## National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

### 1. Name of Property

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>historic name</th>
<th>Schenectady Police Department</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>other names/site number</td>
<td>Clinton Street School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>name of related multiple property listing</td>
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### Location

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<tr>
<td>state</td>
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<td>code</td>
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### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this _X_ nomination _request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property _X_ meets _does not meet_ the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

- ___ national
- ___ statewide
- _X_ local

Signature of certifying official/Title ___________________________ Date __________

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government ___________________________

In my opinion, the property _X_ meets _does not meet_ the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official ___________________________ Date __________

Title ___________________________ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government ___________________________

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ___ entered in the National Register
- ___ determined eligible for the National Register
- ___ determined not eligible for the National Register
- ___ removed from the National Register
- ___ other (explain: ___________________________)

Signature of the Keeper ___________________________ Date of Action __________
5. Classification

<table>
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<th>Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply.)</th>
<th>Category of Property (Check only one box.)</th>
<th>Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)</th>
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<td>X building(s)</td>
<td>Contributing</td>
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<td></td>
<td>object</td>
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Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT

EDUCATION

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENT

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE
walls: BRICK
roof: SYNTHETIC
other: METAL; GLASS
The Schenectady Police Department is located at 301 Clinton Street, on the east side of a busy side street in downtown Schenectady, Schenectady County, New York. The two-story brick and stone building was built in 1889 as a public elementary school and enlarged for the same purpose in 1900. It was substantially remodeled for use as the city police department in 1929-1930 and retained that role until 1973. The period of significance is restricted to the building’s use as a police station, 1929-1973. While the current appearance retains some elements of the original construction, it primarily reflects the 1929 alterations. The overall design retains the two-story rectangular form, reddish-brown brick masonry laid up in common bond, as well as the rusticated red sandstone arched west and north main entrances, emphasized by red sandstone laid in a random ashlar pattern at their sides. The original hipped roof was replaced by a flat roof. The schoolhouse fenestration, epitomized by long banks of generously sized double-hung windows, was retained during the 1929-1930 remodel. The interior retains only the most basic characteristics of that space: the circulation pattern, which is defined by northwest and east staircases (steel and terrazzo stairs), an open courtroom space, and a second-floor double-loaded corridor. A rehabilitation project using preservation tax credits to adapt the building for use as apartments has recently been completed.

SITE

The nominated property is a 23,235-square-foot rectangular building that occupies approximately half an urban lot at 301 Clinton Street; the other half, to the south, is an asphalt paved parking lot. To the north, across Smith Street, is a small, two-story frame building that houses a tavern. To the west, which the building faces, is an immense parking lot. At the (east) rear is an alley, and then the one-story recent masonry building that houses the City Mission of Schenectady. Clinton Street is a busy two-way street that leads north to State Street, the main, east-west downtown artery. Therefore, much of Clinton Street offers rear parking for the stores and services along State Street, which is lined with a mix of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century buildings intermixed with many recent buildings of complementary design. The recent rehabilitation essentially left the exterior of the nominated building unchanged. Work was confined to brick masonry repair of the south wall at
grade and the replacement of rusted basement window frames. Obtrusive fixed awnings that largely obscured the building were removed.

EXTERIOR

The police department building is two-story rectangular building with a flat roof constructed of brick and sandstone with added steel beam support and extensive terra-cotta trim. It is three bays wide and five to seven bays deep and characterized by large round-arched entrances, bands of regular windows that share stone lintels and sills, and a decorative brick frieze with terra-cotta arches on three elevations.

Facade (West Elevation):

The three-bay facade features a central, deeply recessed main entrance, with a rusticated red sandstone arch, keystone, and random ashlar block at the sides. Contemporary double-leaf metal doors and an expansive transom fill the entrance, creating a vestibule. The foundation of bluestone block is punctuated by nine slim original window openings. Above the foundation is a belt course, also in red rusticated sandstone.

The entrance is flanked by a bank of three rectangular three-over-three metal double-hung windows in the first bay – which are the 1929 police department windows -- and a bank of five rectangular window openings in the third bay. Here, two openings are bricked-in, and the others hold one-over-one recent rectangular sash. The second-story windows are situated in the same way, though all the openings are filled with recent one-over-one rectangular sash. Two slim, rectangular sash occupy openings directly above the arched entrance. All openings are defined by deeply cut gray stone lintels and sills.

The brick masonry wall, laid up in 1889, terminates at a line of corbeling; above it, darker, brown brick diapering replaced the original extensive corbeling in 1929. The building received this new treatment on all sides, though the terra-cotta ornamentation was not applied to the rear of the building. Ryder’s specifications carefully noted the extent of this removal while calling for the hard, unglazed, unburned terra cotta for the repeating arched design at the roofline. In the second-story bay above the entrance, the terra cotta forms a gabled parapet. Below it is a brick panel laid up in a chevron pattern. Terra-cotta lamp posts, with twisting columns, were designed by Ryder and flank the main entrance.

North Side Elevation:
The features of this five-bay elevation – the brick, the stonework, and groupings of contemporary sash -- mirror those of the facade. Fixed rectangular sash are randomly situated in the foundation, though four of the slim original openings, filled with one-over-one sash, are located near the northwest corner. Looking west, the main entrance, complete with the stone arch and flanking lamp posts, is located in the second bay, surmounted by a second-story grouping of three, one-over-one recent rectangular sash. Both stories of the first, third, and fifth bays hold banks of these windows in original openings, in groupings of five in bays one and three, and groupings of four in the second story of bay five at the northwest corner. The only deviation among these windows is the presence of the 1929 three-over-three metal sash in the openings of the first story of bay five, and as pairs in bay four, both stories, where the interior stair is located.

South Side Elevation:

While less prominent than the west and north elevations, the south elevation nonetheless retains the same masonry details as those of the (west) facade and the north side facing Smith Street. What differs is the irregular fenestration of its seven bays by the introduction of a second entrance and a greater mix of contemporary materials. The first, westernmost bay has groupings of three windows, both stories; these have two one-over-one recent sash at the first story and three fixed glass panels at the second story. A slab metal door once occupied the first story of the second bay. The third bay has five openings at each story, with a mix of stationary glass panels (second story), one-over-one contemporary sash, brick in-fill, and, before the rehabilitation, a utility door (first story). Both doors have been removed because of the new rehabilitation and the fenestration re-established by the addition of one-over-one metal-clad wood sash. The narrow fourth bay has a single lower barred metal sash and an upper one-over-one double-hung rectangular sash. Bay five has a lower recent metal and glass single door and upper one-over-one double-hung rectangular recent sash. The sixth bay has pairs of the one-over-one sash in both stories; lastly, bay seven has three one-over-one sash in each story.

East (Rear) Elevation:

The first story, looking north from the alley, has a bank of four bricked-in window openings, a central flush metal door, followed by a series of three recent vinyl sash. The second story, also moving northward, has a bank of five window openings, then, a bank of three new metal-clad wood sash in what were blind openings before the recent rehabilitation. There is no terra-cotta ornamentation.

INTERIOR
Long considered structurally deficient when it was a school, the building’s load-bearing masonry walls were heavily buttressed by steel and concrete when it was altered for use as a police station to carry the load of banks of jail cells. The addition of the steel and terrazzo stairs, which are extant, and the use of hollow terra-cotta block offered more fireproofing. When the police station moved to a new building in 1973, the state’s off-track betting (OTB) headquarters acquired the building. To retrofit the space for offices, this agency removed the jail cells and a first-floor central courtroom, while inserting partitions within the 1929 plan, keeping the circulation pattern defined by the northwest and east staircases, the open courtroom space, and the second-floor double-loaded corridor. This historic circulation pattern was preserved during the rehabilitation project.

**Basement:**
Previously unfinished space with concrete walls and floors, the basement now holds six apartments, a fitness studio, and common storage areas. Similar to the upper floors, gypsum wallboard, carpeting, and ceramic tile are the most common finishes.

**First Floor:**
The first floor is defined by the main west and north entrances leading to the interior stairs. The main entries feature metal Neoclassical doors, with glazed, multi-paned double doors, flanked by sidelights and surmounted by expansive fanlights. These were designed by Ryder for the police station remodel. The massive metal staircases at the northwest and east, ascending from the basement to the second floor, were also specified by Ryder as part of an effort to fireproof the building. They feature treads of terrazzo with a light gray aggregate, balusters with a repeating circular pattern, and a substantial wood rail. These features were preserved in the rehabilitation.

**Second Floor:**
Equal in size to the first floor, the second floor previously held office suites and conference rooms of varying sizes with non-historic finishes. These were arranged around parallel corridors. The residential redesign restored the main double-loaded corridor plan shown in the 1929 drawings, which had served the school as well. Like the lower floors, carpeting has been reserved for the corridors, while wood laminate flooring and ceramic tile are the common new finishes in apartments. The original fenestration remains, along with historic features such
as the metal stairs and ceiling heights. Two large skylights in the corridor, configured with substantial wood members to form a grid, have been repaired and re-established.

To accomplish the construction of the apartments, interior walls were reconfigured without interrupting the historic circulation pattern of the common spaces. New finishes were installed, including gypsum wallboard, wood laminate flooring and ceramic tile in apartments, and carpeting in the corridors. Institutional ceramic “schoolhouse” lighting has been installed throughout the building. The apartments, which flank a double-loaded corridor on both floors, replaced the former Off-Track Betting offices and their non-historic finishes, such as acoustical tile drop ceilings, partitions, carpeting, and simulated wood-grain paneling.

**INTEGRITY**

The Schenectady Police Station retains integrity of location and setting in that it still occupies its original site on busy Clinton Street, which parallels State Street, one of Schenectady’s most important highways. It retains nearly all the exterior materials from both eras, including brick, stone, and decorative terra cotta. It retains its exterior design features and materials from both eras, including its long rectangular form with banks of windows and large arched entrances, as well as the specific design features added in the conversion to a police station in 1929. The latter include the flat roof that replaced the original hip, terra-cotta lamp posts near the entrances and a diapered brick frieze with round-arched terra cotta corbeling. The resource has integrity of association, having served as the Schenectady Police Station for forty-three years and as a symbol of law enforcement over that period. The interior retains a basic level of integrity, retaining the circulation system, courtroom space, main stairways and second floor corridor.
8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark “x” in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- [X] A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- [ ] B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- [ ] C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- [ ] D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark “x” in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- [ ] A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- [ ] B removed from its original location.
- [ ] C a birthplace or grave.
- [ ] D a cemetery.
- [ ] E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- [ ] F a commemorative property.
- [ ] G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance
1929-1973

Significant Dates
1929
1973

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Ryder, John M.

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins in 1929 when the Clinton Street School was remodeled for the Schenectady Police Department and extends to 1973 when the police department vacated the building in favor of a new purpose-built building.
The Schenectady Police Department, which served as the city’s main police station for nearly half a century, meets Criterion A in the area of Government, for its association with the development and expansion of urban law enforcement in the city of Schenectady in the first half of the twentieth century. Starting in 1924 – following the murder of a police captain and accusations of inaction and corruption – the city expanded the police department, harnessed new technologies, and centralized departments. The resulting “professionalized” police department, with its increased bureaucratic space needs, led the City of Schenectady to move the police department in 1929 from city hall to the former Clinton Street School (1889), which was remodeled to serve its new function and included a courtroom, judge’s chambers, jury room, offices for officials and jail cells, among other features. These administrative steps, as well as the remodeled building, reflected national progressive reforms, which called out police abuse and ways to address it. The police department remained at 301 Clinton Street for forty-three years, until cramped conditions caused the city to construct a new station, which opened in 1973. During that long period, the building served as both a symbolic and a literal center of centralized, professional law enforcement. The building retains substantial exterior integrity to this period, retaining its rectangular form, brick, stone and terra-cotta materials, large, arched entrances, and banks of windows (that date to the school era), and decoration such as brick diapering, terra-cotta lamp posts and terra-cotta arcade. The interior retains its historic stairways and circulation pattern, second floor corridor, and open courtroom space.

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Development of Early Policing in Schenectady

The first act of Schenectady’s first Common Council created the police department in 1798. The force was rudimentary, consisting of two chiefs and night watchmen carrying five-foot staffs who were charged with a variety of tasks, usually consisting of quelling drunken brawls, though watchmen also were instructed to capture enslaved people who had escaped from bondage. The first police station was a rented room on Ferry Street in the Stockade District, the city’s first commercial district before business shifted south and east to today’s...
current downtown. The makeshift system became only slightly more structured with another layer of supervision by a “high constable.” Perhaps because of this rudimentary force, the state in 1866 created a regional Capital Police Force, of which Schenectady was a precinct. The unpopular concept was short-lived; Schenectady formed its department in 1870.2

The police department’s first dedicated space was in the first city hall, a three-story brick building constructed in 1880 on Jay Street, slightly north of the developing downtown. Inmates were housed in the basement.3 As early as 1898, Police Chief William D. Campbell warned of the impact of the population growth on the department. “The rapid growth of our city, the erecting of so many new and handsome residences, the costly buildings of the General Electric and Schenectady Locomotive Works, together with the many new business houses that have been completed and are now under construction, show a favorable outlook for continued prosperity, all of which greatly increases the responsibility of the police department,” Campbell stated.4 He led the police force from 1872 to 1904.

Campbell’s words were prescient. The city police could not keep pace with the phenomenal population explosion. Schenectady in 1900 had twenty-one officers, one for every 1,500 people – far fewer than the expected ratio of one officer for every 1,000 residents favored by Campbell. Jail conditions also deteriorated. In 1914, the New York State Commission on Corrections cited the basement jail as “unsanitary and wholly unfit.”5 In 1922, New York State Commissioner of Corrections Cecelia D. Patten found a jail with dilapidated walls, no bedding for male inmates, and inmates who were allowed to sleep in halls. There were eight cells for men and one for women.6 “The city hall was built in 1880 and is absolutely inadequate for the present needs of a city whose population has increased four-fold during that time. The jail conditions have improved slightly in recent years, but are still a disgrace to a progressive city like Schenectady,” Patten reported.7 Often characterized as “a disgrace,” the rundown jail was continually cited by the state throughout the 1920s until the corrections

2 Robert R. Pascucci, Electric City Immigrants: Italians and Poles of Schenectady, NY, 1880-1930 [Dissertation], University at Albany, Department of History, 1984), Collection of the Schenectady County Public Library at Schenectady R325.24 PAS.
6 “Says City Jail is Inadequate,” Schenectady Gazette, February 10, 1922.
7 “Says City Jail is Inadequate.”
commission ultimately condemned and closed it in 1927. In a temporary arrangement, inmates were then housed in the county jail.

1924 Reorganization

The critical need for a new jail coincided with a press for reform after the 1924 assassination of Acting Captain Albert L. Youmans, who was shot to death while patrolling a section of the city rife with gambling, prostitution, and drinking during Prohibition. Youmans led raids that at one point in 1923 briefly shut down the notorious “resorts” of Edison Avenue. Youmans’s single-minded war on the “underworld” of Edison Avenue cost him his life. Mayor William W. Campbell, after the deadly ambush, released an explosive letter Youmans wrote the month before accusing Police Chief James W. Rynex of turning a blind eye to the vice Youmans was attempting to stamp out. Youmans alleged that the chief told him to ignore complaints about a reputed brothel and speakeasy, to halt patrols of Edison Avenue, and to patrol another section of the city. Rynex also discouraged Youmans’s unannounced visits to Edison Avenue establishments. Youmans was killed on November 28; by December 1, Campbell asked for Rynex’s resignation. Constituents protested what they perceived as the force’s ineffectiveness in general and its handling of Youmans’s murder. Rynex, chief since 1904, ultimately did resign while denying the accusations in the letter. Youmans’s murder was never solved.

The allegations mirrored the same type of corruption that nationally permeated law enforcement going back to the late nineteenth century. By the early twentieth century, the Progressive Movement, which influenced all aspects of society, also cited policing as in need of reform. National criminal justice leaders like August Vollmer stressed the need for an educated and centralized force. Vollmer, the first police chief of Berkeley, California, is referred to as the father of modern policing for his forward-thinking practices. Vollmer, chief from 1909 to 1931, required members of the force to have a college degree. His was the first motorized police force, whose members also had the first access to two-way radios and call booths. He founded the first police school and taught criminal justice at the University of California. The transformation of the Schenectady police department mirrored these national trends.

8 “Schenectady Council Seeks New City Hall,” Cohoes American, April 6, 1927.
9 “Story to Local Gun Work is Refuted,” Amsterdam Evening Recorder, December 2, 1924.
William H. Funston, who would be the first chief at the new station, was previously in charge of New York City’s downtown detectives’ division and was nicknamed the “walking rogue’s gallery” for his perfect memory of criminal cases.\textsuperscript{11} Funston stepped up gambling and alcohol raids and sometimes led them. As early as 1925, Funston spearheaded efforts to train officers and let the public know it. He led one of the nation’s first training schools, which offered classes on courtesy, rules of evidence, and laws of arrest and confessions, for instance.\textsuperscript{12} In April of 1926, Funston spoke on radio WGY, explaining the “evolution of police.”\textsuperscript{13} A year later, in a speech in Syracuse, New York, Funston contrasted the rudimentary policing of the past to the modern officer, who was courteous and a community’s best salesperson. He also pointedly singled out political interference as a past problem. “Going back, we find that policemen were appointed on two qualifications. The first was brute physique and the second was that a man must be able to control the district in which he lived, whether it was Democratic or Republican. Politics predominated in the personnel of the force.”\textsuperscript{14} At the same time, changes to the police department were rapidly introduced after Youmans’s death. The city council hired thirty new officers and ordered three patrol cars and two-way telephones.\textsuperscript{15} A vice squad was established to counter the gambling that was nearly conducted in the open. Those steps alone would have severely taxed the city hall headquarters. The changes set the tone for a new headquarters and were taken into consideration when it was designed in 1929.

\textbf{Clinton Street School}

After years of vacillating between remodeling the existing jail or building a new one, the city saw an opportunity when the Clinton Street School was vacated in 1929. The four-room school was constructed in 1889 and substantially expanded in 1900. In the face of a massive influx of children during industrialization, schools were chronically crowded, despite a vigorous building campaign that nonetheless could not keep pace. By 1911, Clinton Street School was again labeled substandard, with dark and dirty halls, as well as poor

\textsuperscript{12} “Police School to Open Feb. 15,” \textit{Schenectady Gazette}, February 4, 1925.
\textsuperscript{13} “WGY Features,” \textit{Troy Times}, April 12, 1926.
\textsuperscript{14} “‘Hard-Boiled Policeman Out of Date,’ Says Funston,” \textit{Syracuse Journal}, April 22, 1927.
\textsuperscript{15} “Want Chandler to Take Charge,” \textit{Troy Times}, December 3, 1924.
heating, ventilation, and plumbing. The building for some time exhibited structural deficiencies, addressed by the addition of beams in 1911. Yet, the problem recurred in 1917, requiring more structural work.

In a 1926 study of the Schenectady school system, the State University of New York scored each school, rating such factors as heating and ventilation, lighting, supply of potable water and toilets, and presence of cloakrooms. Clinton Street School performed poorly, among those schools that dipped into low scores that indicated that they were “practically worthless.” The Common Council and School Board reached the same conclusion about Clinton Street School. The school was vacated in June 1929, just as the Common Council, equipped with drawings, approved the re-purposing. Bids were let the following month, and by January 8, 1930, the new police station was completed.

**Architect John M. Ryder**

The city chose John M. Ryder to redesign the school for the new central station. Since he had been practicing in Schenectady only since 1921, the commission was among Ryder’s first for designs for a public building. In 1924, Ryder designed a refined Georgian-style high school for the nearby village of Scotia. Now an elementary school, the building’s central temple form of brick and stone marks the main entrance surmounted by a monumental stone swan’s neck pediment. In 1925, he designed a Gothic-style stone-clad commercial building for Wallace Armer, an iconic Schenectady hardware store. In 1931, Ryder would go on to sensitively redesign the Schenectady Post Office, constructed in 1912 to the designs of John Knox Taylor, supervising architect of the U.S. Department of the Treasury. Ryder switched the location of the main entrance, a design marked by a colonnade of Palladian windows, both complementary and distinct. Interestingly, once Ryder and Schenectady architect John H. Link entered a partnership, Ryder’s practice from 1949 on would rely on a pared-down, utilitarian style to build numerous public schools, which dominated his later commissions. This distinguishes the police station as one of just a few buildings for which Ryder chose to design in classical forms.

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19 George M. Wiley et al, *A Study of the Schenectady School System by the State Education Department* (the University of the State of New York, 1928), 49.
Clinton Street School Design

As originally built the Clinton Street school was a square, two-story building with four classrooms. It was more than doubled in size in 1911, but the original style was replicated in the new addition. The enlarged building was two stories tall, rectangular in form and surmounted by a steep hipped roof. It was characterized by banks of single windows united by continuous stone lintels and sills. The wide frieze had a distinctive corbelled brick pattern and each of the two main entrances was set within a large round-arched opening with a rusticated stone surround.

Clinton Street Police Headquarters Design

While the exterior initially was not part of Ryder’s scope, that decision was to bring him in once the scope expanded to include things such as removing the hip roof in favor of a flat one, replacing one-over-one sash windows with three-over-three metal sash windows, and adding the fanciful terra-cotta design. Ryder also designed the new entrance doors, deciding on a classical design with sidelights and expansive fanlight. The terra-cotta light posts were also designed by Ryder. The posts reflect a tradition dating to the seventeenth century, when early watchmen carried lanterns, with green glass, to indicate their presence.21

Ryder’s plans called for extensive structural reinforcement, using structural steel, concrete slabs, and fire-resistant hollow clay tile walls. Some of the additional structure was meant to correct the faulty construction that the school board tried to address twice in the 1900s. Moreover, Ryder made sure that reinforced concrete and steel framing could support twenty-nine cells built to accommodate male inmates, plus six cells and two detention rooms in the women’s second-floor block. Schenectady sought, much like many other departments nationwide, to “professionalize,” requiring divisions among specialized units and department heads.22 Ryder’s plans were influenced by these precepts. The chief, sergeant, and captain each had offices, as did the detectives’ division. A courtroom, jury room, and judge’s chambers were located in the center of the first floor. With Funston’s emphasis on continuing education, there was ample classroom space, as shown in the drawings.

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The police force, however, in the ensuing years experienced a cycle of scandal followed by shake-ups until the next call for a new police station in 1966. In 1948, Funston’s successor, Joseph A. Peters Sr., became the target of a city hall regime change that called for his resignation after a grand jury alleged lax enforcement of anti-gambling laws. While he survived that episode, he resigned under protest in 1951 after two of his officers alleged that he quashed a traffic ticket issued to convicted gambler Paul “Legs” DiCocco.

Of the four successive police chiefs, only Chief Stanley A. DuCharme emulated Funston’s reform spirit. Appointed in 1958, DuCharme appeared to strike the necessary chord following the scandal-tainted tenure of Chief Robert F. Brandt, who abruptly retired and fled the city as he was being investigated by a grand jury on allegations of offering protection to gambling operatives. In 1963, DuCharme co-sponsored the Municipal Police Training Council basic training school. He also spearheaded in-service training based on a gold-standard guide by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. DuCharme retired in 1966, without scandal.

Ultimately, it was DuCharme who pressed for a new police station in 1965, a year shy of his retirement. DuCharme stated that more room was needed for the detectives’ division, the vice squad, and the youth aid bureau. The current building was portrayed as outmoded, cold, and drafty in the winter, and hot in the summer. But it would be another eight years before the city built a new police station. In 1970, the Schenectady Gazette published a photo of a room stacked ceiling-high with radio equipment, where a cramped darkroom and the female cell block also were located. That year, the prominent local architectural firm Feibes and Schmitt produced plans for the new station, designed in the Brutalist style and constructed largely of reinforced concrete. The $2 million building opened at Liberty and Lafayette streets on May 8, 1973. The Clinton Street building was immediately remodeled yet again to become the headquarters of the Capital District Off-Track Betting Commission, which occupied the building until 2018. The non-historic alterations added in 1973 were removed during the recent rehabilitation to adapt the building for use as twenty-seven apartments. The project was done using preservation tax credits and followed the Secretary of Interior’s Standards.

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CONCLUSION

The 1889 brick and terra cotta edifice served two socially significant but dichotomous functions over its eighty-year lifespan. The building first housed the Clinton Street School from 1889 to 1929. In that year, it was remodeled to serve as the Schenectady Police Department from 1930 until 1973. As the new police station in 1929, the building set the stage for the city’s confrontation of accusations of police complacency or even complicity in vice. The same scenario played out on a national scale, with reformers seeking to eliminate political influence and corruption. In Schenectady, as elsewhere, specialized departments emerged, such as the detective division and vice squad, and the force during this period became equipped with squad cars and two-way communications. The new headquarters reflected these developments in its plan and functional divisions.

The building retains the character-defining characteristics of the police headquarters. On the exterior, the design of the 1929-1930 era police station remains unchanged. Police station architect John M. Ryder did away with the school’s hip roof, deciding on a flat roof while adding a pronounced terra-cotta arched motif at the roofline. Three-over-three metal sash windows dating to 1929 survive at the prominent northwest corner and several windows retain jail bars. On the interior, the recent rehabilitation restored the original circulation system and preserved Ryder’s northwest and east steel and terrazzo staircases. Ryder’s plan disrupted the first-floor double-loaded corridor by inserting central courtroom space and a bank of jail cells at the south wall. New partitions have been inserted throughout this space to create the most recent office functions. The second-floor double-loaded corridor served both the school and later police functions. Generous skylights mark the east-west corridor at either end. The recent rehabilitation introduced contemporary finishes, such as wallboard and carpeting, but the original circulation remains and prominent character-defining features such as the ornate staircases and main entrance remain.
9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)


10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** 0.42

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
NPS Form 10-900     OMB No. 1024-0018     (Expires 5/31/2012)

DRAFT Schenectady Police Department               Schenectady Co., New York
Name of Property                                    County and State

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1  18N  586493  4740344
   Zone  Easting  Northing
2
   Zone  Easting  Northing
3
   Zone  Easting  Northing
4
   Zone  Easting  Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)
The boundary is indicated by a heavy line on the enclosed map with scale.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)
The boundary encompasses the lot historically and currently associated with the nominated building.

11. Form Prepared By

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Additional Documentation
Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
  A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)
Schenectady Police Department
City of Schenectady, Schenectady County, New York

Schenectady Co., New York
Schenectady, NY 12305

301 Clinton Street

Coordinate System:
NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Coordinate Units: Meter

Schenectady Police Department
Schenectady Police Department
City of Schenectady, Schenectady County, New York

Area: 0.42 ac

301 Clinton Street
Schenectady, NY 12305

Coordinate System:
NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Coordinate Units: Meter
Orthoimagery Year: 2021

Nomination Boundary
Schenectady Police Department
City of Schenectady, Schenectady County, New York

301 Clinton Street
Schenectady, NY 12305

Area: 0.42 ac

Coordinate System:
NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18II
Coordinate Units: Meter
Parcel Year: 2021

Nomination Boundary
Tax Parcels
Name of Property: Schenectady Police Department
City or Vicinity: Schenectady
County: Schenectady
State: New York
Photographer: Michael Lopez
Date Photographed: March 28, 2022

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

NY_Schenectady County_Schenectady Police Department_0001
West Facade Looking Northeast

NY_Schenectady County_Schenectady Police Department_0002
North Elevation Looking Southwest

NY_Schenectady County_Schenectady Police Department_0003
South Elevation Looking Northwest

NY_Schenectady County_Schenectady Police Department_0004
First Floor West Entrance

NY_Schenectady County_Schenectady Police Department_0005
Northwest Stair Looking Northeast

NY_Schenectady County_Schenectady Police Department_0006
First Floor Corridor Looking North

NY_Schenectady County_Schenectady Police Department_0007
First Floor East Stair Looking East

NY_Schenectady County_Schenectady Police Department_0008
Apt 103 Looking Southeast

NY_Schenectady County_Schenectady Police Department_0009
Apt 103 Living Room Looking Northwest

NY_Schenectady County_Schenectady Police Department_0010
E Stair Looking Northeast

NY_Schenectady County_Schenectady Police Department_0011
Community Room Looking Northeast
NY_Schenectady County_Schenectady Police Department_0012
Northwest Stair Looking Up to Second

NY_Schenectady County_Schenectady Police Department_0013
Second Floor Corridor Looking East

NY_Schenectady County_Schenectady Police Department_0014
Head East Stair

NY_Schenectady County_Schenectady Police Department_0015
Apt 210 Looking Northwest

NY_Schenectady County_Schenectady Police Department_0016
East Stair Second Floor

NY_Schenectady County_Schenectady Police Department_0017
Basement Common Space
Schenectady Police Department

Schenectady Co., New York

Name of Property

County and State

Figure 1: 1889 Sanborn Map

Figure 2: 1900 Sanborn Map
Figure 3: 1914 Sanborn Map

Figure 4: Clinton Street School, 1911
DRAFT Schenectady Police Department
Name of Property

Schenectady Co., New York
County and State

Figure 5: Clinton Street School, undated
Provided by the Schenectady County Historical Society
DRAFT Schenectady Police Department
Name of Property
Schenectady Co., New York
County and State

Figure 6: 1929 Renovation Drawings
DRAFT Schenectady Police Department
Name of Property

Figure 7: 1929 Renovation Drawings
DRAFT Schenectady Police Department
Name of Property

Schenectady Co., New York
County and State

Figure 8: 1929 Renovation Floor Plan – Basement
Figure 9: 1929 Renovation Floor Plan – First Floor
Figure 10: 1929 Renovation Floor Plan – Second Floor
DRAFT Schenectady Police Department
Name of Property

Schenectady Co., New York
County and State

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Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.