County Street.

Photo 19 of 46

Foyer, Ground Floor.

Photo 20 of 46

Main stairwell descending view to second floor landing.

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Photo 21 of 46

Main stairwell metal post detail.

Photo 22 of 46

Secondary Stairwell, east side of Headhouse.

Photo 23 of 46

Bar/ Clubhouse Room, Ground Floor.

Photo 24 of 46

Foot guard Kitchen, Ground floor.

Photo 25 of 46

Foot Guard Mess Hall Foote Guard Mess Hall, circa 2009.

Photo 26 of 46

Band Rooms, Ground floor, circa 2009.

Photo 27 of 46

East Wing, Ground Floor, Showers (part of latrine area).

Photo 28 of 46

East Wing, Ground Floor, National Guard Kitchen, circa 2009.

Photo 29 of 46

Central Headhouse, Officer's Club, Second Floor Bar area.

Photo 30 of 46

Triple Arcade viewed from main staircase landing into corridor.

Photo 31 of 46

Triple Arcade from Corridor, Third Floor.

Photo 32 of 46

Set of double wood Doors leading to Drill Hall, circa 2009.

Photo 33 of 46

Band's Bar room with remains of Fresco of soldiers.

Photo 34 of 46

New Haven Grays Room, Second Floor, East Tower. See also Figure 12.

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Photo 35 of 46

Medical Battalion Office, West Wing, Second Floor, circa 2009.

Photo 36 of 46

Classroom, Third Floor East Wing, circa 2009.

Photo 37 of 46

Foot Guard Ballroom, Second Floor West Wing, circa 2009.

Photo 38 of 46

Foot Guard Ballroom ceiling detail, circa 2009.

Photo 39 of 46

Supply Room, Ground Floor, circa 2009.

Photo 40 of 46

Storage cage, Ground Floor, circa 2009.

Photo 41 of 46

Unit storage area, Ground floor, circa 2009.

Photo 42 of 46

Drill Hall Ceiling wide view detail looking towards spectator balcony.

Photo 43 of 46

Drill Hall Ceiling detail.

Photo 44 of 46

Drill Hall Interior looking North to spectator's gallery/ balcony, circa 2009.

Photo 45 of 46

Drill Hall Spectator Balcony looking South to drill floor area, circa 2009.

Photo 46 of 46

Hallway/ Corridor Detail, Second Floor, circa 2009.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

New Haven Armory Photographs



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2. Façade, facing Southeast down Goffe Street.



3. Façade Entry Tower, facing South. Bill McMullen, City of New Haven, 2009.



4. Entry Tower, facing South..



5. East Corner Tower, East Elevation, Facing West.



6. West Elevation Tower, Foote Guard Wing, Balcony.



7. Foot Guard Wing West Façade / Tower, Facing Southeast.



8. West elevation, facing Northwest.



9. East elevation looking West, East Tower.



10. Foot Guard Tower facade and West elevation, facing Southeast.



11. East Tower, facing Southwest.



12. Rear of East elevation.



13. Rear of West elevation with garage entry to Drill Hall.



14. South Elevation looking East.



15. Rear casement windows, facing Southwest from County Street.



16. Roof, 2009.



17. Roof Parapet, 2009.



18. Foundation.



19. Foyer, Ground Floor.



20. Main stairwell descending view to second floor landing.



21. Main stairwell metal post detail.



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36. Classroom, Third Floor East Wing, circa 2009.



37. Foot Guard Ballroom, Second Floor West Wing, circa 2009.



38. Foot Guard Ballroom ceiling detail, circa 2009.



39. Supply Room, Ground Floor, circa 2009.



40. Storage cage, Ground Floor, circa 2009.



41. Unit storage area, Ground floor, circa 2009.



42. Drill Hall Ceiling wide view detail looking towards spectator balcony.



43. Drill Hall Ceiling detail.



44. Drill Hall Interior looking North to spectator's gallery/ balcony, circa 2009.



45. Drill Hall Spectator Balcony looking South to drill floor area, circa 2009.



46. Hallway/ Corridor Detail, Second Floor, circa 2009.