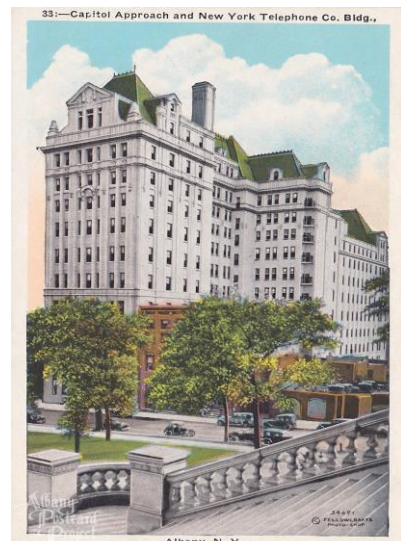
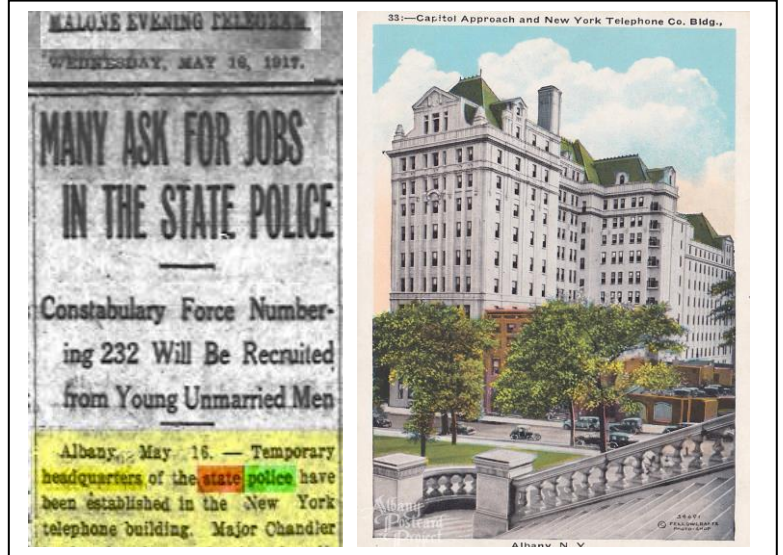


“Where Were State Police Headquarters”

Ted Palmer & John J. Mulligan Jr.

This topic started out with just a general inquiry about Albany headquarters locations. Several photographs exist of what appear to be SP offices having no identification. My co-author responded. He acquired several additional images of buildings once occupied as headquarters and from online newspaper archives a number of articles studied provided additional date and location documentation. Now known as “Division Headquarters,” the term did not come into official usage until January 1, 1927 when reorganization of state government occurred. The “Department of State Police” became the “Division of State Police” within the Executive Department on that day. Since inception NYSP Headquarters has occupied eight buildings moving eleven times within the city of Albany, occupying a single room at first.

Major George F. Chandler was appointed the first Superintendent on May 2, 1917. In 1938 from his “*Dawn Days of the New York State Police*” he wrote, “there was no place for me to have headquarters, nothing in the bill (a sketchy affair) fortunately for me as an organizer. Finally, the Adjutant General gave me the use of a small room in his headquarters in the Telephone Building in Albany.” This location had



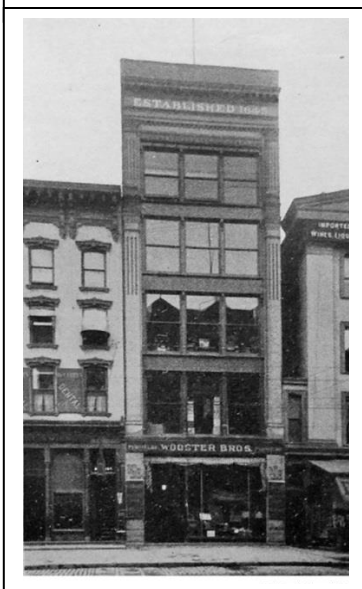
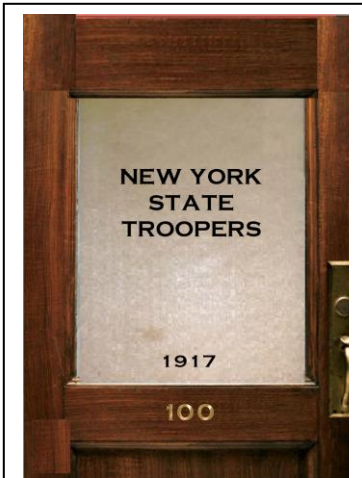
been reported in the *Malone Evening Telegram* of May 16, 1917. It had been Adjutant General E. H. Stotesbury who provided that room, located on the eleventh floor of the recently completed New York Telephone Building at 158 State Street.

Ten days later, the *Kingston Daily Freeman* reported HQ had moved to Room 100, on the first floor of the Capitol Building across the street. It was here that Superintendent Chandler first used the word, “Troopers” to describe our organization. **The door to Room 100 (on the left) was re-created by TMP and lettered in the historically correct font by Herb Buckley.*

Certain dates have yet to be determined but at some point, HQ was next moved to the second floor of the Capitol building as additional space was required.

In 1923, Superintendent Chandler had returned to this medical practice in Kingston. He was followed by Captain John A. Warner. During his tenure Chandler had moved headquarters four times. The fourth move, Chandler’s last, was to the Wooster Building at 36 North Pearl Street. Disaster would strike the Wooster Building, it burned down on January 29, 1925. As reported in the *Troy Times*, “The fire wrecked the quarters of the State Troopers, Department of Labor, State Employment office. State Insurance Department, and Supreme Court Reporter.

Records of the State Income Tax Bureau were saved, but many of the records of the State Troopers, Liquidation Bureau of the State Insurance Department and Employment Bureau of the State Labor Department were destroyed. Copies of session laws, three law libraries and reports of the Supreme Court Reporter also were lost.



Some of the girl employees in the state offices had narrow escapes from death. Among these were Miss Helen C. Coffey of this city. Miss Florence E. Buswell and Miss Margaret K. Nouhuys of Watervliet. Miss Coffey was assisted to safety by Maj. Warner and Sgt. McCormick of the State Troopers.”

As result of the Wooster Building fire, NYSP Headquarters was forced to move to temporary offices within the City Savings Bank Building, 100 State Street. An article in the 1961 **Knickerbocker News**, Albany NY had erroneously identified the location as the City and County Savings Bank. The City and County Savings Bank however did not exist prior to 1935. At that time the City Savings Bank and the County Savings Bank merged to form the City and County Savings Bank. This new bank remained in the former City Savings Bank Building at 100 State Street, the actual temporary location of State Police Headquarters for a very short time in 1925. The January 30, 1925 **Troy Times** had correctly identified the move to the City Savings Bank.

That same year, 1925, HQ relocated from the City Savings Bank Building to the Journal Building (shaded in yellow below) on the “Plaza” at the foot of State Street. The Journal Building was home to the **Albany Evening Journal** newspaper owned by William Barnes, and the mouthpiece to the Republican party. It was built in the same style and architecture as the adjoining D&H Railroad Building. From 1925 until 1927 our address was listed in newspapers as “New York State Troopers, Department of State Police, Room 310, Journal Building, The Plaza, Albany. N.Y.”



February 14, 1927, to carry out plans to have all branches of the new Executive Department as centrally located as possible, DHQ is moved, for the seventh time, to offices at 190 State Street previously occupied by the Budget Bureau, directly opposite the Capitol. That January, New York State government had been reorganized, the State Police became a Division of the Executive Department, no longer to be known as the Department of State Police. Officially Headquarters became “Division Headquarters” henceforth.

As the 32 story Alfred E. Smith Office Building on Swan Street, directly opposite the Capitol, neared completion toward the end of 1929 newspapers reported most state agencies would vacate the Capitol to begin operations in the new building by the first of the year. The published list of executive department agencies that would remain behind at the Capitol included the State Police. The exact date DHQ moved from 190 State Street is yet unknown but it had occurred prior to 1930. We returned to occupy the upper floors of the Capitol or as one newspaper put it, the “attic.” Newspaper accounts vary as to which upper floor we occupied first, be it the 5th or the 6th. In addition, in 1943 NYS Parole moved out of the Capitol, that space which was also located on the 5th floor was renovated for State Police use. DHQ would remain within the Capitol Building until 1961. Three of the



previously unidentified black and white photographs shown on the bottom of the preceding page and on the right are those that started this “historic mission” to determine the several locations of State Police Headquarters throughout the years. We determined these photographs are of the upper floors of the Capitol Building. Our quest led to the New York State Archives where photographs of other agencies that had also occupied the upper floors of the Capitol Building were identified as such. In addition, exterior photographs of the Capitol Building (two at the bottom of this page) were compared to our black and white photographs, leading us to believe we have made the correct identifications. It should be noted that all photographs appearing here are much smaller and less detailed than the higher resolution photographs compared.



In the first black and white, on the preceding page, a calendar dated 1943 is clear in an office we believe was on the 6th floor and we agree that the entire room number is very difficult to read but the first digit appears to be a six in the larger photo that we examined.

In the top-right photograph structural framing in the form of trusses that strengthen the roof of the Capitol Building is evident as are a number of windows which follow the roof line, sky-lights if you will. We believe these windows can be seen in the photographs below, at the base of the roof line on the 5th floor. These types of windows appear no were else on the Capitol Building. Comparing the Capitol roof design with the interior windows and slope it is convincing that the “Division” occupied those sections of the 5th floor of the building.



In the image to the immediate right the window consisting of multiple panes of glass appears to be part of a roof dormer. We believe that the window design is the same as that appearing within the dormers featured on the 6th floor below. Each is topped with a semicircular arch type pane directly above two small panes that are square in shape. Below the squares, two larger rectangular panes of glass can be seen. The three large windows appearing within the dormer on the 5th floor do not match; they appear to contain several additional panes of



glass. That is not to say however that we did not occupy office space there. We probably did but we have yet to discover the particular evidence of that.

In June 1961, even as plans were advanced to build new State Police facilities on the State Office Campus on upper Washington Avenue that included construction not only of the Public Security Building but also the present-day State Police Academy, Superintendent Arthur Cornelius Jr., to relieve “over-crowdedness” on the 6th floor of the Capitol where some offices were without windows, made arrangements with the Mobil Oil Company to occupy 20,000 square feet of leased space within the newly constructed seven-story Mobil Oil Building at 162 Washington Avenue, Albany, shown at the right. In addition to the Administrative and Communications sections at the Capitol, the Traffic Bureau then housed at the Thruway Headquarters on Southern Boulevard would be moved to the MOB. The Traffic Bureau had previously also been located in the Capitol Building but was forced to move out long ago due to the space limitations experienced there. One year earlier, in February 1960, a move that never occurred to 143 Washington Avenue (across the street from the MOB), a new four-story building owned by the NYS Teachers Retirement System, was given serious consideration. At that time Deputy Superintendent George M. Searle was quoted as saying, “We would like to relocate. We need more space.”



In June of 1960 Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller unveiled a \$50 million plan to accelerate development of the State Office Building Campus on upper Washington Avenue. This plan included construction of the Public Security Building that would house State Police Headquarters, the Division of Military and Naval Affairs and the State Civil Defense Commission. In May of 1964 DHQ moved for the eleventh time into its present location within the PSB. Division Headquarters’ official address for the past 55 years has been Building 22, 1220 Washington Ave., Albany, NY 12226.

