

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

OMB NO. 1024-0018, NPS FORM 10-900a RECEIVED 1537

DEC 16 1993

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties or districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classifications, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name 369th Regiment Armory

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 2366 Fifth Avenue

[] not for publication

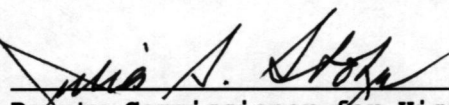
city New York City

[] vicinity

state New York code NY county New York code 061 zip code 10037

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this [X] 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 [X] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [] nationally [] statewide [X] locally. ([] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)



Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation

12/8/93
Date

NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. ([] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

Signature of keeper

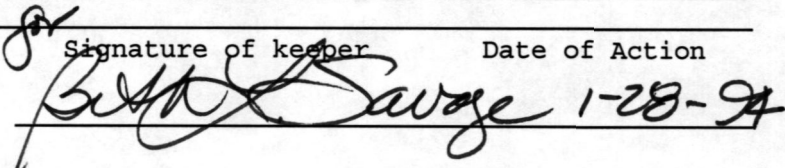
Date of Action

[X] entered in the National Register.

[] See continuation sheet.

[] determined eligible for the National Register. [] see continuation sheet.

[] determined not eligible for the National Register.

 1-28-94

[] removed from the National Register.

[] other: _____

5. Classification**Ownership of Property/Category of Property/Number of Resources within Property**(Check as many
boxes as apply)

(check box)

(do not include previously listed
resources in the count)☐ private☒ building(s)

Contributing Noncontributing

☐ public-local☐ district1

buildings

☒ public-State☐ site

sites

☐ public-Federal☐ structure

structures

☐ object

objects

1

Total

Number of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register: NA

NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY DOCUMENTATION FORM:

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD ARMORIES IN NEW YORK STATE

6. Function or Use**Historic Function****Current Function**

DEFENSE; Armory

DEFENSE; Armory

7. Description**Architectural Classification**

(enter categories from instructions)

EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY: Art Deco

Materials

(enter categories from instructions)

foundation brickwalls brick with terra cotta trimroof unknown

other

Narrative Description

See attached continuation sheets.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

369th Regiment Armory
2366 Fifth Avenue, New York City

Section 7, Description, page 1

Description

The 369th Regiment Armory is located on the west side of Fifth Avenue between 142nd and 143rd Streets in Harlem (Manhattan). Industrial buildings, similar in size and scale to the armory, are located to the south and west of the armory and a modern, municipal housing project is located to the southwest. A modern, one-story OMS garage is located on a separate lot immediately south of the armory; because it does not contribute to the significance of the armory, the garage is excluded from the nomination. A large vacant lot is located to the north of the armory. Harlem River Drive, a divided highway running along the west bank of the Harlem River, is located to the east of the armory.

The armory occupies nearly all of its gently sloping, 199' x 510' lot (tax block 1740, lot 17; approximately two acres in extent). A narrow parking lot and a short, circular driveway run along the front (east) facade of the administration building. The driveway encircles a small, grassy lawn dotted with several trees and a flagpole. The east and west sides of the armory abut the sidewalks, and the rear (west) elevation of the drill shed is attached to the adjacent industrial building.

The armory consists of an Art Deco style administration building (1930-33; designed by Van Wart & Wein) and a medieval-inspired drill shed (1920-24; designed by Tachau & Vought). Both sections are constructed of brick; the administration building is embellished with prominent terra cotta parapets. Fenestration is slightly irregular; the administration building features metal casement windows (which occur singly or in pairs or triplets) and the drill shed features nine-over-nine double-hung sash. Simple brick trim embellishes most window openings throughout both sections of the armory.

The administration building is a three and one-half story rectangular building resting on a raised brick basement with a red sandstone water table. The roofline is encircled by a buff terra cotta parapet embellished with chevron designs and stylized eagles. First-story windows throughout the administration building are protected by iron grilles decorated with stars and maces. The front (east) facade of the administration building is distinguished by a series of projecting and receding pavilions which emphasize the building's vertical massing. The tripartite

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

369th Regiment Armory
2366 Fifth Avenue, New York City

Section 7, Description, page 2

facade consists of a central entrance pavilion flanked by two side pavilions. The entrance pavilion features a massive, medieval inspired sandstone sally port containing four paneled wood doors. The side pavilions are slightly different from each other in terms of fenestration, massing and details, conveying an overall asymmetry to the administration building.

The north and south (side) elevations of the administration building are distinguished by a series of shallow projections and recessions and feature fairly regular fenestration. Secondary entrances with sandstone trim are located in the raised basement.

The drill shed, approximately 300 feet deep and 200 feet wide, rises two and one-half stories above a raised basement and is surmounted by a clerestory. The north and south elevations are fifteen bays deep; each elevation features a three-bay-wide central entrance pavilion flanked by two six-bay-wide side pavilions. All bays are divided by simple brick buttresses and each bay contains a single nine-over-nine double-hung window. Secondary and tertiary entrances on the side elevations of the drill shed are distinguished by massive, medieval-inspired sandstone hoods with crenelated parapets and segmentally arched lintels.

The interior survives substantially intact, with a variety of features reflecting the influence of both the Art Deco style and medieval military architecture. The first floor entrance hall and main corridors feature chevron-motif cornices and terrazzo floors with tile borders. Molded brick trim surrounds door and window openings. The company meeting room in the southeast (front) corner features parquet floors, walnut paneling, a carved mantel, a plaster frieze with rope moldings and a plaster ceiling. Most offices survive intact and feature concrete floors, plaster walls and ceilings, and wood paneled doors with metal trim. The interior of the drill shed survives substantially intact and features three tiers of balconies on all four sides with a seating capacity of 6-7,000.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark an "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 that 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 pre-history or history.

Criteria Considerations: NA

- ☐ **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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

See attached continuation sheets.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

See attached continuation sheets

Previous documentation on file (NPS): Primary location of additional data:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State historic preservation office |
| <input type="checkbox"/> previously listed in the National Register | <input type="checkbox"/> Other State agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> previously determined eligible by the National Register | <input type="checkbox"/> Federal agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> designated a National Historic Landmark | <input type="checkbox"/> Local government |
| <input type="checkbox"/> recorded by Historic American Building Survey # _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> University |
| <input type="checkbox"/> recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

Area of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Military History

Ethnic Heritage; Black

Architecture

Period of Significance

ca. 1915 - ca. 1933

Significant Dates

1915; 1920-24; 1930-1933

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

na

Cultural Affiliation

na

Architect/Builder

Drill shed: Tachau & Vought

Admin. Bldg: Van Wart & Wein

Name of repository:
Division for Historic Preservation

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

369th Regiment Armory
2366 Fifth Avenue, New York City

Section 8, Significance, page 1

Statement of Significance

The 369th Regiment Armory is historically significant for its association with black history as the only armory ever built for the only unit of the New York National Guard composed solely of African-Americans. It is additionally architecturally and historically significant as a remarkably intact, representative example of an early twentieth century state armory. The building retains a high degree of integrity of design, materials and craftsmanship and embodies the three distinctive characteristics of the building type as defined in the National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) for Army National Guard Armories in New York State (May 1993). 1: In terms of function, the armory serves as both a military facility and a social clubhouse for a local unit of the National Guard, as well as an imposing civic monument to military and government strength and presence within the community. 2: In terms of plan, the armory consists of an administration building with an attached drill shed at ground level. 3: In terms of design and decoration, the armory represents a departure from the fortress-like, castellated style that characterized many late nineteenth century armories and is, instead, a fashionable interpretation of the Art Deco style with only minimal reference to medieval military architecture (as seen, for example, in its massive, medieval inspired sally port).

The 369th Regiment is historically significant at the state level for its association with the first and only National Guard unit in New York State composed solely of African-Americans. The unit was founded in 1913¹ as the "Negro Regiment of Infantry"² and redesignated the 369th Regiment upon mustering into the United States Army in 1917. There are only three other all-black units in the entire United States; they are:

1. Beha, p. 69; however, the NYC LPC Designation Report states that the unit was formed in 1916.

2. Beha, p. 69; however, the NYC LPC Designation Report states that the unit was called the 15th Regiment.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

369th Regiment Armory
2366 Fifth Avenue, New York City

Section 8, Significance, page 2

178th Infantry (Illinois; organized in 1878)
372nd Maintenance Company (Ohio; organized in 1881)
372nd Military Police Battalion (Washington, DC; 1891)

Criterion A: The 369th Regiment was assigned to the 161st³ Division of the French Army during World War I; it was the first all-black unit sent to battle on foreign soil. The members of the unit served with distinction during the war, particularly on the Reims-Argonne front and during the Battle of Le Mesnil. To their allies they were known as the "Harlem Hell Fighters;" to their enemies, i.e., the Germans, they were feared as the blutlustige schwarze Maenner ("bloodthirsty black men"). Several individual members of the regiment as well as the unit itself were awarded the Croix de Guerre by the French; they received the Congressional Medal of Honor, the Distinguished Service Cross and the Legion of Honor Award from their own countrymen. Upon their return to America, the regiment was greeted with a parade up Fifth Avenue in attendance by many of the most renowned citizens of the period, including Governor and Mrs. Smith, Henry Clay Frick, Mrs. Vincent Astor and Mr. and Mrs. William Randolph Hearst.

The regiment later served with distinction during World War II and the Korean War.

(As an interesting side note, it should be mentioned that the 369th Regiment's band, which included some of Harlem's most renowned early jazz musicians, is credited with introducing jazz to Europe. When the soldiers returned to America, some of the band member stayed on in France [particularly in Paris] and popularized their unique form of music.)

Criterion C: The 369th Regiment Armory is additionally significant as a representative example of an early twentieth century armory. During the late 1910s, the unit was headquartered at 58 West 130th Street (one of the houses of Astor Row). In 1921 the unit acquired a site between 142nd and 143rd Streets and a large drill shed, designed by the renowned New York City firm of

3. Beha, p. 69; however, the NYC LPC Designation Report states that it was the 16th Division.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

369th Regiment Armory
2366 Fifth Avenue, New York City

Section 8, Significance, page 3

Tachau & Vought, was erected. Tachau & Vought was the successor firm of Pilcher & Tachau; Lewis Pilcher and William G. Tachau has achieved national acclaim for their 1903 design for the Troop C Armory in Brooklyn (completed in 1906) and the Kingsbridge Armory (1913) in the Bronx. Pilcher went on to become State Architect between 1913 and 1923 (although he maintained his private practice with Tachau until 1921) and was responsible for the design of numerous upstate armories during the 1910s. Tachau joined forces with Theodore H. Vought in 1921 when the firm of Pilcher & Tachau was dissolved. See Historic Overview (Section E) of the MPDF.

Additional land fronting Fifth Avenue and overlooking the Harlem River was acquired by the regiment in 1929 and a massive administration building was added to the drill shed in 1930-33.

Designed by the New York City firm of Van Wart & Wein,⁴ the administration building is an outstanding example of Art Deco style civic architecture. Together, the 1920s drill shed and the 1930s embody the three distinctive characteristics of the armory as a building type. First, it serves not only as a military facility and social club for a local unit of the New York National Guard, but also as a civic monument designed to symbolize governmental strength and presence within a community and to inspire fear, awe, pride and patriotism; second, in form and plan, it consists of an administration building with an attached drill shed at ground level; third, in design and decoration, although it is essentially a monumental Art Deco style public building, its military function and medieval sources are reflected in its massive sally port, raised and battered foundation and protective iron grilles on all first-story windows.

The 369th Regiment Armory is also historically significant under criterion A for its association with American military history in general and Army National Guard history in particular. The history of the National Guard (and the significance of its related armories) is discussed at length in Section E (Historic Overview)

4. According to the NYC LPC Designation Report (p. 6), John S. Van Wart (d. 1950) and Sidney Wein (d. 1960) appear to have been specialists in apartment house design.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

369th Regiment Armory
2366 Fifth Avenue, New York City

Section 8, Significance, page 4

of the Multiple Property Documentation Form for Army National Guard Armories in New York State. In summary, the volunteer militia (i.e., the National Guard) has been, and to a large extent still is, the backbone of the American military system since the Colonial era. The 369th Regiment Armory, like virtually all National Guard armories, remains a prominent visual reminder of and monument to the pivotal role played by the volunteer militia in American military history.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

369th Regiment Armory
2366 Fifth Avenue, New York City

Section 9, Bibliography, page 1

Bibliography

Albany, New York. Division for Historic Preservation. Research files.

Beha, Ann, Associates. The Armory Study: Armories of New York City. 1987.

Fogelson, Robert M. America's Armories: Architecture, Society and Public Order. Boston: President and Fellows of Harvard College, 1989.

Kondratiuk, LtC. Leonid. Interview, June 8, 1993.

New York City. Landmarks Conservancy. Research files.

New York City. Landmarks Preservation Commission. Research files and designation reports

Wright, Capt. Robert K., and Hylton-Greene, Renee. A Brief History of the Militia and the National Guard. Washington, D.C.: 1986.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property approximately 2 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A 18 589810 4818850

Zone Easting Northing

C

Zone Easting Northing

B

Zone Easting Northing

D

Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary coincides with the legal lot line of the nominated property as delineated on the attached county tax map.

Boundary Justification

The boundary was drawn to encompass the fullest extent of land historically and presently associated with the nominated armory which, in this case, coincides with the full parcel on which the building is sited.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nancy L. Todd, Program Analyst

organization NYSHPO, Division for Historic Preservation date December 1993

street & number Peebles Island, PO Box 189 telephone 518-237-8643

city or town Waterford state NY zip code 12188-0189

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

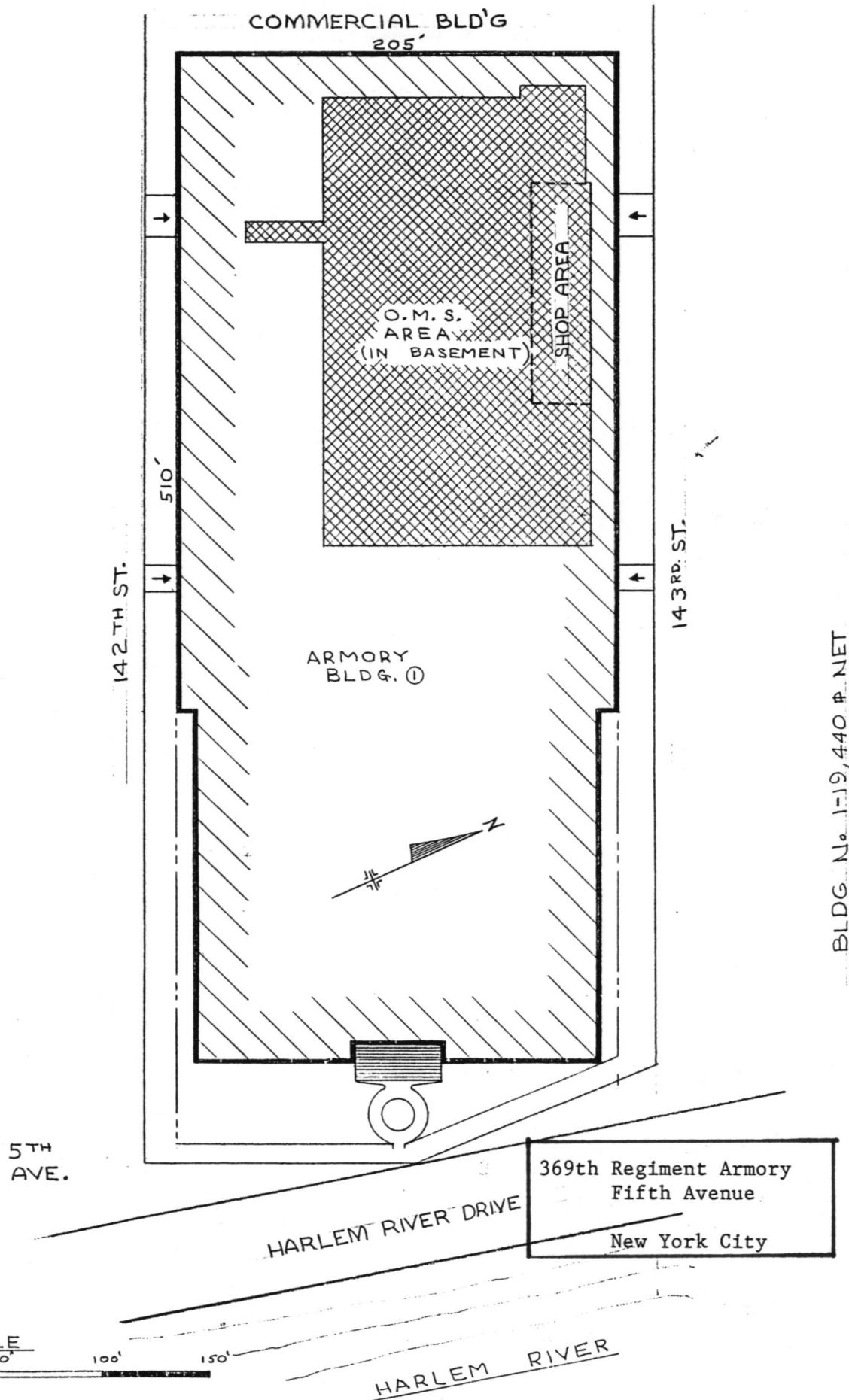
name NYS Division of Military and Naval Affairs (DMNA)

street & number 330 Old Niskayuna Road

city or town Latham state NY zip code 12110

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. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.



DATE
15 AUG 66

747.

STATE ARMORY
2366 FIFTH AVE.
NEW YORK (MANHATTEN), N.Y.

DMNA: C&M
ALBANY, N.Y.

LCB

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Army National Guard Armories in New York State MPS
NEW YORK

Date Listed

COVER

93001537 369th Regiment Armory
93001538 69th Regiment Armory
93001536 New Scotland Avenue (Troop B) Armory
93001539 Tonawanda (25th Separate Company) Armory

1/28/94
1/28/94
1/28/94
1/28/94

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY 369th Regiment Armory
NAME:

MULTIPLE Army National Guard Armories in New York State MPS
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, New York

DATE RECEIVED: 12/16/93 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 12/28/93
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 1/13/94 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/30/94
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 93001537

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 1/28/94 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Historically significant early 20th-century armory associated with New York's Black history as the only armory ever built for the only unit of the New York National Guard composed solely of African Americans.

RECOM./CRITERIA

REVIEWER

DISCIPLINE

DATE

Accept A+C
Savage
Architectural History
1-28-94

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

CLASSIFICATION

___count ___resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

___historic ___current

DESCRIPTION

___architectural classification
___materials
___descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

___summary paragraph
___completeness
___clarity
___applicable criteria
___justification of areas checked
___relating significance to the resource
___context
___relationship of integrity to significance
___justification of exception
___other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

___acreage ___verbal boundary description
___UTMs ___boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

___sketch maps ___USGS maps ___photographs ___presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Signed _____ Phone _____

Date _____



369th Regiment Armory
New York City, NY
Photo: A. Prol, 1993
Neg: OPRHP, Albany
View:
Entrance hall

40-18

JUN 93 04217 NNN1H



NNNNN 71749 54 WPA

369th Regiment Armory
New York City, NY
Photo: A. Prol, 1993
Neg: OPRHP, Albany
View:
Front facade

40-1



369th Regiment Armory
New York City, NY
Photo: A. Prol, 1993
Neg: OPRHP, Albany
View:
Entrance pavilion

40-4

JUN 93 04217 NNNNH



JUN 93 04:21 PM

369th Regiment Armory
New York City, NY
Photo: A. Prol, 1993
Neg: OPRHP, Albany
View:
Side elevatio of drill shed

40-12



NEW YORK STATE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

CENTRAL PARK QUADRANGLE
NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY
7.5 MINUTE SERIES PLANIMETRIC
SW/4 HARLEM 15' QUADRANGLE

406737 DP



369th Regiment Armory
2366 Fifth Ave
New York City, NY
Central Park Quad
E: 589810
N: 4518850
Zone 18, 1:24,000

Prepared and published in 1975 by the New York State Department of Transportation, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration.

Map base from 1966 U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangle.

Map revisions made using 1974 aerial photography, construction plans, official records and other sources. Features revised include: highways and other transportation facilities; civil boundaries; recreation sites; hydrography; and buildings. Grey tint indicates intensively developed areas in which only landmark buildings are shown.

Revisions may not comply with National Map Accuracy Standards.

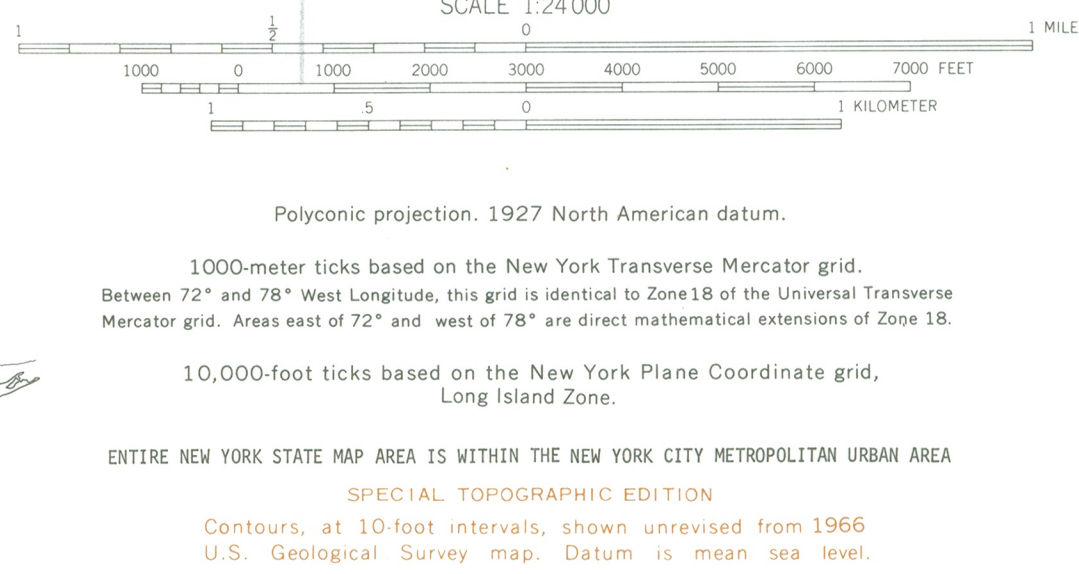
Correspondence concerning this and other maps of the Department of Transportation should be directed to: Map Information Unit, New York State Department of Transportation, State Campus, Albany, New York 12232.

Map revisions outside New York State are limited to major highways.

1975 revisions by F. G. Califano



QUADRANGLE LOCATION



ENTIRE NEW YORK STATE MAP AREA IS WITHIN THE NEW YORK CITY METROPOLITAN URBAN AREA

SPECIAL TOPOGRAPHIC EDITION

Contours, at 10-foot intervals, shown unrevised from 1966 U.S. Geological Survey map. Datum is mean sea level.

- BOUNDARIES:
- State.....
 - County.....
 - Town or City.....
 - Incorporated Village.....
 - Federal-Aid Urban Area.....
- ROADS:
- Touring Route markers:
 - Interstate.....
 - U. S.
 - State.....
 - State Highway number and limit.....
 - County road.....
 - Interchange number.....
- Divided highways and streets:
- Wide mall.....
 - Narrow mall or barrier.....
- Undivided highways and streets:
-
 -
 - Vehicle track; trail.....