

PH0668893

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
MAY 17 1978
DATE ENTERED OCT 19 1978

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Civil War Drill Hall and Armory

AND/OR COMMON Civil War Drill Hall

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 130 Grand Avenue

CITY, TOWN Leonia VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 9th

STATE New Jersey CODE 34 COUNTY Bergen CODE 003 ✓

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM Proposed
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Old English Neighborhood Historical Society, Incorporated

STREET & NUMBER Mr. George Garrison 656 Elm Street

CITY, TOWN Maywood VICINITY OF New Jersey STATE 07607

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Bergen County Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER County Administration Building

CITY, TOWN Hackensack STATE New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory (#1755.1)

DATE 1977 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Office of Historic Preservation Department of Environmental Protection

CITY, TOWN Trenton STATE New Jersey

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Description of the Civil War Drill Hall, Leonia, New Jersey

PROPERTY

The Drill Hall, located on the westerly side of Grand Avenue in the Borough of Leonia, New Jersey, still occupies the original site where it was constructed in 1859. It is located in an almost completely developed residentially zoned area and is situated on a 0.31 acre parcel with 100 feet of frontage on Grand Avenue.

The balance of the property not occupied by the structure is essentially native undergrowth and the land slopes sharply to the rear of the property from the side of the structure. No off-street parking facilities are presently available although with some grading at the rear of the building, limited parking facilities could be made available.

Grand Avenue is a heavily travelled main artery and the building setback from the curb is such that any appreciable widening of the street would be precluded unless the building were either moved or destroyed. Inclusion in the National Register would give at least partial protection to this landmark in the event this occurred.

ORIGINAL CONSTRUCTION

The original structure, built about 1859, consisted of a rectangular wooden frame structure with a single large room 30 feet wide by 60 feet long and ceiling height of 14 feet. The hall was used as a meeting room and drill hall by the local militia company and had a large entrance door on the south side of the building. The heavy floor joist timbers, the studs and rafters as well as the clapboard siding, 3 inch thick floor boards and wooden shingles were of native timber sawed at the Burdett Sawmill, which was located on the opposite side of the road at the time the structure was erected. The field stone foundation, laid in the typical loose pattern of the era, was of native stone from a nearby source.

The Drill Hall had a flagpole mounted on the ridge of the roof above the entrance door and a large skylight installed in the roof near the center of the building. The original color, if any, is unknown; however, a local resident who served as a member of the militia company quartered in the hall, recalled that around 1900, the building was painted a dark brown with white trim.

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Description (continued)

The interior walls of the hall were probably painted, although the color, if any, is unknown and had a low wainscoting topped with chairrail moulding. At the north end of the building, flanking a small alcove, were the wall mounted gun racks, fitted with hinged wire grilles to secure the rifles in place. Recent measurements have indicated that the racks were built to accommodate a .58 caliber Springfield or Enfield Rifle Musket, of the type used in the Civil War, with the bayonet attached.

Lighting in the building was supplied by two or three cast-iron candle chandeliers suspended from the ceiling. The fixtures were raised and lowered when required by a wire or small chain running through a small pipe which ran across the ceiling and down the wall.

ALTERATIONS (1859 - 1962)

At some unknown time during this period, a two story addition was built on the west side of the main hall. Indications are that it was fairly early in the life of the structure as construction appears to be very similar to the original. Due to the sloping nature of the site, the upper level of the addition is at the same elevation as the main room. The addition, 15 feet wide by 30 feet long with a ceiling height of 10 feet, is connected to the hall by two interior doors and it is probable that it was used for storage or a meeting room. The lower level of the addition consisted of one large room with a dirt floor and a large entrance door facing to the south. It would appear as if this area was used as a wagon shed or garage.

Sometime during this period, the flagpole on the roof and the skylight were abandoned and removed. This would seem to indicate that the present ceiling in the hall, which is constructed of 3/8 inch varnished tongue and groove lumber was not originally a part of the structure. A skylight in the roof would have had no practical value with a ceiling installed and was probably removed when the ceiling was constructed. The attic area was probably used for storage purposes as evidenced by the large access trap door installed in the ceiling.

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Description (continued)

Maintenance repairs and replacement must have been done to the building during this period, both during the time it served a military function as well as the time it served a civil use as a carpentry mill-work shop; however there is evidence that at the time the building was purchased by the English Neighborhood Historical Society in 1962, all of the framing timber, floor planks, foundation, the siding and the windows, although badly deteriorated, were the originally installed material. As far as can be determined, no major changes to the structure in addition to those discussed had been made.

REHABILITATION (1962 - 1976)

Shortly after purchasing the Drill Hall, the English Neighborhood Historical Society applied for a variance from the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Leonia to use the building as a historical museum and meeting place. This was granted on August 13, 1962 and rehabilitation work was begun. This proceeded slowly mostly due to a lack of funds, but a partial list of the many things accomplished is as follows:

1. Partial replacement of the original floor joist timbers in order to maintain the structural integrity of the building. Some original timbers remain.
2. Replacement of the badly deteriorated roof on the addition on the west side of the hall. Repairs to some portions of the roof on the main building.
3. Majority of the siding was replaced except for the north end of the building where the original siding was preserved.
4. A double door equipped with panic hardware was installed on the south end of the building to conform to fire regulations.
5. Some badly damaged windows were replaced.
6. Gas, water, electricity and a sewer connection were installed.

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Description (continued)

7. In order to comply with Building Code Regulations and obtain a certificate of occupancy from the Borough, work was underway on the installation of rest rooms in the addition. All piping and installation of plumbing fixtures were completed.

The rehabilitation work was virtually completed and the Society was almost ready to occupy the building in September of 1976 when a fire of unknown origin occurred and damaged the structure.

PRESENT CONDITION

As it stands today the building is unoccupied and in need of extensive repairs. The addition to the main building, which housed the rest rooms, suffered severe damage to the walls, both interior and exterior, to the roof and to the second floor. Very little damage was done to the lower level of the addition, although it is completely filled with debris from the upper level. If this portion of the building were replaced, it is probable that it would have to be completely rebuilt. Substantial damage to the wood framing (studs, plates and sills) in the wall adjacent to the addition has occurred but it is possible that the framing can be reinforced and the original timbers preserved. The ceiling in the main building has collapsed and the extent of the damage to the joists is undetermined at the present time. It is highly likely that these must either be reinforced or completely replaced. A substantial portion of the ceiling must be replaced. The roof of the building suffered some damage; however, this is of a minor nature.

The English Neighborhood Society is presently starting a fund drive to continue the work of rehabilitation and repairing the fire damage. It is hoped that, despite the setback suffered, the Character of the building can be restored and preserved. In so far as possible, the original materials of the Drill Hall will be used and all work will be done in a manner to insure that the physical appearance of the structure will be as close as possible to the original.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

MILITARY.

The Drill Hall and Armory in Leonia, Bergen County is the last extant structure in the county with direct links to the civil war. It is perhaps the lone remnant of official Civil War activity in the state.

New Jersey has always been proud of her citizen-soldiers. From the time of the earliest Indian raids on the settlements to the recent global wars, the State of New Jersey has always contributed more than its quota of volunteers to defend and preserve their country's honor. The Civil War Drill Hall in Leonia, New Jersey deserves nomination to the National Register of Historic Places as a symbol of the Jersey Militiamen, the forerunner of the present day National Guard, who always stood ready to answer their country's call. While the units who made this building their headquarters were only a small part of the State's militia, the preservation of the Civil War Drill Hall and its inclusion in the National Register should be a vital part of the preservation of the heritage of the citizen-soldiers of the country as a whole.

The Drill Hall has particular significance to the County of Bergen; it is the only structure of its kind remaining virtually unchanged from its original creation. During the years preceeding the Civil War, it served as headquarters and training center for Company K of the 22nd Regiment of Volunteer Infantry, the only regiment recruited entirely within the county to serve in the Civil War.

To the residents of Leonia and the Old English Neighborhood Society, the building is and will always remain an integral part of their heritage. From within its walls, the ancestors of many present day residents left to defend their country's honor during both the War between the States and the Spanish-American War. To honor the memory of these men and the countless millions of others like them throughout this country, it is important that the Civil War Drill Hall, a historically significant building in the saga of the Jersey Militiamen, be granted the honor of inclusion in both the New Jersey and National Register of Historic Places.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Harris, Harry L. and Hilton, John T. - "A History of the Second Regiment of N. J. N. G., the Second N. J. Volunteers and the Fifth Regiment New Jersey Infantry". The Call Printing and Publishing Company; Paterson, New Jersey - 1908.
- English Neighborhood Historical Society - "Civil War Drill Hall and Armory". Leonia, New Jersey - 1965.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.3 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	8	5	8	4	4	6	0	4	5	2	3	0	6	0
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

B

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property occupies city block 25G, lot 27 and is approximately 67' X 125' in size

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

(Terry Karschner, Office of Historic Preservation, Trenton, 609-292-2028)

NAME / TITLE Ronald E. Ricks - Treasurer

ORGANIZATION English Neighborhood Historical Society

DATE April 15, 1977

STREET & NUMBER 15 Lake Drive

TELEPHONE (201) 664-9245

CITY OR TOWN Westwood,

STATE New Jersey 07675

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

Deputy Terry Wilson

4/27/78

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Deputy Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

DATE

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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: William Lalovich
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 10/19/78
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
DATE Oct 12, 1978

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Significance (continued)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND (1668 - 1859)

The militia of the State of New Jersey was first established by the General Assembly at their session in November of 1668, when it was enacted that "the soldiers within every town of the Province shall train or be mustered at least four days in the year". A few years later "soldiers" were defined as "every male within this Province from sixteen years old, into sixty". In spite of the limited training they received, the militia of the Province defended their settlements against marauding Indian attacks first under the Dutch and then under British rule.

In the mid-eighteenth century, the Jersey Militia left the Province as part of a British force against the "French and Indians" in "York" State and Canada. It was in this campaign that the Jerseyites, clad in bright blue coats, first became known as the "Jersey Blues", a name which followed the Jersey militiamen for over 150 years.

Throughout the War for Independence against Great Britain, the men of the "Jersey Blues" performed gallantly, both as members of the New Jersey Regiments of the Continental Line and as local semi-trained militia units who were called upon to "muster" in time of grave emergencies within the state. Subsequent to the war, the militia continued to flourish in Jersey, although drills were infrequent and discipline almost nil. In 1794, Colonel Dey's Bergen County Regiment was dispatched as part of a punitive force to quell the Whiskey Rebellion in Western Pennsylvania. However, it was not until the middle of the nineteenth century that the State Legislature passed an "act for the more effectual organization of the militia of the state". As a result of this, the men of the militia company in the English Neighborhood section of Bergen County, known locally as the "Jersey Blues", reorganized and became the "Jersey Blues" Company of Second Battalion of the First Regiment, Bergen Brigade of the Uniformed Militia of the State of New Jersey. The Company, composed of volunteers from the present day communities of Cliffside Park, Fairview, Ridgefield, Edgewater, Fort Lee, Palisades Park, and Leonia felt the need for a building to serve as company headquarters, a place to drill in inclement weather and an armory for the storage of arms and equipment. They appealed to local residents for a site on which to erect such a building and a short time later were successful.

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Significance (continued)

PERIOD OF ACTIVE MILITARY USE (1859 - 1910)

The property on which the Old Civil War Drill Hall now stands was donated to the "Jersey Blues" in 1859 by James Vreeland Moore with the proviso that it would revert to the Moore family when its "military use" was terminated. As soon as the property was acquired and cleared, the men of the company set to work erecting the wooden structure, essentially the same as it stands today, whenever time was available. The lumber, in all probability came from a sawmill, which was then located across the street. The mill was owned and operated by the Burdett family, who were also the owners of Burdett's Ferry and Landing in nearby Edgewater. It would appear that the foundation stones also came from a nearby location, although it is possible that they were hauled by wagon from a nearby community.

With the building completed training was started in earnest and on September 22, 1863, the English Neighborhood Company was mustered into Federal Service and became Company K of the 22nd Regiment, New Jersey Volunteer Infantry. The Regiment proceeded to Washington on September 29, 1863 and was assigned to a provisional brigade of Casey's Division for the defense of Washington, D. C.

Leaving Washington early in December they served a short tour of duty under General Patrick in the Provost Guard of the Army of the Potomac and were then assigned to the Third Brigade, First Division of the First Army Corps. The Regiment took part in the action at Aquia Landing, Virginia, the Battle of Chancellorsville and acted as part of the army's rear guard during the withdrawal following the Battle of Fredricksburg. The Regiment was mustered out of service at the end of their term of enlistment on June 25, 1863 at Trenton, New Jersey.

Upon their return home from the war, the men of the English Neighborhood helped to form the Second Battalion Infantry, New Jersey Rifle Corps. On August 22, 1865 the Battalion was formally organized with Major A. B. McKean in command and Lieut. Stephen H. B. Moore of Leonia as Adjutant. Of the four companies located at Carlstadt, Lodi, Hackensack, and Leonia, only the Leonia Company remained in service when the militia was reorganized on April 14, 1869. This Company, with headquarters in the Drill Hall, was designated Company A, Second

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Significance (continued)

Battalion, New Jersey National Guard. Capt. J. Vreeland Moore commanded the unit until 1872 when Company B was organized at Englewood and Company C was formed in Hackensack.

On October 8, 1872 Captain Moore was elected Major and continued in command of the Battalion with headquarters located in the Drill Hall. The Battalion was called to active duty on July 23, 1877 during the railroad strikes and was highly commended for its efficient work in quelling the disturbances while stationed at Hoboken, Jersey City, and Port Morris.

In the reorganization of the National Guard on May 31, 1892, the Second Battalion was merged with the First Battalion of Passaic County to form the Second Regiment, National Guard of New Jersey. The Leonia Company, now called Company E, still maintained its headquarters at the Drill Hall with virtually no change in its complement of officers and men.

On June 18, 1892 an election of field officers for the new regiment was held and Major Moore was elected Colonel of the regiment. One of his first duties was to lead the regiment in a parade and display of military pageantry on July 5, 1892 to celebrate the Centennial of the founding of the City of Paterson. He continued in command of the unit until April 25, 1893 when he retired after a long and honorable career in the service of the state. He had enlisted as a Captain in the "New Jersey Blues" Company and was in continuous state service for thirty-one years.

In 1897, the Regiment travelled to Washington D. C. and paraded before huge crowds at the inauguration of President William McKinley, who was himself a veteran from a Volunteer regiment of the Civil War.

War clouds gathered over the country in 1898 with the sinking of the Battleship Maine and with the issuance of General Order No. 4 from the Adjutant General's Office at Trenton, which designated the Second Regiment as being selected for Federal Service, the Leonia Company once again prepared for war. On Monday, May 2, 1898, the local population turned out in masse to bid the Company farewell as they left the Drill Hall to serve in what was to become known as the Spanish-American War. The command, officially known as the Second Regiment, New Jersey Volunteer Infantry, proceeded to Sea Girt, New Jersey where they set up their tents at the State Campgrounds. From there, they travelled by rail to Jacksonville, Florida where they immediately went

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Significance (continued)

into training.

They remained at Camp Cuba Libre in Jacksonville throughout the summer and were preparing to embark for Cuba when the war ended. The Regiment was mustered out of Federal Service on November 17, 1898 at Paterson, New Jersey. Four men from Company E, Privates James McClintock, James Snape, Charles Ford, and William Pullins died from disease during their term of service.

In compliance with General Order No. 6, from the Adjutant General's Office, dated Trenton, New Jersey May 2, 1899, the National Guard of New Jersey was reorganized to conform to the standards of the United States Army and the 2nd Regiment, N. G. N. J. was disbanded as the number of regiments in the state was reduced from six to five. The Drill Hall ceased to function as a military headquarters and the men of Company E, hurt, indignant, and bitter over the sudden blow caused by the order resolved to make every effort to form a new unit.

The first official move towards re-establishing a new regiment in the Bergen-Passaic area came on February 4, 1902 when the Adjutant General's Office posted General Order No. 3. Company A of Passaic and Companies C, K, and M of Paterson formed the members of the Fifth Regiment, N. G. N. J. and in the next few months an additional Company from Paterson, two Companies from Montclair, a Company from Orange, and four Companies from Bergen County were added. In addition to the reactivated Company from Leonia, Companies from Hackensack, Rutherford, and Englewood, were formed. Company L, as the Leonia Company was designated, again established their headquarters at the Drill Hall with Captain Henry R. Goesser in command and with a complement of three officers and fifty enlisted men.

During the next few years, the Regiment occupied itself with training, participation in civic and patriotic affairs and the annual field exercises at Camp Sea Grit, New Jersey.

In September of 1904, the Fifth was invited to participate in the nation-wide maneuvers conducted by the Regular Army in Manassas, Virginia. Thirty-five thousand troops from the Eastern and Southern part of the country in a week-long encampment and "mock battle" between

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Significance (continued)

the "Blue" and "Brown" armies. At the conclusion of the maneuvers, the Regiment was commended by the Regular Army officers on the field, both for their conduct during the battle and their general military deportment and bearing throughout the encampment.

Soon after their return home, the Leonia Company, as part of the Regiment, participated in the dedication of a monument erected in Court House Square, Hackensack to the memory of General Enoch Poor, a Revolutionary War hero, whose remains were in a nearby cemetery. On October 7, 1904 the entire Regiment paraded through the main streets of the city in the largest display of military power seen in the city since General Washington's Continental Army had retreated through the town in the darkest hours of the Revolution.

During the spring of 1906, the Regiment held their maneuvers in Bergen County. Major Henry Goesser, in command of the Bergen Battalion, was selected to defend the armory at Englewood against a combined attack of the First and Third Battalions. On May 30th, the attacking force left Hackensack at 9 a.m. and advanced along Cedar Lane. In short order, they decisively drove the Bergen Battalion to the rear and by 11 a.m. the Regular Army officers from West Point, who acted as referees, had declared the attacking force the victors.

The following year, among its many other activities, the Regiment participated in the unveiling of a memorial cannon in the Borough of Rutherford on Memorial Day and on June fourteenth travelled to Orange, New Jersey to participate in the Centennial celebration of the city.

In 1910, the Drill Hall was abandoned as the Company headquarters of Company I when more modern facilities became available but the men of the English Neighborhood continued to serve. In 1916, when the National Guard of New Jersey was called into Federal Service for duty in France during the World War, the men of the Fifth Regiment responded as always. The Regiment became part of the American Expeditionary Force and saw action against the Germans in the trenches of France.

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Throughout its long existence as a company and battalion headquarters from 1859 to 1910, the Drill Hall not only served a military function, but a social one as well. Community celebrations were held in the hall in the form of neighborhood dances, picnics, and parties as well as the more formal military balls. It was a social and cultural center of the area for a long period in which it was the largest hall in the Borough of Leonia.

LATER HISTORY OF THE HALL (1910 - PRESENT)

The hall fell into disuse after 1910 and ownership reverted to the Moore family who leased the building for use as a carpentry mill-work shop. The Moore family sold the building in 1925 and it was part of the estate of James Fraser of Palisades Park when it was purchased by the English Neighborhood Historical Society in 1962. The Society purchased the building and property in an attempt to protect the building against the rapidly expanding urban nature of the area that was extinguishing old buildings and landmarks. It was the Society's intent to develop it into a local museum as well as the Society's headquarters. As a local repository for historical data and artifacts, it would be symbolic of the Dutch, English, and American heritage of the English Neighborhood dating back to 1664 as well as the history and traditions of the citizen-soldiers of New Jersey who occupied the building for sixty years.

For ten years, work on rehabilitation of the Drill Hall proceeded very slowly as the expenses of the acquisition and rehabilitation mounted to over \$10,000 plus many, many hours of volunteer labor by members of the Society and other local organizations. In September of 1976 just prior to the opening of the building to the public, disaster struck in the form of a fire of unknown suspicious origin. The fire caused considerable damage to the structure and the Society is presently actively engaged in the process of raising sufficient funds to repair the fire damage.

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (continued)

3. Bergen Record - "Background on Bergen" Series - 1964.
4. Bergen Bulletin - "Plain and Fancy" - May 2, 1974; Page 1.
5. Notes from oral conversations with Col. Horace C. Oliver Ret., who was a member of the unit stationed at the Drill Hall in the early 1900's. Col. Oliver is now deceased.
6. Deed from James Vreeland Moore to "Jersey Blues Company" of the Second Battalion of the First Regiment of the Bergen Brigade of the Uniformed Militia of the State of New Jersey dated September 22, 1862 and recorded on page 558 of Book Q5 in the Bergen County Clerk's Office.