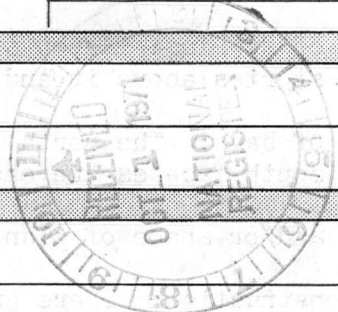


**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>New York</b>	
COUNTY: <b>New York</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	<b>JAN 31 1972</b>



**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**United States Custom House**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Bowling Green**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**New York**

STATE: **New York**      CODE: **36**      COUNTY: **New York**      CODE: **061**

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <b>U.S. Post Office</b>

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**United States Government Treasury Department**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington**      STATE: **D.C.**      CODE: **08**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**New York County Hall of Records**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**31 Chambers Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **New York**      STATE: **New York**      CODE: **36**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission**

DATE OF SURVEY:       Federal       State       County       Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**305 Broadway**

CITY OR TOWN: **New York**      STATE: **New York**      CODE: **36**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **New York**  
COUNTY: **New York**  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE: **JAN 31 1972**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

Rep. Bella Abzug

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Number of stories: Seven stories including a rusticated base with five stories above it and an additional floor under the mansard roof.

Number of bays: The north facade is seven bays wide. The east, west and south facades are each thirteen bays wide.

Layout and/or shape of plan: The building is trapezoidal in plan.

Wall construction: There are ashlar masonry walls with semi-engaged columns separating the windows between end bays.

Structural system: This is a steel-framed building.

Roof, cornice: A slate-covered mansard roof is crowned by copper crestings. A stone parapet, which alternates solid sections with a balustrade, encircles the building above the fourth floor. An elaborate entablature, which extends the full height of the fifth floor, extends around three sides of the building.

Dormers: Dormer windows in the mansard roof are segmental-arched, and are surmounted by baroque-type frames.

Important interior features: A great oval central chamber occupies most of the courtyard at the center of the building. A rotunda inside the central chamber is decorated with murals painted by Reginald Marsh. Paintings by Elmer Garnsey ornament the walls of the Reception Room of the Collector of Customs.

Other notable features: There is a great variety of sculpture on the exterior of the building. On pedestals advanced from the base of the building are four sculpture groups, heroic in size, representing the four continents. The keystones of the main windows are carved with heads signifying the eight races of mankind. Over each of the columns of the main facade are heroic statues representing the twelve commercial centers of the ancient and modern worlds. A cartouche, bearing the arms of the United States crowns the main facade. Each of the forty-four columns which encircle the building has a capital crowned by a head of Mercury, the mythological character who governed commerce.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS





**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

begun 1901, completed 1907.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |   |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education    | <input type="checkbox"/> Political      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering  | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry     | <input type="checkbox"/> Philosophy     | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention    | <input type="checkbox"/> Science        | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape    | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture      | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art          | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-  | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature   | <input type="checkbox"/> itarian        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military     | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music        | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____                                    |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The U.S. Custom House on the Bowling Green, one of the financial district's most impressive buildings, was designed by the noted architect Cass Gilbert (1858-1934) whose design won the competition. Gilbert, best known as the architect of the Woolworth Building, had been associated with the firm of McKim, Mead & White. He designed the Custom House in the richly ornamented style of the French Baroque Revival.

The Custom House, which covers an enormous area, is seven stories high above an excavated cellar. A rusticated ground level floor is treated as a base above which a giant order of Corinthian engaged columns, three stories high, encircles the building. Their full entablature with an elaborately ornamented frieze extends the height of the fifth floor, and it continues around three sides of the building. At the Bowling Green facade the entablature carries twelve heroic-size sculpted figures. A tall mansard roof which encloses a full story is partially screened by a stone parapet alternating solid with balustraded sections. The main entrance on the Bowling Green is a monumental arch, through which a wide flight of steps leads into the building.

The building is heavily encrusted with stonecarving and adorned with statuary, the iconography of which deals with international relations, neo-classically personified. The sculptor Daniel Chester French, whose work had received much favorable attention at the World's Columbian Exposition in 1893, carved the four groups which are raised on pedestals flanking the Bowling Green entrance. Representing each of the four major continents, idealized women are the central feature of each composition. Breaking the skyline above the Bowling Green entrance is a large carving by the German sculptor Karl Bitter representing the shield of the United States crowned by an American eagle and supported by two female figures. The work of several other sculptors is represented elsewhere on the exterior of the building.

The Custom House, now set amidst tall glass and steel buildings of modern design, occupies the entire block bounded by Bridge Street, State Street, Bowling Green and Whitehall Street. It is visible from all sides, and nearby parks to the north and west permit perspective views.

Inside the Rotunda on the second floor of the building a series of murals by Reginald Marsh depict the stages of the arrival of a vessel within the Port of New York to its ultimate docking at the pier. This

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Files of the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission  
 Alan Burnham, New York Landmarks (Middletown, Conn., 1963) p. 230

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		40°	42'	15"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		74°	00'	51"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Under one acre.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Stephen S. Lash, Associate

ORGANIZATION: New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission DATE: July 1, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:  
305 Broadway

CITY OR TOWN: New York STATE: New York CODE: 36

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**      **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: [Signature]

Title: Chairman, New York State Historic Trust

Date: 21 12 71

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

JAN 31 1972

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

[Signature]  
 Keeper of The National Register

JAN 20 1972

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

New York City

Jim Red



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE	New York	
COUNTY	New York	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
	JAN 31 1972	

Custom House (1)

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

series was completed in 1937. In the Reception Room of the Collector of Customs, Elmer E. Garnsey's paintings represent ten major ports of the 17th century. He selected the port cities which were closely related to the discovery, settlement and commerce of the New World.

The present Custom House occupies a site which has always been of prime importance to the City of New York. First Fort Amsterdam, then the old Government House were located there, then a row of Federal town houses were built which later housed offices of shipping companies, becoming known as "Steamship Row".

Although Custom House business is gradually being moved to a new location, the building will eventually be occupied by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Post Office and a Maritime Library.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE New York	
COUNTY New York	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JAN 31 1972

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: United States Custom House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Bowling Green

CITY OR TOWN:

New York

STATE:

New York

CODE

36

COUNTY:

New York

CODE

061

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:

USGS quadrangle, 7.5 minute series

SCALE:

1:24000

DATE:

1967

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.

*Jersey City*



JERSEY CITY QUADRANGLE

NEW JERSEY-NEW YORK

7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

GEORGE WASHINGTON BRIDGE 8 MI.

74°00'

45°11'

45°10'

45°09'

45°08'

45°07'

45°06'

45°05'

45°04'

45°03'

45°02'

45°01'

45°00'

44°59'

44°58'

44°57'

44°56'

44°55'

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42°16'

42°15'

42°14'

42°13'

42°12'

42°11'

42°10'

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42°08'

42°07'

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42°04'

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42°01'

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39°41'

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39°39'

39°38'

39°37'

39°36'

39°35'

39°34'

39°33'

39°32'

39°31'

39°30'

&lt;



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE

NEW YORK

Date Entered JAN 31 1972

Name

Location

United States Custom House

New York  
New York County

Also Notified

Hon. Jacob K. Javits  
Hon. James L. Buckley  
Hon. Bella S. Abzug

Director, Northeast Region

HR NRowland:mm 1/31/72

State Liaison Officer  
Dr. Louis C. Jones  
Chairman  
New York State Historic Trust  
Parks and Recreation  
Building 2 - State Campus  
Albany, New York 12226





NPS Number

1/31/72

Title:

U.S. Custom House

Loc.

N.Y. Co, New York  
Showing north  
facade

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE New York	
COUNTY New York	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JAN 31 1977

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON: U.S. Custom House			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: Bowling Green			
CITY OR TOWN: New York			
STATE: New York	CODE 36	COUNTY: New York	CODE 061
<b>3. PHOTO REFERENCE</b>			
PHOTO CREDIT: New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission			
DATE OF PHOTO: circa 1967			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission			
<b>4. IDENTIFICATION</b>			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. View looking southeast, showing north (Bowling Green) facade.			







NPS Number

Jan. 31-72

Title:

U.S. Custom House

Loc.

N.Y. Co, New York

Showing a facade

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



NPS Number

Jan. 31-72

Title:

U.S. Custom House

Loc.

N.Y. Co., New York  
showing north facade

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE

New York

COUNTY

New York

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: United States Custom House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Bowling Green

CITY OR TOWN:

New York

STATE:

New York

CODE

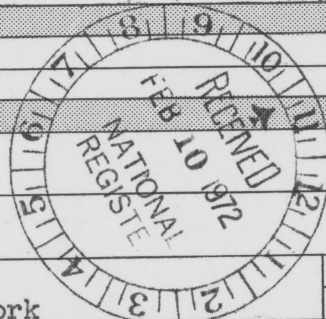
36

COUNTY:

New York

CODE

061



3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission

DATE OF PHOTO: Date unavailable - 1905

NEGATIVE FILED AT:

Landmarks Preservation Commission

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

View looking southeast showing Bowling Green facade

U.S. CUSTOMHOUSE  
(Resource Name)

72000889  
(Reference Number[s])

6 / 3 / 88  
(Date form completed)

NEW YORK  
(County)

NEW YORK  
(State)

OSTAPENKO  
(Completed by)

STATUS:

1. MISSING \_\_\_\_\_ 2. REMOVED/ DEMOLISHED \_\_\_\_\_ 3. NHL  4. TR \_\_\_\_\_ 5. MRA \_\_\_\_\_ 6. OVER-SIZED \_\_\_\_\_ 7. NPS - UNDOCUMENTED \_\_\_\_\_ 8. DOE - OWNER OBJECTION \_\_\_\_\_ 9. RESTRICTED \_\_\_\_\_

EXPLANATION:

NPS Number

1/31/70

Title:

U.S. Custom House

Loc.

N. Y. Co., N. Y.  
Showing north  
facade

①

3 pictures

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER