



The Kentish Guards Armory
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In 1843, on the corner of Armory and Peirce Street, the Kentish Guards Armory was built. The Kentish Guards were organized on September 24, 1774 to protect the town from British attack.

At first, the Kentish Guards shared duty with other militia. After the British attack in Newport in 1776, they had to be on continuous duty until June 1, 1781. The places they guarded were: Warwick Neck; Prudence Island; Warren; Bristol; Tiverton; Portsmouth; Middletown; and Newport.

The Kentish Guards were sole defenders of East Greenwich from 1777-1778. They were originally made up of 54 men, and was under the leadership of General Nathanael Greene and James Mitchell Varnum.

After serving in the Dorr War, the Kentish Guards were given \$1,000 from the state. They used this money to build their Armory on the corner of Peirce and Armory Street in East Greenwich. The Kentish Guards is the fifth official Fife and Drum Corps in military history. A fife is a small, high-pitched flute often used in military and marching bands. The Kentish Guards Armory is a white building with a green door and gold plaque.

The Kentish Guards' first uniform was a red coat and trousers with a black hat and black leggings. After the War in 1797, it changed to a rounded hat with a black and red tipped feather, white cravat, white coat, blue pants with gold buttons, and a sword. They trained at Academy Field where they could fire their rifles.

The Kentish Guards Armory is still standing today, and the Kentish Guards are still carrying on their legacy. In fact, they are looking for new members if you are interested in being in the militia or Fife and Drums Corp. The militia meets every Tuesday at 8 pm and the Fife and Drum Corp meets on Wednesdays at 8 pm. You can also see the Kentish Guards marching in most parades and playing their famous fifes and drums.