

**HEADQUARTERS TROOP, 51ST CAVALRY BRIGADE ARMORY, 321 Manor Road,  
Staten Island**

Built 1926-27; Werner & Windolph, architects; addition: New York State Office of General Services, 1969-70; Motor Vehicle Storage Building and Service Center built 1950, Alfred Hopkins & Associates, architects

Landmark Site: Borough of Staten Island Block 332, Lot 4 in part, consisting of the portion of the lot west of a line beginning at the point on the southern curblineline of Martling Avenue closest to the northeastern corner of the Motor Vehicle Storage Building and Service Center (“Bldg. No. 2” on a drawing labeled “Master Plan,” dated August 1, 1979, and prepared by the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs) and extending southerly to the northeastern corner of the Motor Vehicle Storage Building and Service Center, along the eastern line of said building to its southeastern corner, and to the point on the southern lot line closest to the southeastern corner of the Motor Vehicle Storage Building and Service Center.

On August 11, 2009, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of the Headquarters Troop, 51st Cavalry Brigade Armory and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site (Item No. 7). The hearing had been duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. Twelve people spoke in favor of designation, including Councilmember Kenneth Mitchell and representatives of the Four-Borough Neighborhood Preservation Alliance, Historic Districts Council, New York Landmarks Conservancy, North Shore Waterfront Conservancy of Staten Island, Preservation League of Staten Island, and West Brighton Restoration Society. Seven of those speaking in favor of designation testified during other Staten Island items heard on that day. There was no testimony in opposition to the proposed designation. The Commission also received three letters in support of designation, including one from the owner of the property, the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs.



Summary

Located on a large, grassy campus in Staten Island’s Castleton Corners neighborhood, the Headquarters Troop, 51st Cavalry Brigade Armory is one of its borough’s signature buildings and a unique contributor to the city’s rich military history. The first National Guard armory constructed on Staten Island, it was one of only three armories built statewide in the 1920s and was one of the last completed in New York City. The Guard unit it was constructed for, the Headquarters Troop of the 51st Cavalry Brigade, traced its origins to Troop F, a cavalry troop that was Staten Island’s only National

Guard unit when it was organized in 1912. In 1913, the City began leasing Manor Farm, which had been one of New York's leading equestrian centers, for Troop F's use; the City later acquired the property, with planning for a new armory beginning in 1922. Construction on the Headquarters Troop Armory began in the fall of 1926, and was completed a year later.

The building's architects, Harold H. Werner and August P. Windolph, were Columbia University classmates who established their practice in the mid-1890s and soon became recognized as leading designers of public bathhouses. They designed the Headquarters Troop Armory in the Castellated style, which was inspired by medieval European castles and fortresses, and which remained a popular armory style in the early 20th century after dominating armory design between 1880 and 1900. The last Castellated armory constructed in New York City and one of the last in the state, the Headquarters Troop Armory is an unusual example of the style in New York City, gaining much of its visual power from its setting on a gentle rise overlooking Manor Road and the impressive horizontal sweep of its main facade. It displays many of the style's signature features, as seen in its round, three-story towers, machicolated cornices, crenellated parapets, and corner turrets. After World War II, the armory came to house tanks and other armored vehicles, and in 1950, a brick, gable-roofed "Motor Vehicle Storage Building and Service Center" designed by Alfred Hopkins & Associates was constructed directly to its northeast. In 1969-70, the armory received a two-story rear addition designed by the New York State Office of General Services that housed ordnance rooms and an expanded drill hall. Today, the Headquarters Troop, 51st Cavalry Brigade Armory remains a National Guard installation, retaining its historic function as the home of the 42nd Infantry "Rainbow" Division.

## DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

### Castleton Corners<sup>1</sup>

The Castleton Corners neighborhood of Staten Island is located about three miles southwest of St. George and about two miles south of the Kill van Kull, along the chain of hills that forms Staten Island's spine. Castleton Corners was known as Centreville in the 1850s, when the Constanz Brewery opened there, just south of Richmond Turnpike. By the 1870s, the Castleton Corners name had taken hold; the brewery was purchased by Monroe Eckstein, who transformed it into "one of the most complete brewing plants in the country" featuring a large "pleasure park" offering views of the Kill van Kull and distant New Jersey countryside.<sup>2</sup> During this time, the northern portion of Castleton Corners along Manor Road remained sparsely built, and was lined with sprawling estates containing villas and their outbuildings.

Eckstein was a leader in improving transportation to Castleton Corners—and his brewery—as a director of the Richmond County Railroad, which opened a horsecar line in 1885 from Broadway in West New Brighton, along Manor Road, to Castleton Corners. Transit service improved in 1896, when the horsecar line was upgraded to electrical power and the Port Richmond-Prohibition Park Railroad—an electrified line running from Port Richmond, along Jewett Avenue, to the thriving temperance community of Prohibition Park just west of Castleton Corners—was extended to Eckstein's brewery.<sup>3</sup> Nevertheless, suburbanization proceeded slowly; at the turn of the 20th century, most of the area surrounding Manor Road remained sparsely developed, in striking contrast to neighboring Prohibition Park.

Many of the old Manor Road estates were subdivided into building lots by 1907, and by the mid-1920s, dozens of freestanding houses had been constructed on the former Slosson estate between Potter and Drake Avenues, just south of the armory site. Despite this, much of Castleton Corners north of Richmond Turnpike retained its old, rustic appearance at that time. Between the 1930s and the early 1950s, Castleton Corners took on much of its present-day character, as hundreds of freestanding residences and rowhouses were constructed between Potter Avenue and Victory Boulevard. Today, Castleton Corners remains an attractive middle-class community; in 2006, the *New York Times* described Manor Road as "a prosperous street whose roomy, suburban-style houses are framed by sculpted banks of flowers and elegant, drooping trees."<sup>4</sup>

### The Headquarters Troop of the 51st Cavalry Brigade<sup>5</sup>

The Manor Road armory was constructed to house the Headquarters Troop of the 51st Cavalry Brigade, a unit of the New York National Guard, which traces its history to the New Amsterdam militia known as the Burgher Guard. Before the American Revolution, each colony maintained its own militia, with most requiring compulsory, though temporary, service. Colonial militias fought alongside the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War, after which the United States Constitution and federal legislation established the militias as the nation's primary defensive force, and the Regular Army as secondary to the militias. By the 1820s, compulsory militias gave way to new voluntary militias staffed by "wealthy young men of leisure who had both the time and the money to invest in social or fraternal activities";<sup>6</sup> from the 1820s to the Civil War, the New York militia put down several large riots, including the Astor Place Riot of 1849. During the Civil War, when the term "National Guard" came into common use, many Union Army commanders were drawn directly from the ranks of the New York militia, and four New York units restored order during the 1863 Draft Riots. As the U.S. emerged as a world power in the early 20th century, Congress reduced the National Guard's role, sanctioning the Regular Army as "the official mainstay of the American military system."<sup>7</sup> State police forces assumed many of the National Guard's domestic peacekeeping functions, but Guard units continued to function as fraternal societies, to provide military training, and to be called to active duty by the federal government during wartime.

In 1912, the New York National Guard decided to expand Brooklyn-based Squadron C, Second Cavalry from two troops to a full regiment, with four new troops planned for the New York City area; the squadron's captain, Staten Island resident A. Hunter Platt, "suggested to his higher command that Staten Island offered excellent opportunity for recruitment and location of one of the Metropolitan area troops."<sup>8</sup> In April of 1912, Staten Island's Troop F was organized, with training beginning in Squadron C's massive armory (Pilcher & Tachau, 1903-07) in Brooklyn. Three months later, the new troop, with its horses, took a ferry from Brooklyn to Staten Island for its first field encampment in Dongan Hills. In the following year, the New York City Armory Board, which oversaw the construction and maintenance of facilities used by the city's National Guard troops, began leasing Manor Farm—the future site of the Headquarters Troop Armory—for the use of Troop F's 39 men.<sup>9</sup> The troop was soon redesignated Troop F, First Cavalry Regiment, and in the summer of 1916, President Woodrow Wilson ordered the First New York Cavalry, including Troop F, to the American Southwest to protect the border against Pancho Villa. When the troop returned nine months later, it was greeted by friends, relatives, and borough officials at St. George before "the entire formation paraded through the North Shore towns, with welcoming citizens lining the streets to the Manor Farm headquarters, where they were mustered out."<sup>10</sup> Only two weeks later, the U.S. declared war on Germany, and in July of 1917, the First New York Cavalry was again called to active duty. After leaving for training in South Carolina, Troop F was combined with another First New York Cavalry troop to form the 102nd Trench Mortar Battery.

A new Troop F would soon follow. During World War I, with the National Guard pressed into federal service, New York State organized a new militia, the New York Guard, to protect state property and serve as a domestic defensive force. One of its units was established at Manor Farm; this unit, which trained draftees, guarded bridges and other infrastructure, and participated in Liberty Loan drives, was soon designated Troop F of the Squadron C Cavalry. In 1919, Troop F was upgraded to National Guard status, which brought additional funding, including 32 new horses that enabled the unit to mount its entire troop of 70 men. Three years later, Troop F was redesignated Headquarters Troop of the newly organized 51st Cavalry. Around this time, its leader, Captain William H. Morris, "became interested in the erection of an armory for his troop and his aggressive leadership won for Staten Island the beautiful new building at Manor Farm ... known as the Armory of Headquarters Troop, 51st Cavalry Brigade."<sup>11</sup>

### Planning and Construction of the Armory<sup>12</sup>

When the City of New York began leasing Manor Farm for Troop F in 1913, the property was owned by the estate of Lucy P. Smith. Smith, who had died between 1900 and 1907, was the widow of Richard Penn Smith, a Civil War hero who was credited with "turning the tide of victory" for the Union in the Battle of Gettysburg.<sup>13</sup> In 1882, Richard acquired 19 acres of the old Peter L. Martling Farm, a 92-

acre tract that included much of present-day Clove Lakes Park and extended westward to Manor Road.<sup>14</sup> Smith's purchase—bounded by Martling Avenue on the north, Manor Road on the west, Slosson Avenue on the east, and the Slosson estate on the south—came to be known as Manor Farm by the early 1890s, when Richard and Lucy's son, Morton W. Smith, transformed it into one of the city's leading equestrian centers; in 1892, the Staten Island Driving Club, of which Morton was a founding member, opened a half-mile track at Manor Farm that attracted "nearly 500 Staten Island society and sporting people" for "pony races and a trotting match."<sup>15</sup> Manor Farm served as the grounds of the Staten Island polo club through the 1890s.<sup>16</sup>

On January 1, 1913, the City started leasing an 11-acre portion of Manor Farm for Troop F from Morton and his brother Edward Gould Smith, the trustees of their mother's estate. This piece of property, which resembled an irregularly shaped "T" turned on its side, included all of Manor Farm's Slosson Avenue frontage and portions of its Martling Avenue and Manor Road frontages, as well as an existing two-story, eight-room wood-frame house, a 1½-story stable, and a single-story hay barn. Four years later, the Smiths proposed that the City lease all of Manor Farm at a much higher rent, and while Troop F did not need the additional space, the City agreed to the deal, finding that "there is no other property available for this purpose at a less rental."<sup>17</sup> In 1920, the Armory Board recommended that the City purchase a portion of Manor Farm for a new armory facing Martling Avenue, but it later expanded its proposal to include the entire 19½-acre property. The Commissioners of the City's Sinking Fund authorized a \$60,000 expenditure to acquire Manor Farm, and in August of 1922, Werner & Windolph were hired to design the new armory, which was to be a frame structure costing \$100,000. After the Buildings and Fire departments rejected the firm's first proposal, requiring the armory to be fireproof, Werner & Windolph drew up plans for a small brick armory at the northeastern corner of the property, facing Martling Avenue. Before construction began, however, the armory's funding was increased to \$325,000 at the request of the Armory Board, and Werner & Windolph drew up plans for a much larger structure with an expansive main facade overlooking Manor Road. Construction of the armory by the Staten Island Construction Company began in October of 1926.

On March 5, 1927, Major General William N. Haskell, the commanding officer of the New York National Guard, laid the cornerstone of the Headquarters Troop Armory, which was the first National Guard armory on Staten Island. According to front-page coverage in the *Staten Island Advance*, "An impressive military welcome was given General Haskell and his staff upon their arrival at Manor Field, and during the ceremony, Captain Usher of the 27th Aero Corps at Miller Field circled overhead in a huge plane."<sup>18</sup> Architect August Windolph presented General Haskell with a gift of a silver trowel, and several items were placed inside the cornerstone, including "a roster of the troop, a roster of the Armory Board and its employees, a history of the movement for the establishment of an armory on Staten Island," and a copy of the previous day's *Advance*.<sup>19</sup> Although the armory was "being rushed to completion" and was expected to be finished in about three months, it was not declared completed by the Department of Buildings until October 4, 1927.

When the armory opened, its main portion consisted of a long, narrow structure facing Manor Road, with a central section containing the armory's main entrance, framed by two imposing, crenellated three-story towers. Behind the main entrance was the troop's assembly and mounted drill hall; long wings extended from the drill hall to the north and south. The armory's L-shaped stable extension projected eastward from the southern wing. Plastering and other interior work continued into 1928; installation of the armory's heating and ventilation equipment was not completed until after the fall of 1930.<sup>20</sup>

#### Werner & Windolph<sup>21</sup>

The architects of the Headquarters Troop Armory, August (Augustus) P. Windolph and Harold H. Werner, likely met at the Columbia University School of Mines, which they graduated from in 1892.<sup>22</sup> By 1895, the two had established their practice on Liberty Street in Manhattan, and by 1896, Werner & Windolph had designed the first of several houses in the exclusive beach community of Far Rockaway, New York.

In its early years, the partnership likely benefitted from the political connections of Windolph's father, John P. Windolph, a prominent Republican who served as a New York State Assemblyman, and as Vice President of the city's Board of Aldermen in the late 1890s.<sup>23</sup> August himself was active in the Republican Party within a few years of graduating from college, and in 1899, the firm designed a Colonial Revival style, three-story clubhouse for the Union Republican Club in the Bronx.<sup>24</sup> Four years later, the selection of Werner & Windolph to design an engineer's residence and office near the New Croton Dam in Westchester County raised questions of favoritism, as John Windolph was then a high-ranking member of the city's Aqueduct Commission.<sup>25</sup> Nevertheless, Werner & Windolph would design some of their finest buildings for the City of New York, including two imposing, Colonial Revival style bathhouses at 232 West 60th Street (begun 1903) and 348 East 54th Street (begun 1906), both of which stand today. Werner & Windolph were said to have designed these buildings following an extensive tour of bathhouses in England and Germany; their 54th Street bathhouse was particularly impressive, "mark[ing] the culmination of the type" and featuring a "monumentally scaled, vigorously modeled" main facade.<sup>26</sup> As a recognized leader in public-bath design, the firm was hired to design the "first up-to-date bathhouse" in Newark, New Jersey, which was completed c.1913.<sup>27</sup> Featuring large round-arched windows crowned by keystones, tall engaged columns, and decorative brick panels, this building, like the firm's Manhattan bathhouses, exhibited Werner & Windolph's characteristic adroitness with brick.<sup>28</sup>

Werner & Windolph continued to design residences through the 1910s, including a fieldstone estate house at Breakneck Ridge, New York, which was featured in the *American Architect*, and a cottage within what is now the Douglaston Historic District in Queens.<sup>29</sup> Having moved to 25 West 33rd Street in 1917, the firm was in its final years as construction began on the Headquarters Troop Armory. Windolph died in 1929 at the age of 61, but Werner continued to practice; a longtime resident of Mount Vernon, New York, Werner designed or oversaw the construction of many of that city's public schools between 1909 and his 1944 retirement. In 1932, Werner teamed up with the architect of the Chrysler Building (1928-30, a designated New York City Landmark), William Van Alen, to design Mount Vernon's Washington Junior High School, which featured a rounded, stripped-classical facade with Georgian Revival elements that was described as "striking" in the *New York Times*.<sup>30</sup> Following his retirement, Werner moved to Florida, where he died in 1955 at the age of 84.

### Armory Design and the Castellated Style<sup>31</sup>

The development of the armory as a building type began around 1860, and by 1870, "armory" had become the preferred term for militia buildings. During the first half of the 19th century, most militia structures were arsenals, constructed for the express purposes of storing and repairing ammunition and arms; troops generally met and drilled elsewhere. Large armories, which contained drill halls and meeting rooms as well as weapons storage space, began to be constructed in the late 1850s, but initially, these buildings had little in common stylistically with each other and did little to identify themselves as armories.

The American armory was one of several new building types, including large train stations and hotels, to emerge in the second half of the 19th century. The architects shaping its form were guided by several requirements, chiefly the need for armories to house a variety of specialized spaces, including an officers' room, dining room, areas for various recreational activities, a rifle range, and most importantly, a large ground-floor drill hall. Armories had to be visually impressive, "not only because the guardsmen insisted on it, but because the buildings were symbols of the community's generosity and integral features of the city's landscape."<sup>32</sup> During a period of intense, violent conflict between industrial firms and their workers—many of them recent immigrants who were feared to be anarchists—the urban middle and upper classes, as well as the guardsmen drawn from their ranks, wanted armories to project an image of intimidation and impregnability. All of these requirements were met brilliantly and in sumptuous fashion by Manhattan's Seventh Regiment Armory (Charles W. Clinton, a designated New York City Landmark), which served as the model for urban armories from its 1879 completion through the end of the century. One of the armory's most significant aspects was its "Castellated" design, which was inspired by

medieval European castles and fortresses, and which soon came to “readily identif[y] a building as the home of a military organization.”<sup>33</sup>

The Seventh Regiment Armory was not the first militia building to mimic a castle—the Arsenal (Martin E. Thompson, 1847-51, a designated New York City Landmark) in Central Park had done so 30 years before—but as the largest, most expensive, and best-appointed armory in the country, it was exceedingly influential. Every armory constructed in New York City in the 1880s and 1890s followed its lead, consisting of a multi-story “headhouse” in front of an attached drill shed, and presenting itself as an urban fortress, typically with thick masonry foundations and walls, imposing towers, rooftop crenels, an enormous sally port, gun slits, iron window grilles, and a cornice with machicolations, which imitated the openings used during Medieval times to drop boiling oil on invaders. While the Castellated style was essentially the only armory style from 1880 to 1900, armory design diversified in the early 1900s in response to changes in American society and the National Guard’s role. As urban conflict waned and the National Guard lost its status as the nation’s primary defensive force, the Guard began promoting the use of its armories for public functions; armories constructed after 1900 generally had a less-threatening mien than their predecessors, as the Castellated style softened and declined in use while the use of other styles, including the Beaux-Arts, Neoclassical, and Collegiate and Tudor Gothic, increased.<sup>34</sup> The last large armories constructed in New York City were the 369th Regiment Armory (Tachau & Vought, 1921-24 and Van Wart & Wein, 1930-33, a designated New York City Landmark) in Harlem and the 104th Field Artillery Armory (Charles B. Meyers, 1936) in Jamaica, Queens, both of which exhibit Art Deco influences.

#### Design of the Headquarters Troop, 51st Cavalry Brigade Armory<sup>35</sup>

Planning for the Headquarters Troop Armory occurred in a difficult climate for armory construction, which had dropped off dramatically after World War I as antimilitary sentiment set in among the general public, and as the National Guard adapted to its diminished military role. One of only three armories constructed statewide in the 1920s, the Headquarters Troop Armory was the last Castellated armory constructed in New York City, and one of the last in the state. Nestled among Staten Island’s hills, it is unique among New York City armories for its siting on a large, grassy parcel in a quiet suburban area; unlike the Castellated armories of Manhattan, Brooklyn, and the Bronx, which tower over pedestrians in their dense urban settings, the Headquarters Troop Armory—set back from Manor Road on a gentle rise, behind a broad lawn—gains much of its visual power from the sweeping horizontality of its impressively long main facade.

Werner & Windolph’s design evolved considerably from an early scheme presented to the New York City Art Commission in 1922, to the final proposal approved by the Commission in 1926. In their 1922 proposal, Werner & Windolph sited the building at the northeastern corner of Manor Farm, facing Martling Avenue. The proposed armory, with a budget of \$100,000, was much smaller than the building that would ultimately be constructed; one story high, it featured a narrow, asymmetrical main facade anchored by a large square tower at its western end, offset by a small turret at the facade’s eastern end. Although this design was approved by the Art Commission, in the following year, Werner & Windolph moved the proposed building to the northwestern corner of the property and turned it to face Manor Road, which, at that time, was wider and better-maintained.<sup>36</sup> With the armory’s construction budget unchanged, only minor alterations were made to the design at that time.

The armory approached its ultimate design in a subsequent proposal presented by Werner & Windolph to the Art Commission in March of 1926, after the armory’s budget had been tripled. In this scheme, the building’s main facade was essentially identical to its final form, but the Commissioners rejected the proposal, likely because they disapproved of Werner & Windolph’s handling of the armory’s stable, which would have had a high hipped roof that would have been drawn attention to itself from the armory’s main facade. In a revised proposal approved by the Commission the following month, Werner & Windolph removed the monitor, and changed the stable’s roof to more closely harmonize with the armory’s generally flat roofline. Although the armory as approved and built was much larger and costlier than first planned, it was constructed with the expectation that it would ultimately be expanded.

Originally, the armory's main section, directly behind the main facade, was long and narrow, containing a relatively small "temporary assembly and dismounted drill hall"; dashed lines on Werner & Windolph's drawings indicated a planned rearward expansion of the drill hall, and the addition of two stable wings, at an unspecified future time.

As historian Nancy L. Todd has observed, "By the 1920s ... the role of armories as civic centers almost eclipsed their primary function as military facilities," and the design of the Headquarters Troop Armory in a softened Castellated style reflects this.<sup>37</sup> Unlike the forbidding armories of the late 19th century, which were often entered from high staircases, the Headquarters Troop Armory is an accessible building, entered from a low ramp. Although primarily Castellated in style, the Headquarters Troop Armory has a neo-Federal flavor, provided by its stepped brick lintels, which imitate the paneled lintels with raised centers that were popular in the early 1800s.<sup>38</sup> As in their earlier works, like the East 54th Street Public Bath and Gymnasium, Werner & Windolph demonstrated a skillfulness here in modeling large brick facades and enlivening them through the use of varied brick courses and patterns. The surround of the armory's corbelled main-entrance opening is outlined by a course of diagonally laid brick; the opening itself is crowned by a segmental arch composed of header courses that serves as the background for lettering that identifies the armory as the home of the Headquarters Troop. A regular pattern of projecting burnt-brick headers—likely intended to mimic the putlog holes on the facades of many Medieval castles—and projecting buttresses on the north and south wings provide additional texture and depth, as do the armory's corbelled machicolations and the ribbed brickwork of its central parapet and merlons, which recall those of Spain's 15th-century Coca Castle.<sup>39</sup> Limestone coping and a limestone belt at the base of the parapet offset the building's red brick, as does a carved limestone panel within the main parapet containing the New York State seal flanked by fasces.

#### Subsequent History<sup>40</sup>

The Headquarters Troop, 51st Cavalry Brigade Armory was the exclusive home of its namesake unit until the late 1930s, when the United States War Department authorized the creation of a new 21st Cavalry Division, which comprised the cavalry units of New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, and Connecticut; two of the new division's troops were stationed at the armory by 1939.<sup>41</sup> With World War II raging in Europe, the Headquarters Troop was redesignated the Headquarters Battery, 102nd Coastal Artillery Brigade (Anti-Aircraft) in 1940 and was inducted into federal service in 1941. On December 8, 1941, the day after the Pearl Harbor attack, hundreds of men gathered at the armory to enlist for military service; during World War II, with its former occupants fighting overseas, the armory housed a unit of the New York Guard, a domestic defensive force.<sup>42</sup>

Following World War II, the armory came to house light tanks and other armored vehicles, as the 102nd Coastal Artillery Brigade was redesignated the 42nd Mechanized Cavalry Troop. In 1950, the City of New York conveyed the armory property to the State on the condition that it would be returned to the City if it were no longer needed for military purposes; by the end of the year, a brick, gable-roofed "Motor Vehicle Storage Building and Service Center" was constructed immediately to the northeast of the armory.<sup>43</sup> The Motor Vehicle Building, which is included in this designation, was designed by Alfred Hopkins & Associates, a New York City firm that had been founded by Hopkins (1870-1941) in 1913 and was known for both its country estates and penitentiary buildings.<sup>44</sup> By 1953, the Staten Island cavalry unit was designated Tank Company, First Battalion of the 101st Armored Cavalry; it grew rapidly as it absorbed other armored units from around the city, and in the mid-1960s, the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs started planning a substantial expansion of the armory, which had been expected since the building's opening. The most significant part of this work, which was designed by the New York State Office of General Services, involved the addition of a two-story drill hall behind the original drill hall, and a single-story wing containing storage and ordnance rooms between the new drill hall and former stable wing.<sup>45</sup> Construction of the addition began in 1969, and was completed the following year.<sup>46</sup> An additional vehicle maintenance building designed by William Downing Associates was constructed east of the armory between 1976 and 1980, but it is not part of this designation.<sup>47</sup>

The armory continued to house a 101st Cavalry unit through the 1990s. In 1992, 542 Guard members, along with 16 tanks, 12 missile launchers, and 47 armored personnel carriers occupied the armory, which was threatened with closure following the collapse of the Soviet Union, but was ultimately spared.<sup>48</sup> In 1993, annual memorial services for Vietnam War veterans began at the Vietnam War memorial on the armory's grounds, and in 1999, the armory was assigned a full-time military honor guard to preside over veterans' burials.<sup>49</sup> Throughout the 1990s, Guard members based at the armory performed numerous public-service missions, including removing snow and transporting medical patients during the Blizzard of 1996, using amphibious and rough-terrain equipment to remove abandoned cars from a Mariners Harbor marsh, and assisting areas of the Adirondacks affected by the Great Ice Storm of 1998.<sup>50</sup> Following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, they patrolled the city's bridges and other infrastructure; many members of the Staten Island Guard unit have served in the Iraq War.<sup>51</sup> In August of 2006, the State discontinued the First Battalion of the 101st Cavalry, which included the armory's 300 Guard members, and two months later, 200 members of the 145th Maintenance Company were reassigned to Staten Island from Kingsbridge Armory in the Bronx.<sup>52</sup> Today, the former Headquarters Troop, 51st Cavalry Brigade remains a National Guard installation, housing a tactical unit of the 42nd Infantry "Rainbow" Division.<sup>53</sup>

"In terms of age and architectural sophistication, the armories built in New York State between 1799 and 1941 compose the oldest, largest, and best collection of pre-World-War-II-era armories in the country," according to historian Nancy L. Todd.<sup>54</sup> The Headquarters Troop, 51st Cavalry Brigade Armory is a well-preserved and unique contributor to this group; commonly known as the Staten Island Armory or Manor Road Armory, it remains "one of Staten Island's most recognizable and signature buildings," and a significant contributor to the architectural heritage of Staten Island and the rich military history of New York City.<sup>55</sup>

### Description

The symmetrical main facade of the Headquarters Troop, 51st Cavalry Armory is faced with brick laid in common bond, with a regular pattern of projecting burnt-brick headers. It features a two-story central portion framed by round three-story towers that project from the facade, flanked by long single-story wings. The original window openings on the main facade, except at the second floor of the facade's central portion, are crowned by soldier-brick lintels, each of which has a raised central portion. The second-floor window openings of the central portion of the main facade are crowned by a continuous limestone belt that serves as the base of the facade's central parapet.

*Central Portion of Main Facade:* The armory's main-entrance opening is reached by a concrete ramp and is located at the center of the main facade's central portion. It is set within a corbelled surround and contains three non-historic doors below a non-historic, tripartite transom panel, which is painted red, white, and blue.<sup>56</sup> Two copper or brass light fixtures, which may be historic, flank the main entrance. It is crowned by a segmental arch composed of header brick, which contains individually mounted metal letters reading "HEADQUARTERS TROOP" on one line and "51ST CAVALRY BRIGADE" below. The main-entrance surround is outlined by a continuous course of diagonally projecting brick, which turns near the bottom of the surround to run, as a sill, across the first floor of the main facade, and around to the northern and southern facades of the northern and southern wings. Non-historic conduit runs along the outside of a portion of the top and south side of the surround to a round metal alarm; two small metal boxes, apparently associated with the alarm, are present above it. The main entrance is flanked at the first floor by six window openings containing replacement sashes and covered by metal grilles. The second floor of the central portion is 13 bays wide, with the fifth and ninth bays (reading left to right) containing blind windows, and the others containing replacement sashes. The second-floor openings that contain windows have individual header-brick sills, which project from a continuous course of header brick that extends between the two towers. Between the second-floor openings, corbelled-brick piers rise to support a high parapet. The parapet is composed of header brick arranged in a ribbed pattern, framed by two soldier-brick courses, and has a limestone base and limestone coping. Two crenels, each with a limestone



block below, are cut into the top of the parapet wall. The center of the parapet is raised slightly, and contains a carved limestone panel containing the New York State seal flanked by fascias.

The north facade of this central portion of the armory is partially visible over the main and east facades of the northern wing. It is faced with common-bond brick and does not have the burnt-brick headers present on the main facade. It also has five window openings with lintels similar to those of the main facade; the westernmost opening has been filled with brick. It has metal coping and two metal downspouts; a metal ladder is attached to this facade between the third and fourth window openings (reading left to right). The visible window openings on this facade contain replacement sashes.

The south facade of the central portion of the armory is similar to its north facade. Two lintels of this facade are visible over the main facade of the southern wing; the westernmost opening has been filled with brick. This facade has metal coping, a metal downspout, and a metal ladder.

*Towers:* The two towers flanking the central portion of the main facade are identical to each other. Each has a battered base and contains four window openings at each of its first and second floors, which are not vertically aligned; the first-floor windows are taller than those of the second floor and are covered by metal grilles. All of the tower window openings contain replacement sashes. The second-floor window openings have individual sills, each composed of a row of diagonally projecting header brick. Each tower is crowned by a high parapet with corbelled projecting piers rising from limestone blocks and with a machicolated base composed of corbelled round arches. The openings of these arches were filled with brick c.1958.<sup>57</sup> Above the arches, header brick is arranged in a ribbed pattern, framed by two soldier-brick courses; limestone coping crowns the parapet wall and the projecting piers. Crenels, each with a limestone block below, are cut into the tops of the tower parapets.

*Main Facade of Northern Wing:* The main facade of the northern wing is 13 bays wide and has two projecting, corbelled brick buttresses with stone caps framing its seventh bay (reading left to right). These buttresses frame a segmental, quadruple-rowlock arch. The area below this arch originally contained an entrance opening, but c.1968, it was altered to contain brick infill and two window openings, each with a header-brick sill.<sup>58</sup> These windows are covered by metal grilles; a stone or concrete curb, reached by a concrete ramp, remains in front of this former entrance. Above this former entrance is a panel containing basketweave-patterned brick with a soldier-brick border, and with limestone corner blocks. A non-historic light fixture has been installed above the panel. The other 12 window openings on the main facade of the northern wing contain replacement sashes and are covered by metal grilles. Six crenels with limestone blocks below are cut into the slightly corbelled brick parapet, which has limestone coping and is slightly raised above the former entrance opening. This facade is terminated by an octagonal corner turret, which corbels outward from the facade to a parapet composed of header brick arranged in a ribbed pattern between two soldier-brick courses. The turret is crowned by limestone coping and has four crenels, one on each of its sides.

*North Facade of Northern Wing:* The treatment of this facade is similar to that of the main facade, as it is faced with common-bond brick laid with a regular pattern of projecting burnt-brick headers. This facade has four window openings with lintels similar to those of the main facade; the two inner window openings have been filled with brick, and the two outer openings contain replacement sashes and are covered with metal grilles. The easternmost opening was once taller than it is now, and contained a door; the area below the existing easternmost opening has been filled with brick. At the center of this facade is a non-historic metal door within a non-historic opening, below a non-historic metal light fixture with vertical conduit. The brick infilling of the inner window openings, the alteration of the easternmost opening, and the installation of the door all occurred c.1968.<sup>59</sup> A concrete landing is present in front of the door opening, and a non-historic metal electrical box with conduit is present on the facade next to it. A small sign is attached to the facade just east of the door. The slightly corbelled parapet is similar to that of the main facade, and contains two crenels, each with a limestone block below. A turret at the eastern corner of this facade is identical to the one at the facade's western corner.

*East Facade of Northern Wing:* The east, or rear, facade of the northern wing is seven bays wide. It is faced in common bond, but without the projecting burnt-brick headers that are present on the main facade. The southern portion of this facade, comprising the two southernmost bays, projects slightly. Some of the window openings are crowned by lintels similar to those of the main facade. The third bay from the left is crowned by a segmental quadruple-rowlock arch; the opening below this arch appears to have been altered, as it contains brick infill and a window covered by a metal grille. The other six window openings have diagonally projecting header-brick sills, contain replacement sashes, and are covered by metal grilles. The window opening in the central bay was created c.1968; the two northernmost window openings appear to have been created within a large vehicular bay at the same time.<sup>60</sup> A continuous soldier-brick course runs below the sills from just north of the northernmost window opening to the third bay from the left. The parapet is high near the corner tower, but it steps down between the second- and third-northernmost windows; the higher portion of the parapet has stone coping, while the lower portion has metal coping. Two non-historic metal light fixtures, one with conduit, are present on this facade; portions of the facade near the sill level have been painted to indicate parking locations.

*Main Facade of Southern Wing:* The main facade of the southern wing is essentially a mirror image of the main facade of the northern wing, except that its central entrance opening, which is flanked by buttresses with stone caps, continues to serve as an entrance. This entrance, which is reached by a short concrete ramp with a metal tube railing, contains three non-historic doors below a non-historic tripartite transom panel painted red, white, and blue.<sup>61</sup> This wing's basement is higher than that of the northern wing; the armory's limestone cornerstone, inscribed with "1926," is present at its southwestern corner, and the basement has six window openings with lintels similar to those of the other original openings on the main facade that have been filled with brick. The window openings on this facade contain replacement sashes and are covered by metal grilles. A siamese connection is present next to the cornerstone, and metal tube railings are present north and south of the entrance in front of the facade's basement level. A turret identical to those at the northern corners of the northern wing is present at the southwestern corner of the southern wing.

*South Facade of Southern Wing:* The treatment of this facade is similar to that of the main facade, as it is faced with common-bond brick, laid with a regular pattern of projecting burnt-brick headers at the first floor, and has limestone coping. It has a high basement that contains four lintels similar to those of the main facade; the opening below the easternmost lintel contains a door, while the openings below the other lintels have been filled with brick. A tube railing is present in front of the basement. The first floor has four window openings with lintels that are similar to those of the main facade; the openings contain replacement sashes and are covered by metal grilles. The slightly corbelled parapet is similar to that of the main facade, and contains two crenels, each with a limestone block below. A turret at the eastern corner of this facade is identical to the one at the western corner, although a non-historic satellite dish is attached to it. Rooftop antennas are visible over this facade.

*Stable Connector:* The armory's historic stable is attached to the southern wing by a short connector, which is partially visible from Manor Road and Drake Avenue. This connector is faced with common-bond brick, but does not have the projecting, patterned burnt-brick headers that are present on the armory's main facade and the north and south facades of its wings. A smokestack, which is square at its base and corbels inward to an octagonal shape, is present at the junction of the east facade of the southern wing and the south facade of the connector. The window openings on the south facade of the connector and the south and west facades of the small corner extension located at the meeting place of the connector and stable have lintels similar to those of the main facade. A soldier-brick sillcourse extends across the south facade of the connector and a portion of the south facade of the corner extension. The south facade of the connector contains five window openings, each with a diagonally projecting header-brick sill. A basement staircase, installed c.1956, has a common-bond brick wall with stone coping in front of it and

around to its side.<sup>62</sup> A large metal beam with two legs extends from the south facade of the connector, and rooftop skylights and ventilation equipment are visible over the facade. The west facade of the corner extension has a single window opening at its first floor, and a door opening, as well as a large metal louver, at its basement; the south facade of the corner extension has a single window opening containing replacement sashes. A common-bond brick wall with stone coping extends southward from the corner extension, in front of the western stable facade. The connector and corner extension have metal coping.

*Stable:* The entire stable is faced with common-bond brick and has metal coping. The main, or south, facade of the stable is five bays wide at its first floor, and three bays wide at its second. The window openings on this facade have lintels similar to those of the armory's main facade; in 1950, window openings directly flanking the large, ground-floor central bay were bricked in, and matching window openings were created within the large outermost first-floor bays, which were partially filled with brick, and which retain portions of their historic quadruple-rowlock segmental arches.<sup>63</sup> All six window openings on the main facade have header-brick sills and contain replacement sashes; the first-floor window openings are covered by metal grilles. The stable's main facade is terminated at its eastern and western ends by corbelled buttresses with limestone or cast-stone caps. The ground floor's large central bay contains a non-historic roll-down garage door and is flanked by non-historic light fixtures; conduit is also present on the facade west of this opening, and non-historic light fixtures extend from the eastern and western ends of the facade to above the roofline. The large central opening at the second floor of the main facade has a stone sill and segmental quadruple-rowlock arch, and was filled with brick c.1968.<sup>64</sup> The facade's parapet is raised at its center; a metal arm, likely used for lifting hay bales into central second-floor opening, protrudes from the center of the parapet. The entire stable has metal coping.

The first floor of the stable's west facade is eight bays wide; its northernmost bay is crowned by a segmental quadruple-rowlock arch. The area below this arch has largely been filled with brick, and contains a pair of non-historic doors and a non-historic metal light fixture.<sup>65</sup> The seven window openings at the first floor of this facade have lintels similar to those of the armory's main facade, contain replacement sashes, and are covered by metal grilles. Ventilation equipment is visible on the stable's first-floor roof, over this facade. The stable's second floor is a monitor, which has at least nine small window openings on its west facade, all of which contain replacement sashes. These small monitor openings have lintels similar to those of the main facade. The west facade of the monitor also has two large openings filled with glass block. The northern portion of the monitor's west facade is covered with red-painted stucco; a non-historic satellite dish and downspouts are also present, as is a large metal enclosure with a sloped roof that rests on the first-floor roof and is attached to the monitor.

The stable's east facade is partially visible from Slosson Avenue and from the dead-end on Fairview Avenue. Its first floor is 15 bays wide; a pair of brick piers with stone or cast-stone coping frames the third and fourth bays (reading left to right). All of the first-floor window openings have lintels similar to those on the armory's main facade and contain replacement sashes. The monitor portion of the second floor has four window openings containing replacement sashes and with lintels similar to those on the armory's main facade, as well as two large openings containing glass block. The central second-floor portion of the east facade has four window openings containing replacement sashes and with lintels similar to those on the main armory facade. A header-brick arch is present at the center of the second floor; the area below this arch has been filled with brick, a non-historic door, and a non-historic light fixture. This door is reached by a non-historic metal staircase.

#### *1969-70 Addition:*

The two-story 1969-70 addition is located to the north of the stable. It is faced with common-bond brick and has a shallow gable roof. Two large vehicle bays on its east facade containing roll-up doors flank a central opening containing three doors. Metal light fixtures flank each of the vehicle bays. A light fixture is present at the center of the second floor of this facade. Two ventilators are visible on the addition's roof.

The south facade of the addition has large second-floor window openings containing replacement sashes. The addition's north facade, which is visible from Martling Avenue, is similar to the south facade. Two large metal light fixtures are present at the second floor of the north facade.

A small corner extension connects the north facade of the 1969-70 addition with the east facade of the northern wing. Faced with common-bond brick, it has metal coping. The east facade has a window opening covered by a metal grille and a large metal exhaust fan. The north facade has a door with a metal light fixture above, and several large conduits.

*Motor Vehicle Storage Building and Service Center:* The Motor Vehicle Storage Building is composed of a main, eastern portion constructed in 1950, and a western addition, which was constructed c.1967.<sup>66</sup> The main portion is faced with common-bond brick and has a shallow gable roof. Its east facade has a large central ground-floor vehicular bay flanked by two windows. Two small, square windows are also present at the second floor. All of the windows on this facade have individual stone or metal sills and are covered by metal mesh. A door is present north of the vehicular bay. Also present on this facade are three projecting pipes, and one large metal light fixture with conduit over the central vehicular bay. Portions of the facade adjacent to the vehicular bay have been painted.

The building's north facade is visible from Martling Avenue. It contains six window openings with individual stone or metal sills, containing multipane sashes covered by metal mesh. Non-historic metal downspouts, conduit, various kinds of pipes, and two large metal exhaust fans are attached to this facade. The south facade is partially visible from Drake Avenue. It is seven bays wide, with six window openings and a large vehicular opening in its third (reading left to right) bay. Two rooftop ventilation pipes are visible over the south facade.

The Motor Vehicle Building's addition has a concrete base and is faced in common-bond brick; its north facade has two large openings with header-brick sills that are filled with multipane sashes and covered with metal mesh. The west facade of the addition has two large openings with header-brick sills that contain multipane sashes. A door opening is present at the southern end of this facade; a metal light fixture with conduit is present over the door, and a soft-drink vending machine is present next to it. Two pipes protrude from between the window openings. The south facade of the Motor Vehicle Building's addition is visible from Drake Avenue. It has one large vehicular bay with a metal light fixture above.

*Site:* The Headquarters Troop, 51st Cavalry Armory is sited on a large parcel of nearly 20 acres in size; only the western portion of the site, including and west of the Motor Vehicle Storage Building and Service Center, is included in this designation. Vehicles access the armory's main, Manor Road entrance by a curving, symmetrical asphalt driveway that has two entrances on Manor Road. A concrete sidewalk and several non-historic parking signs line the driveway. Each of these entrances is marked by grouped red-brick gate posts with granite bases, chamfered corners, and limestone caps, that support the armory's historic, double-leaf iron gates. Similar single posts are present at the southwestern and northwestern corners of the property; the armory's historic iron fence, painted black, extends the full length of the lot's Manor Road frontage and along a portion of its Martling Avenue frontage, where it ends at a driveway that cuts into the property between the armory's northern wing and the Motor Vehicle Storage Building and Service Center. Two military tanks are present on the lawn in front of the armory. The brick post at the northwestern corner of the property carries two plaques related to the dedication of Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park, which is located just behind it on the armory site, and which contains several granite markers and a granite bench. The eastern and southern borders of Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park are lined with hedges.

Non-historic chain-link fence with barbed wire extends along the northern property boundary west of the historic iron fence along Martling Avenue, and along the property's southern boundary. Asphalt-paved parking and storage areas are present behind the armory, and mature trees are present along the northern side of the Motor Vehicle Storage Building and Service Center, and in front of the entrance on the main facade of the southern wing. A non-historic chain-link-and-barbed-wire fence runs north to south between the northwestern corner of the Motor Vehicle Building and the Martling Avenue

fence, and between the southwestern corner of this building and the armory's 1969-70 addition. A non-historic wooden guard booth is present at the Martling Avenue driveway near the armory's northern wing; two telephone poles are also present, one near the guard booth, and one near the small corner extension connecting the north facade of the 1969-70 addition with the east facade of the northern wing.

Several black iron lampposts, possibly historic, are present in front of the armory, as is a sign, in front of the entrance of the southern wing calling the armory "Home of the Staten Island Guardsmen." A flagpole and non-historic guard booth are also present near the front driveway; two plaques are present below the flagpole, and a small monument is present near the entrance on the main facade of the southern wing. A non-historic chain-link-and-barbed-wire fence extends from the southwestern corner of the armory, south across the site; behind this is a large asphalt parking area with several non-historic lampposts.

Report researched and written by  
Michael D. Caratzas  
Research Department

#### NOTES

---

<sup>1</sup> Sources for this section include Richard M. Bayles, Ed., *History of Richmond County (Staten Island) New York: From Its Discovery to the Present Time* (New York: L.E. Preston, 1887), 113-25, 449, 689-92, 730-1; Martha S. Bendix, "Castleton" and "Castleton Corners" in Kenneth T. Jackson, Ed., *Encyclopedia of New York City* (New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 1995), 189; Margaret Lundrigan, *Staten Island: Isle of the Bay* (Charleston, S.C.: Arcadia Publishing, 2004), 140; Ira K. Morris, *Morris's Memorial History of Staten Island* (New York: Memorial Publishing Company, 1898), I:399; Charles L. Sachs, "Staten Island" in Jackson, Ed., 1112-8; Dorothy Valentine Smith, *Staten Island: Gateway to New York* (Philadelphia: Chilton Book Company, 1970), 28-33; "Descriptive Sketch of West New Brighton," in Stapleton, Tompkinsville, New Brighton, West New Brighton, Clifton, and Port Richmond, *Staten Island: Their Representative Business Men and Points of Interest* (New York: Mercantile Publishing Company, 1893), 63-68; Herbert Reed, "Staten Island Horsecars and Their Successors, Trolleys (Part I)," *Staten Island Historian* (January-March 1953), 1-4; Herbert Reed, "Staten Island Horsecars and Their Successors, Trolleys (Part II)," *Staten Island Historian* (April-June 1953), 12-14; Herbert B. Reed, "Staten Island's Trolley Railways," *Staten Island Historian* (January-March 1955), 5-7; Felix E. Reifschneider, "Staten Island Trolleys," *Staten Island Historian* (January-March, 1951), 6-8; Matthew Dripps, *Map of Staten Island (Richmond County) New York* (New York: M. Dripps, 1872); F.W. Beers, *Atlas of Staten Island, Richmond County, New York* (New York: J.B. Beers & Co., 1874); New York Topographical Bureau, *General Map of the Borough of Richmond in the City of New York* (New York: Board of Public Improvements, Topographical Bureau, 1901); E. Robinson and R.H. Pidgeon, *Atlas of the Borough of Richmond, City of New York* (New York: E. Robinson, 1907); George Washington Bromley, *Atlas of the City of New York, Borough of Richmond, Staten Island* (Philadelphia: G.W. Bromley & Company, 1917); Sanborn Map Company, *Insurance Maps of the Borough of Richmond, Staten Island, New York City, New York* (New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1937); and Sanborn Map Company, *Insurance Maps of the Borough of Richmond, Staten Island, New York City, New York* (New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1937, updated to 1951).

Castleton Corners has long been considered part of West New Brighton: the neighborhood was included in the 1893 "Descriptive Sketch of West New Brighton" cited above, and the *Staten Island Advance* article on the armory's cornerstone-laying described the armory as being in West New Brighton. See "Major Haskell Lays Cornerstone for New Armory for Cavalry," *Staten Island Advance* (March 7, 1927), 1, 2. More recent articles tend to refer to Castleton Corners as its own, self-contained neighborhood; see, for example, Alex Mindlin, "To a Cavalry on Guard Since 1860: At Ease," *New York Times*, September 3, 2006; and Joseph Berger, "On Staten Island, The Fight to Save a Proud Past," *New York Times*, September 19, 2009.

<sup>2</sup> Bayles, 731.

---

<sup>3</sup> On Prohibition Park, see Lawrence Dober, *Westerleigh: The Town That Temperance Built* (Staten Island, N.Y.: Westerleigh Improvement Society, 2000); and Charles Earle Funk, "Prohibition Park, Staten Island," *Staten Island Historian* (July-September 1952), 17-24.

<sup>4</sup> Mindlin.

<sup>5</sup> Sources for this section include Edward H. Jacobsen, "The Troop F Story," *Staten Island Historian* (April-June 1964), 9-14; LPC, *Fourteenth Regiment Armory Designation Report* (LP-1965) (New York: City of New York, 1998), prepared by Donald G. Presa; Morris, 13-27; and Nancy L. Todd, *America's Armories: An Illustrated History* (Albany, N.Y.: State University of New York Press, 2006), 1-37.

<sup>6</sup> Todd, 20.

<sup>7</sup> Todd, 34.

<sup>8</sup> Jacobsen, 9.

<sup>9</sup> *Proceedings of the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund of the City of New York* (New York: 1912), 1126.

<sup>10</sup> Jacobsen, 11.

<sup>11</sup> Charles W. Leng and William T. Davis, *Staten Island and Its People: A History, 1609-1929* (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, Inc., 1930), III:146.

<sup>12</sup> Sources for this section include *Proceedings of the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund of the City of New York* (New York: 1912), 1126-7; (1913), 22-3, 273-4; (1916), 1109; (1917), 228, 302-3, 551-2, 1068-9; (1919), 813, 990-1; (1920), 49-50; (1921), 104-5, 724, 769-70; (1922), 20, 169, 393-5, 796-7; (1923), 32, 88; (1924), 667, 771, 831, 1041; (1925), 261, 430, 494, 574-5, 1172, 1397-8, 1540; and (1926), 188, 464, 468, 1926-7, 561; applications 1158-A (approved December 11, 1922), 1158-G (approved July 9, 1923), 1158-O (disapproved March 9, 1926), and 1158-T (approved April 13, 1926) by Werner & Windolph to the Art Commission of the City of New York, as well as the drawings associated with these applications; New York City Department of Buildings, Borough of Richmond, New Building Application 1027-1926; "General Haskell Lays Corner Stone," *New York National Guardsman* (April 1927), 7; "Major Haskell to Lay Corner Stone for Cavalry Armory," *Staten Island Advance*, March 4, 1927, II:1; and "Major Haskell Lays Cornerstone of New Armory for Cavalry," *Staten Island Advance*, March 7, 1927, 1, 2. The author wishes to thank the staff of the New York City Public Design Commission, which holds the Art Commission papers, for their assistance in accessing them. On the Smith family, see Bayles, 465-8.

<sup>13</sup> *History of Richmond County*, 468. The 1900 United States Census for the Borough of Richmond showed Lucy living with her son Morton on Martling Avenue (probably Manor Farm), but by 1907, Manor Farm was the property of her estate, according to that year's *Robinson Atlas of the Borough of Richmond*.

<sup>14</sup> Richmond County, Office of the Register, Conveyance Liber 142, Page 148 (April 13, 1882); "Map of the Farm of Peter L. Martling, Castleton, S.I." (1860; filed with the Richmond County Clerk, 1862).

<sup>15</sup> "Pony Races and Trotting: Opening of a New Half-Mile Track on Staten Island," *New York Times*, September 11, 1892, 3.

<sup>16</sup> On equestrian activities at Manor Farm, see "A New Club and Track: Staten Island Horsemen Arranging for Trotting and Pony Races," *New York Times*, July 4, 1892, 2; "The Social World," *New York Times*, June 28, 1894, 2; "Horses and Their Owners," *New York Times*, June 20, 1894, 3; "Staten Island: News and Notes from Richmond County," *New York Times*, December 7, 1895, 16; "Gymkhana Games at Staten Island," *New York Times*, October 16, 1896, 6; "Staten Island Happenings," *New York Times*, October 17, 1896, 10; "Gymkhana Games on Staten Island," *New York Times*, October 17, 1896, 6; "The Gymkhana Races: Staten Island Polo Club Had a Day of Peculiar Sport," *New York Times*, October 18, 1896, 3; "Crowd at Gymkhana Games: Fashionable Folk Witness Some Novel Contests at West Brighton," *New York Times*, October 24, 1897, 14; "Gossip for the Horsemen," *New York Times*, May 15, 1898, 17; "The Coming Polo Season," *New York Times*, March 15, 1900, 9; "What Is Doing in Society," *New York Times*, October 3, 1900, 7; "Staten Island Polo Match," *New York Times*, August 7, 1903, 5; "Of Whom Clubmen Gossip," *New York Times*, August 9, 1903, SM5; and "Staten Island Beats Squadron A," *New York Times*, August 9, 1903, 8.

---

The Smiths may have had plans to subdivide Manor Farm, as the 1901 New York Topographical Map shows three proposed avenues—Richard, Penn, and Smith—cutting north to south through the property, with a proposed Lucy Avenue dashed in along the southern boundary of Manor Farm.

<sup>17</sup> *Proceedings of the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund of the City of New York* (1917), 302.

<sup>18</sup> “Major Haskell Lays Cornerstone of New Armory for Cavalry,” 1.

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.*, 1.

<sup>20</sup> “Contracts to be Let by the City of New York” (Advertisement), *New York Times*, September 4, 1930, 27.

<sup>21</sup> Sources for this section include David Steadman Francis, *Architects in Practice in New York City 1840-1900* (New York: Committee for the Preservation of Architectural Records, 1979), 81; G.W.W. Hanger, “Public Baths in the United States,” in United States Department of Commerce and Labor, *Bulletin of the Bureau of Labor* 54 (September 1904), 1334-6; Robert B. MacKay, “Werner & Windolph, Practiced 1890s-1900s,” in Robert B. MacKay, Anthony K. Baker, and Carol A. Traynor, *Long Island Country Houses and Their Architects, 1860-1940* (New York: Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities and W.W. Norton & Company, 1997), 440-1; Robert A.M. Stern, Gregory Gilmartin, and John Massengale, *New York 1900: Metropolitan Architecture and Urbanism, 1890-1915* (New York: Rizzoli International Publications, 1983), 73, 138-41; James Ward, *Architects in Practice in New York City* (Union, N.J.: J&D Associates, 1989), 84; *New York City Directories, 1786 to 1933/34* (New York: New York Public Library, 1950); “A New York Public Bath,” *American Architect and Building News* (September 1, 1906), 90, 1600-1; “A Public Bath and Gymnasium in the City of New York” and “A House on Break Neck Mountain, New York,” *The American Architect* (May 15, 1912), 226-8, plates following page 228; “Harold H. Werner” (Obituary), *New York Times*, October 1, 1955, 19; and “August P. Windolph” (Obituary), *New York Times*, December 26, 1929, 15.

<sup>22</sup> When Columbia’s architecture program started in 1881, it was placed within the School of Mines, Columbia’s engineering school, where it remained for more than two decades. See Cecil D. Elliott, *The American Architect from the Colonial Era to the Present* (Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland & Co., 2002), 72.

<sup>23</sup> Windolph was described as “Assemblyman-elect from the 13th District” in “Drilling for Their Guests,” *New York Times*, 4, and as Vice President of the Board of Aldermen in “A Day’s Weddings: Geib-Windolph,” *New York Times*, February 28, 1896, 2.

<sup>24</sup> “To Have Their Own Home,” *New-York Tribune*, March 12, 1899, 4.

<sup>25</sup> “Engineer’s Home in Question,” *New York Times*, July 4, 1903, 12.

<sup>26</sup> Stern, Gilmartin, and Massengale, 139.

<sup>27</sup> “Richard W. Erler, “Newark’s New Bathhouse,” *Municipal Journal* (January 29, 1914), 134; “Public Bath, City of Newark, N.J.,” *The American Architect* (June 11, 1913), plates following page 268.

<sup>28</sup> Other early-20th-century works by the firm included a firehouse for Hook & Ladder Company No. 35 at 232 West 63rd Street (1905-08, demolished), and the two-story, Colonial Revival style Sunshine Chapel at West 40th Street (began 1906, demolished), which contained a kindergarten and assembly space, as well as a second-floor gymnasium. On the firehouse, see Stern, Gilmartin, and Massengale, 73, as well as “A New Type of Fire House,” *American Architect and Building News* (August 5, 1908), 47; on the Sunshine Chapel, see plates in *The American Architect* (December 23, 1908).

<sup>29</sup> For a description of the house designed by Werner & Windolph at 202 Shore Road in the Douglaston Historic District, see LPC, *Douglaston Historic District Designation Report* (LP-1957) (New York: City of New York, 1997), 628.

<sup>30</sup> “Mt. Vernon School to be Civic Centre,” *New York Times*, February 7, 1932, N4.

<sup>31</sup> Sources for this section include Robert M. Fogelson, *America’s Armories: Architecture, Society, and Public Order* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1989); and Nancy L. Todd, *America’s Armories: An Illustrated History* (Albany, N.Y.: State University of New York Press, 2006).

<sup>32</sup> Fogelson, 151-2.

---

<sup>33</sup> Fogelson, 155.

<sup>34</sup> Perhaps the most famous use of an armory for a public gathering was the International Exhibition of Modern Art, or “Armory Show,” which was held at Manhattan’s 69th Regiment Armory (Hunt & Hunt, 1904-06, a designated New York City Landmark) in 1913.

<sup>35</sup> Sources for this section include Fogelson; Todd; and applications 1158-A, 1158-G, 1158-O, and 1158-T by Werner & Windolph to the Art Commission of the City of New York.

<sup>36</sup> In 1920 and 1921, The New York City Armory Board and the City Comptroller, respectively, described Martling Avenue as “a narrow lane without sewer, gas, or water, and entirely too narrow for the passage of troops or vehicles in opposite directions,” and Manor Road as “a wide macadamized street.” See *Proceedings of the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund of the City of New York* (New York: 1922), 394.

<sup>37</sup> Todd, 243.

<sup>38</sup> For an example of this type of lintel, see Ada Louise Huxtable, *Classic New York: Georgian Gentility to Greek Elegance* (Garden City, N.Y.: Anchor Books, 1964), 42.

<sup>39</sup> Russell Sturgis, in *A Dictionary of Architecture and Building* (London: Macmillan & Company, 1902), III:241, defines the put log hole as “one of a horizontal series of holes left by the masons in a wall to receive the wall ends of put logs,” which were the timbers used in constructing scaffolding. “These holes are supposed to be filled up when the scaffolding is removed; but in many brick buildings of Italy they remain open, and their dark checker adds to the picturesque effect....” For examples of medieval castles that retain their put log holes, see Clemente Manenti and Markus Bollen, *Castles in Italy: The Medieval Life of Noble Families* (Cologne, Germany: Konemann, 2001).

<sup>40</sup> Sources for this section include Jacobsen; annual reports of the overseers of New York State’s military operations, variously published as *State of New York Annual Report of the Adjutant General* (1927-1948), *Annual Report of the Chief of Staff to the Governor for the Division of Military and Naval Affairs* (1949-1960), and *Annual Report of the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs* (1961-1995); and historic architectural drawings of the armory, Motor Vehicle Storage Building and Service Center, and other structures on the armory site. The author wishes to thank Peter Jensen, Chief of the Environmental Compliance Branch of the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs, for providing digital images of these drawings, which were of invaluable assistance in preparing this report.

<sup>41</sup> *State of New York Annual Report of the Adjutant General* (1939), 52-53.

<sup>42</sup> Michael Polsney, “Guardsmen Recall Armory’s Past,” *Staten Island Advance*, September 18, 1997, A19; “Home Guard Plan for State Set Up,” *New York Times*, September 5, 1940, 14.

<sup>43</sup> Richmond County, Office of the Register, Conveyance Liber 1185, Page 196 (June 27, 1950). The *Annual Report of the Chief of Staff to the Governor for the Division of Military and Naval Affairs* for 1950, 14 noted that the building had been constructed by the Federal Government following the property’s conveyance from the City to New York State.

<sup>44</sup> New York State Department of Military and Naval Affairs, Staten Island Armory architectural drawings, no. 49/101 (May 3, 1949); “Alfred Hopkins, an Architect Here,” *New York Times*, May 6, 1941, 21; and Henry F. Withey and Elsie Rathburn Withey, *Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased)* (Los Angeles: Hennessey & Ingalls, 1970), 299.

<sup>45</sup> New York State Department of Military and Naval Affairs, Staten Island Armory architectural drawings, nos. 65/122, 65/123, 65/124, 65/126, 65/127, 65/128, 65/129, 65/133, 65/134, 65/135, 65/141, 65/142, 65/143 (all dated September 25, 1968).

<sup>46</sup> *Annual Report of the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs* (1970), 18.

<sup>47</sup> New York State Department of Military and Naval Affairs, Staten Island Armory architectural drawings, no. 75-2014 (March 30, 1976) shows the maintenance building as “proposed.” It appears, completed, in drawing no. 79/101 (April 14, 1980).

<sup>48</sup> Terence J. Kivlan and Carl Campanile, “On the Chopping Block: Taps for Two Guard Units,” *Staten Island Advance*, March 27, 1992, A1.



---

<sup>49</sup> According to plaques on the posts at the northwestern corner of the armory grounds, the site's Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park, dedicated to the 84 Staten Islanders who lost their lives in the war, was established in 1988. "Vets Honor Four Who Died During Vietnam War," *Staten Island Advance*, June 9, 1997, A4 reported that the 1997 memorial service was the fifth held annually at the site. Terence J. Kivlan, "Honor Guard to Preside Over Vet Burials here," *Staten Island Advance*, November 11, 1999, A17.

<sup>50</sup> Judy L. Randall, "National Guard Gets Praise from Islanders," *Staten Island Advance*, January 18, 1996, A4; "National Guard Targets Abandoned Autos," *Staten Island Advance*, December 7, 1997, A21; and Michael K. Lyons, "Island's 101 Cavalry Assists Watertown," *Staten Island Advance*, January 16, 1998, A4.

<sup>51</sup> John J. O'Brien, "Island's National Guardsmen Patrolling Bridges and Tunnels," *Staten Island Advance*, October 10, 2001, A8; John Annese, "Off to Iraq, with a Mother's Tough Love," *Staten Island Advance*, May 9, 2004, A17; and Glenn Nyback, "Red Eyes, Hugs for Departing Troops," *Staten Island Advance*, May 25, 2004, A1.

<sup>52</sup> David Greene and Alex Kratz, "Armory Maintenance Unit Moves to Staten Island," *Norwood News*, October 19, 2006.

<sup>53</sup> Joseph Berger, "On Staten Island, the Fight to Save a Proud Past," *New York Times*, September 18, 2009, A15.

In addition to its military role, the armory has hosted many civilian functions throughout its history. In 1936, members of the New Deal's Federal Theatre, Art, and Music Projects and "members of old Staten Island families" staged a commemorative pageant at the armory that depicted historical scenes from the island's history and featured a cast of more than 100 women dressed in early-19th-century apparel, with many arriving in carriages and stagecoaches ("Nautilus Sailing Marked," *New York Times*, October 23, 1936, 19). In 1952, the State filed a public assembly application that would permit the drill hall to host "social gatherings, public and private dances, conventions, automobile, horse, and dog shows, furniture, general appliances, and household commodity exhibits, basketball games, and sports exhibits" (New York City Department of Buildings, Borough of Richmond, Application for Permit for a Place of Assembly 83-1952). Following the inauguration of Mayor John V. Lindsay in 1966, the armory hosted the first of five public receptions held for him in each of the city's boroughs (Murray Schumach, "The Oath Is Taken: Ceremony at City Hall Marks Major Shift of Political Power," *New York Times*, January 1, 1966, 1).

<sup>54</sup> Todd, 1.

<sup>55</sup> New York City Councilmember Kenneth Mitchell, LPC Testimony (August 11, 2009). The *Staten Island Advance* has typically referred to the Headquarters Troop Armory as the Manor Road Armory; see, for example, "Guardsmen Recall Armory's Past"; "Island's Guardsmen Patrolling Bridges and Tunnels"; "off to Iraq, with a Mother's Tough Love"; "Red Eyes, Hugs for Departing Troops"; and "101st Cavalry Has Had a Distinguished History," *Staten Island Advance*, April 17, 2005, A10. The *New York Times* generally refers to the building as the Staten Island Armory, as seen in "To a Cavalry on Guard Since 1860: At Ease," *New York Times*, September 3, 2006; and "On Staten Island, the Fight to Save a Proud Past."

<sup>56</sup> These doors and transom were installed c.1968; see New York State Department of Military and Naval Affairs, Staten Island Armory architectural drawings, no. 65/132 (September 25, 1968). The original doors are visible in the c.1940 New York City "tax photograph" of the building. These paneled doors were similar to those shown in the drawings included with application 1158-O to the New York City Art Commission.

<sup>57</sup> New York State Department of Military and Naval Affairs, Staten Island Armory architectural drawings, no. 58/109 (March 21, 1958).

<sup>58</sup> New York State Department of Military and Naval Affairs, Staten Island Armory architectural drawings, no. 65/132 (September 25, 1968). The original doors within this opening were likely similar to those shown in the drawings included with application 1158-O to the New York City Art Commission.

<sup>59</sup> New York State Department of Military and Naval Affairs, Staten Island Armory architectural drawings, no. 65/133 (September 25, 1968).

<sup>60</sup> New York State Department of Military and Naval Affairs, Staten Island Armory architectural drawings, no. 65/134 (September 25, 1968).

---

<sup>61</sup> These doors and transom were installed c.1968; see New York State Department of Military and Naval Affairs, Staten Island Armory architectural drawings, no. 65/132 (September 25, 1968).

<sup>62</sup> New York State Department of Military and Naval Affairs, Staten Island Armory architectural drawings, no. 56/107 (May 11, 1956).

<sup>63</sup> New York State Department of Military and Naval Affairs, Staten Island Armory architectural drawings, no. 49/103 (July 14, 1950).

<sup>64</sup> New York State Department of Military and Naval Affairs, Staten Island Armory architectural drawings, no. 65/133 (September 25, 1968).

<sup>65</sup> The alteration of this opening occurred c.1968, and is shown on New York State Department of Military and Naval Affairs, Staten Island Armory architectural drawings, no. 65/132 (September 25, 1968).

<sup>66</sup> New York State Department of Military and Naval Affairs, Staten Island Armory architectural drawings, no. 67/151 (August 2, 1967) shows this “new addition.”

## FINDINGS AND DESIGNATION

On the basis of a careful consideration of the history, the architecture, and the other features of this building, the Landmarks Preservation Commission finds that the Headquarters Troop, 51st Cavalry Brigade Armory has a special character and a special historical and aesthetic interest and value as part of the development, heritage, and cultural characteristics of New York City.

The Commission further finds, that among its important qualities, the Headquarters Troop, 51st Cavalry Brigade Armory is one of its borough's signature buildings and a unique contributor to the city's rich military history; that it was the first National Guard armory constructed on Staten Island; that it was one of only three National Guard armories built statewide in the 1920s, and was one of the last completed in New York City; that the Guard unit it was constructed for traced its origins to Troop F, a cavalry troop that was Staten Island's only National Guard unit when it was organized in 1912; that planning for the armory began in 1922, and construction was completed in 1926-27; that the armory's architects, Harold H. Werner and August P. Windolph, were recognized as leading designers of public bathhouses; that the armory was designed in the Castellated style, which was inspired by medieval European castles and fortresses, and which remained a popular armory style in the early 20th century after dominating armory design between 1880 and 1900; that the armory was the last Castellated armory constructed in New York City and one of the last in New York State; that it is an unusual example of the Castellated style in New York City, gaining much of its visual power from its setting on a gentle rise overlooking Manor Road and the impressive horizontal sweep of its main facade; that it displays many of the style's signature features, as seen in its round, three-story towers, machicolated cornices, crenellated parapets, and corner turrets; that after World War II, the armory came to house tanks and other armored vehicles; that a brick, gable-roofed "Motor Vehicle Storage Building and Service Center" designed by Alfred Hopkins & Associates was constructed directly to the armory's northeast in 1950; and that in 1969-70, the armory received a two-story rear addition designed by the New York State Office of General Services that housed ordnance rooms and an expanded drill hall.

Accordingly, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 74, Section 3020 of the Charter of the City of New York and Chapter 3 of Title 25 of the Administrative Code of the City of New York, the Landmarks Preservation Commission designates as a Landmark the Headquarters Troop, 51st Cavalry Brigade Armory, and designates, as its Landmark Site, Borough of Staten Island Tax Map Block 332, Lot 4 in part, consisting of the portion of the lot west of a line beginning at the point on the southern curblin of Martling Avenue closest to the northeastern corner of the Motor Vehicle Storage Building and Service Center ("Bldg. No. 2" on a drawing labeled "Master Plan," dated August 1, 1979, and prepared by the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs) and extending southerly to the northeastern corner of the Motor Vehicle Storage Building and Service Center, along the eastern line of said building to its southeastern corner, and to the point on the southern lot line closest to the southeastern corner of the Motor Vehicle Storage Building and Service Center.

Robert B. Tierney, Chair

Stephen F. Byrns, Diana Chapin, Joan Gerner, Margery Perlmutter, Roberta Washington,  
Commissioners



Cornerstone laying of the Headquarters Troop, 51st Cavalry Brigade Armory, March 5, 1927  
Architect August Windolph is third from left  
Source: "General Haskell Lays Corner Stone," *New York National Guardsman* (April 1927), 7.



Headquarters Troop, 51st Cavalry Brigade Armory  
321 Manor Road, Staten Island  
Main Facade  
*Photo: Christopher D. Brazee, 2009*





Headquarters Troop, 51st Cavalry Brigade Armory  
Central portion of main facade  
*Photo: Christopher D. Braze, 2010*





Headquarters Troop, 51st Cavalry Brigade Armory  
Main entrance (top)

Main facade parapet detail (bottom)  
*Photos: Christopher D. Brazee, 2010*



Headquarters Troop, 51st Cavalry Brigade Armory  
Main facade tower

*Photo: Christopher D. Brazee, 2010*





Headquarters Troop, 51st Cavalry Brigade Armory  
North (left) and main (center) facades of northern wing  
*Photo: Christopher D. Brazee, 2010*



Headquarters Troop, 51st Cavalry Brigade Armory  
Main (left and center) and south (right) facades of southern wing  
*Photo: Christopher D. Brazee, 2010*



Headquarters Troop, 51st Cavalry Brigade Armory  
Easternmost two bays of south facade of southern wing (far left)  
Stable connector and corner extension (left)  
West facade of stable (center)  
Main facade of stable (right)  
*Photo: Michael D. Caratzas, 2010*





Headquarters Troop, 51st Cavalry Brigade Armory  
Main stable facade

*Photo: Michael D. Caratzas, 2010*





Headquarters Troop, 51st Cavalry Brigade Armory  
East facade of Motor Vehicle Storage Building and Service Center  
*Photo: Christopher D. Brazee, 2010*



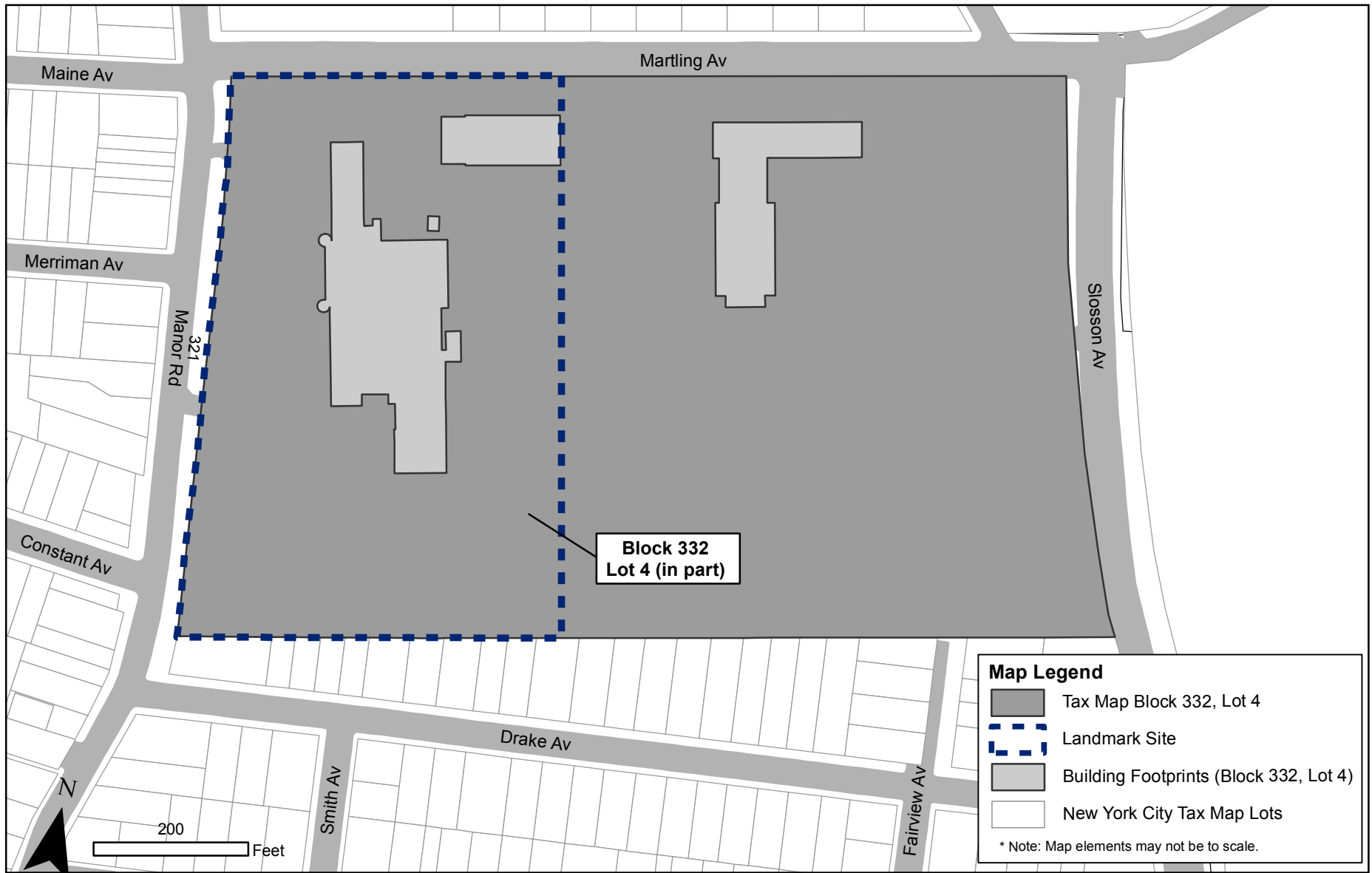


Headquarters Troop, 51st Cavalry Brigade Armory  
Entrance gate  
*Photo: Christopher D. Brazee, 2010*





Headquarters Troop, 51st Cavalry Brigade Army  
Historic brick post and iron picket fence along Manor Road  
*Photo: Christopher D. Braze, 2010*



HEADQUARTERS TROOP, 51ST CAVALRY BRIGADE ARMORY (LP-2396), 321 Manor Road. Landmark Site: Borough of Staten Island, Tax Map Block 332, Lot 4 in part, consisting of the portion of the lot west of a line beginning at the point on the southern curbline of Martling Avenue closest to the northeastern corner of the Motor Vehicle Storage Building and Service Center (“Bldg. No. 2” on a drawing labeled “Master Plan,” dated August 1, 1979, and prepared by the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs) and extending southerly to the northeastern corner of the Motor Vehicle Storage Building and Service Center, along the eastern line of said building to its southeastern corner, and to the point on the southern lot line closest to the southeastern corner of the Motor Vehicle Storage Building and Service Center.

Designated: August 10, 2010