

### **369th Regiment Armory**

2366 Fifth Avenue

New York

Designed by the New York architectural firm of Van Wart and Wein, this remarkably intact Art Deco style armory was constructed around 1933. It is the sole armory built for the only unit of the New York National Guard composed entirely of African Americans. Founded in 1913 as the "Negro Regiment of Infantry," the 369th Regiment was one of only four all-black infantry regiments in the United States. Assigned to the 161st Division of the French Army during World War I, the 369th Regiment was the first all-black unit sent to battle on foreign soil. Known as the "Harlem Hell Fighters," the unit was awarded the *Croix de Guerre* by France and the Legion of Honor, the Distinguished Service Cross, and the Congressional Medal of Honor by the United States. The regiment later served with distinction in World War II and in the Korean War. An interesting coda to the regiment's history is that the 369th Regiment jazz band, which included renowned early jazz musicians from Harlem, is credited with introducing jazz to Europe. Some of the band members remained in France after their service in World War I, popularizing jazz music in Paris. [Army National Guard Armories in New York State MPS, AC 1/28/94, 93001537]