

BUILDING STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

USN: 04701.013581

NYS OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION  
& HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
PEEBLES ISLAND, WATERFORD, NY 12188

518-237-8643

Intensive Level Survey of  
Army National Guard Armories in New York State

Form prepared by: Nancy L. Todd, Program Analyst  
Division for Historic Preservation

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Marcy Avenue (47th Regiment) Armory  
355 Marcy Avenue  
Brooklyn, Kings County

OWNER: NYS Division of Military and Naval Affairs (DMNA)  
330 Old Niskayuna Road  
Latham, New York 12110

Original use: National Guard Armory Present use: same

Date of construction: 1883; 1899  
Architect: William Mundell; Isaac Perry

Maps: see attached

Photos by: Merrill Hesch, 1993  
(see continuation sheets for additional photos)

View: Front (west) facade (43-13)



47th Regiment Armory  
355 Marcy Avenue, Brooklyn, Kings County, NY



Entrance tower (43-22)



Main entrance (43-23)

47th Regiment Armory  
355 Marcy Avenue, Brooklyn, Kings County, NY



South elevation of 1883 administration building,  
viewed from southwest (43-26)

47th Regiment Armory  
355 Marcy Avenue, Brooklyn, Kings County, NY



West facade and south elevation of 1883 armory and  
1899 drill shed, viewed from southwest (43-14)



West facade and north elevation of 1883 armory and  
1899 drill shed, viewed from northwest (43-18)

47th Regiment Armory  
355 Marcy Avenue, Brooklyn, Kings County, NY



South elevation of 1883 drill shed (foreground) and  
1899 drill shed (background), viewed from southwest (43-24)



South elevation of 1899 drill shed,  
viewed from southwest (43-28)

47th Regiment Armory  
355 Marcy Avenue, Brooklyn, Kings County, NY



North elevation of 1899 drill shed, viewed from northwest (43-21)



North elevation of 1883 drill shed (foreground) and  
1899 drill shed (background), viewed from northwest (43-20)

47th Regiment Armory  
355 Marcy Avenue, Brooklyn, Kings County, NY



Main corridor; double doors into 1883 drill shed (42-33)



Representative company meeting room, first story (42-34)

47th Regiment Armory  
355 Marcy Avenue, Brooklyn, Kings County, NY

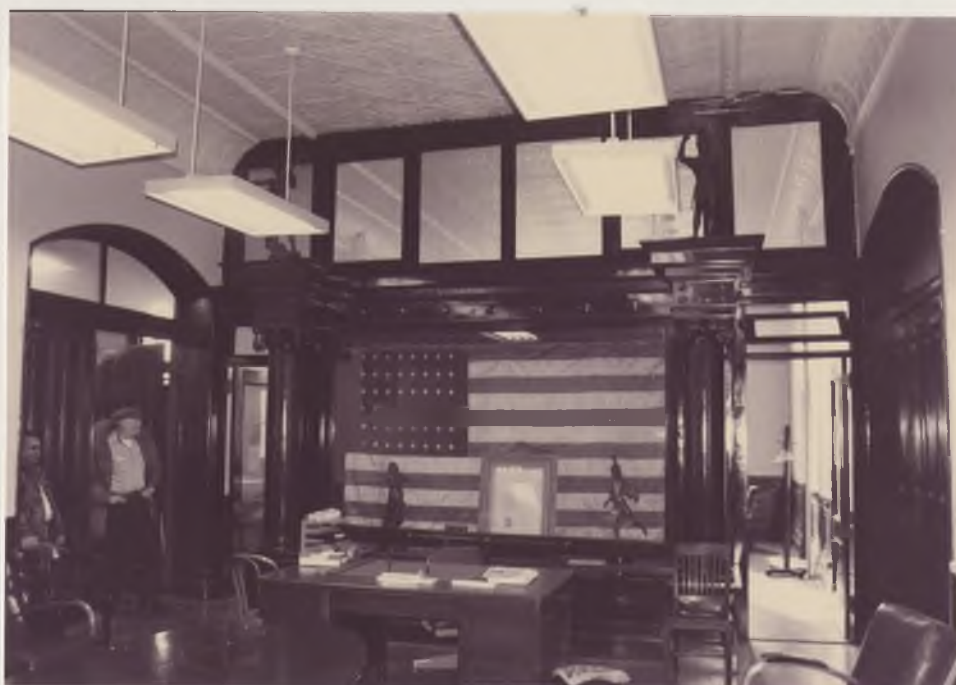


Second-story corridor with built-in trophy cases  
and windows overlooking 1883 drill shed (43-2)

47th Regiment Armory  
355 Marcy Avenue, Brooklyn, Kings County, NY



Stained-glass doors into Colonel's Suite (43-7)



Columns flanking display case, Colonel's Suite (43-4)

47th Regiment Armory  
355 Marcy Avenue, Brooklyn, Kings County, NY



Windows overlooking 1883 drill  
shed from administration building (43-10)



1883 drill shed (42-25)

47th Regiment Armory  
355 Marcy Avenue, Brooklyn, Kings County, NY



Balcony, 1899 drill shed (42-28)



1899 drill shed (42-27)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Marcy Avenue (47th Regiment) Armory  
Brooklyn, Kings County

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Description

The Marcy Avenue (47th Regiment) Armory is located on the east side of Marcy Avenue in the Williamsburg neighborhood of Brooklyn. The armory occupies nearly all of its 3.26-acre parcel (block 2233, lot 1) and is bounded by a small lawn to the west along Marcy Avenue and Heyward, Harrison and Lynch Streets to the north, east and south, respectively. The armory towers over its neighbors, most of which are three- to four-story attached rowhouses dating from the turn of the century. There are no outbuildings associated with the armory.

The facility consists of a three-story administration building with an attached two-story drill shed, both of which were designed by William Mundell and completed in 1883, and a second drill shed, attributed to Isaac Perry and completed in 1899. The 1883 armory, similar to the Seventh Regiment Armory (NR: 1975; NHL: 1986) in Manhattan, is a rectangular, castellated style building with crenelated parapets, a corbelled brick cornice, and square, battlemented towers. It is built of load-bearing brick walls (with limestone trim) resting on a raised, rusticated stone foundation. Symmetrical in form and fenestration, the 1883 administration building is distinguished by a four-story entrance tower and two, four-story corner towers. The entrance consists of double doors surmounted by a segmentally arched transom beneath a segmentally arched brick lintel with a limestone keystone. The square corner towers are canted and bear a striking resemblance to John Wood's designs for the Watertown, Newburgh and Kingston armories, all built in 1879. (The Watertown Armory no longer survives; the Newburgh Armory is listed in the National Register and the Kingston Armory has been determined NRE as a result of the 1993 Intensive Level Survey of New York State Armories.)

Fenestration throughout the administration building is regular; the entrance tower and corner towers feature rectangular, two-over-two, double-hung sash with stone lintels and sills and the main block features round-arched, two-over-two, double-hung sash with stone sills and arched brick lintels.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Marcy Avenue (47th Regiment) Armory  
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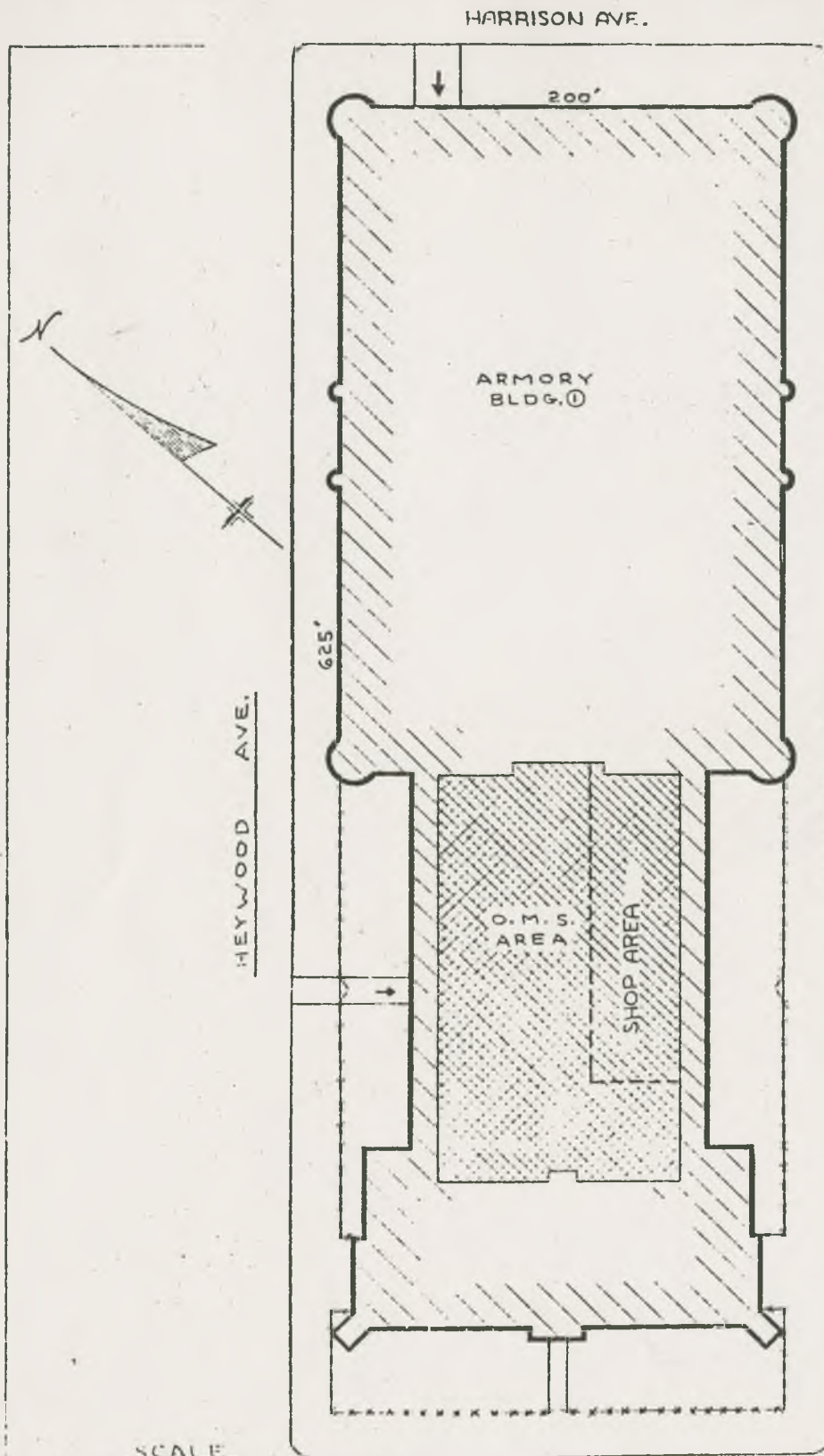
The nine-bay-deep, 1883 drill shed projects on an east-west axis behind the 1883 administration building. It is two stories tall and has a barrel-vaulted roof surmounted by a clerestory. The bays are divided by brick buttresses with stone trim; most bays contain a pair of round-arched windows (many of which have been filled in with brick).

Preliminary research attributes the 1899 drill shed (attached to the rear [east] elevation of the 1883 drill shed) to Isaac Perry. Far more fortress-like in character than the 1883 armory, the 1899 drill shed features round entrance and corner towers with machicolated cornices and crenelated parapets, wide brick buttresses, battered brick walls with very few windows, and massive, rusticated sally ports.

The interior, although relatively simple and utilitarian when compared to other large armories in New York City, retains a relatively high degree of integrity of design, materials and craftsmanship. The plan is linear: the main corridor runs on a north-south axis and provides access to the company meeting rooms along the front (west) facade of the administration building and to the drill shed to the east. The main corridor features wooden floors, wood wainscotting, plaster walls, and pressed tin ceilings and cornices. Most company meeting rooms feature simple wood floors, paneled wainscotting, pressed tin ceilings and simple brick fireplace surrounds. At either end of the corridor are stairs with turned mahogany balusters. The second-story corridor features built-in display cases and wood casement windows overlooking the drill shed to the east, and provides access to offices along the west facade.

The focal point of the second story of the administration building is the Colonel's Suite, which features elaborate stained-glass doors, sidelights and transom lights, paneled mahogany wainscotting, pressed tin ceilings and paired Ionic columns framing a large display case.

Both the 1883 and the 1899 drill sheds survive substantially intact with exposed steel trusses, parged brick walls and poured concrete floors. (Both sheds presently are used for vehicular storage.) The balconies in the 1899 drill shed are distinguished by decorative iron balustrades.



BLDG N.O. 1- 64, 680 & NET

SCALE  
0 50 100 150

MARCY AVE.

Marcy Avenue (47th Regiment) Armory  
Brooklyn, Kings County, NY

DATE  
12 JUN 57  
REV 11 JUN 58

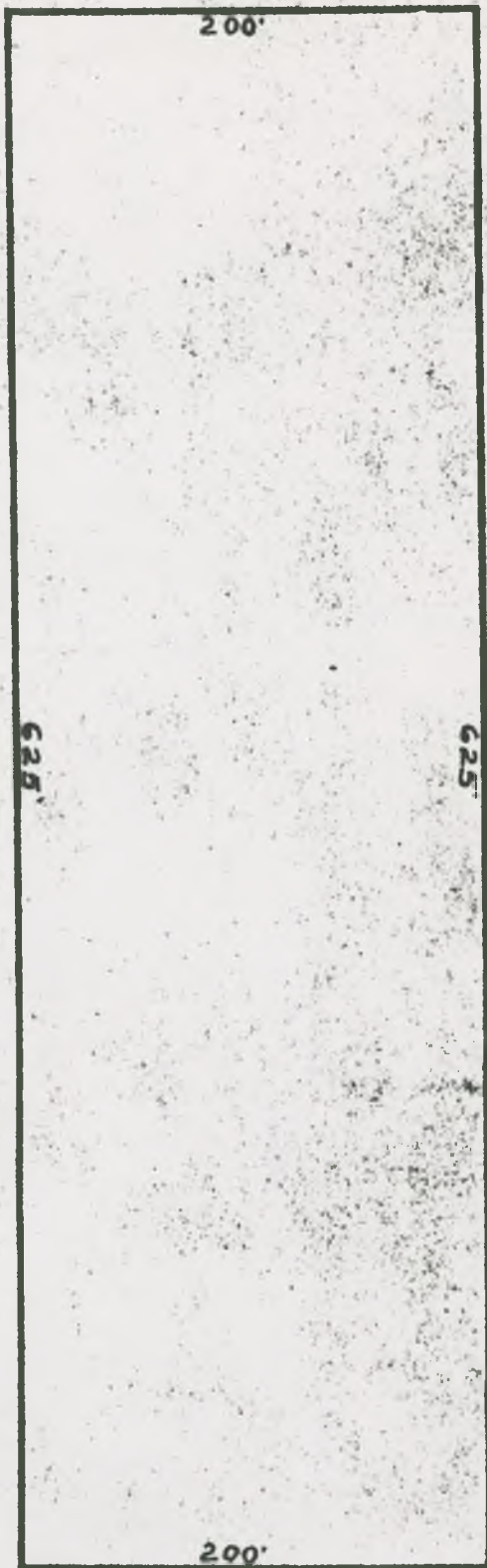
O. M. S. No. 23  
STATE ARMORY  
355 MARCY  
NEW YORK (BROOKLYN)

Plot plan; see graphic scale

MARCY AVE

LYNCH

ST



HEYWARD

ST

HARRISON AVE

State Armory  
353 Marcy Ave.,  
Brooklyn, NY  
Tax Map Description  
Section 8  
Block 2213  
Lot 1  
Site - State Property

1883

The armory was greatly expanded in 1899 with the addition of a second drill shed, designed by State Architect Isaac Perry. This addition, extending all the way back to Harrison Street to the east, nearly tripled the size of the existing facility. Similar in many ways to Perry's massive drill shed for his 1899 armory on Connecticut Street in Buffalo for the 74th Regiment, the 47th Regiment's drill shed is distinguished by soaring corner towers with crenelated parapets and a massive hipped roof with a double clerestory. The building continues to serve as an active military facility.

(see next page)

1899

1883

