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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *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 the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. 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 First Battery Armory

other names/site number 102nd Medical Battalion

2. Location

street & number 56 West 66th Street [ ] not for publication

city or town New York [ ] vicinity

state New York code NY county New York code 061 zip code 10023

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this [X] nomination [ ] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements as set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property [X] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [ ] nationally [ ] statewide [X] locally. ([ ] see continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Richard Pierpont DSHPO 12/27/12
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

[X] entered in the National Register
[ ] see continuation sheet
[ ] determined eligible for the National Register
[ ] see continuation sheet
[ ] determined not eligible for the National Register

[ ] removed from the National Register

[ ] other (explain)

Signature of the Keeper date of action

for Alexis Abernathy 2/20/13

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(check as many boxes as apply)

[X] private
[ ] public-local
[ ] public-State
[ ] public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

[X] building(s)
[ ] district
[ ] site
[ ] structure
[ ] object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	**TOTAL**

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

Army National Guard Armories in New York State

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

NA

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

DEFENSE/ Arms Storage

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/ Business

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals/ Castellated

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation
walls Granite/Brick
roof Metal
other Granite trim

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

See continuation sheets.

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

Summary

The former First Battery (later the 102nd Medical Battalion) Army National Guard armory building was designed by New York City architects Horgan and Slattery and constructed between 1901 and 1904 (Photo 5). The three-story, north-facing rectangular building includes approximately 40,000 square feet of space. The plan is comprised of two parts, a headhouse and an open-volume drill hall to the rear of the headhouse. The three-story headhouse, 175 by 26 feet, is of symmetrical composition. Its principal façade, facing north, features a central tower and end pavilions at the east and west.

The building served as an armory until 1977, when it was renovated for use as a television studio for ABC TV Network. At that time, all historic interior finishes and circulation spaces were either removed or substantially damaged. However, major character-defining elements, such as the principal façade design, building form, and interior volumes, were retained. In 1989, the armory was designated an individual landmark by the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission. Starting in 2010 with a completion date of late 2012, the television studio was demolished and the building again rehabilitated for use as commercial office space.

The most important extant character-defining features of the armory are its principal (north) façade, which retains a majority of its original castellated design elements; the original headhouse/drill hall configuration; and the majestic effects of the drill hall's large steel truss structural supports and large, open volume. The historic character of the building's exterior is intact. Its interior, while altered during its years as an armory; for adaptive re-use as a television studio; and most recently, for re-use as an office building, retains the key character-defining components of its headhouse-and-drill hall configuration, which identifies the building as an armory.

Setting

The former First Battery Armory is located in the middle of the block of West 66th Street between Central Park West and Columbus Avenue on Manhattan's Upper West Side. The building footprint occupies its entire lot. The First Battery Armory was the first building to be constructed on its site. The site was previously farmland and was divided into lots for sale in 1852.

Neighboring buildings are a mix of 20th century high-rise commercial and residential structures and 19th century low-rise commercial and residential structures. The east facade is currently exposed along the driveway to the Guild. A narrow portion of the west façade is also exposed, but is otherwise concealed by a high-rise 20th century apartment building.

The footprint of the armory has remained the same since its construction in 1903. In 1940, three of the four five-story tenement buildings to the east of the armory were demolished. In 1972, the Jewish Guild for the Blind was constructed on 65th Street and the last historic tenement building was demolished to create a driveway from 66th Street to the rear of the Guild.

Exterior

The symmetrical castellated brick-and-stone armory building consists of two volumes: a narrow, rectangular, flat-roofed block along the street front (the headhouse) and a broader, gable-roofed block at the rear (the former drill hall).

The principal façade, whose design recalls a medieval castle, is organized in a nearly symmetrical composition and is divided into two parts horizontally by the use of granite at the first story and brick with granite trim above (Photos 1–3). The main wall sections are slightly recessed behind areaways on either side of a central tower-like bay and terminate in pavilions at the east and west ends of this facade. The iron fences with granite posts around each areaway are intact except as noted below.

The castellated style is achieved through the use of a number of architectural details: a battered base, windows and entry arches with deep reveals, angled spurs between the first story of the pavilions, loophole windows at the central tower and end pavilions, machiolated cornices, crenellated parapets, and turrets at the top of the central tower (the east turret is higher than the west). There is a black-painted metal guardrail behind the low portions of the parapet.

The upper-level wall surfaces are embellished with features typically associated with post-Italian Renaissance architecture, particularly that of 18th century England: two-toned Flemish bond brickwork (red stretchers and gray headers) and windows with classical proportions and rustic Gibbs surrounds of granite.

The building is entered through a round arch reached by a short flight of granite steps at the base of the central tower, and through segmental arches in each end pavilion, approached from the street via curb cuts for vehicles (Photos 1–4). At the central entrance, new (2011) glazed, bronze-clad, stile-and-rail, hardwood double doors with sidelights and transom have replaced the 1977 aluminum-and-glass doors. According to the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission designation report, the original door at this entrance was bronze-clad. The earliest available historic image appears to show an opaque metal double-leaf door and arched transom window. In the 1900 Horgan & Slattery drawings, this entrance is shown with a cast-iron security gate, similar in design to the existing iron fence at the areaway. However, it is uncertain if the gate was ever constructed because it is not visible in the historic photograph. In 1977, the bronze double-leaf door and transom configuration was replaced with aluminum-and-glass doors and transom. A metal handrail with a brushed-brass finish was added to the granite stairs.

The east pavilion door opening is filled in with new (2011) painted-wood wall cladding with a bronze kick plate. A wicket-style painted wood door within the cladding provides access to a service bay. The wood wall cladding is painted dark green. The large entrance bay at the east pavilion was originally designed to provide people and horses with access to the cellar stable and the drill hall riding rink. The earliest available photograph appears to show the east pavilion entrance with a monumental double-leaf vertical-board wood door. The 1900 Horgan & Slattery drawing of the north elevation shows what may have been an ornamental iron security gate over this entrance, although no gate is visible in the historic photo. A 1948 north elevation indicates that by that

time this entrance had a wood door and metal gate. A 1974 north elevation shows that the wood door had been replaced with a metal door. In 1977, a new (2011) metal roll-down garage door was installed.

The west pavilion entrance features new (2011) replica granite base and piers to match the existing granite base of the north elevation and new pre-patinated dark bronze cladding and door, recessed and articulated, to reference the historic design. The new metal door includes four horizontal reveals at the bottom half to reference the historic continuity of the joints across the original granite base. Historically, the west pavilion featured a tripartite, double-hung, wood-window-and-stone-base configuration. In 1977, fire-stair egress was created at the west pavilion by removing all three windows and the granite base below and replacing them with an aluminum infill panel and door.

The central tower, with its buttressed base, incorporates two stone panels. The panel above the central entrance bears three-dimensional stone letters that read: "A.D 1901 N.G. N.Y." (New York National Guard) (Photo 4). A historic image of the exterior shows that the panel originally included the words "First Battery" between "A.D. 1901" and "N.Y. N.G." A second panel at the top of the central tower is decorated with the First Battery's insignia: carved in relief is a central shield topped with "1901," the date of construction; "N.Y. N.G."; and the motto "Semper Paratus," the Latin for "always ready." Above this shield is a military helmet and crossed axes flanked by flags. On the sides of the shield are muzzle-loading cannons and cannon balls tended by militiamen in helmets, including one on horseback (Photo 3).

The majority of the windows on the primary façade are aluminum, double-hung, one-over-one sash with single-light aluminum-framed fixed transoms with a dark green painted finish. These openings originally featured wood, double-hung, one-over-one sash with single-light pivot transoms constructed in classical proportions with rustic Gibbs surrounds of granite. In 2004, the historic wood sash and transoms were replaced with the aluminum sash.

In addition, there are 24 loophole windows on the east, west, and central pavilions. Original/missing wood loophole window assemblies on the east and west towers were recently restored or replicated to match the originals. The loophole window assemblies were originally single-pane assemblies and some included transom windows. Existing sash details and rabbets for non-extant hardware indicate that the historic loophole windows may have been inward-swinging casements but there is no archival evidence of loophole window operability. At an unknown date, the six loophole window assemblies at grade on the east pavilion were removed and replaced with stucco or plywood infill.

The original 12 skylights in the pitched roof over the drill hall were removed and the openings covered over at an unknown date (Photo 7). In 1936, six of these openings were removed and finished flush with the roof with the installation of new mineral-surfaced roofing. The other six openings were replaced with new dormer skylights with new sash. The flat roofs on the headhouse and penthouse were re-roofed with built-up asphalt roofing in 1936. In 1977 the pitched roof was re-shingled, the remaining skylights removed, and new rooftop

mechanical equipment was installed, including large air-conditioning ducts in selected opening of the historic skylights.

Two new (2011) monumental cast iron lamp standards, painted black and topped with glass globes, are mounted on granite plinths on either side of the central entry stairs. These new lamps were designed to reference originals seen in a historic photograph. At some point between 1974 and 1977, the historic lamp standards were removed and the existing granite plinths were covered with pointed granite capstones.

Painted cast iron fences are located at the east and west areaways on either side of the central tower. Behind the east fence, there is a new (2011) ADA ramp spanning the areaway behind the fence. The ramp is constructed of galvanized steel with powder-coated aluminum handrails. The ramp leads to the first historic window opening east of the central entrance, now a new door into the main lobby. The fourth historic window opening east of the central entrance, which was converted to a door in the 1970s, was recently restored using salvaged stone from the first historic window opening east of the central entrance. The areaway and surrounding fence originally spanned the entire area from the central tower to the end pavilions at both the east and west sides of the central entrance at the north facade. A granite base and piers supported the cast iron fence. In 1977, the western portion of the west areaway fence was removed and the areaway covered with the existing sidewalk to accommodate a new street light installed by the City of New York.

The existing scored stucco on the east and west facades was installed over the original common brick and window openings on these facades were covered over by the stucco. Although the side facades of the armory were historically concealed by neighboring buildings, the east facade is currently exposed where a driveway to a building on West 65th Street is now located (Photo 6). A narrow portion of the west façade is also exposed, but is otherwise concealed by a high-rise 20th century apartment building. The exposed portions of both side facades, originally of common brick, are now clad in stucco colored and scored to resemble red brick, installed on both facades in 1974. Both the east and west parapets have been extended from their original heights to screen rooftop bulkheads and mechanical equipment. The parapet extensions are brick-red stucco with minimal detailing and align with the second-highest crenellation on the existing north parapet.

The east façade has several louvered openings for mechanical equipment and a guardrail and ladder on the roof on the south side of the façade. A new (2011) metal service door and stair are located at a historic window opening on the north side of the setback roof. Originally the center section of the east facade was set back from the lot line at its upper half to create a small light court with three bays of three double-hung, one-over-one, wood windows. An oculus window with a Star of David pattern in leaded glass and a circular surround was at the center of this façade, at the roof gable. There were two additional double-hung windows, one at each return of the light court, facing north and south. In 1977, the window openings on the light court were filled in with brick. New openings were also created at this time to allow room for new louvers for mechanical ventilation.

A narrow light court on the west façade, not visible from the street, has common brick walls in common bond with bricked-in or louvered window openings with bluestone sills on the ground, second, and third floors. The

west façade was designed with 12 double-hung, one-over-one, wood windows at the first and second floors of its central light court. There were three six-pane and two four-pane wood windows at the cellar level of the light court. There was an additional wood window at the cellar level at the light court return on the south. An oculus window with a Star of David pattern in leaded glass with what appears to be a circular window surround was at the center of this façade, at the roof gable. The original wood double-hung and ocular window assemblies were removed at an unknown date. A new (2011) large metal boiler flue is located at the north side of the light court. This flue is a replacement of a historic flue. There is a door opening at grade in the central light court to provide access to and from the drill hall cellar. The new metal door was originally of paneled wood, but was replaced with metal at an unknown date.

Only the south (rear) side of the third floor and penthouse are exterior facades. The south façade of the penthouse, of common brick, is concealed behind a new (2011) elevator shaft. The existing south wall of the headhouse is common brick and was never seen from the public way. New (2011) metal-and-glass skylights are installed at the center of this façade. New (2011) aluminum double-hung windows and hollow-metal access doors to the drill hall roof are located in historic window openings. The door openings have galvanized painted steel utility stairs and handrails down to the roof of the drill hall. Originally, the south (rear) façade of the headhouse had two wood, double-hung, one-over-one sash windows at the penthouse level and 12 windows at the third floor. In 1948, the 14 original window assemblies were removed and replaced with new sash, frames, and sills to match the existing. In 1977, the existing frames, sash, and sills were removed. Most openings were filled with non-matching infill brick. Some were louvered or partially louvered. New windows and doors were installed at some openings, and new HVAC ducts penetrated others.

The south (rear) façade of the drill hall is common red brick and features nine bricked-in tripartite window bays at grade. Originally, the south (rear yard) façade of the drill hall featured nine bays at grade of triple, double-hung, wood windows with transoms (total of 27 windows). In 1977, all 27 window assemblies were removed and the openings filled in with CMU on the interior and with new non-matching brick on the exterior.

The headhouse roof is a new (2011) EPDM roof system (Photo 7). A new matte grey emergency generator, HVAC units, and a boiler flue are installed at the west side of the headhouse roof. A new 10'-8" high matte-grey cooling tower is installed on the penthouse roof. New (2011) stair bulkheads of brick-red stucco with minimal detailing are located at the east and west sides of the headhouse roof. Originally the headhouse and penthouse roofs were flat roofs constructed of an unknown material. There was one iron and glass skylight at the south center side of the penthouse roof over the original elevator shaft. In 1936 the headhouse and penthouse roofs were covered with built-up asphalt roofing. In 1960, these roofs were removed down to the roof boards and replaced with three-ply, cold-process, built-up roofing. The skylight over the elevator shaft was also removed and replaced with new roofing. In 1977, a new concrete slab roof structure was installed, along with new rooftop mechanical equipment, including large HVAC ducts, to enable the use of the building as a television studio. This campaign included the installation of a cooling tower on the penthouse roof. In 2008, the cooling tower was replaced with a new, larger unit. A new stair bulkhead was added on the east roof.

The drill hall roof is a new (2011) sky-lit, standing-seam metal roof finished in a matte neutral color (Photo 7). The original drill hall roof was a pitched wood roof supported by steel trusses and included six nearly flush iron-and-glass skylights on each slope of the roof. The original roofing material is not known. In 1936, six of the original skylight openings were filled in with new dormer skylights with new sash. The other six openings were finished flush with the roof with new mineral-surfaced roofing. In 1960, the roofing was replaced again with three-ply, cold-process, built-up roofing. The six dormers were removed and new skylights were installed. In 1977, the drill hall roof was re-shingled, the remaining skylights removed, and new rooftop mechanical equipment was installed, including large air-conditioning ducts in selected historic skylight openings. A new asphalt-shingle roof was installed c. 1998.

Interior

Introduction
The interior spaces of the armory were originally designed in keeping with those of other armories of the period. There were spaces designated for military training, equipment storage, offices, stables, and socializing. The headhouse interior consisted of three main floors with a cellar and penthouse and was mainly devoted to administrative uses and mechanical space. The drill hall interior, consisting of a large, open, double-height volume with a cellar, was primarily devoted to military training and riding/stabling of horses.

The current interior is a modern office space but retains the key character-defining configuration of office and circulation space in the headhouse and a large open volume in the drill hall space. The existing zoning limits design within 30 feet of the south façade of the drill hall; therefore, two new (2011) partial floor plates "float" on the interior of the drill hall for additional usable space. The interior of the drill hall retains open views of the original steel roof trusses and the double-height, historically exposed, buff brick south wall of the drill hall, conveying a sense of the historic look and feel of this monumental space. The headhouse is distinguished from/connected to the former drill hall space by new circulation "bridges."

Headhouse Basement

This area is devoted to mechanical space, with new finishes and equipment installed in 2011.

The basement of the headhouse was historically intended for storage and mechanical equipment. The headhouse layout was organized around a central stair hall. Rooms to the east of the stair hall were used for storage of horse feed and straw, ammunition, and for toilets and showers. Rooms to the west of the stair hall were used for storage of harnesses and for mechanical equipment. The headhouse basement was constructed with a basic cement floor, except for the shower room and stair hall, which had terrazzo tile floors. Other details of original interior finishes in this part of the building are not known.

In 1913 the First Battery, for whom the armory was built, relocated. The 102nd Medical Corps(which had various names from 1913-1976) then took up residency at the armory. At some point after the First Battery relocated but before 1936, a few adjustments were made to the headhouse basement. This included the addition

of a dispensary where the ammunition storage rooms were located and conversion of the feed storage room into a pump room. In 1936 during
Works Progress Administration renovations, the dispensary room was converted into a women's locker room and toilet room.

In 1977, the American Broadcasting Company (ABC) converted the rest of the headhouse basement rooms into mechanical space. The women's locker room and toilet room were converted into a chiller room and the storage room to the west of the stair hall was converted into a generator room and a service room. The stair hall space was also divided to add an electric service room.

Headhouse First Floor

The first floor is organized around a new (2011) central reception space off the main entrance with a stone tile floor, painted gypsum board walls, and suspended acoustical tile ceiling (Photo 8). A new corridor with a concrete raised-tile floor runs along the entire south side of the first floor. The corridor provides circulation for new first-floor offices and has connections to the lobby and drill hall.

New (2011) offices with carpet-tile flooring, painted gypsum board walls, glass-and-metal demountable partitions, and suspended acoustical tile ceilings are located to the east and west of the reception area. A utility room with a materials lift is at the far east end. A bicycle room is at the far west end. Two egress stairs exit at the first floor, one at the northeast corner and one at the northwest corner.

The first floor of the headhouse was historically devoted to the building's most formal uses, and was comprised of offices and meeting rooms. The headhouse layout was organized around a central stair hall with a split stair leading to the other floors of the headhouse; on the first floor, this stair hall formed the building lobby. Rooms to the east of the stair hall included the Sally Port, Quartermaster's Office and Supply Room, and First Sergeant's Office. Rooms to the west of the stair hall were the Reception Room, Board Room, Surgeon's Office, and Officers' Room. The offices had wood plank floors and the stair hall/lobby and Reception/Board Rooms had terrazzo tile floors. Other details of original interior finishes in this part of the building are not known.

In 1936, as part of renovations by the Works Progress Administration, several of the rooms on the first floor of the headhouse changed in size with the addition and removal of partitions. The First Sergeant's room and private office directly to the east of the entrance lobby were changed into one larger space used as a Recruiting Office. A partition was added to the original Quartermaster's Supply Room to create a new First Sergeant's Office and a hallway linking the
offices on the east side of the center stair hall. The original opening leading from the Quartermaster's Supply Room to the drill hall was closed off. The adjoining Quartermaster's Office and private office were converted into a single larger space to be used as the Armorer's Office. The original sally port at the east side of the building continued to provide access into the drill hall and to the basement via a ramp.

None of the rooms to the west of the entrance lobby changed in dimension in 1936, only in use. The original Reception Room to the west of the entrance lobby became an office. The Captain's room west of that office remained an office, but a small ladies' toilet was added to this room. The larger toilet room adjacent remained. A meeting room took the space of the previous Surgeon's Room. The larger Officers' Room to the far west of the headhouse became the
Colonel's Quarter's.

In 1938, the partition wall that had been used to create the hallway off the First Sergeant's room was removed. In 1956, the passenger elevator located in the center stair hall was removed and a new metal and glass partition with two doors was added to the south side of the lobby, separating the lobby and drill hall.

At some point before 1968, first-floor rooms were once again altered and partitioned. East of the main entrance lobby, the prior Recruiting Office from 1938 was partitioned to include a Switch Board and a Superintendent's Office. The next room on the east, formerly the First Sergeant's room, remained the same size but became the Battalion Office; a door opening was once again installed at the south wall of this office to provide access to the drill hall. A private stair to the second floor was also installed in this office. The room farthest to the east, the former Armorer's Office, became the Battalion Headquarters Office, and a door opening was added to the south wall of this room as well to provide access to the drill hall. The rooms to the west of the entrance lobby retained their size and circulation and only changed in use. The office directly to the west of the lobby became the Adjutant's Office and the office west of that became a general Board Room. The toilets remained. The prior meeting room west of the toilet rooms was used as an Executive Office and the prior Colonel's Quarter's became the OICC Office.

In 1968, drop ceilings at a height of between 10' and 14' were installed throughout the first floor of the headhouse, except in the main lobby and the Battalion Office. All of the ceilings on the first floor were originally ±17' in height. As a result of the change in ceiling heights, the existing window and door transoms in these spaces were sealed with plywood.

The headhouse interior finishes and configuration completely changed in 1977 when ABC converted the building from an armory into a television studio. The first and second floors of the headhouse were re-purposed as utilitarian and office space. The third floor and penthouse were devoted to mechanical space.

All of the floor slabs and partitions throughout the headhouse were removed and replaced. The majority of the south wall of the headhouse, which included circulatory openings to the drill hall (see "Circulation") was rebuilt. Portions of the existing masonry wall separating the headhouse and drill hall were retained and an additional CMU wall was added to create a new partition between the headhouse and drill hall. All headhouse interior finishes were demolished and
replaced with new vinyl tile flooring or wall-to-wall carpeting, gypsum wall board, and suspended acoustical tile ceilings. Existing features of the historic circulation system were removed and replaced.

The main entrance lobby was converted into a new reception area. The original split staircase at the north of the

lobby was removed and a new contemporary staircase was installed at the south side of the new lobby. One new entrance to the drill hall was installed at the south side of the new lobby.

The existing rooms to the east and west of the entrance lobby were completely demolished and the first floor was reconfigured. A corridor leading from the new lobby and extending the length of the first floor was added along the north elevation. This corridor led to a new stair at the southwest corner. At the west side, this corridor led to a technical control room, which was partitioned from a new fire stair, installed at the northwest corner of the headhouse. All three of the new staircases, the central stair in the entrance lobby behind the reception area, the northeast stair and the northwest stair, connected the headhouse basement with the floors above.

Large men and women's restrooms and a property storage closet were installed to the east of the new entrance lobby. A single door in the south wall of the property closet provided access into the drill hall. The ramp at the east sally port, which previously led to the basement, was removed and the opening sealed. Large technical rooms were installed to the west of the new entrance lobby. Openings in the new CMU wall linked the technical rooms and drill hall. Former
windows at the northeast façade were converted into egress for the new northwest fire stair.

Headhouse Second Floor

The second-floor interior, installed in 2011, is comprised of a series of offices linked by a circulation corridor at the south (Photo 9). The visual openings in the south wall of the corridor re-iterate the link between the two spaces in the original armory design. The corridor is open to four separate stairs that link the headhouse with the new floor levels in the drill hall.

The second floor finishes of the headhouse are similar to those of the first floor, with carpeted floors, painted gypsum board walls, and glass-and-metal demountable partitions in the offices. The ceilings of the offices consist of gypsum board and acoustic hung ceiling. The corridor and other circulation spaces have raised concrete-tile floors. The ceilings are constructed of gypsum board.

The second floor of the headhouse was historically devoted to more utilitarian and recreational uses. Rooms to the east of the central stair hall included the Non-Commissioned Officers' Room, and large toilet and locker rooms. Rooms to the west of the stair included a combination Recreation Room/Mess Hall/Gymnasium and a separate Kitchen and Pantry. Details of original interior finishes in this part of the building are not known.

In 1936, the Non-Commissioned Officers' Room at the northeast was converted into an additional locker room. At some point between 1936 and1968, the functions of the rooms on the second story of the headhouse changed. The large locker room to the east of the Stair Hall was partitioned and converted into a dispensary and a smaller EKG room. The toilet rooms remained and the additional locker room that had been added in 1936 was converted back into an office. On the west side of the headhouse, the large multi-purpose room became a Day and Class Room. The kitchen located in the northwest corner remained.

In 1968, drop ceilings were installed throughout the second floor, except at the Stair Hall, kitchen, and toilet rooms. The existing ceiling heights on the second floor had all been 13' except for a small office located in the central Stair Hall, which had a slightly lower ceiling. Most of the new ceilings were installed at a height of 9'. As a result of the change in ceiling height, the existing window and door transoms in these spaces were sealed with plywood.

In 1977, the second floor was configured with a new conference room and offices at the north. A new corridor running the length of the headhouse on the south divided the headhouse from the drill hall and provided circulation space throughout the second floor. A new partition wall was added on the south side of the corridor, where the headhouse originally had openings into the drill hall.

Headhouse Third Floor

The newly installed (2011) third-floor interior is a reference to the historic third-floor interior, with a series of offices, storage, and a restroom linked by a circulation corridor at the south (Photo 10). A new stair provides access to the penthouse. A corridor at the south wall of the headhouse provides circulation for the third floor. Openings in the south wall provide visual connection into the drill hall.

The finishes on the third floor of the headhouse are the same as those on the first and second floors: carpet tile in offices and concrete raised-tile floors in circulation areas. The walls are painted gypsum board with glass-and-metal demountable office partitions. The ceilings are constructed of acoustic hung ceiling in the offices and gypsum board in the circulation areas.

The third floor of the headhouse was historically devoted to formal uses at the east and utilitarian uses at the west. Rooms to the east of the central stair hall included the General's Room, Clerk's Room, and a Board Room. Rooms to the west of the stair hall included the Janitor's Room, Captain's Room, and Store Room. Details of original interior finishes in this part of the building are not known.

In 1936, the layout of the headhouse third floor changed slightly. The Board Room to the east was converted to a Store Room and reduced in size. This left an open circulation space to the south. The Clerk's Room to the east of the new Store Room was altered for use as a locker room. Another locker room was added to the east side of the third floor in the previous General's Room. The existing room farthest to the east was converted into two additional Store Rooms. The Janitor's Room was used in 1936 as the First Sergeant's Office and the adjacent Captain's Room was used as the Quartermaster's Office. The large Store Room at the west of the headhouse was converted to another locker room and an additional toilet room was added in the northwest corner of the locker room.

At some point between 1936 and 1968, most rooms were converted into offices and classrooms. An office took the place of the storage room in the Stair Hall, classrooms took the place of the storage room and locker to the

east of the Stair Hall, and the small rooms to the east of the toilet room were converted from storage rooms to offices. The Quartermaster's Office was converted to a supply room, and the locker room at the west end was converted to
a classroom.

In 1968, drop ceilings at a height of between 8' and 11' were installed throughout the third floor. All of the existing ceiling heights on the third floor were 13' except for the hall. As a result of the change in ceiling heights, the existing window and door transoms in these spaces were sealed with plywood.

In the 1977 ABC renovations, the third floor interior was demolished and the interior re-purposed for mechanical equipment with a concrete-slab floor, painted-brick walls, and a ceiling of steel roof decking.

Headhouse Penthouse

The penthouse space is a newly installed (2011) multipurpose conference room with brick walls, concrete raised-tile flooring, and gypsum board ceiling (Photo 11). The penthouse space was historically used for storage. In 1977, the existing spiral staircases leading from the third floor to the penthouse were removed. A new central staircase continued to the penthouse floor. The penthouse storage room was converted to mechanical space.

Drill Hall Basement

The drill hall basement contains offices, a small pantry, and locker rooms, all installed in 2011 (Photo 12). Four common areas in the drill hall basement are open to the first floor of the drill hall above; two on the north wall and two along the south.

The general circulation spaces have raised concrete-tile floors throughout, and the offices have carpet tile. Room partitions are constructed of metal studs with gypsum board walls. The historic iron columns and vaulted ceiling remain exposed in the circulation spaces and central spaces of the drill hall basement. The existing concrete ceiling arches have an acoustic plaster finish. The locker rooms have gypsum board ceilings. The offices along the perimeter of the space have gypsum board and acoustic hung ceilings.

Gypsum wallboard is installed along the south wall, but is set apart from the wall to form a ventilated cavity to allow moisture that enters the brick from the ground to escape the system.

Most of the drill hall basement was historically used as a stable with 58 tie stalls and six box stalls. A ramp at the northeastern corner provided horses with access to the basement and the riding ring on the first floor of the drill hall. A 12' wide area on the far south side of the basement, running the entire length of the building and partitioned off from the stable, was devoted to a rifle and pistol range. The drill hall basement probably had a scored cement floor, common for stables of the period, with wood stall partitions. Cast iron lally columns supported the vaulted concrete and

plaster ceiling.

It appears that by 1948, when additional offices and storage areas were added to the drill hall basement, all the stalls and other stable features had been removed. Partitions for the 1948 additions were made of 6" concrete block. The 1948 spaces were modified and added to in 1962 when additional storage rooms were provided.

Finally, in 1977, ABC completely remodeled the basement; all existing features and finishes were demolished. The bearing wall that separated the rifle range from the rest of the basement was also demolished. New dressing rooms, hair and make-up studios, and storage areas with vinyl tile floors, concrete block and gypsum board walls, and suspended acoustical tile ceilings were added to the drill hall basement.

Drill Hall

The drill hall, three-stories in height, was designed as a large, open volume of 175' by 73' (Photo 13). The existing drill hall interior, fully renovated in 2011, holds offices and conference rooms on three levels (Photos 14 & 15). Above the first floor, two newly installed partial floor plates "float" on the interior of the drill hall to gain additional floor space while retaining the reference to the historic intent of a large, open volume. The original monumental steel roof trusses are exposed and visible from all three levels, just as they were historically visible from the drill hall floor.

The first level consists of the entire space of the original drill hall's first floor and includes offices and cubicles, conference rooms, restrooms, and a pantry. A 1977 nonhistoric floor slab was retained. Four new openings in the slab, two at the north side of the drill hall and two at the south side, provide light and air to the cellar offices below. The slab openings at the south are detailed to expose the historic structural system to convey the sense that the floor was not historically open in these areas. Exposed members in each opening consist of the cut steel I beams and two spans of the concrete ceiling vaults.

The second and third levels of the drill hall contain additional offices and conference rooms. These levels are set back 30' from the existing south wall of the drill hall to retain the historic openness. The drill hall levels are linked with the headhouse levels via stairs and openings in the south wall of the headhouse (north wall of the drill hall).

Drill hall finishes are the same on all levels. Circulation spaces, mechanical rooms, storage rooms, and closets all have raised concrete-tile flooring. The offices have carpet-tile flooring, painted gypsum board walls, and glass-and-metal demountable partitions. Conference rooms have carpet-tile flooring, glass walls, and glass-and-metal demountable partitions. The mezzanine ceiling is constructed of gypsum board in the circulation spaces and acoustic hung ceiling in the office spaces.

The full-height buff brick wall at the south of the drill hall, heavily damaged in the 1977 renovation, is exposed and has been restored as closely as possible to its historic appearance. Originally this wall featured a base

consisting of pine knee board over a red-brick substrate. The pine knee board was removed in 1977; the red brick substrate has been repaired and left exposed to reference the knee board. This entire south wall is visible, like the steel trusses, from all levels of the drill hall. The remaining masonry walls are covered with painted gypsum board.

When the original spectator gallery that encircled the drill hall at the second-floor level was removed, it left a band of exposed red substrate brick running the length of the south wall, as well as open scars in the buff brick masonry where gallery brackets had been. This substrate brick and bracket scars are concealed with a new metal band and plates to reference the lost gallery.

The historic window openings on this wall are infilled with painted gypsum wallboard, set back to mimic the historic window reveal, to reference the lost window assemblies. A large video-assemblage is mounted at four points on structural columns at this wall.

The monumental steel roof trusses were originally visible from the drill hall floor. These are the most visible visual elements of this space and have been preserved in their entirety. The original beadboard ceiling, having deteriorated beyond repair, was removed in the recent rehabilitation. The overall drill hall ceiling is clad in a white, perforated, metal v-groove panel design that references the 3" module of the beadboard, thereby retaining the visual pattern of the essential geometry and rhythm of the wood ceiling.

Historically, the drill hall's flooring was scored cement at the perimeter with a tanbark-riding rink at the center. Walls were buff brick with a yellow pine knee board on a red brick substrate. The drill hall roof's wood beadboard ceiling and monumental steel trusses, supported by brackets anchored to piers in the brick masonry wall, were exposed to the room below. Windows and doors had wood trim. A steel spectator gallery with a guardrail and seats for up to 426 people overlooked the riding ring. Ornamental metal brackets anchored to the masonry piers of the walls supported the balcony. Large openings in the north wall of the drill hall (south wall of the headhouse) allowed circulation between the headhouse and drill hall. The drill hall was lit by electrical lights suspended from the trusses and by sconces mounted on the walls.

The drill hall spaces were not significantly altered until 1977, when the drill hall was converted into a television studio. However, most of the drill hall was left in its large open volume in order to house a variety of moveable sets for a soap opera production.

A new concrete floor was installed. The pine knee board of the riding rink and the spectator gallery on the second level were removed. The existing masonry walls were lined with acoustical panels anchored into the walls. A new CMU partition wall was added at the east side of the drill hall to create Lighting Control and Scenic Art rooms. Two additional floor levels were constructed in the east side of the drill hall above the Lighting Control and Scenic Art rooms.

These upper floors held additional storage rooms, Lighting Storage and Wardrobe Storage, and provided access to the catwalks. Historic openings in the wall separating the headhouse and drill hall were filled in with CMU

and new openings were created in the wall. Another new CMU partition wall was added at the north side of the drill hall to conceal the historic openings between the headhouse and drill hall and extended the full height of the drill hall.

The monumental steel trusses were retained, but the beadboard ceiling, which had previously been altered for skylight installation, was covered with acoustical panels to soundproof the studio space and a massive lighting grid was anchored to the ceiling. Metal catwalks were suspended from the steel trusses to provide access to the lighting grid. Anchors were placed into the brick masonry walls to support the lighting grid and catwalks. During this renovation, the window openings on the south, east, and west elevations were filled with concrete block on the interior to keep light from entering the studio. The existing freight elevator at the northwest corner was replaced. A new, larger, freight elevator was installed at the southeast corner.

Circulation

The circulation system was installed in 2011. Two new primary staircases on the east and west sides of the headhouse provide egress through the east and west entrances. Two central elevators are located at the north edge of the drill hall space, close to the location of the original passenger elevator. Additional stairs are located in the drill hall space to link the new floor levels of the drill hall with the headhouse corridors.

Historically, the primary pedestrian circulation was through the central tower entrance into the lobby. The lobby featured a split staircase linking all three floors of the headhouse. A single passenger elevator located at the south side of the lobby continued up through the central tower to the third floor. From this lobby, one could circulate through the headhouse on both the east and west sides, and also into the drill hall on both the first and second level (spectator gallery). The drill hall could also be entered directly through several rooms in the headhouse, the central stair
hall, and the sally port.

The sally port at the east provided access to the drill hall for horses and large items. A ramp in the sally port provided access for horses to the basement stable. A small freight elevator located in the northwest corner of the drill hall transported equipment through the building. A third elevator was located along the east wall of the drill hall, and was devoted to the transport of guns between the basement and first floor of the drill hall. Two straight-run staircases at the
southwest and southeast corners of the drill hall provided passage between the first floor and the spectator gallery. A spiral staircase in the northeast corner of the drill hall linked it with the upper floors of the headhouse.

The third-floor level of the central stair hall housed two spiral staircases in the turrets of the principal façade, which led to the headhouse penthouse. Another spiral stair off the east corridor on the third floor led up to the roof.

In 1956, the passenger elevator located in the central tower was removed and the floors finished to match the existing floors. In 1977, the split staircase in the central tower and the two smaller staircases located in the drill

hall were removed. A new central staircase was placed in the central tower of the headhouse along the south wall. Two additional staircases were added to the headhouse at the east and west entrances. The original ramp in the sally port was removed at this time with the addition of the east staircase. There were also two smaller staircases installed in the east end of the drill hall, which provided access to the storage rooms on the two levels constructed above the Lighting Control and Scenic Art rooms. The original freight elevator on the northwest remained and a larger freight elevator was installed on the east end of the drill hall, which linked the basement and drill hall.

Mechanical Systems

All existing MEP equipment, utilities, and services were installed in 2011. New mechanical rooms and equipment are located on the cellar floor of the headhouse. Mechanical spaces includes a boiler room, mechanical room, fire-pump room, and gas-meter room on the west side of the headhouse cellar floor. A chiller room, mechanical room, and water-meter room are located on the east side of the headhouse cellar floor. New mechanical rooms have been added above the second mezzanine level on the east and west sides of the drill hall space to accommodate new air-handling units that serve the drill hall. A new cooling tower is located on the central tower roof. A new emergency generator, boiler flue, and other mechanical equipment are on west side of the headhouse roof. The visibility of new mechanical rooftop elements from the street is reduced by the new parapet extensions at the east and west sides of the headhouse.

Historically, mechanical systems for the building were located in the basement. A large portion of the west side of the headhouse was used as space for the boiler room, pump room, and coal storage.

In 1936, a larger pump room was installed on the east side of the headhouse, directly underneath the sally port. In 1938, a gravity heating to vacuum system was installed throughout the building. In 1968, a new heating system was installed throughout the building. The existing heating system was completely disconnected and removed and a new hot water heating system was installed. The two large boilers located in the boiler room were removed and replaced with smaller boilers and expansion tanks were added.

In 1977, mechanical equipment was added to the third floor and penthouse of the headhouse. This included the addition of three fan rooms on the third floor and a mechanical room on the penthouse floor. Extensive ductwork was added at this time throughout the drill hall space to provide additional ventilation in the studio. The ductwork penetrated the drill hall roof and extended into the mechanical space at the headhouse. A cooling tower painted red to blend in with the brick of the headhouse was also added to the central tower roof. In 2009, this tower was replaced with a new, larger tower with a stainless steel and chrome finish. These conditions are extant.

8. Statement of Significance

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

[X] **A** Property 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.

[X] **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or that represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

[ ] **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.)

[ ] **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

[ ] **B** removed from its original location

[ ] **C** a birthplace or grave

[ ] **D** a cemetery

[ ] **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure

[ ] **F** a commemorative property

[ ] **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance:
(Enter categories from instructions)

Military

Architecture

Period of Significance:

1901 - 1904

Significant Dates:

1903 - 1904

Significant Person:

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect/Builder:

Horgan & Slattery

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

[X] 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
_____

Primary location of additional data:

[X] State Historic Preservation Office
[ ] Other State agency
[ ] Federal Agency
[ ] Local Government
[ ] University
[ ] Other repository: _____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The First Battery Armory, built in 1901-04, is architecturally and historically significant as a representative example of an early 20th century armory built to house a local unit of the New York State National Guard. The building is significant under Criteria C in the area of architecture. Designed by the New York City firm of Horgan and Slattery, the First Battery Armory embodies the distinctive characteristics of the building type as discussed at length in the Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) Army National Guard Armories in New York State. First, it served not only as a military facility and social club for a local unit of the National Guard, but also as a civic monument designed to symbolize governmental strength and presence within a community. Second, in form and plan, it consists of an administration building with an attached drill shed at ground level. The armory is also significant under Criterion A for its association with the National Guard, an integral component of the American military system. Nearly 120 arsenals/armories were built for New York's militia between 1799 and ca. 1941. The heyday of armory construction in New York occurred during the post-Civil War era of labor–capital conflict: more than 75 armories were built between the early 1870s and the late 1910s

According to *Historic Armories in New York State* by Nancy Todd,

> There were seven large armories constructed in New York City between 1900 and 1917. Four, including the Sixty-ninth Regiment Armory in Manhattan, the Troop C Armory in Brooklyn, the Franklin Avenue Armory in the Bronx, and the Fort Washington Avenue Armory in Manhattan, rejected the castellated style and, at least momentarily, appeared to foreshadow radically new trends in armory construction. Three, including the First Battery Armory in Manhattan, the Seventy-first Regiment Armory in Manhattan, and the Kingsbridge Armory in the Bronx, reflected the persistence of the castellated style. In addition to these new constructions, two older armories in Brooklyn, the Clermont Avenue Armory (1873) and the Dean Street Armory (ca. 1884), received significant modifications during the early 1910s.
>
> These seven armories are among nearly forty armories that were built in New York State during the first four decades of the twentieth century. The forty post-1900 armories can be divided into three general categories: large armories built for full regiments, batteries or squadrons in New York City from 1900 to 1917; small armories built for separate companies or individual troops in upstate New York between 1900 and 1919 and designed by state architects George L. Heins, Franklin B. Ware or Lewis F. Pilcher; and armories built either for regiments in New York City or for separate companies in upstate New York during the 1920s and 1930s.
>
> In terms of similarities, twentieth-century armories continued to serve as military headquarters, luxurious clubhouses, and reminders of military strength and

governmental presence. Like pre-1900 armories, post-1900 armories consisted of administration buildings with attached drill sheds and all were of masonry construction. Sources of funding and building oversight also remained the same: most New York City armories were financed and controlled by the New York City Armory Board, while non-New York City facilities remained the responsibility of the New York State Armory Board. Designers of armories in New York City were most often selected through open competitions, while armories outside of the city were designed by a state architect appointed by the governor.

The main differences between late-nineteenth and early twentieth century armories relate to methods of construction and architectural design and decoration. All pre-1900 armories were of load-bearing masonry construction. Most early twentieth century armories employed state-of-the-art construction and engineering techniques, primarily structural steel framing sheathed with brick or stone veneers. As a group, late-nineteenth century armories are a relatively homogeneous collection of richly appointed, castellated style fortresses embodying features associated with the medieval Gothic military mode. New York State's post-1900 armories displayed a considerably broader range of styles and levels of sophistication. Although restrained Collegiate Gothic, Tudor Gothic and Neoclassical buildings predominate, the group also includes retardetaire, castle-like extravaganzas as well as grand, Beaux Arts and sleek, modern Art Deco style armories.

The architectural diversity among these twentieth-century armories can be attributed to several factors, the most important of which appear to be related to available funding, political patronage, and the public's perception of the role of the National Guard. Underlying and influencing these factors was the changing status of the citizen-soldiery after the Dick Act of 1903 and the National Defense Acts of 1916 and 1920 redefined the militia as the primary reserve force of the emergent, regular U.S. Army. During the late nineteenth century, when the National Guard was the country's key domestic armed force, the New York State legislature was notably generous with its funding for armories; after 1903, legislators were reluctant to allocate funding to the National Guard until its new role became more clearly defined. Furthermore, New Yorkers were still burdened with the debt of the late nineteenth century armories and were hesitant to spend more public money on new armory building programs.

More importantly, however, major social, economic and political changes were sweeping across America after 1900. Labor-capital conflict at the national level waned during the late 1890s for several reasons. The lower classes had been effectively silenced by a combination of military force and employers' and society's concessions to the workers' most critical demands. Laws were passed to provide eight-hour workdays, minimum safety standards, and the rudiments of

health, disability and unemployment benefits. Tenement laws were passed to ensure that adequate heat, ventilation, light and water were supplied in low-income housing. While sporadic, small-scale riots occurred in communities throughout the country during the early twentieth century, incidents of widespread unrest declined dramatically and fear of wholesale class warfare dissipated. Consequently, the need for the militia's services as domestic peacekeepers decreased.

In an effort to reinstate itself in public favor as well as generate revenue, the National Guard undertook several non-military initiatives during the early twentieth century, including promoting its armories for use as civic centers. In his 1907 annual report, the adjutant general remarked that "a more liberal use of these structures for purposes other than military will be a subject for consideration."[1] Although armories had served as community centers on a limited basis for decades, it was not until the early 1900s that they became common venues for a broad range of social and recreational activities. By the 1920s, many armories were used frequently by a wide variety of non-military groups.

As discussed by Todd, who derived much of her information about the First Battery Armory from the New York City Landmark Preservation Commission's designation report, various annual reports of New York State's Adjutant General, and contemporary articles in the *New York Times*,

The First Battery Armory in Manhattan, designed by the New York City firm of Horgan and Slattery, was a castellated fortress in the mold of Manhattan's Seventh Regiment Armory and Brooklyn's Forty-seventh Regiment Armory. In its design, symmetrical form and restrained embellishment, the armory recalled a number of English and Welsh castles of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries.[2]

The First Battery, a mounted artillery unit, was organized on 3 April 1867 as Battery K, First Regiment of Artillery. After 10 December 1869, the unit was known as Separate Battery K; in 1881 it was officially redesignated the First Battery. Commanded initially by a Captain Heubner and, later, by Captain Louis Wendel, the unit was predominantly German-American in composition, with its own Teutonic-inspired traditions and uniforms. The unit was unofficially known as Wendel's Battery in deference to its long-term leader. The first known quarters of the unit were at 334-346 West 44th Street in a building above a saloon managed by Wendel; during this period, the battery served in the Orange Riots of

[1] *Annual Report*, 1907, 103.

[2] New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission, "First Battery Armory, Designation Report," 1989, 9.

1871, the Great Railroad Strike of 1877, and the Brooklyn Trolley Car Strike of 1895.[3]

Wendel, who commanded the battery between 1881 and 1907, was among the most colorful and shady characters who populated the New York National Guard during the late nineteenth century. Intimately connected to Mayor Robert A. Van Wyck of Tammany Hall's notorious Democratic party machine, Wendel was an infamous Nineteenth Ward politician who also owned a saloon and operated hotels, picnic grounds, and other "places of amusement." Wendel was instrumental in getting the new armory built for the First Battery. He began petitioning the armory board for a new facility in 1884; in March 1896, the board purchased seven city lots on West 66th Street for the unit. Plans were almost immediately drawn up by the firm of Horgan and Slattery (Tammany Boss Van Wyck's controversial "City Architects") but board members resisted accepting the firm's design until they were forced to do so in 1900.[4] Contracts for construction were awarded to Luke A. Burke, low bidder at $170,900, the following year. Work began on 23 May 1901. Although supposedly complete by May 1903, the armory was not officially opened until February 1904.

The influence of the medieval Gothic mode is reflected in the building's crenelated parapets, machicolated cornices, and projecting towers and bastions. Like the Seventh Regiment Armory, the First Battery Armory is symmetrical in form and restrained in ornamentation, thus distinguishing it from the more flamboyant, late-nineteenth century castellated fortresses. As described in the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission's designation report, the armory is like a "castle dressed up for a tournament, playful rather than severe, engaging rather than intimidating."[5]

Major John F. O'Ryan, an engineer and West Point graduate, took control of the still predominantly German unit after Wendel's departure in 1907 amidst great scandal.6 Major O'Ryan, an ardent supporter of the types of reforms occurring at the federal level in the wake of the Dick Act of 1903, transformed the battery into a top-notch, modern National Guard unit, particularly after 1908, when it joined the Second Battery of the Bronx and the Third Battery of Brooklyn to form the First Battalion, Field Artillery. By 1910, battalion headquarters were located at the

[3] New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission, "First Battery Armory, Designation Report," 2-6.

[4] Ibid., 3.

[5] Ibid., 9.

[6] "Captain Wendel Accused of Taking Much Graft," *New York Times*, 23 December 1906.

Second Battery's newly built armory on Franklin Avenue in the Bronx. In 1917 the First Battalion was disbanded; the former First Battery was revived as the 104th Field Artillery, the Second was revived as the 105th Field Artillery, and the Third seems to have been phased out altogether. In 1921 the 104th was reorganized as the 102nd Medical Regiment; sub-units of this regiment included hospital and ambulance companies in Binghamton, Corning and Ticonderoga. In 1976 the building was decommissioned by the National Guard and converted by the American Broadcasting Company (ABC) for use as a television studio.

Major Bibliographical References

Fogelson, Robert M. *America's Armories: Architecture, Society and Public Order.* Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1989.

New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission. "First Battery Armory (Later the 102nd Medical Battalion Armory), 56 West 66th Street, Borough of Manhattan." New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission, 1989.

New York State Office of General Services. Historic drawings collection for First Battery/102nd Medical Battalion Armory.

Todd, Nancy L. *New York's Historic Armories. An Illustrated History*. Albany, NY: State University Press of New York, 2006.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The boundaries of 56 West 66th Street are comprised by New York City Block 1118, Lot 52.

Boundary Justification

The former First Battery Armory is located on a New York City lot that retains its historic boundaries.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre (.38)

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	586101	4514061	3	18		
2	18			4	18		

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michele Boyd, Associate

organization Building Conservation Associates, Inc. date October 1st, 2012

street & number 44 East 32nd Street telephone 212-235-6943

city or town New York state NY zip code 10016

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 SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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

Name/title Andrew N. Pucher, American Broadcasting Companies, Inc.

street & number 47 West 66th Street telephone 212-456-7119

city or town New York state NY zip code 10023

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 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, D.C. 20503

First Battery Armory
New York, New York Co., NY

56 W. 66th Street
New York, NY 10023-6225

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter

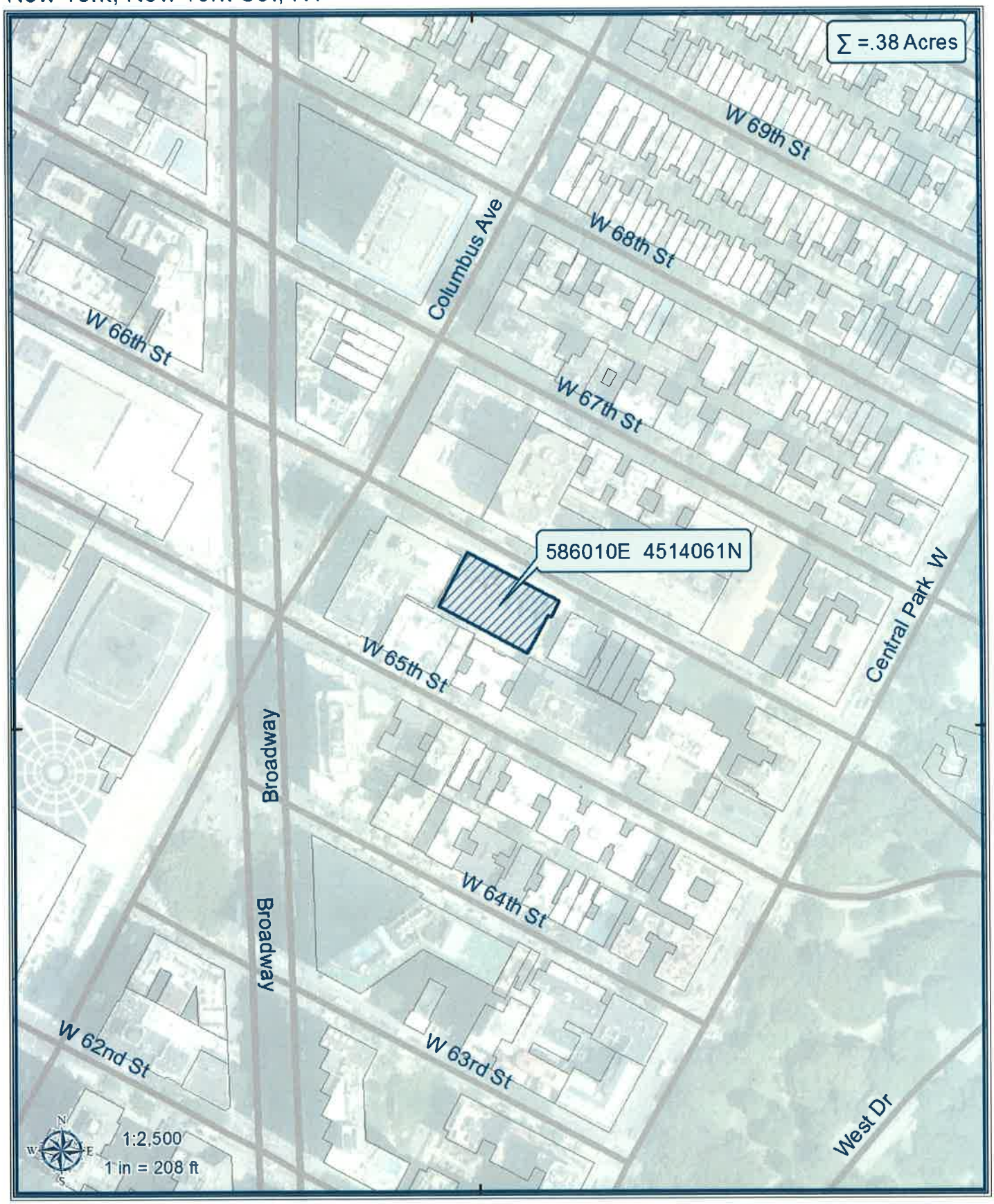
0 700 1,400 2,800 Feet

First Battery Armory

USGS Topo Quadrangle from:
Services@arcgisonline.com

First Battery Armory
New York, New York Co., NY

56 West 66th Street
New York, NY 10023-6225



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter

0 75 150 300 Feet

First Battery Armory

Tax Parcel Data:
NYC. RPS
http://gis.nyc.gov/doitt/nycitymap

NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION

FIRST BATTERY ARMORY
56 EAST 66TH STREET
(Commercial Building)

Log of Photographs

Name of Property:	First Battery Armory
City or Vicinity:	New York
County:	New York County
State:	NY
Name of Photographer:	Building Conservation Associates (unless otherwise noted)
Date of Photograph:	Summer 2012 (unless otherwise noted)
Location of Original Digital Files:	44 East 32nd Street, New York, NY 10016
Number of Photographs:	15

Photo #1
South side of West 66th Street between Columbus Avenue and Central Park West, looking east.

Photo #2
South side of West 66th Street between Columbus Avenue and Central Park West, looking west.

Photo #3
South side of West 66th Street between Columbus Avenue and Central Park West, looking south.

Photo #4
South side of West 66th Street between Columbus Avenue and Central Park West, looking south at main entrance.

Photo #5
South side of West 66th Street between Columbus Avenue and Central Park West, looking southeast. (Photographer unknown, c. 1911. Courtesy of New York State Military Museum)

Photo #6
South side of West 66th Street between Columbus Avenue and Central Park West, looking south at east elevation.

Photo #7
South side of West 66th Street between Columbus Avenue and Central Park West, looking down at roof.

Photo #8
Lobby and reception area in headhouse, looking southeast.

Photo #9
Office on second floor of headhouse, looking northwest.

Photo #10
Cubicles and stair on third floor of headhouse, looking northwest.

Photo #11
Conference room in the penthouse of the headhouse, looking northwest.

Photo #12
Cubicles in basement of drill hall, looking northeast.

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TECHNICAL BUREAU

Photo #13
Drill hall of First Battery Armory, looking east. (Photographer unknown, c. 1911. Courtesy of New York State Military Museum)

Photo #14
First floor office in former drill hall interior, looking east.

Photo #15
First floor office in former drill hall interior, looking west.

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