

THE ARMORY NEWSPRINT

The Goffe Street Armory was built in 1930 and housed Connecticut National Guard units and the 2nd Company of the Governor's Foot Guard until 2009, when ownership was transferred from the State of Connecticut to the City of New Haven.

The Armory has also played host to many important events, like the Black Expo (1972-1977), organized by the Black Coalition of Greater New Haven, and Artspace's City-Wide Open Studios "Armory Weekend" (2014-2017) that featured large-scale public art commissions and hundreds of displays by individual artists.

The roof was damaged in 2011. The building has served as a storage space for the City of New Haven. In 2021, the

Goffe Street Armory was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is closed to the public and requires rehabilitation to make it accessible.

CITY PLEDGES TO REPAIR THE ROOF

The City of New Haven has allocated at least \$90,000 for emergency roof repairs to the Goffe Street Armory. The roof has been damaged since 2011. A recent photograph (below) shows broken brick, debris, plant life, and openings to the interior on the East side of the building, where the roof of the three-story Head House meets the arching shed of the Drill Hall. The City's goal is to secure the roof membrane and decrease water infiltration, which can damage the building and make redevelopment more expensive.



Photo: Ian Applegate

PUBLIC MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 6 – 8 PM
HILLHOUSE HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA
480 Sherman Parkway, New Haven, CT

Join a City-Wide Forum to discuss the past, present and future of the Goffe Street Armory

LEARN about the building and its history. **SHARE** stories and ideas. **IMAGINE** new uses for this durable, public building

All are Welcome! Food and Refreshments will be served.

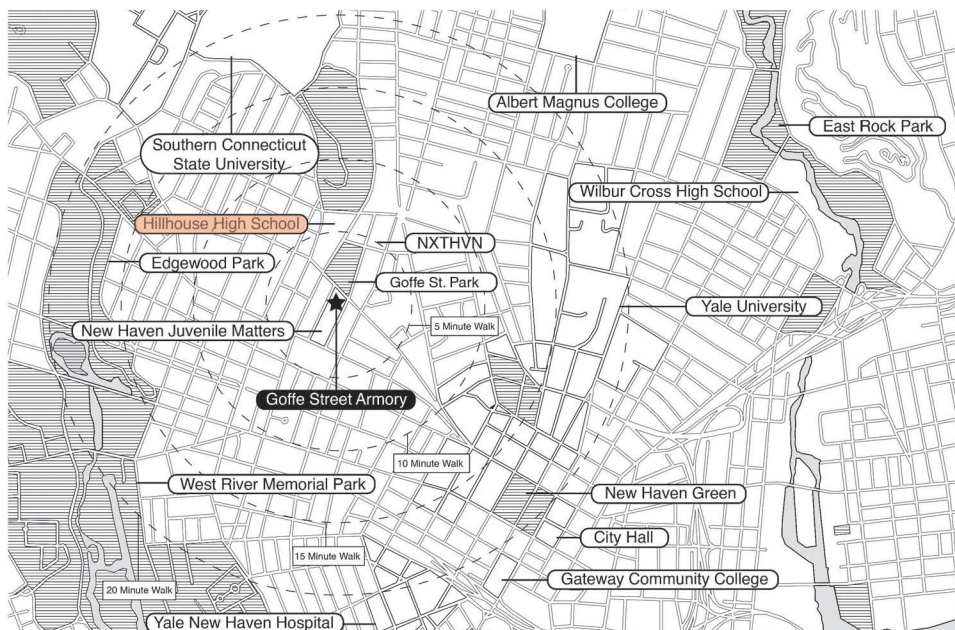


PHOTO CONTEST



PHOTO CONTEST!

Take a picture of the Goffe Street Armory and submit to goffestreetarmory@gmail.com

Multiple winners will be published in the next Armory Newsprint.

Photo of the Drill Hall by Diane Boston, February 25, 2020. Highlights the steel crescent arches that hold up the roof; and the row of big, square windows on the south-facing wall.

The Armory Newsprint

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Yale Urban Media Project
yump.yale.edu



Check out the Armory Newsprint Vol. 1, No. 1 (September 18, 2022)

Ideas / Questions / Comments / Contributions: Write to goffestreetarmory@gmail.com

CENSUS OF CONNECTICUT'S HISTORIC ARMORIES

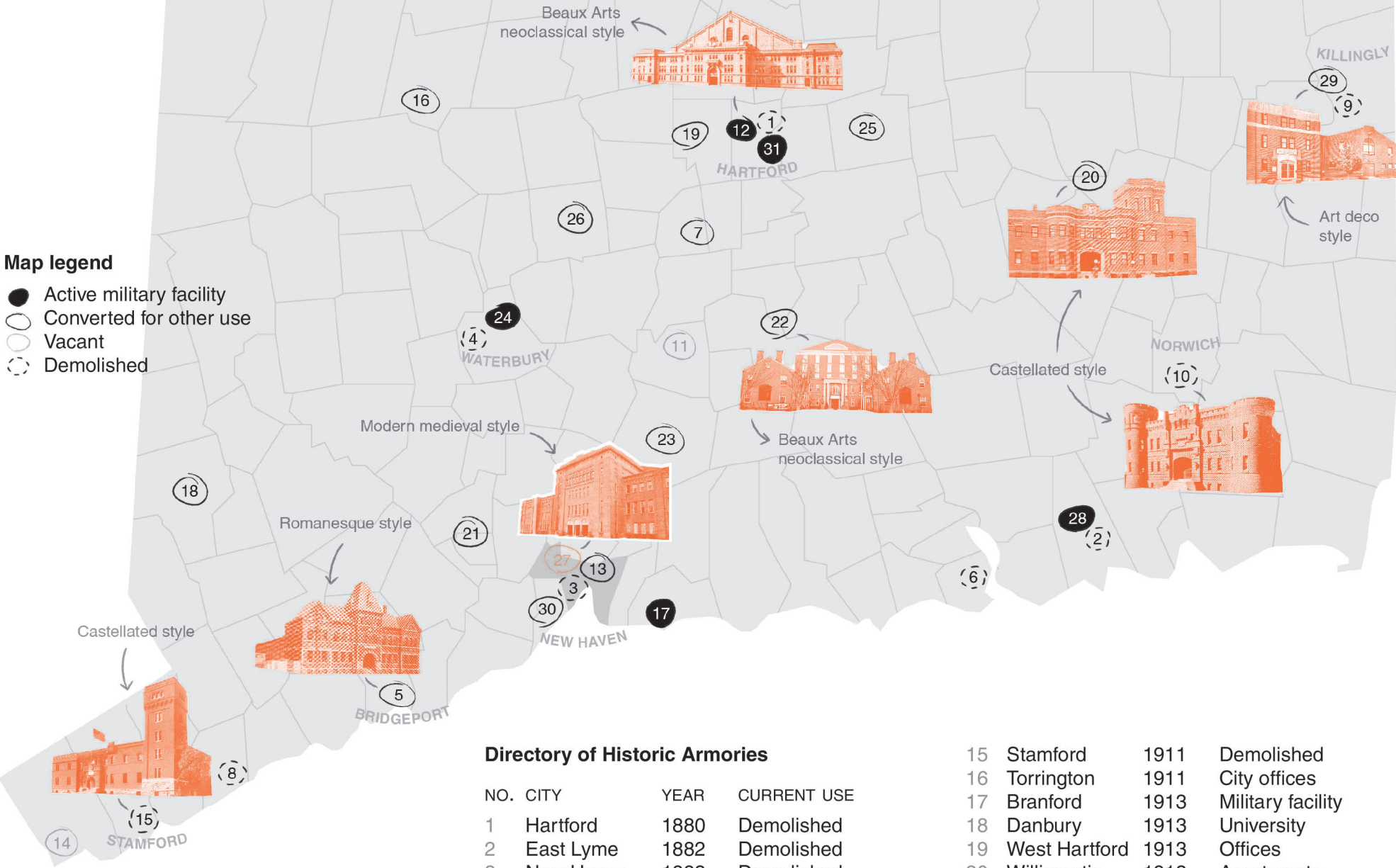
A large building where arms and military equipment are stored and used for training reserve military personnel.

The Goffe Street Armory does not stand alone! It is part of a network of armories built for Connecticut militias and National Guard regiments. Between 1879 and 1939, thirty-one Armories were built in Connecticut. Nine have been demolished; five are still serving military purposes; three are vacant; many others have been repurposed for new uses. In the 19th century, the Armories were brick

fortresses with turrets and towers. In the 20th century, more utilitarian structures were built that echoed the medieval-revival styles of the past; like our own Goffe Street Armory, which uses brick details to give a fortified look. In the 1930s, armory exteriors adopted a more streamlined, "Art Deco"-style. After 1940, a number of unadorned warehouses were built as State Armories. They are not included in this census.

Most armories were intended to serve, or ended up serving, as multi-purpose public buildings for a variety of events and activities. *What are your experiences with Connecticut Armories?*

Corrections, updates, responses, ideas?
Please write to goffestreetarmory@gmail.com.



Directory of Historic Armories

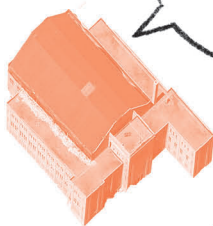
NO.	CITY	YEAR	CURRENT USE
1	Hartford	1880	Demolished
2	East Lyme	1882	Demolished
3	New Haven	1883	Demolished
4	Waterbury	1883	Demolished
5	Bridgeport	1885	Recreation center
6	New London	1885	Demolished
7	New Britain	1887	Low-income housing
8	Norwalk	1887	Demolished
9	Killingly	1896	Demolished
10	Norwich	1903	Demolished
11	Meriden	1908	Vacant
12	Hartford	1909	Military facility
13	New Haven	1909	Apartment
14	Greenwich	1911	Vacant
15	Stamford	1911	Demolished
16	Torrington	1911	City offices
17	Branford	1913	Military facility
18	Danbury	1913	University
19	West Hartford	1913	Offices
20	Willimantic	1913	Apartments
21	Ansonia	1921	Event space
22	Middletown	1921	Inn
23	Wallingford	1921	Police headquarter
24	Waterbury	1921	Military facility
25	Manchester	1927	Offices
26	Bristol	1928	Sports center
27	New Haven	1930	Vacant
28	East Lyme	1931	Military facility
29	Killingly	1932	Gymnastics center
30	West Haven	1933	Apartments
31	Hartford	1939	Military facility

Sources

- <https://portal.ct.gov/MIL/MAPO/History/Armories/List-of-Armories>
- Rossano, G. Louis. (1995). Connecticut's historic national guard armories.
- Fogelson, R. M. (1989). America's armories: architecture, society, and public order.



ARMORY VOICES!



A Statement from the City:

“The City of New Haven is energized by the consistent community engagement aimed at bringing the Armory back to active use. Over the next couple of months, the City will undertake significant improvements to the roof of the Armory that will better protect the building from the elements as we continue to work with community advocates on next steps for the building.

To that end, we are also looking forward to a community wide meeting to be held at Hillhouse High School in early May that will bring folks from around the city together to begin to build a shared vision on future uses for this historic building.

Furthermore, as we have recently seen with other vacant historic buildings around town like the Strong School in Fair Haven, we are optimistic there is a way forward via an adaptive reuse of the Armory that will benefit all New Haven residents.”

Carlos Eyzaguirre
Deputy Economic Development Administrator
City of New Haven
CEyzaguirre@nhewhavenct.gov
April 3, 2023

Add your Armory Voice! Fill in the bubble, take a picture, and send to goffestreetarmory@gmail.com. Or record a voice memo and send to the same email address. Listen to more Armory voices here:



AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN A FORMER ARMORY?

It's being done in Newton, Massachusetts, as part of an ambitious public policy initiative. The West Newton Armory was built in 1910 and used continuously by the National Guard until it was decommissioned in 2019. The City of Newton acquired the property from the State of Massachusetts for \$1 with the intention of building affordable housing.

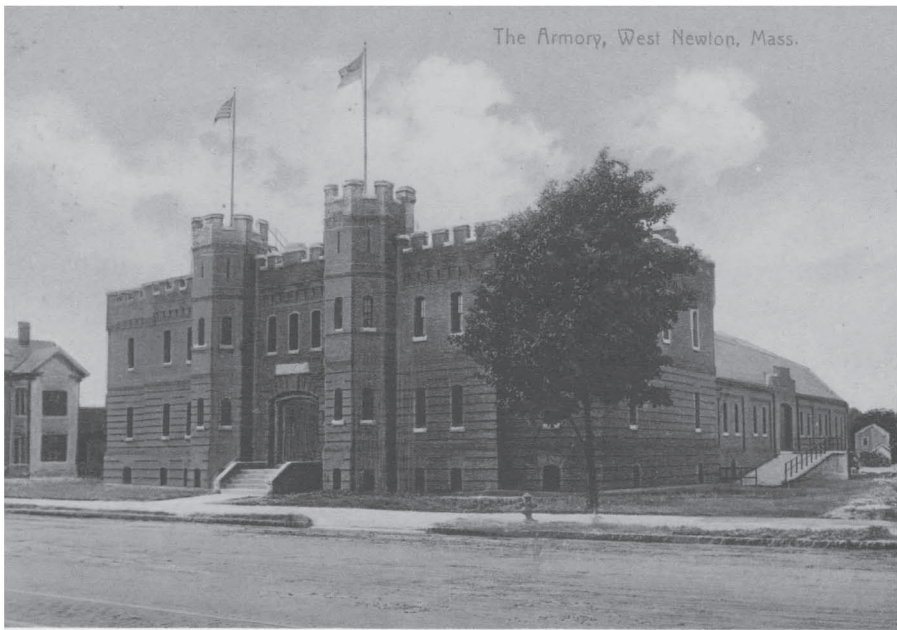
“This achievement is the culmination of nearly four years of strategic planning, collaboration, and careful attention to the many aspects of sensitively revitalizing an iconic building to serve people needing deeply affordable apartments,” Mayor Ruthanne Fuller, Mayor of Netwon, said in a January 2023 statement.

The entire \$29,8 million development will be devoted to affordable housing. The City issued a Request for Proposals in 2021 and accepted a combined proposal from Metro West Collaborative, a non-profit community development corporation, and Civico, a real estate investment company. Public funding is estimated at \$5 million, a combination of City, State, and Federal grant programs for affordable housing, community development, and transit-oriented development.

Project includes one-, two- and three-bedroom units, a total of 43. 28 units reserved for households earning up to 60% of the area mean income (AMI), which is \$140,200 for a family of four in Newton. The other 15 apartments will be available to households earning 30% of AMI.

The existing Head House, a small brick fortress with a castellated roofline, will be used for community space and management offices for the property. The Drill Hall will be demolished to make way for the new residential addition. A 31-space underground parking lot will also be constructed.

It is unfortunate that the Drill Hall will not survive. It is a distinctive element of the Armory building type. In New Haven, we have the opportunity to feature our Drill Hall as a premier event space.



West Newton Armory
1135 Washington Street
Newton, Massachusetts
Built: 1910
Architects: Mulcahy and McLaughlin
“Medieval Revival style”

ARMORY ADAPTIVE REUSE CASE STUDIES

In the late 19th century, a wave of Armories were built for state and local military organizations across the United States. A number of these organizations had traditions going back to the Colonial Period and the Revolutionary War.

After 1903, militias were organized under the auspices of the National Guard. Another boom of Armories followed World War I, many of them intended to be used as multi-functional public buildings.

As a rule, Armories were built with two parts: The “Drill Hall,” a large open space for military training; and the “Head House” with offices and meeting rooms and lounges and bars. Armories for cavalry units were built with stables. Many armories also stored munitions and had basement firing ranges, including the Goffe Street Armory.

Only a fraction of the Armories built are still being used for military purposes. Many have been adapted to new uses. Every Armory has its Story!

Brooklyn, New York



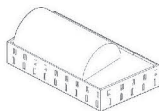
The Bedford Union Armory in the Crown was built for cavalry units of the New York National Guard and included a horse stable. It was decommissioned for military uses in 2013.

After a contentious public debate around the affordability of new housing units, a redevelopment plan was approved in 2017. The Head House and Drill Hall have become the Major R. Owens Health and Wellness Community Center and the Carey Gabey Recreation Center, opened in 2021. The restored building also contains offices for non-profits and space for community meetings and events.

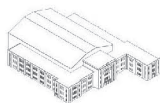
A new residential structure wraps the Drill Hall and includes a 12-story tower. Contains 350 housing units, half of them designated for households earning between 30% and 60% of the Area Mean Income (AMI)—around \$23,178 to \$72,060 for a family of three. 25 units are designated as transitional housing for those experiencing homelessness.

Did You Know?

Major R. Owens was U.S. Representative for New York's 11th (now 12th) Congressional District for more than 24 years (1983-2007). A former librarian at Brooklyn Public Library, he was known "The Librarian of Congress."



Bedford Union Armory
64,000 SF Footprint



Goffe St Armory
65,000 SF Footprint

STATS

1579 Bedford Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11225

Year Built: 1903 - 1908

Original Architects: Pilcher and Tachau

Redevelopment Architects: Marvel Architects

Original Square Footage: 67,000 SF

Current Square Footage: 500,000 SF
(large new residential addition)

Original Owner: State of New York, New York National Guard, Troop C (Cavalry Unit)

Current Owner: City of New York

Windham, Connecticut



The Willimantic Armory on Pleasant Street was completed in 1913, part of a building boom of Armories in Connecticut. (Eight armories were built in CT between 1909 and 1913.) Military groups used the building until 1978, when they moved to a new facility in Norwich.

The Armory was put out to bid and in 1984 was purchased by developers Munro, Jennings and Doig of Farmington, CT, for \$120,000, who built a 26-unit, \$1.5 million housing project. Today it is marketed as the “Armoury Apartments.”

This is a preservation-based redevelopment (the Willimantic Armory was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1985). The Head House is a great example of the “castellated” architectural style, or “medieval castle revival.” Castle-like features include fancy brickwork, stone trim, corbelled brick arches (at the top), and asymmetrical tower. The Seal of the State of Connecticut Seal is affixed to the central parapet over the entrance.

Did You Know?

Willimantic is known as the “Thread City” because of the many 19th century textile mills along the Willimantic River, including the American Thread Company.



Willimantic Armory
14,410 SF Footprint



Goffe St Armory
60,000 SF Footprint

STATS

255 Pleasant Street, Windham, CT 06226

Year Built: 1913

Architects: Whiton and MacMahon

Square Footage: 48,000 SF

Original Owner: State of Connecticut

Providence, Rhode Island



The Cranston Street Armory was built in 1907 for the Rhode Island National Guard and was used continuously by military organizations until 1996.

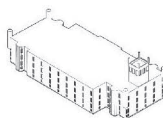
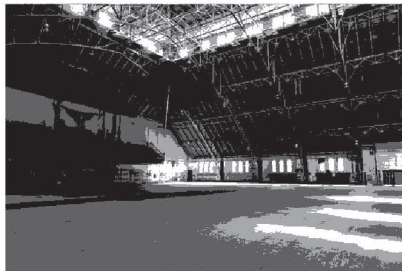
A castle-like structure made with tan-colored brick, the Cranston Street Armory faces Dexter Training Ground. The field was used for military training during the Civil War, notably the 14th Regiment Rhode Island, the first African American heavy artillery regiment in the US.

A local steering committee has rallied around the Armory and released a preliminary planning study in 2018. This excellent document is a model of what we can do for the Goffe Street Armory.

The Cranston Street Armory is in working order. It was put to use in the last two years by the Governor of Rhode Island as an emergency warming center and shelter for the homeless.

Did you Know?

The Goffe Street Armory served as a temporary homeless shelter in 1986 and as a Hurricane Katrina donation center in 2005.



Cranston ST Armory
61,000 SF Footprint



Goffe ST Armory
60,000 SF Footprint

STATS

310 Cranston St, Providence, RI 02907

Year Built: 1907

Architects: William R. Walker & Son

Square Footage: 165,000 SF

Owner: State of Rhode Island



THE GOFFE STREET ARMORY: NEW USES FOR A DURABLE BUILDING

WHAT WILL SUCCEED? WHAT IS NEEDED?

Check the boxes of ideas you like. Fill in the Blanks with new ideas

Quick Facts

Year Constructed: 1930
Architects: Payne & Keefe
Original Owner: State of Connecticut
Current Owner: City of New Haven
Total Square Footage: ~155,000 (includes total floor space for all levels of the Head House)
Building Height: Average of 68 feet
Elevator: None
Structure: Concrete Floors and beams with masonry (brick) bearing walls and concrete columns. The Head House floors do not have load-bearing interior walls. The space can be configured in many different ways.

The Head House

The Goffe Street Armory contains about 155,000 total square footage of floor space. Most of that space is in the Head House, the brick building that wraps around the Drill Hall. The Head House has three floors of rectangular floor plates that can be remodeled, sub-divided, and designed in any number of ways. The opportunities are endless! How would you like to see the space used?

HERE ARE SOME IDEAS:

- ☐ COMMUNITY MEETING ROOMS
- ☐ AFTERSCHOOL
- ☐ CHILDCARE PROGRAMS
- ☐ FITNESS / HEALTH / WELLNESS
- ☐ MUSIC / DANCE LESSONS
- ☐ SOCIAL PROGRAMS
- (EXAMPLES: PRISON RE-ENTRY, ELDER-CARE)
- ☐ SMALL OFFICES
- ☐ ARTIST STUDIOS
- ☐ FLEXIBLE OFFICE SPACE FOR NON-PROFITS & BUSINESSES
- ☐ BUSINESS INCUBATOR
- ☐ CAFÉ / RESTAURANT
- ☐ COMMUNITY KITCHEN
- ☐ AFFORDABLE HOUSING
- ☐ SINGLE ROOM OCCUPANCY (SRO) HOTEL / APARTMENTS

☐ _____
☐ _____
(FILL IN THE BLANK)

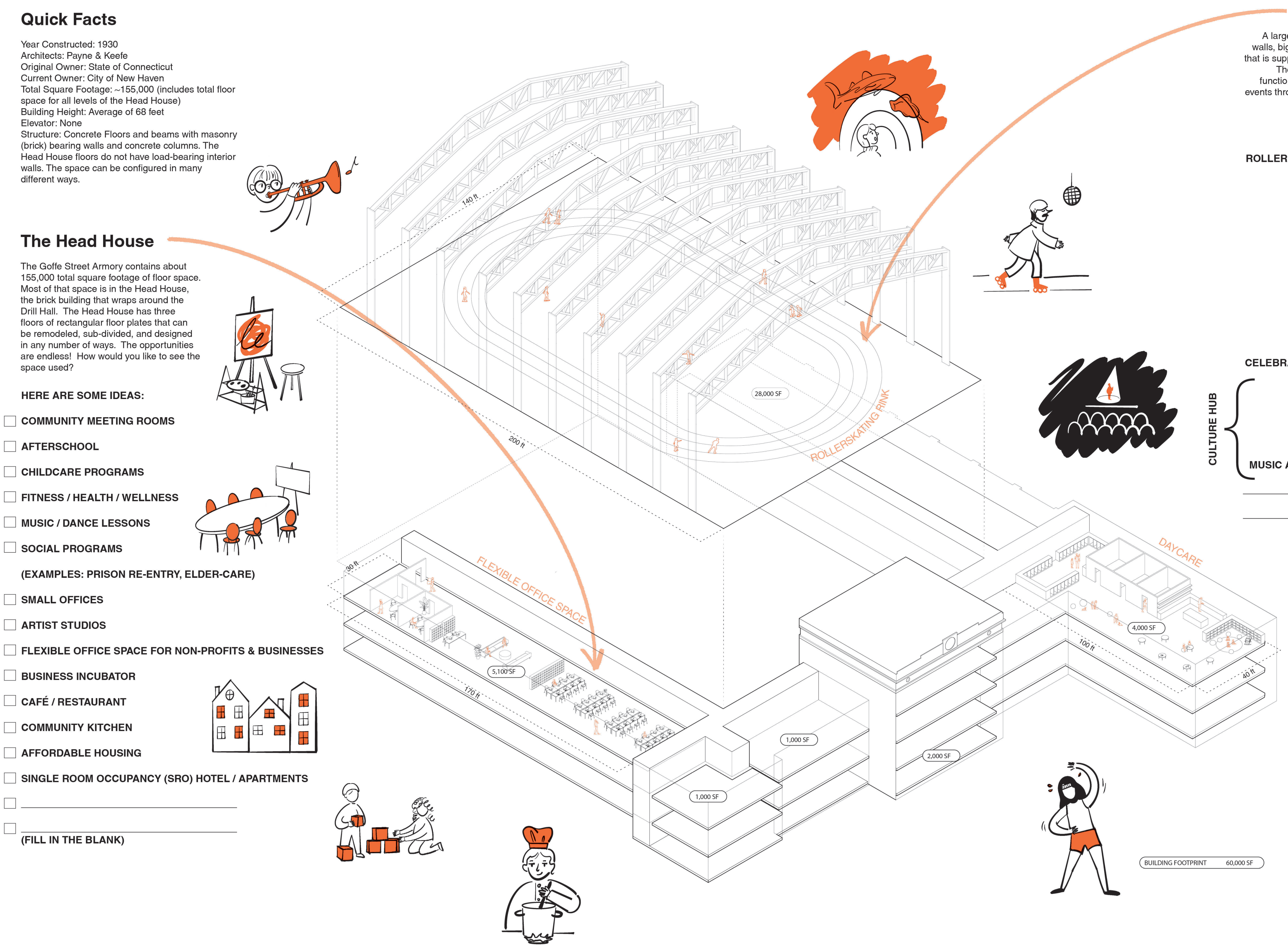
The Drill Hall

A large, unobstructed space with tall brick walls, big windows at the back, and a ceiling that is supported by ten steel crescent arches. The Drill Hall could be a flexible, multi-functional space, programmed for different events throughout the year. What possibilities do you imagine for this Big Room?

HERE ARE SOME IDEAS:

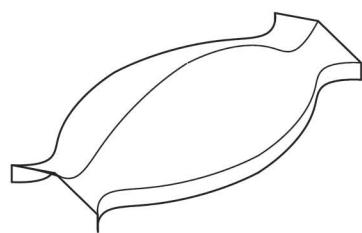
- ☐ ROLLER SKATING / SKATE BOARDING
- ☐ SPORTS AND RECREATION
- ☐ GYMNASTICS
- ☐ EMERGENCY SHELTER
- ☐ ANTIQUE SHOW
- ☐ FARMERS MARKET
- ☐ AQUARIUM
- ☐ CONFERENCE CENTER
- ☐ CELEBRATIONS / GALA EVENT SPACE
- ☐ LARGE FORMAT PUBLIC ART
- ☐ THEATER
- ☐ LONG WHARF THEATER
- ☐ MUSIC AND DANCE PERFORMANCES
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
(FILL IN THE BLANK)

CULTURE HUB

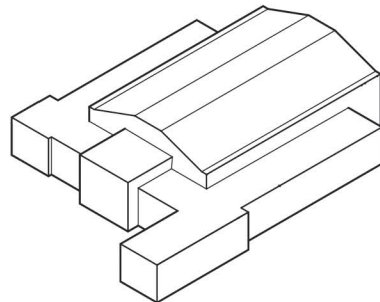


HOW BIG IS THE ARMORY COMPARED TO OTHER SPACES?

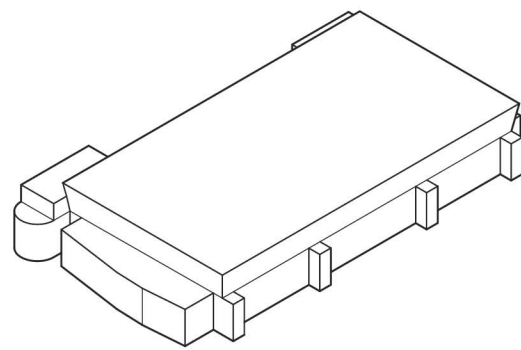
The Goffe Street Armory is one of New Haven's largest buildings. And with a floor area of 28,000 square feet, the Drill Hall one of the city's Biggest Rooms. Here are a few comparisons with other New Haven buildings, drawn at the same scale. We are listing the square footage of the "footprint" of each building (as opposed to total square footage).



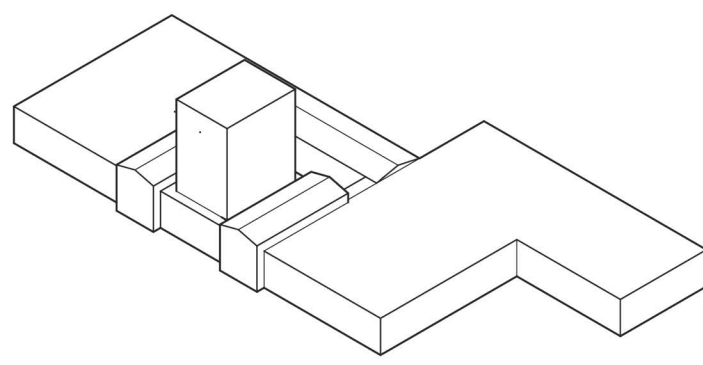
Ingalls Ice Rink
New Haven, CT
Total footprint: 40,000 sq. ft.



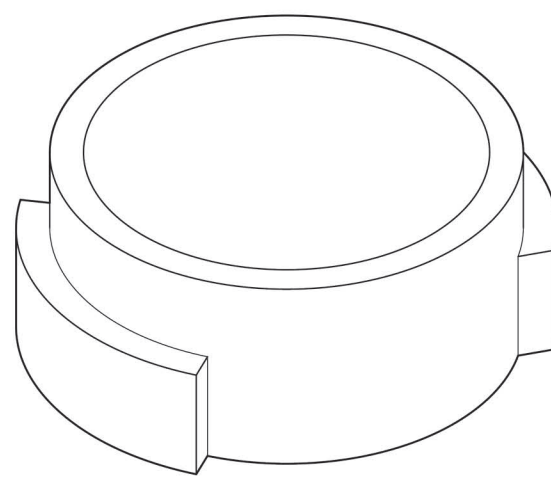
Goffe St. Armory
New Haven, CT
Total footprint: 60,000 sq. ft.



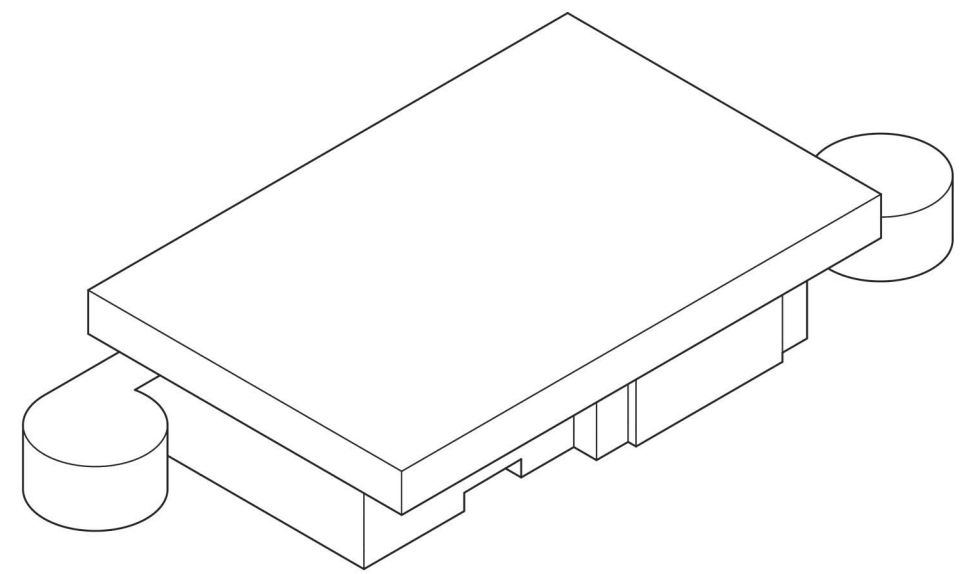
Floyd Little Field House
New Haven, CT
Total footprint: 68,000 sq. ft.



Yale Payne Whitney Gym
New Haven, CT
Total footprint: 80,000 sq. ft.



Madison Square Gardens
New York City, NY
Total footprint: 180,000 sq. ft.



New Haven Coliseum
New Haven, CT
Total footprint: 370,000 sq. ft.
*demolished in 2007