

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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SPECIAL REPORT OF THE ARMORY COMMISSIONERS RELATIVE TO A NEW STATE ARMORY IN THE CITY OF WESTFIELD.

[Military Affairs.]

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OFFICE OF THE STATE QUARTERMASTER,  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, November 28, 1930

*To the Great and General Court.*

1. In compliance with chapter 45 of the Resolves of 1930 the Armory Commissioners report on the desirability, necessity and expediency of the construction by the Commonwealth in the city of Westfield of a new State armory, etc. The Armory Commissioners make no recommendations for legislation, as in their opinion the General Laws are sufficient.

2. The present armory in the city of Westfield is leased by the Commonwealth under the provisions of the Militia Law. The accommodations afforded are nominal, inasmuch as there is no available building in the city of Westfield wholly suitable for armory purposes. This leased armory is too small, and the Armory Commissioners are informed that the foundations of the building will soon need major repairs, the cost of which will be out of all proportion to the rental the Commonwealth would pay. Company H of the 104th Infantry, which is situated in Westfield, is handicapped, in our opinion, in its development by the lack of proper armory facilities, and, in the opinion of the Armory Commissioners, should be provided with a State-owned armory as soon as funds are available.

3. The Armory Commissioners in two visits to the city of Westfield have examined nine different parcels of land which may be placed in three groups:

*Group 1.*

Moseley lot on Franklin Street.

Bey lot on Franklin Street.

High School lot near the new high school (this High School lot so named as the Commissioners were not given the name of the owner).

*Group 2.*

Thayer lot on Silver Street.

Whitney lot on Silver Street.

Bush lot on Silver Street.

Shepard lot on Main Street.

*Group 3.*

Fowler lot on College Highway.

Whittemore lot, north section of the city, street not given.

4. All of the lots mentioned in paragraph 3 are adequate as far as size, availability and usability are concerned, with the following two exceptions:

(a) The Fowler lot, situated on College Highway, is not located near a sewer.

(b) The High School lot, so called, is sufficiently large to contain the armory proper, but does not contain sufficient area to permit the development of a small drill field. However, a suggested remedy for this deficiency is the use of the adjacent school athletic field. The Armory Commissioners do not believe it is advisable to depend on another agency for permission to use land under their control for a drill field; rather, that the Commonwealth should secure adequate space within the lot finally chosen and which comes fully under the control of the military authorities.

5. Referring again to paragraph 3, the Armory Commissioners respectfully submit as their opinion that Group 1 is to be preferred to Group 2, on account of closer proximity to the center of the city, although any lot in Groups 1 and 2 is adequate, with the exception noted above. The matter of maintaining a personnel for a full-strength company depends to a great extent on the favorable location of the armory building. The lots in Group 3, while adequate with the exception noted above, are, in the opinion of the Commissioners, too far removed from the center of the city to provide an ideal location.

6. The Armory Commissioners are of the opinion that the cost of the erection of an adequate building in the city of Westfield would be \$140,000, exclusive of the land. The Commissioners have been informed that it is the intention of the authorities of the city of Westfield to furnish all or part of the land on which an armory may be erected. If the land is purchased by the Commonwealth it is believed a sum not to exceed \$9,000 will be adequate for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

JESSE F. STEVENS,

*Brigadier-General, The Adjutant General,*

HARRY G. CHASE,

*Lieutenant-Colonel, State Quartermaster,*

*Armory Commissioners.*

