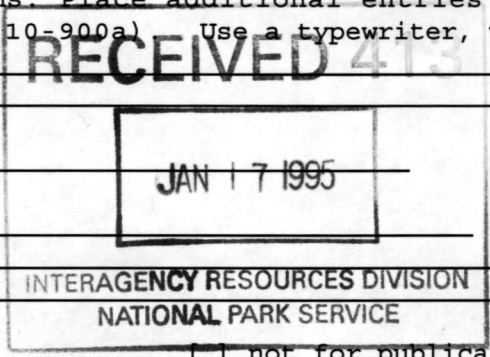


UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

OMB NO. 1024-0018, NPS FORM

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 NIAGARA FALLS ARMORY

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 901 MAIN STREET

not for publication

city NIAGARA FALLS

vicinity

state New York code NY county NIAGARA code 063 zip code 14301

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

David S. Gillespie  
Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation

12/30/94  
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:  
 entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.  
 determined eligible for the National Register.  see continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register.

Edson H. Beall  
Signature of keeper  
Date of Action 3/2/95  
Entered in the National Register

removed from the National Register.

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)

Table with 3 columns: Ownership/Category, Number of Resources, and Resource Type. Includes rows for private/public ownership, building/site/structure/object categories, and a total count of 1 contributing resource.

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

Materials

(enter categories from instructions)

(enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN; castellated

foundation stone
walls brick with limestone trim
roof unknown
other

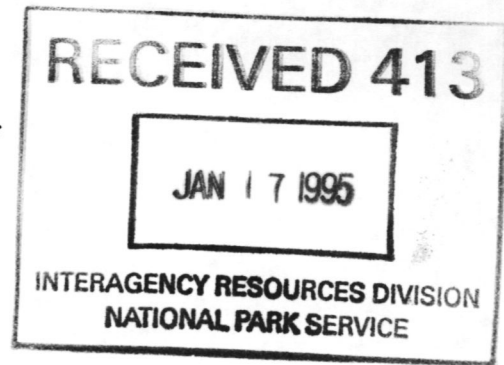
Narrative Description

See attached continuation sheets.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Niagara Falls Armory  
Niagara Falls, Niagara County



Section 7, Description, page 1

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### Description

The Niagara Falls Armory (1895) is located on the east side of Main Street in a mixed commercial/residential neighborhood in the city's central business district. The immediate vicinity primarily consists of modern and extensively altered older buildings. The armory occupies much of its irregularly shaped, corner lot. A circular drive and a flat, grassy lawn span the front (west) facade and a large, modern, L-shaped brick garage/classroom wing envelopes the south and rear elevations of the drill shed. There are no outbuildings located on the property.

The armory consists of a two-story, hip-roofed administration building with an attached one-story, gable-roofed drill shed. Both sections are constructed of load-bearing brick walls (with roughly hewn stone trim) resting on a raised, battered, random ashlar foundation. Fenestration throughout the facility is generally regular; most windows contain one-over-one, double-hung sash and have transom lights and roughly hewn stone lintels and sills. All first-story windows are covered with protective iron bars.

The administration building consists of a symmetrical, rectangular main block flanked by a three-story, northwest corner tower and a four and one-half story, southwest corner tower, both of which are round and have brick parapets trimmed with stone coping. The main block features a massive, centrally placed, stone-trimmed sally port sheltering a deeply recessed entrance. The sally port is flanked by two groups of three, flat-arched windows with protective iron bars. The second story features three groups of three, round-arched, stone trimmed windows. The roofline is distinguished by a prominent, centrally placed cross gable containing three round-arched, stone trimmed, double-hung sash.

The drill shed, only the north elevation of which is visible, features a crenelated parapet, a machicolated cornice and regularly spaced, flat-arched windows with iron bars and roughly hewn stone lintels and sills. The rear (northeast) corner of the drill shed features a one and one-half story, hip-roofed tower containing the locker room balcony. The remainder of the drill shed, i.e., the east and south elevations, is enveloped by a

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Niagara Falls Armory  
Niagara Falls, Niagara County

Section 7, Description, page 2

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modern, two-story, gable-roofed brick wing containing classrooms and garage/maintenance facilities.

The interior survives with a moderately high degree of integrity of design, materials and craftsmanship. Most room configurations survive intact; few spaces have been subdivided. A variety of oak woodwork survives throughout the facility, including wainscoting, paneled doors with transoms, molded door and window trim, trophy and display cases and elegant overmantels. Most pressed tin ceilings also survive, although many are obscured beneath modern, dropped ceilings.

Niagara Falls Armory, Niagara Falls, Niagara County

**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**

See attached continuation sheets

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

- 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 Building Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Area of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Military History

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1895

**Significant Dates**

1895

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

na

**Cultural Affiliation**

na

**Architect/Builder**

Isaac Perry, State Architect

Name of repository:

Division for Historic Preservation

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Niagara Falls Armory  
Niagara Falls, Niagara County

Section 8, Significance, page 1

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**Statement of Significance**

The Niagara Falls Armory (1895) is architecturally significant as a remarkably intact, representative example of a late nineteenth century National Guard armory in New York State. Designed by State Architect Isaac Perry for the First Battalion, 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 embodies the distinctive features of the fortress-like, castellated style that characterized many late nineteenth century armories. The armory is also historically significant for its association with the National Guard, an integral component of the American military system.

Typical of armories designed by State Architect Isaac Perry in upstate New York during the late nineteenth century, the Niagara Falls Armory is a fortress-like, castellated style edifice designed to inspire fear and awe among the so-called "dangerous lower classes" (i.e., Anarchists, Socialists and Communists as well as most immigrants and laborers) and pride and patriotism among the law-abiding middle and upper classes. Like all other Perry-designed armories, the Niagara Falls Armory reflects the influence of medieval military architecture and the Richardsonian Romanesque style, including bold, massive proportions, polychrome brick and stone masonry construction, a raised and battered stone foundation, soaring four- and five-story towers and massive, stone trimmed arcading.

The Niagara Falls Armory is one of nearly twenty extant armories attributed to Perry. (According to currently available information, as many as forty armories are believed to have been designed [or overseen] by Perry.) The Niagara Falls Armory is

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Niagara Falls Armory  
Niagara Falls, Niagara County

Section 8, Significance, page 2

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typical of Perry's designs for relatively prosperous mid-sized communities: although not as grand as Perry's armories in the major cities of Brooklyn and Buffalo, it is far grander than his designs for armories in smaller communities such as Hoosick Falls or Mohawk. Armories similar to the Niagara Falls Armory are found in Hornell, Glens Falls, Amsterdam, Tonawanda, Whitehall, Hudson and Ogdensburg. (The Hornell, Glens Falls, Amsterdam and Tonawanda armories are already listed in the National Register and the others were determined eligible in May 1993. See Section E [Historic Overview] of the MPDF for further discussion of Perry.)

The 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 armory was built for the First Battalion, Third Infantry Regiment. (This is the name by which the unit was known as of 1914; it originally may have been formed as a specific separate company earlier in its history. Further research is needed to verify this.) By 1935 the First Battalion had become an element of the 174th Infantry, which was based at the Connecticut Street (74th Regiment) Armory in Buffalo (1899; NRE: 1982). By 1961 the Niagara Falls Armory was the headquarters of Battalions A and B of the 209th Field Artillery, which was based at the Masten Avenue (65th Regiment) Armory in Buffalo (1933; NRE: 1993). The history of the National Guard (and the significance of its related armories) is discussed at length in Section E (Historic Overview) 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 nominated armory, like virtually all other 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

Niagara Falls Armory  
Niagara Falls, Niagara County

Section 9, Bibliography, page 1

---

**Major Bibliographical References**

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

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

Haynes, Wesley. "Isaac G. Perry, Architect, Builder, Craftsman." M.S. Thesis, Columbia University, 1983.

Stenzel, LtC. Michael. Interview, December 1994.

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

Niagara Falls Armory, Niagara Falls, Niagara County

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A	1 8	1 7 0 0 4 4	4 7 7 9 4 3 1	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary is drawn to encompass the entire lot presently occupied by the armory. (See attached map #144.70-2-52.)

**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 entire lot on which the armory is sited.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nancy L. Todd, Program Analyst  
organization NYSHPO, Division for Historic Preservation date December 1994  
street & number Pebbles 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)

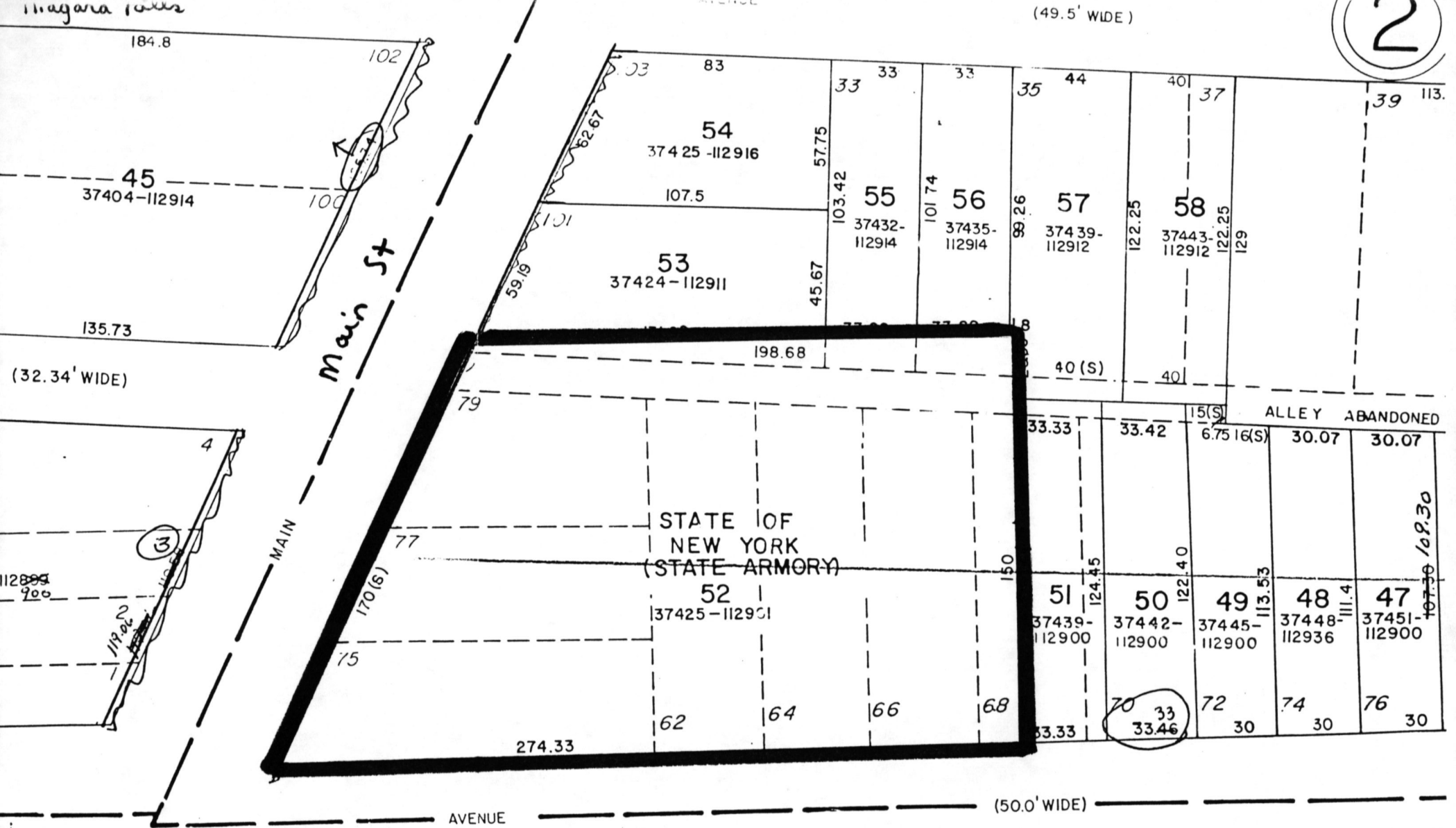
Property Owner

(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,



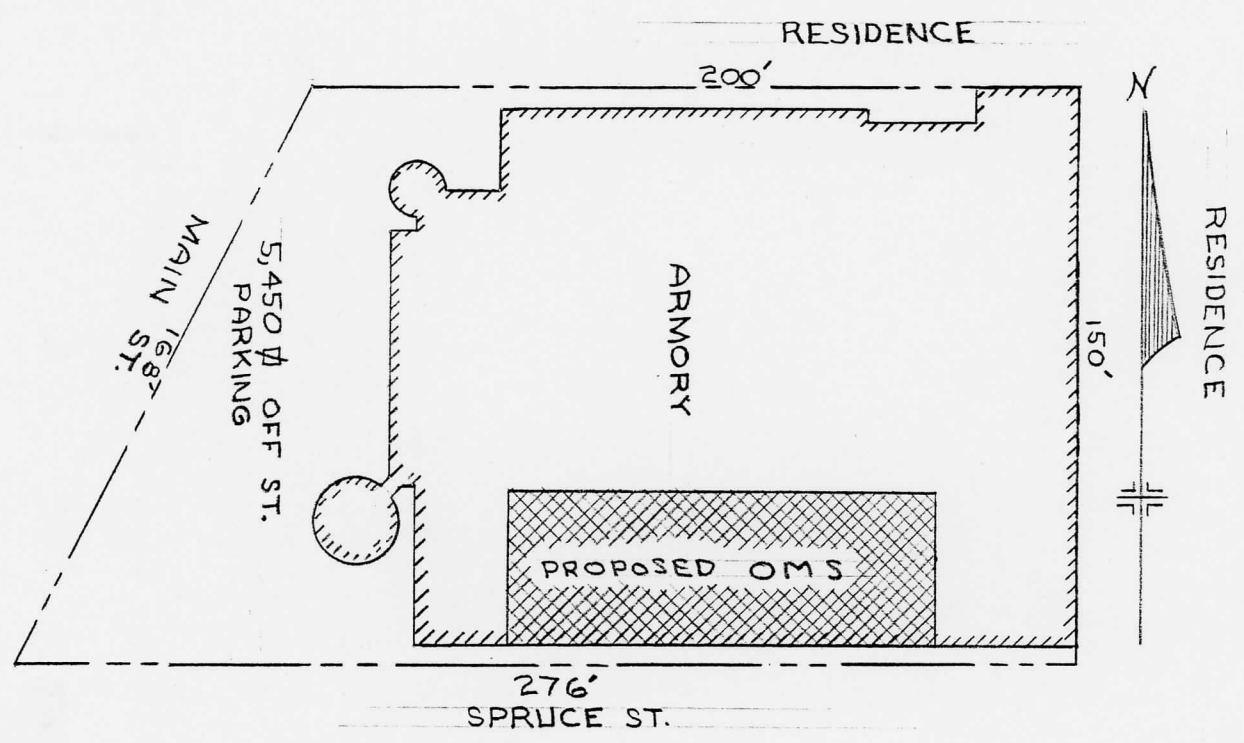
Tax map: **144.70-2-52**  
**1"=50'**

Niagara Falls Armory  
 Niagara Falls, Niagara County

Heavy black outlines defines boundary  
 of nominated property

Niagara Falls 7:50

TOTAL OMS AREA - 42900



Niagara Falls (First Battalion) Armory  
Niagara Falls, Niagara County, New York

Plot plan; 1" = 50'

Niagara

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Niagara Falls Armory

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

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Niagara

DATE RECEIVED: 1/17/95  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/16/95  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/31/95  
DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/03/95

REFERENCE NUMBER: 95000076

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 3/2/95 DATE Entered in the  
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_  
REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_  
DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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  
 UTM's       boundary justification

---

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps       USGS maps       photographs       presentation

---

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Niagara Falls

PRICE

E  
Y



49-17

NF

Niagara Falls Armory  
Niagara Falls, Niagara Co.

Photo: C. Ross 1993

neg: OPRHP

front (west) facade



niagara Falls Army

niagara Falls, niagara Co.

Photo: C. Ross, 1993

neg: OPRHP

north (side) elevation of  
drill shed



Niagara Falls Armory

Niagara Falls, Niagara Co.

Photo: C. Ross 1993

neg: OPRHP

~~North (side) elevation of  
drill shed~~

South (side) elevation  
of n.c. addition

DEC 94 04128 NHNNH



Niagara Falls Armory

Niagara Falls, Niagara Co.

Photo: C Ross, 1993

Neg: OPRHP

Oak/tile overmantel in  
company meeting room



Niagara Falls Armory

Niagara Falls, Niagara Co.

Photo: C Ross 1993

neg: OPRHF

Typical meeting room



Niagara Falls Armory

Niagara Falls, Niagara Co

Photo: C. Ross, 1993

neg OPEHP

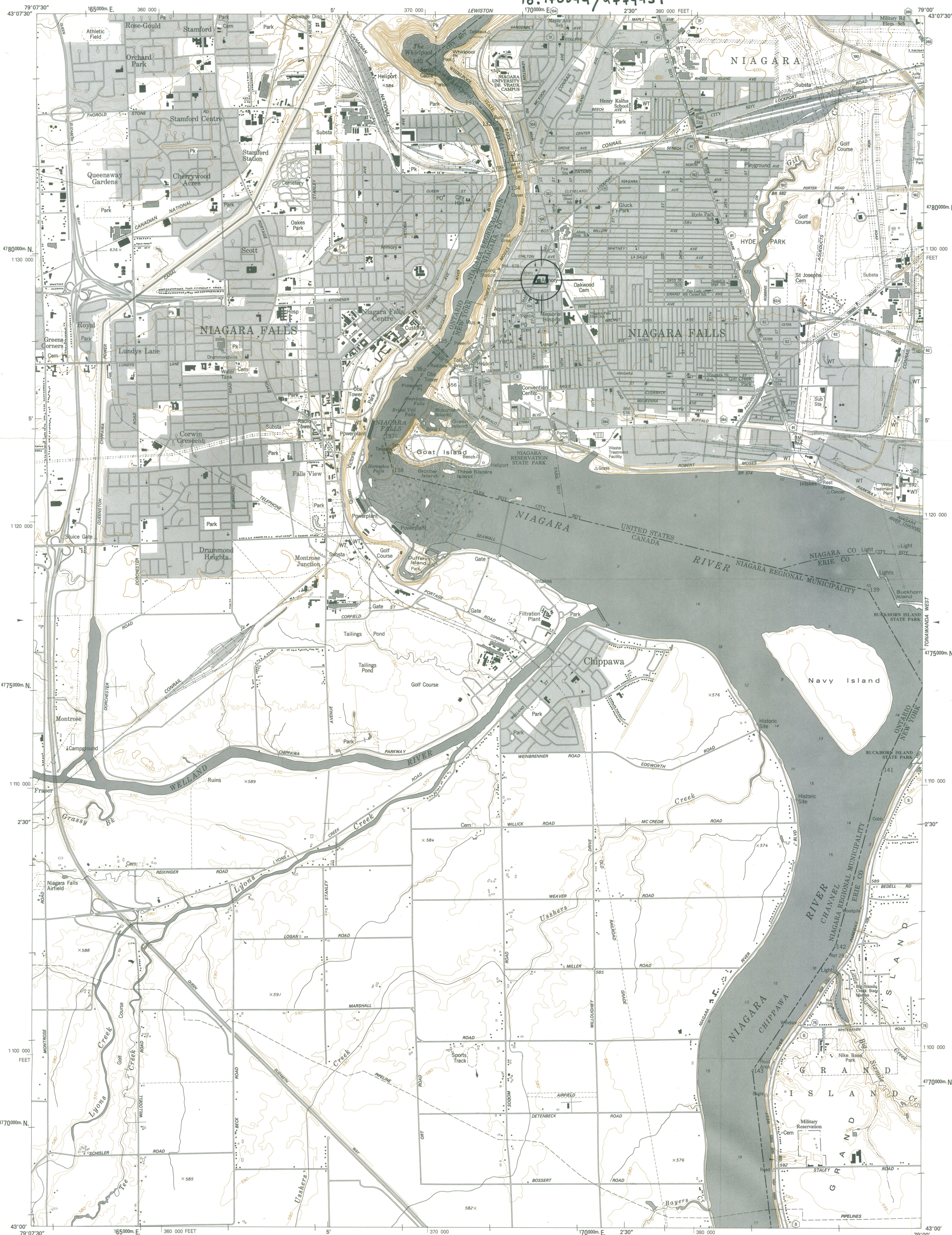
Tin ceiling in corner  
tower room



Niagara Falls Armory  
 Niagara Falls  
 Niagara County  
 Niagara Falls Quad  
 18:170044/4779431

NIAGARA FALLS QUADRANGLE  
 NEW YORK - ONTARIO  
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES

NEW YORK STATE  
 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



Published in 1989 by the New York State Department of Transportation, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration.

Map base from 1980 U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangle.

Map revisions made using aerial photography dated 1985, construction plans, official records and other sources. Features revised include: highways and other transportation facilities; civil boundaries; recreation sites; hydrography; and buildings. Gray tint indicates developed areas in which only landmark buildings are shown. Darker gray tint indicates open water features.

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.

Revisions by M. Roma-Hernandez



SCALE 1:24 000

1 000 000 METERS

1 MILE

1 000 000 FEET

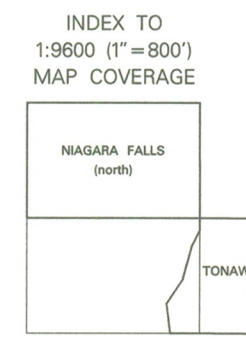
1 KILOMETER

Polyconic projection, 1927 North American datum.

1000-meter ticks based on the New York Transverse Mercator grid. Between 72° and 78° West Longitude, this grid is identical to Zone 18 of the Universal Transverse Mercator grid. Areas east of 72° and west of 78° are direct mathematical extensions of Zone 18.

10,000-foot ticks based on the New York State Plane Coordinate System, West Zone.

Magnetic declination for 1989 is approximately 10° West



BOUNDARIES:

State .....

County .....

Town or City .....

Incorporated Village .....

ROADS:

Touring Route Markers:

Interstate .....

U. S. State .....

State Highway number and limit .....

County road .....

Interchange number .....

Divided:

Wide mail .....

Narrow mail or barrier .....

Undivided:

4 or more lanes .....

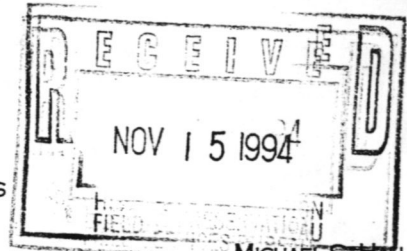
Less than 4 lanes .....

Vehicle track; trail .....



STATE OF NEW YORK  
 DIVISION OF MILITARY AND NAVAL AFFAIRS  
 330 OLD NISKAYUNA ROAD  
 LATHAM, NEW YORK 12110-2224

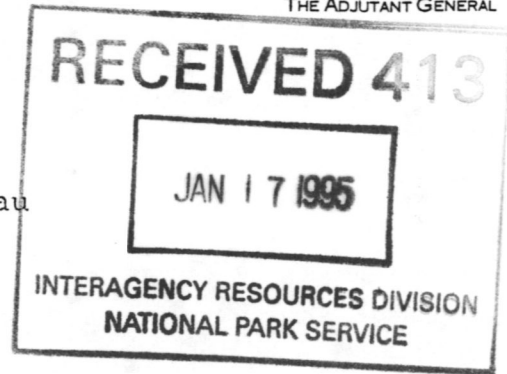
MARIO M. CUOMO  
 GOVERNOR  
 COMMANDER IN CHIEF



MICHAEL S. HALL  
 MAJOR GENERAL  
 THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

NOV 14 1994

New York State  
 Office of Parks, Recreation  
 and Historic Preservation  
 Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau  
 Attention: Mr. David S. Gillespie  
 Peebles Island  
 P.O. Box 189  
 Waterford, New York 12188-0189



Dear Mr. Gillespie:

The Division of Military and Naval Affairs is honored to have our armories nominated for the National and State Registers of Historic Places as noted in your letter of November 1, 1994. These armories, with their significant architecture, community significance and rich history, are a deep source of pride for this agency. To have them recognized by this nomination is very rewarding and exciting.

Please note, however, that two of the armories are no longer under the control of the Division of Military and Naval Affairs. The Washington Avenue Armory (10th Battalion), Albany is now under the control of the New York State Department of Education and the Hempstead Armory is now owned by the City of Hempstead. These agencies should be contacted to determine their concurrence/nonconcurrence to the nomination.

Please contact William Knox at (518) 786-4495 or Maurice Savage at (518) 786-4559 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

James W. O'Toole  
 Colonel, New York Army  
 National Guard  
 Deputy Adjutant General

Copies Furnished:  
 Mr. Huntington, MNFE  
 Ms. Nancy Todd, NYPRHP